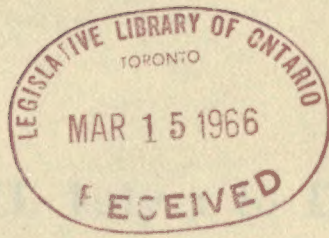


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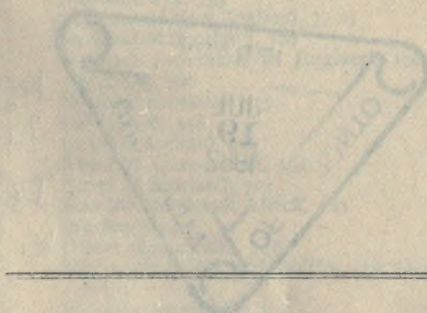
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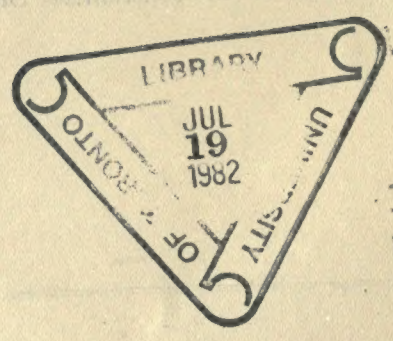
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The Investors' Review.

Those Lost Millions.

Everything that passes in relation to the South African scandals confirms us in the opinion that there will be no root and branch investigation, no thorough clearing up, nor any genuine effort made to punish the guilty. Under pressure the Government has appointed a quite respectable Royal Commission which, provided the Opposition behaves itself, is to be endowed with wide powers, Mr. Balfour says, but none of the individual members of this Commission are specially eminent either as men of business, of practical experience in affairs, or as expert analysers of evidence. Mr. Justice Farwell is thoroughly trustworthy and competent as a Chancery judge, but has had no experience in the cross-examination of witnesses. Sir George Taubman-Goldie has had a distinguished career as governor of the old Royal Niger Company, and one of the negotiators for the sale of that company's political rights to the British Government at a very first-class price. He is also familiar to us as the gentleman who, after a visit to South Africa, proposed that the Government should buy up the "rights" of the Chartered Company, and provide it with a few millions of working capital, all by an emission of Consols. Sir George White is a most respectable soldier, honest as the day, simple-minded also, and unsuspected of any business capacity whatsoever. Sir Francis Mowatt is an able ex-Treasury official endowed probably with but a limited knowledge of the intricacies of bookkeeping, and Mr. Samuel Hope Morley is a man of large experience as merchant and banker, who perhaps knows more of the outs and ins of account keeping than any of his colleagues. Together these estimable men may find out a few things, and it is possible that we shall have some clear exposition of the *modus operandi* utilised in the transfer of untold millions from the pockets of the British public to those of the gentlemen behind the nominal contractors and executive officials implicated. Anything, however, like a thorough exposure of the malfeasances is not to be looked for from these amateur and official gentlemen—amateur in the business sense we mean—still less any tracking down of the most culpable. But probably the Government in this respect cannot help itself. To be a Royal Commissioner is an honorary affair, productive of titles often, but not of cash, and no first-class accountant or merchant in the City could afford to give up his time to an investigation of this kind, to any Royal Commission business whatsoever. Therefore, it is necessary to fall back upon gentlemen of leisure, eminent lawyers, retired Treasury officials, and people of that sort, when work of this honorary and "honours"-hatching description has to be taken in hand.

But if the Commission is not a particularly strong one, what are we to say about the Government and its attitude towards these revelations? At first it was startled almost out of its slender senses by the uncompromising language of the Butler Committee's report, but day by day since, it has been getting back its courage, or its insolent assurance, its contempt for the tax-paying victim. On Monday even, when the vote of censure debate took place, there were signs that a bold front was to be presented to the accusers, that instead of penitence we should have mud-throwing in the style of the guinea-pig director caught in a swindle; and Mr. Brodrick should long live in political memory as the desperately pathetic figure he depicted himself to be

—a man toiling from morn till night without help or interval for more than a year, working at times even beyond the midnight hours, and never once, as slanderously alleged, betaking himself disguised as a volunteer to Germany to buy guns for our distressed army, with the help of a German journalist as interpreter, emitting orders with a feverish rapidity that left him no time to see whether said orders were attended to or not; a man kept ignorant likewise, baulked by his subordinates, denied information, set contemptuously at defiance, a very Samson caught in the toils of a corrupt War Office. Oh! it was just sweet! And he knows the names of those who are guilty, the dear man, but dare not tell them except to the Commission, which was also great. Much more of the same kind there was, all calculated to make plain what an energetic, small mind may, by its zealotry, cost a nation when put in a position of responsibility. For the rest is not Butler "a d—d rascal" to all Government men?

Bolder still did the Government grow by the middle of the week when it was able to put up an underling to declare that there had been no losses on supplies, but really a profit. To prove this statement, figures for a different period from that of the scandals dealt with by the Butler Committee were insolently spread before the astonished eyes of the electorate in all the newspapers. And at this rate by another week or two we shall be finding out that, somewhere hid away, there may be £6,000,000 or £10,000,000 to come into the Treasury after all, money promised to Mr. Ritchie, but not yet forthcoming, just on the way from Park Lane, Baden-Baden, Homburg, or the grouse moors. There, however, is the damaging fact as things are. We have not yet got a penny back. Probably we never shall. Whatever the full history may be of the transactions animadverted upon by the Butler Committee, the money is lost. There is nothing to show anywhere in the way of profit, but as Mr. Gibson Bowles pretty well demonstrates in the letter we quote elsewhere, £6,000,000 at least has disappeared through one group of organised "deals." In our view, as we said last week, the total stealing probably amounts to at least ten times as much, and the nation will never know except by after-dinner gossip and the chatter of the men who meet in society who the criminals are, still less bring them to disgorge through the zeal of its most patriotic Government. Mr. Massingham points in the *Daily News* to Lord Milner as a supreme aid to criminals, and, of course, his name has been in everyone's mouth throughout as the arch tool on the spot of the South African gang, but there are other criminals besides Lord Milner, if criminal he be, other tools even more high placed. We could pretty well indicate who several of the most prominent of them are, and yet the country will never know, nor will any of the tens of millions lost and stolen be ever recovered. At no time in our history have war stealings been refunded, and such an event is less likely to happen now than ever. Did not the Prime Minister's grandfather make nigh half a million in six months in India two generations ago, by Army contracts, founding a "great family" therewith?

Is it not obvious that society must have money from somewhere to go the pace, to live the life it now follows? How are losses on the turf, at bridge, in all forms of gambling, to be met unless by stealing? Where are the thousands a year to come from which officials enjoying salaries running but to hundreds contrive somehow to spend? Horses and carriages, boxes at the opera, dinners, receptions, dances, gambling losses, Stock Exchange differences, club subscriptions, motor-cars, extravagant habits of all the sorts now familiar to society mean money to spend, and if money is spent it must come from somewhere. What better source can there be than the pockets of the stupid, helpless multitude who pay and grumble; and blindly worship those by whom they may be defrauded. Here we have cause and effect exhibited in a manner which should be an object lesson to the British voter, but he, after passing fits of rage and strong language, falls

back into the old rut, and as long as he has bread to eat, and some kind of clothing to put on, lets the thieves alone, honours them perhaps, and bows before them always with meekness should they be titled or blatantly rich. "Restitution," "Exposure," "Full disclosure of the stealings!" My dear sir, what are you talking about? Is not the whole art of "getting on" in these days successful theft? Ask any African boss or boss's hanger-on, any peer or peeress of your acquaintance—the man in the street, others failing; and ever after regret you had no opportunity to share in the spoils.

India in the Commons.

Some of the speakers in the debate on the Indian budget which took place in the House of Commons on Wednesday, the 21st ult., congratulated the Government upon the unusually early day of the Session given to this important subject. We are not sure that there was much ground for speaking well of the tactics which gave an off day in Ascot week to a subject of such vital importance to us. Assuredly the speeches delivered did not reach any very high altitude of patriotism or of imperial outlook, and that interesting essay recited by Mr. Brodrick in his rôle of Secretary of State for India, however much it may have testified to his plodding industry and perseverance, cannot be classed among statesmanlike utterances. But the usual tone adopted by all responsible politicians in this country towards India is one of patronising self-congratulation. Never was there a country so prosperous. "Not a single nation in Europe could produce so good a financial statement or so satisfactory a balance-sheet as the one that had been placed before the House by my right hon. friend"; so said Lord George Hamilton, and with very little variation so said they all. Mr. Samuel Smith, Mr. Emmott, and one or two others did raise a faint note of opposition on minor points, and Mr. Cathcart Wason did move an amendment to the effect that the salary of the Secretary of State should be placed on the estimates of the United Kingdom, so as to give greater facilities for the discussion of Indian affairs in Parliament; but the debate never really rose to a high level, and the soporific effects of Mr. Brodrick's rolling periods seem to have effectually dulled down discussion in the Press as well as in the House. Who cares for India so long as India appears to prosper?

And the prosperity is something marvellous, Mr. Brodrick tells us. In 1902-3 the total trade of India was £143,476,000, and in 1904-5 it had risen to £174,748,000, advancing by steady steps. Of this total trade no less than £77,000,000 was directly to and from Great Britain, and, in fact, India is the biggest customer we have—all on a Free Trade footing, too! Thanks, moreover, to the great enterprise displayed, there has been an increase of a million acres in the area under cotton, and the tea planters of India and Ceylon have within a period of little more than twenty years captured the whole of the British market, reducing in that time the consumption of China tea within the United Kingdom from 102,000,000 lbs. to 13,000,000 lbs. "There is surely," said Mr. Brodrick, "no more striking example in the whole history of commercial activity." But is it the Indian people, the natives, who are benefiting by all these developments, by the yearly extensive additions made to the railway mileage, and other examples of Anglo-Saxon energy? It would hardly seem to be so, for what are the symptoms dwelt upon by Mr. Brodrick as tending to prove that the prosperity of the country is real? "There is no expenditure of money which so much adds to the wealth of the Government while it is adding to the material prosperity of the people as this expenditure on railways in India at the present time," the Secretary of State declared. Is that so? We can quite understand that if the Government of India and the railway companies there are spending within the Peninsula from £8,000,000 to £12,000,000 of British money every year, capital raised on more or less onerous rates of interest, the wages funds will be sustained, and large

numbers of natives get more to eat than they otherwise would ; but it is, after all, only a fragment of the population that can benefit by this outlay of foreign borrowed capital, and the enormous masses of human beings outside the range of these borrowed capital spendings may not benefit at all, may suffer by reason of the increased share of the proceeds of their labour absorbed by the charges of the State and its superimposed public works. Mr. Brodrick did not give us any data upon which to base an estimate of the broad effects of our incessant outlay of British capital within the Peninsula so far as the masses of the people are concerned, but he told a listening nation, if it cared to listen, that "there is another evidence of the continuous prosperity of the year that I ought to mention ; it is the absorption of precious metals, the imports of which in 1902 exceeded the exports by £10,500,000, in 1903 by just over £15,500,000, and in 1904 by just under £15,500,000." Presumably these are millions of pounds, since we find by the statistics appended to the budget statement that in 1903-4 the net imports of gold and silver amounted to nearly Rs. 235,000,000. This, Mr. Brodrick goes on, shows a demand among private individuals, notably amongst the poorer classes, for the precious metals, and the savings banks give the same testimony. These had a balance of £7,500,000 on hand in 1900, and in 1905 this had risen to £10,700,000. All this may be true enough, and still the masses of the Indian people may be growing poorer, for it is surely a mistake to set down imports of precious metals as a test of prosperity. If the people of India were really growing in the capacity to spend money their wants in other directions would be on the increase. They would buy more clothing, more luxuries of other descriptions than mere gold or silver, and we should find more distinct traces of their increased comfortableness in the enlarged consumption of British and domestic manufactures. That the bulk of the savings of the community still goes into precious metals is not to be accepted unquestioned as a proof that the people of India, as a whole, are increasing in prosperity. The very reverse may be happening to nineteen-twentieths of their number. For it must not be forgotten that the borrowing policy of the Indian Government and the various public enterprises dependent upon it is largely responsible for these imports of gold and silver. The Government and other capital spending agencies have to import the metal in order to recruit the wages fund, the recipients of which hoard what they can save in the form of gold and silver because there is no general increase in the standard of comfort, leading the people as a whole to spend more than they formerly did.

Quite honestly, and with considerable skill in working up a rhetorical effect, Mr. Brodrick began by reciting sundry drawbacks, and amongst them mentioned the fact that within a comparatively short period of time that great and growing devastation of the plague has swept away more than a million human beings ; but he went on to tell us that this scourge, lamentable though it might be, had nothing whatever to do with the well-being of the people—it was simply a question of sanitation. In proof that it was so he declared that amongst the 140,000 native troops maintained by us in India there had been only 115 deaths by plague, and the record of the jails was almost equally satisfactory. Surely this is not dealing with a subject vital to us in a spirit of fairness and honesty. Are not the troops fully fed and the prisoners as well? And if there were no hunger amongst the masses of the people would the absence of sanitation have any more deadly effect now than it had in the past in giving the plague an increased hold over the people? We believe it is hunger, and not want of drains, which has given the plague the hold it has taken over the lives of the poorer classes amongst the natives of India—hunger ever present, ever tending to spread upwards. Half the population, in spite of the glories of the Simla Government and its marvellous progress, does not now from one year's end to the other get enough to eat. Is that a sign of good, wise, fatherly government? How many millions were

lost by the recent and still chronically subsisting famines, and what has been the condition of the provinces devastated by famine since normal times were officially declared to have returned? What do the rent remissions mean? Mr. Brodrick does not elucidate or allude to subjects of that kind, and yet it appears to be established that within the last ten years the population of India has been shortened by between 20,000,000 and 30,000,000 through the scarcity of food more or less chronic, a scarcity slowly growing more poignant by reason of the rise in prices resulting from the debasement of the currency.

All is not black, however, even in the eye of the most questioning and doubtful of critics, and the Government, in spite of its being dominated more and more by the deadly military faction, is fitfully and feebly paying some little attention to the development of India in directions calculated to be of more permanent benefit to the community than the rapid and very costly expansion of the railway system. "There are 27,000 miles of railway now working in India representing a capital expenditure of £235,000,000," said Mr. Brodrick, "on the whole of which interest is paid at the rate of 4.8 per cent. out of the actual net revenue when all working expenses have been met." We fancy we could pick holes in that statement also, but let it stand as a proof of the rapidity with which the life and substance of the population of India is being mortgaged to the foreign creditor. What we now prefer to emphasise is the fact that at last the Government of India seems to have become aware of the necessity to spend more freely upon irrigation works. Larger schemes are to be taken up involving an aggregate outlay of some £30,000,000. The Simla Government is also sparing a little money in order to attempt to educate the people in improved methods of agriculture, and some few minor changes of a similar kind are either mentioned or hinted at, such as the setting up of irrigation colonies and of model farms.

The main benefits, however, of the passing flush of Indian trade and budget prosperity are to be absorbed by the army, which is to take nearly £2,500,000 more this year than last. "Between 1901, when the military charge was a little over £15,000,000, and 1905-6, when it is to be something over £20,500,000, we have made undoubtedly very considerable extra demands on the finances of India," said Mr. Brodrick, but he "believed these finances could bear them." Well, we shall see ; our opinion is not in accord with Mr. Brodrick's, but for the time being, and while the free expenditure of British capital continues, all may be well. This military question, however, we shall deal with a little more at length in another article, and shall only add here and now one more set of facts whose lesson should be full of warning to us if we could give heed to anything save war and sport and our own perfections. Mr. Brodrick glibly reeled off the figures illustrative of the growth of India's foreign trade—all for our profit and glory—but carefully slid over the significant fact that India's exports always exceed her imports in value, and always must do so, because of the annual burden imposed upon her by "home charges," interest on capital, and other sources of exhaustion. How can a population thrive and grow rich whose exports of merchandise exceed the imports in value by 2,938 million rupees in the eight years ended March 31, 1904? There was an offset in imported bullion, thanks, as explained, in no small measure to loans raised here, but deducting that the net excess of exports was still more than 1,900 million rupees. Continued long enough this means exhaustion.

General Mining and Finance Corporation.

THE ALBU GROUP.

If we could invariably speak as eulogistically of the managements of the other great South African groups as we can of the Albu group, our criticisms of South African mining finance would not be so severe as

necessity demands. But the Albu management stands alone, and though its financial policy may not be perfect, it will compare most favourably with the policy adopted by the vast majority of mining companies, whilst it is certainly admirable when contrasted with the methods adopted by other Kaffir houses. The Wernher-Beit potentates, for instance, do not trouble about such a matter as depreciation. By them profits are divided up to the hilt, and no provision is made for the future. In the Farrar and Barnato groups allowance is certainly made for the wear and tear of machinery, but this is provided out of capital, not out of revenue, therefore the dividends distributed are not legitimately earned, but indirectly come out of fresh issues of shares. Nowhere, however, is it the practice to build up reserve funds, the Meyer and Charlton and one or two others of the Albu group being conspicuous exceptions in this respect, and we hope, when dividends are paid, that the policy will be adopted by all the other members of the group. The reserve of the Van Ryn company was utilised last year, together with the profits and accumulated credit, for depreciation purposes, a policy to which no serious objection can be made; at any rate, it is more honest than dividing every penny as soon as it is earned, and issuing fresh shares in order to write down assets out of premiums. For this is how losses during the war have been wiped out by dozens of other companies, but the Van Ryn utilises past and present profits for this purpose before thinking of paying dividends. The reserve of the Roodepoort United Main Reef has been reduced in a like manner, and though this may be allowable, once in a way, under exceptional circumstances, we hope the directors will begin to replenish these funds out of future profits, and make them genuine reserves by investing them in gilt-edged securities. But we would wish that all other South African groups followed even this example, for if one can do it, all can. Where we disagree, gravely and uncompromisingly, with Mr. Albu and his associates is in his advocacy of Chinese labour. Mr. Albu from the very first has been one of the strongest supporters of the coolie, but we believe he has made a deplorable error of judgment in thinking that in the long run the Chinaman will be cheaper than the black or the white. At any rate, the bosses have discovered that they gravely miscalculated when they conceived that the employment of the yellow aliens would bring the public into the market, and tempt them to buy Kaffir shares, and if their judgment has been at fault in this, it is not unreasonable to infer that it may be as seriously at fault in other ideas and schemes.

With the individual subsidiary members of the Albu group we have already dealt in our mining pages, and have, therefore, now only to analyse the financial position of the parent company itself—the General Mining and Finance Corporation. As only a minority of the subsidiaries pay dividends, the corporation receives little interest on its large holdings in the companies under its management, but continues to rely for its main income upon speculating in the market. It is somewhat surprising to gather from the profit and loss account that, notwithstanding the depressed condition of the Kaffir Circus throughout 1904, the corporation was evidently very successful in its share dealings, the accounts being credited with no less than £365,716, representing the profits made on the realisation of stocks and shares, less the amounts written off. No information is given as to the sum written down, this being left to conjecture. The above compares with £42,332 derived from a similar source in 1903 and £334,284 in 1902. The only other item in the profit and loss account is £76,360 received from interest, transfer fees, commissions, rent of house property, exchange, &c., and it would certainly be more informing were this composite entry segregated. As this compares with £15,075 in the previous year, it is probable that a great part of the difference is derived from contango loans, which have considerably increased, whilst the shares, owing to the above wholesale selling, have appreciably decreased. Thus the

total revenue was £442,076 against £57,408 in 1903 and £374,944 in 1902, and the net profit, after allowing for administrative expenditure, depreciation, and loss on various ventures, has risen from £20,692 to £352,784. As the balance brought in was £196,871 the available surplus was as much as £549,656. A dividend of 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares was declared last March, which required £249,800, the 1,000 founders' shares have received £41 14s. 8d. per share, extra remuneration to the directors absorbs £9,827, and commission to members of the staff £6,830, so that £241,466 remains to be taken to the current year. Up to date, therefore, the aggregate dividend paid by this corporation on its 1,249,000 ordinary shares is only 40 per cent., and the founders' have received £75 2s. 8d. per share, the total sum distributed on both classes amounting to £524,733. It is not likely to pay higher dividends than these for some years to come, and it will be fortunate if it can maintain even the figure for the past year. For it cannot sell its shares and keep them, and the more it sells the less number will there be on which to receive dividends.

Dividends, too, will be moderate in amount for a long time to come, the eleven mines under the control of the corporation being:—Outcrops: Meyer and Charlton, Roodepoort United Main Reef, New Goch, Van Ryn, Aurora West, and West Rand Mines; deep levels: West Rand Consolidated, New Steyn Estate, Violet Consolidated, Cinderella Deep, and Rand Collieries. Their total issued capitals amount to £4,997,726, and the corporation's holdings consist now of 768,559 shares, standing in the books at £899,888, or an average cost of £1 3s. 4d. per share. Debentures are also held. Only three of the above companies pay dividends—viz., the Meyer and Charlton, Roodepoort United, and the Van Ryn, their payments last year being respectively 50 per cent., 20 per cent., and 10 per cent. The New Goch may possibly pay its initial dividend either this year or next, but it will be a long, long time before any one of the others can reach this stage. So the parent concern must continue to rely for an indefinite period for its main revenue upon speculating itself and lending the bulk of its cash resources to other speculators, for dividends will bring in only a trifling sum. Indeed, it will be very fortunate if it can keep up its 20 per cent. annually from such a precarious source of revenue.

There have been many interesting changes in its balance-sheet during the past twelve months, the accounts being dated December 31, 1904. On the debtor side we note that deposits have grown from £633,592 to £1,008,187, on which, of course, interest must be paid. Bills payable total £130,402; £57,154 is owing to creditors for stock bought, but not taken up, and £50,796 to sundry creditors, making an aggregate of £1,236,539 of what may be deemed current liabilities, against £1,278,532, a reduction of £41,993, sundry creditors a year ago standing at £442,636, and bills payable amounting to over £177,000. There is also an unchanged share premium account of £437,500. On the credit side shares and debentures in subsidiaries are now £958,707 against £1,356,740, and holdings in other companies £49,459 compared with £111,758. There has likewise been a considerable diminution in the debentures held in various other companies and in British Government securities, the book value of which has contracted from £277,571 to £162,321. On the other hand, contango loans have grown from £188,154 to £647,350; debtors for stock sold but not delivered from £40,711 to £269,852; and sundry debtors (including advances to mining and other companies) from £250,785 to £665,698, but cash is £92,636 less at £495,444, whilst the total of the balance-sheet is now £3,503,705 against £3,167,712. As regards the shares, the report explains that these have been taken into the balance-sheet either at cost, less amounts which have been written off, or at the market prices ruling at the end of the year, whichever was lower. In addition to the realised profit, these show, we are told, at current prices a further consider-

able unrealised profit. Perhaps they do, but they have not the miraculous quality of the widow's cruse—when they are sold others are not spontaneously created to supply their place. There is no perennial supply, which is undoubtedly a very serious disadvantage to any company that relies for its main source of income upon share selling and buying—especially when there is no public to sell to. As long as the public show an eagerness to sell also, rather than to buy, the prospects are not as sunny as they might be for such a company. But, then, if mine bosses generally were honest, and dealt fairly always by the public, there might be no necessity for a company like this to lock up nearly £650,000 of its resources in propping overloaded gamblers, or to lend another £270,000 to people who cannot pay for the shares they have purchased.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES'S ESTIMATE OF STORES LOSSES.

The subjoined letter is of such significance that we reprint it below. Mr. Balfour, Mr. Arnold-Forster, and Mr. Pretymann have all, assisted doubtless by the incriminated War Office, put forward other estimates tending to minimise the losses. As, however, they refer to a different period of time and to other facts than those embraced in the Butler report, their only effect is to strengthen the impression that the losses from first to last inflicted upon the unhappy taxpayers of this country by the camp sutlers and other harpies that supplied our army in South Africa are uncounted millions beyond anything known or admitted. So far as the Ministers are concerned, the fact that they one and all defend the thieves and resort to dishonest subterfuge in order to try to conceal the truth may enable us to grasp the value of their professions of Imperial patriotism. An Imperial patriot is evidently to be understood as a man who sympathises with those who rob the nation, and it is not too much to declare that probably one of the strongest motives actuating the present Ministry in clinging to office is to be found in its desire to prevent the truth about the swindling in Africa and here from leaking out. No member of the Government has expressed regret for or contrition over these appalling robberies. On the contrary, their wrath and abuse have been poured out exclusively upon those who have had the courage and honesty to tell us as much of the truth as they could reach. We trust the electorate will ponder over exhibitions of zeal for the public welfare such as we have been day by day treated to this week, and some of its leaders might try to bring home to simple minds what a loss of even such a paltry sum as £6,000,000 implies. How many beneficial public works might have been executed at home had that money been saved to the nation? How much less interest would the floating debt have drawn from the pockets of the taxpayer? There are a hundred ways by which the cruelty of these robberies might be brought home to the common understanding, at the same time that the heartless indifference of the party in power to the sufferings of the nation is set in relief.

Of the total amount of loss to the public through the transactions with regard to the surplus stores in hand in June, 1902, I myself made no estimate whatever, but drew an inference from facts in evidence. These facts summarised are as follows:—

Colonel Morgan estimated these surplus stores at about	£8,000,000
He further stated that Lord Kitchener sold of these to Lord Milner stores whereof the agreed price (as stated at p. 235 of the Army Appropriation Accounts dated January, 1904) was.....	1,381,000
Leaving surplus stores in hand at end of June, 1902, value	£6,619,000
Deduct now sales between October, 1902, and December, 1903, as stated by Sir Neville Lyttelton.....	560,898
And this leaves.....	£6,058,102

From the evidence of these figures I inferred that the loss to the public was something like six millions.

My inference, as I said, seemed supported by an impression left upon the House that Mr. Ritchie, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time, had been led by the War Office to believe that he might expect six millions from these sales in support of his Budget, whereas, in fact, he received nothing.

This impression was subsequently to my speech strikingly confirmed by Mr. Ritchie's own avowal that he had, in fact, been led to expect this by the War Office; and I submit, therefore, that there neither was nor is anything either rash or extravagant in the inference I drew.

Mr. Arnold-Forster's statement that not £560,898, but £8,000,000 was realised by the sale of surplus stores is not inconsistent with any such inference, because it refers to something quite different from, and to things additional to, the surplus stores in hand in June, 1902. It includes stores in hand in April and May, 1902, and sold in those months. It includes ordinary supplies issued to the soldiers. It includes captured stock. In short, it has nothing whatever to do with the only stores in question, namely, the supply stores at the end of June, 1902.

Mr. Balfour gives figures by which he arrives, not at Mr. Arnold-Forster's total of £8,000,000, but at a total of his own of £6,400,000. This total I respectfully suspect is as fallacious as Mr. Arnold-Forster's larger total. Whether this be so or not can easily be settled by the War Office laying on the table of the House or furnishing to the Comptroller and Auditor-General the calculations and items by which it has been arrived at.

Meantime, the fact remains that the War Office itself expected to "return about six millions" to Mr. Ritchie, and that, in fact, they returned him nothing.

JOHN BROWN AND CO.

A considerable and much-needed recovery took place in the profits of this vast enterprise during the 12 months to March 31 without, however, bringing any direct benefit to the shareholders. The distribution will again be 8½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, and we think proprietors have said good-bye for many a day to the lavish returns of four or five years ago. Reflection on those times will restrain undue enthusiasm over last year's improvement, because when profits have fallen steadily from the £452,625 earned in 1900-01 to the £175,240 produced for 1903-4 most people would be pardoned for considering some favourable reaction about due. It is before us in the shape of an advance from the last-named figure to £218,556, a gain of £43,316, but as in order to pay even the reduced dividend of 12 months ago it was then necessary to draw heavily on the free balance, the sum now brought forward is only £51,581, compared with £81,138. Then there is an increase of £3,489 to £19,619 this year in the mortgage and debenture interest, so that the sum actually for disposal is little more than £10,000 larger at £250,517. It is therefore impossible, without dipping too heavily into the company's resources, to raise the dividend because £30,000 must again be appropriated for extensions, and all that can be done is to increase the carry forward to £61,851. The various departments at the Atlas Works, we are told, have been fairly well employed, and there appears to be a fair prospect of some improvement in trade, but prices in the coal trade, one of the company's most important branches, remain very low. Every effort has, naturally, been made to lower the cost of production to meet the reduced quotations, but with what success does not transpire. The new coke oven at Rotherham Main, however, is now completed, and is giving satisfactory results. Work in the shipbuilding yard at Clydebank seems to have proceeded favourably and well, and the first of three great liners under construction for the Cunard Company has been delivered. The other two are making good progress, and the company will shortly deliver to our spenhrift Government the battleship *Hindustan* and the first-class cruiser *Antrim*. No mention is made of further orders from the naval authorities, but the directors are determined to have their share in the war material business, having for some time had under consideration the desirability of entering upon the manufacture of ordnance. With this object negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of a half share in the Coventry ordnance works of Cammell, Laird and Co., and shareholders will be gratified to learn that no further capital will be required for the moment, the existing resources being sufficient for the purpose. At least, that is what the directors tell us, although the

balance-sheet does not give evidence of a superabundance of free wealth. True, there is a reserve fund of £521,000, very largely consisting of share premiums, but that is already invested in the business, and the excess of sundry debtors over creditors of £338,584 is largely neutralised by the fact that the cash and bills on hand are the trifle of £18,931, against an undivided profit and loss balance of £195,517. Work in progress, materials, tools, &c., £425,645, is an item which might be further reduced—it is down £167,922 on the year—and provide some additional resources to be used elsewhere, but it would hardly be good policy to impoverish one part of the business in order to venture into a fresh field. Would it not be well to inform shareholders exactly how far the company is to be committed in the new enterprise? Capital expenditure is already prodigious at £2,605,273, an increase on the year of about £7,000, notwithstanding the provision of ordinary depreciation on buildings and machinery, and we cannot help thinking that the policy of expansion can sometimes be carried too far.

FRANK JONES BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual report of this American brewery business will give the shareholders more to ponder over than usual as the company is about to undergo its first capital reorganisation. Commencing, however, with the ordinary trading operations, we find that the gross profits on sales for the 12 months to February 28 were £79,135, and as interest and rents gave £966 the total revenue was £80,101. From that £16,202 is set aside for repairs, renewals, and depreciation, leaving £63,899, to which is added £49 for transfer fees, while £3,331 comes off for London expenses, so that £60,902 remains for disposal, including a further sum of £285 received for interest, apparently in London. Debenture interest absorbs £25,000, and the directors are able to provide a complete year's dividend on the $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preference shares, besides clearing off the arrears of 1 per cent., adding £2,000 to the special reserve, and carrying forward £270, against £368 brought in. Actual sales of ale and porter showed a decrease of 25,933 barrels at 218,407 barrels, but in the previous year 38,478 barrels were sold from the Bay State Brewery, which was closed during the period now being reviewed, so that the business at Portsmouth where the other brewery is situated really improved by 12,545 barrels. It is this Bay State Brewery which is the immediate cause of the capital reconstruction. Negotiations are at present going on for the disposal of the property, but a valuation made with the approval of the debenture holders discloses a deficit on capital account of £113,230 after crediting depreciation previously appropriated. That loss must be provided for, and as the directors have also decided to write off £86,770 from the goodwill account, the total sum to be made good is £200,000. It will be done by the simple process of reducing each ordinary share from £10 to £5, bringing the capital down from £800,000 to £600,000. That is a fair and proper method of dealing with the matter, and it is quite encouraging to encounter a reorganisation scheme which does not involve spoliation of preference rights. In using these words we are only speaking of the principle involved, and must not be thought to agree that a reconstruction should ever have become necessary. Turning to the accounts we find that the sum transferred from property to suspense account in connection with the disposal of the closed brewery is £115,199, while a further expenditure of £7,894 was incurred in closing up the business, making £123,093 in all. Now the estimated loss over the affair is £113,220, so that the directors evidently expect to get less than £10,000 for the property. Other land, buildings, fixed and loose plant, goodwill, &c., are valued at £1,102,809, including £4,679 added during the year, but in the next balance-sheet this item will be smaller by £86,770, the amount of goodwill now to be written off. Even then the valuation will be well over £1,000,000, against which the reserves seem absurdly small at £18,000, especially in view of the meagre allow-

ance for depreciation. Liquid resources, however, are fair, as trading accounts are £25,489 to the good, cash comes to £43,672, and there are some investments of £9,816 besides the stocks of £44,898.

A $6\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. MIXTURE.

We return this week to speculative securities for our trust, and in making the following selection have looked chiefly to the question of a high yield, although the financial standing of the different companies has not been forgotten. W. and T. Avery are weighing machine makers with an excellent business, and although profits fell off pretty heavily during 1904, so that in order to keep the dividend at 10 per cent. they were obliged to reduce the amount placed to reserve by £3,000, the accumulations of previous years were substantial enough to allow of this being done without the directors laying themselves open to a charge of neglecting the best interests of the company. Chadburn's (Ship) Telegraph Company, as will be seen from the latest report dealt with in this issue, enjoys a steady measure of prosperity, and has the great merit of being capitalised on a moderate scale. The Great Northern Telegraph Company of Copenhagen did splendidly last year, and paid 24 per cent., mainly owing to the heavy traffic over its lines caused by the Russo-Japanese war, but it has always been conspicuous for its profitable management, while the Burmah Oil Company's business is a steadily expanding one. On the combination given the average return works out at the remarkably good figure of £6 4s. 6d. per cent., and the chief drawback in the eyes of some investors may be that the first and last securities given are only quoted on provincial exchanges, and are not to be found in the London Official List.

	Nominal Amount.	Price.	Dividend.
40 W. and T. Avery shares	£ 200	£ 450	£ s. d. 20 0 0
200 Chadburn's (Ship) Telegraph shares.....	200	225	20 0 0
20 Great Northern Telegraph shares.....	200	670	48 0 0
200 Burmah Oil shares	200	550	30 0 0
	800	1,895	118 0 0

A BARNATO AMALGAMATION.

The brief announcement is made this week by the London agents of the two imposing Barnato controlling houses—the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment and the Barnato Consolidated—that they are to be amalgamated. The capital of the Johannesburg Investment Company is to be increased to £4,500,000, the present nominal capital being £2,750,000 and the issued £2,709,896, in order to absorb the Barnato Consolidated, whose issued capital stands at £1,352,500. Of the capital of this affair with the curious past the "Johnnies" Company holds 152,500 shares. The purchase price is to be 1,200,000 shares, to be distributed share for share, with the exception of the above 152,500. As an excuse for the transaction, which no doubt means plunder somewhere, it is alleged that an amalgamation will cut down administration expenses, as if that way to economy was something just discovered. The real object is, if possible, to get more money out of the public, and accordingly 395,000 shares are to be issued for new working capital, with 155,000 held in reserve, the Johannesburg Investment Company to provide approved guarantors. Particulars as given by cable are brief, and do not state the price at which the new shares are to be issued, but they are not likely to be cheap at any price; nothing of the Barnatos ever is. Looking to the past histories of these concerns, to their present assets and highly speculative prospects, the announcement of this latest shuffling of the cards and repetition of the old confidence trick proves that whatever the Barnato family may have lost, its "cheek" is as vigorous as ever. But the public

is not just at present the unredeemable fool it was, and the guarantors will have to hang on to the paper. The Barnato Consolidated vamp, which absorbed the Barnato Banking Company in 1895, has never paid a dividend, and on its own legs is not likely to earn one for many a year to come, its main assets consisting of shares in unknown and undeveloped companies. Last year the Johannesburg Investment managed to pay 10 per cent., and its assets are certainly of a better and more promising quality, for it is largely interested in some of the dividend paying outcrops of the Barnato group. Why, then, except as a matter of urgency and to avoid disaster, should it saddle itself with the lumber of the Consolidated Company? If it can pay only 10 per cent. on its present issued capital, what earthly chance has it of distributing anything on the extra shares? Ask "Solly."

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

In submitting the annual report and statement of accounts, dealt with in another column, the directors of this bank make suggestions for a change in the capital account. At present the capital is £1,750,000 divided into 100,000 shares of £7 10s. each and a similar number having a denomination of £10, all the former but none of the latter being issued. The board now desires to bring about a uniform position for all the shares, and with that intent proposes to subdivide the unissued shares of £10 into 100,000 £7 10s. shares and 100,000 £2 10s. shares. When that has been accomplished it is further proposed to consolidate 90,000 of the 100,000 £2 10s. shares into 30,000 shares of £7 10s. apiece, the remaining 10,000 to be cancelled, the effect being to create a total nominal capital of £1,725,000 divided into 230,000 shares of £7 10s. each, of which 100,000 will have been issued, leaving 130,000 in reserve to be placed by the board, apparently at their own discretion. That is an outline of the scheme now submitted, but we have not been told the directors' object in bringing it forward. Is it their intention to make a large fresh issue of capital at an early date, and if so for what purpose is the money required, and is there a reasonable prospect of it being profitably employed? We are not necessarily opposing the directorial aims, but think the report might have contained a plain statement of the actual object in view.

KYNOCH, LIMITED.

Most people probably think of this Birmingham undertaking as an ammunition business only; but as a matter of fact its operations extend over a very wide range. Steel, soap, candles, nails, paper, brass and copper sheet, wire and tubes all come within the scope of the company's trade, and in a general way recent results from these branches have been satisfactory, although it was not until the end of the year that some of them were in full employment. That applies also to the cycle trade, and while the general military business was good, orders from the British Government were smaller even than last year. The sporting season also gave a poor return and the directors say there is still much improvement to be expected from this department. Briefly put, while trade has been very variable during the year to March 31 the volume of business has increased, and, indeed, forms what is described as a "record," the total sales being the largest in the company's history. In the result the net profit is brought out at £92,424, an increase of rather more than £1,000 compared with the preceding year, and when £5,000 has been deducted for directors' fees and the balance of £40,000 brought forward is added on the sum for disposal is £127,424. A new charge is £9,249 for interest on debentures and expenses of issue and one which will be increased to £12,000 per annum in future; preference dividend absorbs £24,769 and once more a 10 per cent. distribution is made on the ordinary shares. Nothing, however, is placed to reserve this time against £37,749 put by a year ago, the carry forward instead being increased to £559,071. A very good display take it altogether; but why cannot the

directors supply the shareholders with a more informing balance-sheet? The one issued is unworthy of a flourishing and well conducted enterprise. Capital expenditure is just set down in one item of £981,160, including £7,343 added during the 12 months, and so far as we can judge there is not a penny allowed for depreciation. Stock-in-trade is a little lower at £306,423, sundry debtors owe £47,922 more at £212,775, and the assets side of the balance-sheet is completed with the investments and cash in hand, £83,490 larger at £95,081 thanks to the additional funds provided by the debenture issue. All the story though is not conveyed in these figures because the auditors tell us that the sundry debtors include a sum of £18,136 which they consider is not a good debt, and we think some reference to the matter should have been made by the directors. On the other side of the accounts we get the share capital at the old figure of £870,370, but the debenture debt of £300,000 forms a fresh item, the issue having been made in October last. The resources thus placed at the board's disposal enabled them to reduce the sums due to sundry creditors by £153,933 to £120,279, although we notice that an advance obtained by mortgaging certain property has been increased from £12,126 to £20,711. Reserve account remains at the old figure of £150,000 and the pension fund at £14,833, but the bad debt and other reserves have been raised a few hundreds to £8,454. Balance of profit and loss completes the balance-sheet total of £1,595,439, and as no profit and loss account is published such essential matters as the actual debenture charges for the last six months of the year, the cost of making the issue, and the general administration charges, bad debts, if any, and directors' percentages on profits, if such are payable, are left to the imagination.

THE TRAMWAYS OF MANCHESTER.

Lord Avebury and other gentlemen busy in disseminating alarm about the growth of municipal expenditure, and in thus often furthering the objects of great monopolising companies who desire to make a profit out of citizens by means of over-capitalised joint-stock companies, might do worse than study the accounts of the Tramways Committee of the Manchester Corporation issued the other day. These accounts show that in the year ended March 31 last the gross revenues earned by carrying nearly 127,000,000 passengers, the great majority of them for 1d. fares, came to £631,956, and that after meeting working expenses there was an available net revenue of £222,228. Thanks to this magnificent income the corporation was able not only to provide the interest on the mortgage debt, but to devote £35,379 to debt redemption, and after meeting other charges, such as £10,000 for rent of tramways, was still in the position to apply £70,907 to renewals and depreciation, to contribute £46,000 in aid of rates, and to spend £4,043 on street improvements round the infirmary, interest, payments, &c. In the two years ended at the date given the ratepayers of Manchester have received £96,000 in relief of rates, while upwards of £140,000 has been devoted to renewals and depreciation. How does a statement like this compare with the accounts of a joint-stock company? What benefit would the citizens of Manchester obtain from the large net revenue such a company might have drawn from the city's tramway service had it been in control thereof? Would fares have been as low and the service as efficient, or would the capital account of the company have been steadily reduced? None of these things would have been. The justification for municipal ownership of public services of this kind is to be found in the fact that the benefits accruing from the business are the property of the citizens as a whole. And Manchester has evidently had her tramway service established at a much lower cost than a company would have done the work for. There is no "water" in the capital spent by the corporation, no "founders' shares" or ordinary shares taken by the promoters as plunder in reward of their public enterprise. The gross capital expenditure at March 31 last was only £1,587,930, and after the system is completed year by year this burden will be decreased, for already there is a

sinking fund of about £61,000 accumulated, while the renewals and depreciation fund now amounts to over £185,000. By all means let the zealots for public economy inculcate thrift and wary spending on the part of municipalities, but while doing this let them abstain from confounding the good with the evil and cease to use attacks upon municipal extravagance as a pretext for furthering the monopolist schemes of more or less extravagantly promoted joint-stock companies.

MONOPOLIST ELECTRIC SCHEMES IN LONDON.

We cut the following from Mr. Massingham's "Parliamentary Notes" in Thursday's *Daily News*. The word of warning here given is timely, and should be taken note of by the citizens of London. Unless they wake up to their own interests and assert themselves against their members, most of whom are undeserving of their confidence, they may one of these days find themselves handsomely betrayed:—

A word of warning should be said about two private Bills which will shortly come before the House—probably in about a fortnight. These are the Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Bill and the Metropolitan Electric Supply Bill. They are promoted by a private company with a capital of five millions. It seeks to supply electric power in bulk within an area which takes in 21 local authorities in London and a very large district in Surrey, Essex, and Kent. The origin of the Bills is in the North of England, and I may say that they are being backed by some of the largest capitalists, Liberals and Conservatives, in the House. But they are opposed by the London County Council and no fewer than 24 out of the 29 local authorities, many of whom are already supplying electrical energy, and have sunk some millions in their projects. It seems certain that their work will be practically destroyed by what must mean the creation of a great central monopoly reaping, without hindrance, in the richest and largest field of profit in the world. It is much to be hoped, therefore, that Parliament will consent to no such project, which comes to the House practically unprovided with support from the local authorities of London.

JOREHAUT TEA COMPANY.

The action of the directors of this company is an excellent example of the folly of distributing profits up to the hilt in order to keep dividends up to a high level. For several years past the profits earned have in no way justified the large distributions which have been made and the directors have been well aware that this was the case, as a year ago they deemed it necessary to state in their report that under existing conditions it was useless for the company to attempt to compete with estates producing a large quantity of common tea. Yet in 1902 £879 was withdrawn from the reserve to help out the earnings, and although in the following year the revenue was sufficient to pay the customary dividend with £721 over, further recourse has been had to the reserve to make up the deficiency for the 12 months ended December 31 last. Including 71,250 lbs. from bought leaf the output amounted to 2,047,872 lbs. or an increase of 132,778 lbs., but the directors remark complacently that, as they anticipated, the market was adversely affected by the increase in the duty and the average price dropped to 7·84d. per lb., compared with 8·61d. and 8·72d. in the preceding seasons. With £94 less at £1,418 from miscellaneous receipts, the gross revenue was £1,458 lower at £67,934, of which expenses absorbed £58,959 or £1,719 more, leaving net profits at £8,975 against £12,252. To this was added £721 brought forward, and after deducting £916 for commissions to managing director and garden managers the balance available was £8,781, and in order to pay 10 per cent. as usual no less than £1,219 has to be taken from reserve. Behaviour of this kind seems incomprehensible if the directors really have the interests of their shareholders in view—and they cannot plead that this resort to the reserve is a temporary expedient justified by exceptional circumstances unlikely to recur. That excuse is taken from them by their own statement that it is doubtful whether in the current season the superintendent's estimated outturn, on which no doubt their expenditure is based, will be realised. Turning to the balance-sheet we find that no depreciation has been written off the estates for a number of years, this item remaining at £99,395, against which there is a special

reserve of £14,640 from share premiums and a general reserve amounting, after making sundry adjustments, to £16,956. Sundry creditors are £914 up at £27,134, while on the other hand sundry debtors owe £2,207 less at £4,728, and an increase of £1,071 to £5,508 in cash is offset by a reduction of £1,191 in stocks of tea.

BULGARIA'S TRADE IN 1904.

The prosperity of this Balkan State depends not so much on its freedom from political troubles as on its harvests, though no doubt peace within and without its borders adds materially to the chances of a good year. That it is, however, not so essential as heavy crops is shown by the steady expansion which has taken place in the imports and exports since 1900, troubled though some of these years have been. In that year the total foreign trade amounted to £4,012,989, and it rose steadily until in 1903 it was £7,595,049, in spite of the massacres and rumours of war then prevalent. Last year things political were a shade easier, outwardly if not inwardly, and this helped the bumper harvest to raise the aggregate value of the trade out and in to £11,492,339. Exports totalled £6,304,756 against imports of £5,187,583, the increase over the preceding year being £1,981,810 in the case of the exports and £1,981,810 in the imports. Part of the augmentation of the latter was possibly due to the proposed increase in the Customs duties which had the effect of tempting merchants to buy in larger quantities, but even allowing for this there can be no doubt that the country as a whole was richer and therefore bought more freely abroad. Some articles may be, and probably are, overstocked, so the inward trade may possibly decline a little during the current year for this reason, yet, given peace, it should be by no means unprosperous as the crops again promise well. Our share of Bulgaria's trade is on the whole only moderately good, the imports last year amounting to £793,972 and the exports to £989,127. The first were certainly higher than they have ever been before and about treble the value of those in 1900, but Austria-Hungary, France, and Germany have made even greater progress than this. War material has accounted for much of the expansion in the French and Austrian trade, but with Germany the case has been different. For the German merchants have carefully studied and watched the markets, started their connection with well-trained travellers, and having got a hold hung on to it. But if they can do these things why cannot we? It is not a question of tariffs but one of enterprise and grit, both of which were at one time looked on as part and parcel of the nature of a Britisher.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: GELDENHUIS ESTATE.

It may come as a great shock to many people to hear it whispered that the purchase of such a gilt-edged looking share as the Geldenhuis Estate would turn out to be a very unprofitable investment—would involve the buyer in a loss he might not suffer with stoical equanimity. But it is the truth, nevertheless, amazing and almost incredible as it sounds. For this company's fine mine will not last for ever—even Messrs. Wernher and Beit cannot work that miracle—it is a member of their group, and there is every likelihood that it will be exhausted in six or seven years from now. It has had a distinguished career, has distributed considerably over £1,000,000 sterling in dividends since its first modest distribution of 5 per cent. in 1888, its greatest achievement coming exactly ten years later, in 1898, when the aggregate payment was 138½ per cent. In 1903 it paid 60 per cent., but in 1904, strange to say, it paid only 50 per cent. Calculated upon the latter figure, the yield on the market price is about 11 per cent. On an investment of £100, therefore, the return in six years would be only £66, and in seven years £77, so that the losses would be respectively £34 and £23, on capital account, without allowing anything for interest. In order to redeem the £100 invested in six years, £15 would have to be set aside annually at 3 per cent., or £12 12s. for seven

years, either amount being much in excess of the actual yield on the market price. Double the dividend, and still the investor would be short of his capital at the end. The company's assets consist principally of machinery, plant, buildings, &c., so there will be little valuable plunder to divide when the auction comes. As for the estate, prospecting operations have been carried out on this with the object of locating, if possible, the Rietfontein series. Boring was continued to a depth of 3,000 ft., but as the formation of the country to that depth was almost exclusively diabase, work was discontinued. The company has also shared with other companies the expense of sinking a borehole north of the New Primrose mine, in order to ascertain if any payable reef bodies existed, underlying the Main Reef series, but as nothing of an encouraging nature was met with down to a depth of 3,500 ft., the boring operations were stopped. The Main Reef in the mine has, however, been proved to be payable—at any rate, the greater portion of it—and the working of this may prolong the life for a year or two, perhaps longer. But as it is almost certain to cause an appreciable reduction in the profits and dividends, this will tell the other way and affect in no important degree the intrinsic value of the share as an investment. It will not be a profitable one, from any point of view.

TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES.

This institution, which so thoroughly looks after the interests of the poor mine-boss—the victim of well-merited scorn and ridicule—has gone to the expense of sending to this tax-burdened country copies of its annual report for the year, 1904. Like its predecessors, it is a bulky volume, but there will be precious few who will have the patience to read it in its entirety, for the greater part of it is dull, dry stuff, comprising page after page of unimportant correspondence on unimportant matters, though the boss himself probably regards it as of vital importance to his well-being, if to no one else's. As these numerous pages voice, for the most part, the interested sentiments and opinions of the cosmopolitan potentates who control the industry and through the industry the fortunes of thousands of hope-beguiled and hope-lost mammon-worshippers, they do not give themselves away.

As usual, many tables of figures dealing with general and individual gold production are got together. All these statistics are reproduced from the various company reports, and have been analysed, when published, in our mining news columns. Brought together, however, in this volume they serve a useful purpose in being made handy for reference purposes. One table forms a record of the dividends paid by Rand companies each year from 1887 to 1904, from which we learn that out of the many hundreds of companies floated only the minute number of 71 have returned anything to their shareholders in the shape of dividends. Investors in South African companies have, as we always insist and accurately insist, lost incomputably more than they will ever get out of the industry. Some companies pay huge dividends, others tiny ones, because most of the capitals have been deluged with water. Investors do not, as a rule, take account of the lives of the mines, nor of the amounts to be set aside yearly for the redemption of the principal. Week by week, however, we are showing, by a method striking enough, how the buyer will, on the whole, be a loser by investing even in the best Kaffir shares, notwithstanding the comparatively low prices now ruling. What, therefore, will be the losses of those investors who bought at the high prices to which shares were rigged in the middle nineties? The life of a mine, a question that is, of course, ignored in this report, is a matter of supreme importance. An instance is furnished by the Geldenhuis Main Reef. This company has practically exhausted its ground and is about to be closed down, yet it has paid back to the shareholders only £45,000 out of its capital of £150,000—equal to 6s. per share. Since 1898 the shares have,

however, been standing at a substantial discount, but even with that holders have lost considerably, because they have ignored the question of life.

Another table shows the number of stamps erected on the Rand and the outside districts of the Transvaal. Many of these are non-effective, and many are situated on properties which have been closed down. At the end of 1904 the number erected is given as 7,875, the number running 5,555, and the number idle 2,320, and, of course, the cause assigned for the "idleness" is the dearth of labour. That is to say, rather than employ whites, the mine bosses prefer to keep 2,320 stamps hung up, and this is what they try to persuade an ignorant public is economy. The loss thus incurred is greater than the extra cost of employing such labour, for it is a loss that tells in many ways—such as depreciation, unprofitable expenditure in upkeep, loss of income and interest—which the average man, clamouring for slave labour, will not see. Thus there is little or nothing in this report that is new—even the lies are not fresh—and little of any importance to the ordinary man. It concentrates figures, statistics and matter that have been published in our columns in the past twelve months, information gathered, summarised and analysed from official company documents. We notice it more to lay emphasis on its omissions than its contents, for it is by the omissions, the eloquent silence, that the boss strives to conceal the truth from public scrutiny and knowledge.

ANARCHIC RUSSIA AND PEACE PROSPECTS.

Ghastly news comes almost daily from Poland and other parts of Russia, news of massacres, brutal attacks upon the Jews, men, women, and children promiscuously shot down by savage bands of Cossacks, Lodz depopulated, and Warsaw in a state of anarchy, but all pales before the grave events at Odessa. Beginning with the mutiny of the men on the battleship *Kniaz Potemkin*, insurrection and anarchy have spread to other vessels of the Black Sea Fleet, and to the State sailors at Libau. It is feared that the troops at Odessa may join the revolt in numbers sufficient to imperil all authority there. If the peasants also rise, as they are reported to have already done all over the province of Kherson, then the end has come, not only for Tsardom and bureaucracy, but perhaps for national unity in Russia. And it is to be feared that such tales as reach us represent only a small portion of the truth. All over Russia, wherever industrial populations congregate, there is unrest, rebellion, and continual resort to deeds of violence. Odessa has become a more threatening centre of rebellion against the bureaucracy than Warsaw or Lodz, and the population of Petersburg itself is only kept down by the massing of large bodies of troops, whose steadfastness, outside the Cossacks, daily grows more doubtful. Soon it may be impossible to get troops to carry out the orders of the military chiefs of the bureaucracy, and the fever of revolt may carry the surging populations far, may infect neighbouring States. The Tsar does not seem capable of grasping in any resolute manner the problems confronting him, and merely falls back further and further on the devices of absolutism, playing with his promises, uttering impotent threats, and hiding himself. It was thought for a brief moment that he had come round to the popular side. His speech to the delegates from the Zemstvos was, as first reported, conciliatory and conceding, but apparently his masters in the bureaucracy would not have it so, and presently all the good was explained away, the concessions were minimised, and the people given to understand that no real liberty of any description was to be conceded, only a military dictatorship. This can only involve the spread of revolt. Thus already all over Russia anarchy rears its head, and no man can form any definite idea of what the ultimate product is going to be. Meantime the war goes on, and as far as the operations are allowed to be known the Japanese appear to be slowly, but with their usual

thoroughness, circumventing the Russian army under General Linievitch, and preparing to force it to fight for its existence, or surrender. One more scene of frightful slaughter cannot be far off and the Tsar, report says, is quite willing to sacrifice another 100,000 men on a last desperate throw to avert utter defeat. What is the use of appointing delegates to discuss terms of peace and assigning the beginning of August as the date for their meeting if this bloodshed is to continue meanwhile? "Why, then, cannot Japan grant an armistice?" people say. Japan dare not, remembering what she has suffered already at the hands of the Russian diplomat, noting also that events in Russia may soon wreck all sources of authority there. The danger, indeed, is that there may before long be no one in Russia endowed with the power to make a peace.

Passing Events.

"J. R. S." keeps insisting in letters to the Press that Mr. Carl Meyer has an awfully short memory, and he really makes some points worth pondering on. Take his last letter, published in Monday's *Financial Times*. Dealing with Mr. Carl Meyer's statement published in the *Times*, over his own signature, to the effect that "he had never any connection whatever with the first cold storage company," "J. R. S." writes:—

Surely, if he acted as representative of the De Beers Company at the inception of the Imperial Company in January, 1902, and (as I see from the Official Intelligence of the Stock Exchange) was chairman of the Imperial Company in London in 1904, it is hardly correct to say that he had never any connection with the South African Company, as the South African and Imperial companies were amalgamated in August, 1902. Perhaps, however, the unusual terms made by Mr. Meyer's company when the amalgamation was arranged that neither company should inspect the other's books may have caused the matter to have escaped Mr. Meyer's memory. Again, one fails to follow Mr. Meyer when he argues that the contract ended disastrously for the first Imperial Cold Storage Company, the only one, he says, he was connected with. Before the date of the amalgamation of the Imperial Company and the South African Company things had certainly turned out disastrously for the first company; they had lost several hundred thousand pounds, either by taking over the De Beers Cold Storage or by the Bergl Government contract. They stood close to losing the £150,000 forfeitable to Government if they failed to supply meat, and the £650,000 share capital of the Imperial Company could have been of no great marketable value.

As, however, on the date of signing the agreement between the first and second company, in August, 1902, the debt was arranged for, the liability to the Government ceased, and the 650,000 practically valueless shares became 800,000, worth 30s. each on the London Stock Exchange. Though the arrangement was indeed disastrous for the then prosperous South African Company, it must surely have been of great benefit to the original syndicate, of which Mr. Carl Meyer was a member, both in relieving them of anxiety and in releasing capital which must have been of great use to trade in South Africa in the later end of 1902.

The last paragraph of the above is full of suggestion, and might be worth the attention of our new Royal Commission. How came the liability of the company to the Government to cease with results so profitable to those who manipulated the fusion and the share market? Who were the members of "the original syndicate?"

The United Indigo and Chemical Company is one of those fabulous profit-earning combines which were floated some years ago just to show our rivals what we could do in the trust business, and incidentally for the enrichment of a crowd of greedy promoters. It is no better or worse than the rest, and its earning capacity may be judged from the fact that the directors have just announced an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, bringing the payment up to June 30 of last year. Whether this distribution constitutes the entire achievement for the twelve months just ended cannot be gathered from the announcement made, but it seems improbable that anything more will be forthcoming, and should that prove to be the case the company will start the new year with twelve months' preference dividend to the bad. For 1903-4 a full 6 per cent. was paid,

so that business is evidently going from bad to worse. But what else can you expect when goodwill stands for £140,000 out of a capital outlay of £176,000? The ordinary shares have received nothing since 1901.

A profoundly interesting and instructive letter has been written and sent to the Press this week by Mr. F. A. Govett, the chairman of the Ivanhoe Gold Corporation, on the subject of company reconstructions. It was apparently provoked by the scheme just put forward for the reorganisation of the Dunlop Company's capital, which Mr. Govett uses to illustrate his arguments, and does so with great intelligence and force. We are not in accord with all he says, but there is much ground for universal agreement, and it is quite refreshing to find someone asking, if it is necessary to reconstruct the Dunlop Company, why not the Grand Trunk, Metropolitan District or Great Central Railways? With at least one of these enterprises there was quite as much promotion plundering as with the Tyre Company, and their securities are just as badly depreciated, yet no one dreams of advocating the slicing off of railway capital. The universal plea, Mr. Govett says, is that writing off lost capital improves the financial position. But is it so? The Grand Trunk Company's ordinary stock stands at, say, 80 per cent. discount, the Canadian Pacifics at 50 per cent. premium, yet the credit of both for raising loans is precisely the same. Nor can this be regarded as an exceptional case, and it is quite certain that the Dunlop would not borrow on better terms because the evidences of robbery had been removed from its balance-sheet. Neither will the company's commercial credit be improved, its earning power grow greater, nor its material and labour become cheaper. Practically all these capital tinkering involve interference with preference rights, and have for their object the obliteration of the past, and for the latter reason alone are highly undesirable. Therefore, says Mr. Govett in effect, reconstructions should never be undertaken unless very exceptional reasons can be advanced, and his able arguments make it clear that something is seriously amiss with laws that at present render so easy the "whitewashing of the past." Companies are formed to-day, in a year or two's time are alleged to have lost capital, are reconstructed with nothing worse happening than a lot of noise from shareholders, and often not that, and someone goes off with a deal of plunder. What is the remedy? It will be hard to find, but undoubtedly an effort must be made to render less easy that robbing of the public which is behind most reconstructions.

The tobacco business of *Cope Bros. and Co.*, of Liverpool, itself not a very flourishing affair, has completed arrangements, apparently without the consent of the shareholders, whereby the firm of Robinson and Barnsdale, Limited, of Nottingham, will pass under its control. Needless to say, no mention is made of the terms, and proprietors will no doubt recall the wonderful secrecy maintained when Richard Lloyd and Sons' connection was taken over some time back.

Sundry unknown difficulties having been overcome, the Board of Trade and Trinity House have concluded a contract with Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company providing for the equipment of lightships with wireless telegraph installations. This arrangement will enable the lightships to communicate with the shore and with each other for the ordinary purposes of the lightship service, and also to report ships in distress. Good news from all standpoints, a short distance service such as this being very suitable for the wireless system.

They say that Spiers and Pond are about to introduce a new tariff for refreshments, showing an all-round reduction in prices; and it will now be possible to get a cup of tea, costing, say, a halfpenny, for 3d. instead of the old price of 4d. Intoxicating libations will be reduced in proportion, and the new order of things is sure to be appreciated by a thirsty public, because sometimes it is a case of go to Spiers and Pond or go without. Acute competition has no doubt forced

the directors into action, but whether improved profits will result remains to be seen.

It was most kind of Mr. Austen Chamberlain to explain why he had piled up about £6,000,000 through an issue of Exchequer bonds, costing the taxpayer rather more than 3 per cent. per annum in interest, money which is not wanted for the specific object of the loan until next December. It appears that he has performed this interesting operation in order to be free from the necessity of borrowing the dividend money at the Bank of England this week. Last year, he said in answer to Mr. McCrae, owing to the depleted state of the Exchequer balances, it was necessary to borrow large sums for the payment of the July dividends. This year no such borrowing will be required. What excellent thrift in finance this represents! The borrowings at the Bank of England would probably at the rates of interest now current in the market have cost considerably less than this Exchequer bond money, and would certainly have had to be repaid out of revenue at an early date. But the costlier plan is the one that commends itself to the present Government, to this wonderful young amateur in finance; so the nation is to be saddled with the £7,000,000 to £10,000,000 of new debt at over 3 per cent., in order that the Treasury may avoid the inconvenience of borrowing £4,000,000 to £5,000,000 for a few weeks each quarter day to pay dividends with. It is an odd commentary upon the wonderful management of finance that these dividends should always have more or less to be borrowed, and we should not be surprised to find the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he comes to be called upon to pay off those expiring Exchequer bonds next December hard up for money, in spite of his April prudence.

It is interesting always to note the practical illustrations of that Imperial unity and self-containedness for which the false prophet of Highbury contends, and we have a curious one in the tax of £60 per annum imposed upon commercial travellers representing firms or corporations having no place of business in Canada. This tax is decreed by the Quebec Legislature, and has raised a newspaper storm in the Dominion. It seems the scribes describe it as a tax conceived in a narrow and restrictive spirit, and say it will strike a severe blow at British trade with Canada. We hope not; but, after all, is Canada so very anxious to develop British trade, or do its people desire to have a trade of their own, to be "self-contained," in fact, without reference to the rest of the Empire, except when borrowing is in question?

The New York Exchange has turned against the Wall Street money market, and gold is once more being exported to Europe. It was stated on Monday that \$3,300,000 were to go to Paris by Paris steamers during the week. The news had hardly any effect upon market prices, and need not have any, since the supply of paper and of banking credit appears to be without limit, but it might become inconvenient if the exports were to go on for weeks and assume a magnitude that struck the imagination. Evidently, too, there is a certain nervousness in the minds of the players upon Wall Street, for a discussion has been raised as to what would happen should Japan withdraw the proceeds of the American portion of her last loan in the form of gold transmitted to London. Reassuring views are put forward, such as that the money may never be withdrawn at all if Japan secures a large indemnity from Russia. It will be all spent in the United States. This is pleasant, but a little previous, we should judge, since the amount of the indemnity has not yet been settled; but that such a subject should be discussed proves that financiers on the other side of the Atlantic are less happy than they would have us believe.

Apparently the diplomatic storm or tiff between Paris and Berlin is passing by. Cordial relations are to be once more established, and Germany is professing anxiety to have a closer accord with France rather than to stir up differences. This is as it should be, and the pity is that there should ever have been any dis-

turbance about that miserable Moroccan question. Germany, however, persists in demanding a conference of the Powers, and really there is no reason why this request should not be granted.

Almost as pleasant a tale was told by the Treasurer of New South Wales about the revenue as the Victorian Premier set forth a week ago. Not for fifteen years has there been such a fine revenue. So good is the return that it will enable the Government to reduce the public debt by £300,000 and the floating debt by £100,000, still leaving a substantial balance over to be applied in any direction Parliament may authorise. So said Mr. Carruthers, the State Premier and Treasurer. We hope all this fine prosperity does not imply early appeals to the London Money market for further loans.

What makes for doubt about the position of New South Wales' finance, of Australian State finance altogether, is the fact that the Federal revenue upon which they all so much depend has been diminishing during the current financial year. We have the figures to the end of April, for ten months that is to say, and they show a decrease of about £366,000. The Federal Treasurer estimated for a loss on the twelve months of only £125,000. Thus already the revenue was short by nearly three times that amount, with two months to run, and at the same time the Federal expenditure had not proportionately diminished. Out of what resources then is New South Wales obtaining its surplus?

It was hardly to be expected that Swedish politicians of all hues would acquiesce quietly in the decision of Norway to separate herself from the overlordship of the Bernadotte dynasty, but although the Upper House, being the more conservative, seems disposed to cavil over the men selected to form its half of the committee of twenty-four appointed to deal with the Norwegian proposals, and to draw up the agreement for severance, there is no reason to suppose that anything except wordy friction will arise. No party in Sweden is in favour of war—no strong party at least. All the same, it seems a pity that there should be rumours afloat of Swedish troops being moved towards the frontier, and that there should be talk of raising an emergency loan of £5,600,000, so as to have the means on hand to mobilise the army and the fleet if necessary. There is nothing to fight about, nor would either nation gain anything by victory—the victor might be the greater loser. Hence we trust that arrangements for the separation will be carried out with goodwill, in such a manner as really to draw the two peoples closer together than they have been under the system of the dual monarchy.

An admirable article appeared in Wednesday's *Daily News* from the pen of Baron D'Estournelles de Constant on international conciliation. It may be—as was the case with an able and suggestive article published in these columns some weeks ago, advocating a closer alliance between England and France, an alliance whereby the cost of armaments might be much diminished for the two countries—that the writer of this article is ahead of his time, but he unquestionably expresses a spirit which is becoming more visible in the minds of thinking people throughout the civilised world. The writer justly observes that the German Emperor has always manifested a keen desire to live in harmony with France. To do him justice, indeed, he has never really been animated by a hostile spirit towards any country. The exigencies of his position compel him to play the warrior, and also, doubtless, his individual idiosyncrasies, but in his actions he is a man of peace, and assuredly the German people are less and less inclined to go a-warring with every year that passes. All these bickerings about Morocco and the fussings in one direction or another are designed to keep Germany to the fore as a great empire, and perhaps to further her commercial ambition more than to incite to bloodshed. Therefore, we agree with M. de Constant in believing that a Franco-German *entente* is just as possible as an Anglo-

French one by mutual concessions, and we hope to live to see the day when the great Western peoples of Europe will harmoniously unite to deliver themselves from the curse of militarism.

Critical Index To New Investments.

J. STONE AND CO., LIMITED.

Established in 1842, this business of brass, copper, and iron workers and mechanical and general engineers was for family reasons converted into a private limited liability company with a capital of £700,200, divided into 30,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £10 and 400,200 ordinary shares of £1 each. The whole of these were issued to the vendors in part payment for the business, and as these gentlemen now want an official quotation for the preference shares they offer 20,000 for sale at par. For some reason or other the old firm prepared inventories of stock only once in seven years, so that the accountants were unable to ascertain the annual profits for the period to December 31, 1902; but they certify that for the nine years to December 31, 1904, the average amounted to a sum which would have been sufficient to pay the annual dividend on the preference shares three times over and leave a surplus. In addition to this they certify that the eighth year showed a considerable advance over the average of the previous seven years, both as regards profits and sales, and that the ninth year showed a still further improvement. A considerable space is taken up in the prospectus with a list of the principal customers, and it is also stated that the company is the sole manufacturer for the United Kingdom and her colonies and dependencies of the Stone-Lloyd system of hydraulic water-tight doors for ships, but no mention is made of the value of the property owned or of the proportion of capital represented by goodwill, and without information on these points it is impossible to arrive at a definite conclusion as to the merits of the shares offered as an investment.

PACIFIC NITRATE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Aurelia Syndicate having purchased 318 estacas of virgin nitrate ground in the province of Antofagasta for £118,000 in cash, is reselling them to this company for £185,000 and the refund of not more than £8,000 for the expense of acquiring and exploring the property. Of this amount £65,000 is taken in £1 shares out of a total of 175,000, and the balance in cash, but the vendors have agreed to subscribe for the remaining 110,000 shares at par. An issue of 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures for an amount equal to the share capital has been sold to Messrs. Balfour, Williamson, and Co., at a discount, and is now offered for subscription at 102 per cent., payable 5 per cent. on application, 45 per cent. on allotment, and 52 per cent. on August 15. These debentures are redeemable on or before January 1, 1918, at 103 per cent., and are secured by a first charge on the nitrate grounds and on the two oficinas and other fixtures to be erected thereon. It is estimated that the grounds contain a workable quantity of 19,000,000 quintals of nitrate of soda, which it is thought could be placed f.o.b. Antofagasta at a cost of 5s. per quintal. On the assumption that the output from the two oficinas will be between 1,000,000 and 1,250,000 quintals per annum, and that a profit of 1s. 3d. per quintal is obtained the annual profits are calculated at £62,500, exclusive of those earned from the manufacture of iodine. Apparently the company is counting on the continuation of the Trust and on its being granted a net quota of the above-mentioned 1,250,000 quintals, and if both these things turn out as expected the company may do well enough.

ANGLO-CHILIAN NITRATE AND RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

An issue of £160,300 in 4½ per cent. consolidated mortgage bonds of £100 each is announced by the board of this company. The issue forms part of an authorised £600,000, of which £411,500 was allotted

in 1896, and the money is to be used in redeeming the 6 per cent. railway first mortgage bonds, leaving £28,200 still to be issued. As the bonds are secured by mortgage and trust deed as a first charge on the company's property the price of 98 at which they are offered does not seem too high, and we can well understand that it has not been necessary to have the issue underwritten. Part of the previously issued 4½ per cent. bonds has already been redeemed, and the position of the company is a strong one.

CITY OF STOCKHOLM 3½ PER CENT. LOAN.

An issue of 18,999,720 kr., part of an authorised 50,000,000 kr., is announced by the Municipality of Stockholm through the agency of bankers in Hamburg, Belgium, and Switzerland. Apparently the price asked is par, and the loan is undoubtedly good, the bonds being redeemable by annual drawings at par in 44 years. Redemption, however, may be accelerated after 1915 on three months' notice given. Coupons are payable in kroner, marks, or francs at a fixed rate on March 15 and September 15 in each year, and the bonds have already been admitted to a quotation on the Hamburg Bourse. Stockholm has a debt of 103,288,000 kr. exclusive of this loan, and assets of the value of 138,159,000 kr.—“*la fortune de la Ville*.” Receipts have gone up from about 24,515,000 kr. in 1900 to 36,855,000 kr. last year, and expenses have nearly kept pace with them.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS.—Holders of existing stocks and shares were offered a further £300,000 4 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock at 98 per cent. The price is payable 10 per cent. on application, 40 per cent. on July 5, and the balance on July 20, but the stock carries full interest as from July 1.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.—In order to provide for the completion of the purchase of the Crystal Palace Company's undertaking and to meet the increase in the business shareholders and debenture stock holders are offered £51,708 4¾ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, 16,300 ordinary and 32,600 7 per cent. cumulative preference share of £1 each. The debenture stock is issued at 105 per cent., and the shares at 21s. 6d. per share, and applications for the latter must be made in the proportion of one ordinary share for every two preference shares required. According to the report issued in March, the acquisition of the Crystal Palace Company's system added about £5,500 to the net revenue, and the amount earned did not suffice to give the ordinary shares a dividend, but during the five months to May 31 another 7,634 8-c.p. lamps have been added, and it is estimated that the profits for the current year will be not less than £22,000, which would leave about £7,400 available for ordinary dividend and other purposes, exclusive of the £6,706 brought forward.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—English traders still report very little business, the London cargo market being exceptionally quiet. Sellers are still endeavouring to maintain prices but buyers are holding off for easier rates in view of the big world's shipments and the good state of the crops throughout Europe. Holders, however, are thought to be in the stronger position and the tendency became distinctly firmer late in the week on American advices, markets on the other side showing steady improvement. Apprehensions regarding the weather in the north-west, a decrease in the visible supply from 16,782,000 bushels to 15,388,000 bushels and Bradstreet's estimates caused fidgeting amongst the “bears” and their covering purchases, combined with buying for new crop, sent prices forward. The quantity in sight east of the Rockies is stated at only 22,381,000 bushels against 24,134,000 bushels last week and 22,800,000 bushels a year ago. Such figures are considered a decided “bull” point and the tendency continued hard to the end. Dornbusch estimates the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 3,090,000 bushels an increase on the week of 45,000 bushels, and to the Continent at 2,180,000 bushels against 2,140,000 bushels. Advices from Buenos Ayres regarding the wheat harvest for the current year are very encouraging. The wheat-producing area of 1904-5 was increased by about 2,000,000 acres compared with the previous season, the quantity harvested being 138,000,000 bushels, say 3,700,000 tons, against 125,000,000 bushels in 1904 and 100,000,000 bushels in 1903, surely remarkable progress. It seems probable that about 2,600,000 tons will be available for export, although the shipments so far have been delayed by the congestion at Bahia Blanca.

WOOL.—Signs of improvement are noticeable in the wool trade, but though prices are showing a tendency to advance, there is great complaint of the dearthness of the raw material, especially at Bradford. At the sales, however, wool has been cleared at an appreciable advance, and dealers in the home-grown article are exhibiting some cheerfulness and confidence. All tops show

considerable strength, but there is little new business in yarns. In Leicester June has been a very busy month, the busiest, probably, for over a quarter of a century. Farmers are getting very good prices for their wools, and spinners are receiving more inquiries, though they find it anything but easy to command prices for any class of yarn that will leave a small profit. At the London Wool Exchange some 3,000 bales of woolled sheepskins were offered, and under an active demand from home and Continental representatives very few bales were left unsold, several good lots being purchased for America. Higher rates were obtained for all descriptions.

LINEN.—There is still an absence of any new thing to report in this market. Transactions amount to rather above than below the average for the time of year, and a fair all round business is being done in every class of goods except damasks. Barnsley trade remains more conspicuously improving in goods of the cheaper quality, though here the better class damasks show an increasing demand, and trade with abroad shows no falling off. Belfast exports are much as they have been for the past few weeks, any change that does take place is an improvement rather than otherwise, but that is about all. Yarns are the same, new business restricted but fairly well distributed, and prices without alteration. Further reports on the flax crop are not all that could be wished in some districts. Home crop promises well, and in Belgium the plant appears satisfactory, but in Russia rain is badly needed, and the seed appears to be poor in quality. The Holland crop is backward.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the week under review the absorbing feature has been the considerable upward movement in raw cotton. Prices have risen to an important extent. Last Saturday American spot middling in Liverpool was 5.08d. as compared with 5.32d. on Thursday last. The bull manipulators in the States have been very active, and so far have been successful in engineering a rise. Lancashire spinners have had no need to follow or enter the market, as they have been for some time back fully covered for several months to come. In Egyptian cotton there has been a large demand from the trade, and prices have advanced considerably. Manchester thinks that the growing American cotton crop is doing fairly well, but she fears that the high level of values now current will interfere with our trade abroad. In the meantime cloth for our leading outlets has been dealt in very sparingly. Buyers have not felt in the mood to follow and give the high rates demanded. Telegrams from India have not been encouraging to merchants here to give out orders at the advanced rates. The monsoon rains burst at Bombay last Monday. This gave relief to the market, for there was, up to the end of last week, some anxiety at the three weeks' delay. China buyers appear to have had few orders to give out. The nearer markets of South America, the Levant, and Egypt have been moderately busy, but here also the higher prices demanded by manufacturers have restricted business. The home cloth trade department is looking a little better. Distributing houses are giving out contracts for delivery later on in the year. Home trade American yarns were much dearer on Thursday as compared with the week before. Spinners advanced their quotations by way of protection and not from any amount of business coming round in cop twist and weft. The result of the rise in the raw material is a small business and a diminished margin. Shipping yarns have been for the most part inactive as exporters have not followed the Liverpool movement. Few transactions in bundles have occurred for any foreign outlet. Bolton spinnings have been very strong. Producers are, on the whole, in a better position. Their order lists are heavier, and stocks have been cleared. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton are generally in a healthier state than for some months back.

In the early part of the week there was a great jump in prices in New York, and the market was active and excited, which later developed into something resembling a bear panic. Shorts were compelled to cover at the best prices obtainable on further heavy rains being reported in Texas, and the Mississippi Valley, and the great advance in Liverpool prices were maintained despite heavy realising by old bull interests. Subsequently, however, prices sharply fell on a favourable weather forecast, and on selling by New Orleans, foreign and spot interests, liquidation, and the news from Odessa.

COAL.—The coal trade continues slack, and complaints are heard everywhere of the dulness of business, especially in household fuel. In some parts of Lancashire and the north pits are not working full time. There is only a normal demand, too, on shipping account. Best house coal is going at 13s. to 14s., medium 12s. to 13s., and common 9s. to 10s. Trade is not up to the mark either in the coalfields of South Yorkshire, where the demand, limited as it is, is chiefly for steam coal, in which a very fair business is being done. In domestic fuel the production continues to exceed the demand. Slack and smudge have been in good request, and prices are well maintained. On Tyne-side there are signs of an improvement, though the holidays here have also continued to interfere with business. The Northumberland colliers have rescinded their decision to ballot the county as to whether the men are prepared to strike to enforce an advance of wages for the boys and free coal and rent allowance for single householders. Owners are inclined to compromise and the men will wait upon them shortly.

COPPER.—Leading dealers report a big absorption of refined metal for near delivery on European and American account, and it seems likely that with a continuance of the heavy requirements for the Far East the demand will be in excess of production for some time to come. Nevertheless, the market has

not developed any great activity this week, and in fact opened rather dull, despite better American advices. Big operators, however, soon brought about a rally, and with more prominent speculative support, prices gradually hardened to over £66. From that there was a slight reaction, and with the turnover again growing less quotations ended easier on the week at £65 15s. for cash and £65 16s. 3d. for three months forward.

TIN.—Demand continues brisk with values steadily improving, forward delivery being sustained by a good demand from the East and prompt by American inquiries. Occasionally some slight irregularity is noticeable, but in good quarters present prices are said to be justified by intrinsic merits. Some dealers are thought to be rather "short" judging from the anxiety displayed to cover sales, and while the consumptive demand keeps up not particular setback is apprehended. Political matters, however, rather disturbed the market at the close and the early improvement was lost, final figures being unaltered at £139 15s. for spot and a trifle higher at £138 7s. 6d. for future positions.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business is not improving very noticeably in the ordinary channels of the iron and steel trades, and the market is much less strong than it was in the early spring. Although shipments from the East Coast are increasing, trade in pig-iron is disappointing, for buying is of a very conservative character. Purchases, however, of a speculative kind are being made. On the whole, however, the condition of the trade may be described as healthy. In the Manchester district of Lancashire business has been resumed but slowly after the Whitsuntide holidays and on 'Change orders have been placed only on the lowest basis. Scotch pig seems to have touched bottom. At Barrow quietness rules in the Hematite pig trade, and prices have shown a tendency to drop, but the quotation for mixed Bessemer numbers is steady at 57s. 6d. net f.o.b. Warrant iron is about 2s. less. Business is likewise very slack in forward deliveries and the belief appears to be spreading that an improvement is not probable until the war in the Far East is ended. In fact, a boom is then predicted in some quarters, provided, of course, there develop no serious European complications in the meantime. For Cleveland warrants the price is kept firm at 45s. 6d. per ton, at which markers are getting back some of their old custom.

TEA.—The trade has been so much absorbed in preparing for the reduction in duty to come into force on July 1 that less attention has been paid to purchasing tea than might otherwise have been the case. Accordingly, the market has been less active, though the change noticeable is, after all, but slight, the principal factor being a trifling weakness in the lower grades. There was a further reduction in the quantity of Indian tea brought to auction, and judging by the size of the sale it looks as if we are getting near to the end of the crop. For next week only 3,082 packages are brought forward, the probable reason being, as Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, Limited, observe, the fear that the coming into force of the alteration in the duty may occasion still further temporary dislocation in the purchasing powers of the trade. (There is not much change to note in the Ceylon market, except that useful liquoring teas about maintain previous quotations, whilst the commonest kinds show a little weakness. The quantity remains practically unchanged. Average for the week was 6.39d. against 6.58d. in 1904. Java tea has been well represented and has sold at strong prices.

SUGAR.—Prices have followed the developments of the continental political situation, weakening when they looked serious and strengthening on an improvement in the outlook. Either realisations, or "bear" sales, based on good crop news or less favourable statistical prospects, or apathy of consumers, caused August to move from 11s. 11¼d. to 11s. 3½d., to 11s. 5½d., to 11s. 3d., to 11s. 4d., to 11s. 3½d., and November-December from 9s. 11¼d., to 9s. 7d., to 9s. 7½d., whilst prompt granulated moved from 14s. 1½d. to 13s. 6d. Imports of refined in the past four weeks have been 63,000 tons, against 76,000 tons, and raws 39,000, compared with 59,000 tons, making a total of 102,000 tons, against 135,000. Java shipments, says Mr. Czarnikow, have begun a little earlier, three or four steamers contracted for July, having already sailed, but the total tonnage secured for the season is as yet less than last year. The Paris market has only given way fcs. 34.25 to fcs. 33.50, equals 3¾d. per cwt., against 7½d. in Hamburg, and as long as France does not co-operate a continued decline will be difficult. English refined has moved downwards and refiners are complaining of the dulness of trade. America has devoted her attention to European markets and continues to abstain from paying any attention to offers of foreign sugar, whilst she has been able to buy Cuban sugar at somewhat easier rates. The landings in the three ports for the week were 31,000 tons, and meltings 39,000 tons, stocks being reduced to 228,000 tons. Receipts and shipments in the six ports of Cuba in the week ending June 28 were 6,000 tons and 9,000 tons respectively, and stocks are 334,000 tons against 150,385 tons a year ago.

The Bill promoted to effect the fusion of the Hand-in-Hand Fire and Life office with the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Limited, has to-day received the Royal Assent. But the Hand-in-Hand office's scales of premiums and business will go on all as usual.

It is announced that arrangements for amalgamation are being made by the directors of Marston, Thompson, and Sons and Sydney Evershed, two of the oldest brewing firms in Burton-on-Trent. Negotiations for the amalgamation of two other well-known breweries are in progress.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

THE value of the gold produced in the Transvaal during May was a record, for it exceeded the previous best month, which was August, 1899, by £47,827, but it is impotent to tempt the public to buy Kaffir shares. From the mines on the Rand proper the return of gold was 400,149 ozs. of fine gold, and from those in the outside districts 16,246 ozs., making a total of 416,395 ozs., of a value of £1,768,734, against 399,166 ozs. worth £1,695,550 in the preceding month, showing increases of 17,229 ozs. and £73,184 respectively, May being a longer month than April by one day. The daily average was 13,432 ozs. compared with 13,305 ozs., so there was an actual average advance of 127 ozs. per diem, despite the fact that the net gain in natives employed was only a round dozen, the number at work at the end of the month being returned

MINE.	March.			April.			May.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	10,832	6,715	12,237	11,048	6,566	11,986	13,656	6,731	9,556
Barrett	349	150	..	337	260	..	373	250	..
Bonanza	8,750	4,897	9,139	8,620	4,078	9,157	8,700	4,596	9,104
City and Suburban	24,800	9,378	16,505	21,600	9,061	16,007	23,901	8,330	13,514
Comet, New	13,520	5,797	5,417	14,597	5,365	3,272	15,840	5,332	1,428
Cons. Langlaagte	15,953	6,260	8,251	15,019	6,053	7,302	15,661	6,241	7,855
Cons. Main Reef	27,138	9,794	17,500	27,891	11,341	19,050	29,199	11,402	19,000
Crown Reef	20,340	12,785	25,063	18,221	12,432	25,286	19,715	12,335	25,033
Driefontein	19,061	9,278	14,000	19,065	9,294	15,781	19,600	9,555	15,129
Durban Roodepoort	10,070	5,073	8,300	10,650	5,035	8,700	10,840	5,147	8,000
Do. Deep	9,410	4,327	4,200	9,365	4,349	4,300	10,005	4,491	4,500
Ferreira	19,426	11,145	24,284	18,900	11,001	24,318	19,670	11,266	24,280
Do. Deep	16,267	10,970	27,200	15,500	10,585	27,200	12,084	27,000	..
French Rand	14,650	4,744	1,401	13,850	5,054	3,024	13,750	5,134	2,212
Geldenhuis Deep	24,500	10,282	17,000	24,060	10,401	1,800	25,040	11,068	18,000
Geldenhuis Estate	15,310	6,712	14,282	16,150	6,994	15,175	16,750	7,198	15,935
Ginsberg .....	..	3,539	5,237	..	3,385	5,161	8,400	3,484	5,204
Glencairn .....	..	4,417	5,715	..	4,082	5,429	14,831	4,242	4,504
Glen Deep	15,110	6,646	9,100	15,500	6,459	9,300	16,020	6,729	8,850
Glynn's Lydenberg	2,703	1,660	..	2,231	1,266	..	2,325	1,453	..
Goch New	10,022	3,628	2,492	9,088	3,275	2,029	9,916	3,411	2,023
Henry Nourse	10,872	6,449	12,190	10,731	5,987	12,201	10,656	6,249	12,097
Heriot	9,260	3,834	1,984	9,030	3,763	2,387	9,300	3,864	2,672
Jubilee	5,986	1,623	..	5,507	1,634	..	5,803	1,783	..
Jumpers	10,622	3,874	3,600	10,700	3,967	3,855	11,576	4,042	3,553
Jumpers Deep	16,210	5,470	1,000	15,414	5,282	1,030	16,227	5,190	700
Knight's .....	..	6,347	..	..	6,751	..	24,200	7,542	4,802
Knight's Deep	23,200	8,856	7,568	21,900	8,503	8,498	24,700	9,191	11,496
Lancaster	12,160	4,146	936	11,790	3,935	443	13,000	4,567	226
Lancaster West	6,524	2,500	2,930	6,262	2,330	2,605	6,645	2,365	2,344
Langlaagte Deep	20,207	7,391	7,100	18,833	6,789	6,950	20,446	6,975	6,950
Do. Estate	26,170	8,691	..	25,780	8,532	..	26,775	8,609	..
May Consolidated	13,750	6,195	11,688	13,350	6,016	11,662	13,730	6,145	11,606
Meyer and Charlton	10,400	4,427	8,525	10,020	4,409	8,550	11,500	4,717	8,614
Modderfontein	9,608	3,818	3,915	9,293	3,702	4,166	9,554	3,739	3,960
New Kleinfontein	21,019	7,010	..	25,365	8,841	..	28,001	9,457	9,254
New Unified .....	..	3,315	1,617	..	3,242	2,111	9,015	3,275	2,007
Niekerk .....	..	..	..	909	294	..	783	243	2,007
Nigel	6,350	3,574	4,565	6,120	3,460	4,841	6,465	3,593	5,202
North Randfontein	14,458	5,313	..	14,418	5,400	..	15,246	5,442	..
Nourse Deep	14,200	6,811	8,800	13,960	6,877	9,250	14,460	7,105	8,150
Primrose .....	..	7,767	13,489	..	6,933	12,489	17,475	7,224	13,184
Princess Estate	6,790	2,689	1,661	6,535	2,645	2,020	5,850	2,730	1,148
Rietfontein New .....	..	..	..	..	3,542	6,120	7,987	4,013	7,157
Robinson	26,500	18,625	42,036	26,500	18,922	44,756	26,500	20,091	45,501
Robinson Cent. Dee	10,019	6,405	..	9,570	6,254	15,853	12,650	7,607	19,132
Robinson Deep	27,794	14,703	29,47	26,356	13,845	29,373	28,077	14,720	31,274
Robins'n R'nd'ntein	15,757	6,014	..	15,025	6,010	..	14,812	5,506	..
Roodepoort Centra	7,393	3,083	2,330	7,140	3,052	2,484	7,493	3,284	2,776
Do. Deep	9,124	4,286	5,564	8,902	4,039	5,358	9,300	4,028	5,026
Rose Deep	26,900	8,930	12,500	24,340	8,638	12,350	28,846	9,226	12,110
Salisbury	5,450	1,555	931	3,650	1,830	1,705	5,650	1,870	2,050
.. ..	..	1,830	..	..	1,980	..	..	2,085	..
Simmer and Jack	51,400	19,121	24,104	15,810	18,777	25,806	54,790	20,011	28,251
South Randfontein .....	..	..	..	12,994	5,667	..	11,478	5,374	..
Transvaal Gold	9,936	3,864	..	10,432	3,924	..	11,307	4,239	..
Treasury	9,230	3,760	6,054	8,160	3,435	5,643	8,800	3,550	5,622
Van Ryn	22,170	8,295	11,735	22,660	8,092	11,851	22,230	8,113	12,011
Village Deep	10,646	3,588	2,233	12,331	4,497	4,528	14,600	5,498	6,586
Village Main Reef	24,256	10,008	14,100	23,540	9,668	14,032	23,780	9,721	14,389
Vogelstruis Estate	5,080	2,094	..	5,010	2,015	..	5,045	2,046	..
Wemmer	8,130	4,179	..	8,110	4,017	..	8,480	4,064	3,565
W. Rand Central	2,275	1,101	925	2,525	549	..	2,625	571	..
Windsor	5,010	1,501	503	4,900	1,503	638	5,020	1,539	628
Wt. Deep	16,246	7,006	7,070	16,380	6,923	6,098	17,630	7,332	5,735
Woluter	16,250	5,419	..	16,000	5,405	4,842	16,575	5,773	5,375
Worcester	4,900	1,908	..	..	..	..	1,184	..	..

* Loss.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	80,785	—	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258
February	64,408	—	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811
March	84,546	—	104,127	177,465	308,242	399,823
April	54,772	—	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166
May	64,249	74,888	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395
June	—	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	—
July	—	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,840	—
August	—	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	—
September ..	—	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	—
October	—	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	—
November ..	—	39,075	187,375	279,813	330,167	—
December ..	—	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	—
Total ..	348,760	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	1,948,453

* Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February	—	—	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508
March	1,457,684	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371
April	—	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,693,340
May	—	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550
June	—	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734
July	—	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	—
August	—	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	—
September ..	—	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	—
October	—	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	—
November ..	—	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	—
December ..	—	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	—
.. ..	—	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	—
Total ..	1,457,684	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	8,276,503

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

at 96,226. An analysis of our table will show that though the following companies return larger outputs, their profits, for some unexplained reasons, are smaller:—Nourse Deep, Glen Deep, Crown Deep, French Rand, Ferreira, and Witwatersrand Deep. In the cases of the Langlaagte Deep and Geldenhuis Deep, the profits are exactly the same as in the preceding months, despite increased yields. The Jumpers Deep, Rose Deep (where there has just been an outbreak amongst the coolies) and Crown Reef exhibit all round decreases.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The Agent-General for Western Australia announces that during the month of May 47,413 ozs. of gold were entered for export while 110,272 ozs. were received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint for carriage, giving a total of 157,685 fine ozs., compared with 160,280 fine ozs. for May, 1904, showing a decrease of 2,595 ozs.

Name of Company.	March.		April.		May.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Associated G. M. of W. A.	7,364	21,500	8,180	19,884	7,825	19,991
Associated Northern Blocks	3,421	15,751	3,324	15,730	3,366	15,769
Bayley's Mines.	930	465	1,180	157	225	281
Bellevue Proprietary	3,721	1,163	3,526	1,150	3,657	1,816
Cosmopolitan Proprietary	8,938	3,250	6,673	3,830	8,319	3,183
Golden Horseshoe	18,166	13,719*	17,639	13,265*	18,293	13,211*
Great Boulder Perseverance.	11,628	8,587	13,780	8,920*	13,147	8,907*
Great Boulder Proprietary	10,934	13,126	10,976	13,160	10,819	12,697
Great Fingall	15,850	13,661*	15,602	13,659*	16,768	13,664*
Hainault.	3,986	1,467*	4,128	1,594*	4,255	1,673*
Hannan's Reward	616	401	660	329	630	315
Hannan's Star	1,870	769*	2,198	690*	2,243	612*
Ida H.	1,230	950	1,273	945	1,340	1,010
Ivanhoe	16,620	10,446	16,760	16,760	17,030	10,645*
Kalbarli	4,596	3,542*	5,380	3,791*	5,443	3,893*
Lake View Consols	9,899	3,825*	10,010	4,038*	9,978	3,782*
Menzies Consolidated	1,475	£3,065	1,272	£3,552	—	—
Merton's Reward	1,652	1,167	2,589	1,099	2,651	1,162
North Kalbarli	1,587	713	1,579	779	1,310	504
North White Feather	1,275	1,011*	1,390	1,156*	1,450	1,171*
Oroya-Brownhill	8,279	12,766*	8,760	12,724*	9,027	12,870*
Peak Hill Goldfield	5,019	1,194	4,727	1,290*	5,050	1,248*
Perseverance Gold	309	185	368	141	—	—
Queensland Menzies	630	629	670	789	665	543
Red Hill	1,160	720	1,165	724	1,159	729
Sons of Gwalia	9,842	5,308*	9,887	5,308*	9,895	5,313*
Vivien	1,312	845*	1,318	670*	1,483	798
Westralia and East Extension	2,642	1,740	2,416	1,178	—	—
Westralia Mount Morgans	4,525	1,342	2,280	899	3,430	1,338
White Feather Main Reefs	1,220	907	1,212	936	879	6,807

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended June 21, \$2,852.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 26, \$14,187, decrease \$1,922; aggregate from January 1, \$380,450, increase \$89,617.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 27, Rs. 54,637, increase Rs. 600; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 12,39,313, increase Rs. 1,68,120.

Bengal Central.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 3, Rs. 19,659, decrease Rs. 748; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 5,52,758, decrease Rs. 5,766.

British Columbia Electric Railway.—Net earnings for May, \$25,442, increase \$4,650.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 21, \$89,900, increase \$21,500; total from July 1, \$3,740,000, increase \$712,400.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 27, Rs. 35,611, decrease Rs. 12,705; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,25,319, decrease Rs. 84,870.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 10, £458, increase £57.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of June, \$18,460, increase \$550; aggregate from January 1, \$335,063, increase \$7,096.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 27, Rs. 13,378, decrease Rs. 786; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 2,31,483, increase Rs. 16,196.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended June 14 amounted to \$75,882.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending June 24, £1,266, increase £40; aggregate from January 1, £29,718, increase £3,313.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending June 24, £938, decrease £153; aggregate from January 1, £18,286, decrease £1,376.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for April, £4,203, decrease £299.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending June 24, £305, decrease £28; aggregate from January 1, £9,701, decrease £640.

Liverpool Overhead.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 25, £1,602, decrease £119; aggregate from January 1, £39,453, decrease £1,767.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £1,249, increase £393; aggregate from January 1, £30,643, increase £9,335.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 25, £18, increase £1; aggregate from January 1, £307, increase £1.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £5,261, increase £60; aggregate from January 1, £119,046, decrease £685.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending June 23, £27,237, increase £1,222; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £620,874, increase £53,622; 424½ miles, against 414½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £1,079, increase £93; aggregate from January 1, £26,368, increase £2,612.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 25, £144, increase £3; aggregate from January 1, £3,004, increase £21.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £139, increase £1; aggregate from January 1, £2,811, increase £25.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £536, increase £127; aggregate from January 1, £119,445, increase £2,007.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £5,374, increase £656; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £117,109, increase £9,429.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £286, decrease £17; aggregate from January 1, £6,201, decrease £340.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £799, decrease £99; aggregate from October 1, £13,793, decrease £567.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 17, £17,227, increase £4,739; aggregate from April 1, £162,006, increase £33,548. Miles 47 against 39.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £27,233, decrease £601; aggregate from January 1, £583,142, increase £499.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £9,274, decrease £79; aggregate from January 1, £196,616, increase £2,322.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £237, increase £49; aggregate from January 1, £4,787, increase £389.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £12,393, increase £404; aggregate from January 1, £333,157, increase £22,374.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £2,728, increase £372; aggregate from January 1, £52,073, increase £7,279.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £345, increase £54; aggregate from January 1, £7,451, increase £1,040.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to May 31, \$831,422, increase \$86,027. Net earnings from July 1 to May 31, \$302,842, increase \$39,289.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £15,277.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 27, £42,146, decrease \$3,912; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$21,277.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, Rs. 41,026, increase Rs. 4,681; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 9,93,500, increase Rs. 1,24,152.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £3,737, increase £1,223. Total to January 31, £18,839, increase £1,960.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, \$355,213; aggregate from January 1, \$1,389,516. Net traffic receipts, \$184,404; aggregate from January 1, \$700,347.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.			
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.		
Brecon and Merthyr ..	June 25	£ 1,829	— 547	25	48,106	+	430	
Cambrian	" 25	6,155	— 200	†	137,638	—	5,525	
Central London	" 24	6,401	— 219	25	173,370	+	1,622	
City and South London ..	" 25	2,269	— 283	26	72,836	—	3,834	
Furness	" 25	9,646	+	865	†	221,753	+	5,473
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 25	68,136	+	4,465	25	1,637,740	+	88,464
Great Eastern	" 25	95,800	— 8,400	25	2,357,300	—	67,900	
Great Northern and City ..	" 24	1,470	+	597	†	39,204	—	
Great Northern	" 24	104,100	— 1,940	†	2,594,000	—	74,573	
Great Western	" 25	244,300	+	8,900	25	5,495,400	—	5,600
Hull and Barnsley	" 25	8,693	— 946	25	216,157	+	1,027	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 25	110,234	+	5,355	25	2,553,088	+	62,338
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 24	64,663	— 1,578	25	1,423,930	—	18,212	
London & North Western ..	" 25	269,000	— 8,000	†	6,466,000	—	89,000	
London & South Western ..	" 25	109,200	— 10,200	25	2,148,800	+	23,100	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 25	10,753	+	481	25	206,774	†	955
Metropolitan	" 25	18,260	— 980	†	436,474	—	1,957	
Metropolitan District ..	" 25	7,169	— 983	25	185,995	—	6,536	
Midland	" 24	215,963	†	489	25	5,295,948	—	1,556
North Eastern	" 24	157,288	— 32,160	†	4,156,499	—	63,018	
North London	" 25	8,153	— 333	†	221,694	—	14,335	
North Staffordshire	" 25	15,102	— 2,570	†	425,662	—	9,737	
Rhymney	" 25	6,062	— 110	25	146,584	—	890	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 24	90,892	— 2,149	†	2,085,244	—	15,252	
Taff Vale	" 25	19,009	†	283	25	454,220	—	10,854

† From Jan. 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	June 25	82,392	— 2,279	21	1,726,057	+	13,368
Glasgow & South-Western	" 24	36,490	— 521	21	673,606	—	11,316
Great North of Scotland	" 24	9,393	— 543	21	183,155	—	5,564
Highland	" 25	10,593	— 289	21	184,598	—	5,190
North British	" 25	92,230	— 3,074	21	1,812,837	+	4,899

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	June 23	3,268	— 210	+	66,532	+	1,351
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 23	2,136	— 63	+	40,094	—	450
Great Northern	" 23	20,276	— 223	25	432,976	—	1,013
Midland Great Western	" 23	13,263	— 842	+	267,927	—	8,251

From Jan. 1 to date.

Established 1824.

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The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $2\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent.
on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Whether the market has borrowed much beyond the estimated £12,000,000 by to-night to help it over the end of the half-year is more than we can say, but the total must be round about the figure, for the market has been running in for help every day this week, and the joint-stock banks and other outside lenders have been able to get $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and sometimes $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for seven-day loans without difficulty. Call money in the beginning of the week was easier, simply because hardly anybody wanted it, but the pressure for advances at the Bank yesterday owing to Stock Exchange settlement payments and to-day the last day of the half-year has been severe, the amount taken to-day being put at £5,000,000, some of which the Bank made the borrowers take for ten days, so as to prevent too much from falling due all at once. Borrowers outside bid up to 4 per cent. for money over night in order to avoid going to the Bank, and the general run of rates was $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ for seven-day and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ and even 4 per cent. for over night credits. The India Council called in heavily.

Discount rates were firm at first under the stress of the short supply of floating banking credits, and at no time in the early half of the week was business possible in remitted bills of any date below 2 per cent. One or two houses quoted $2\frac{1}{16}$ to $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. for such bills of all usances, but they hardly ever got $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. except on six months' paper, and yesterday the market once more showed decided symptoms of weakness, so much so that although the working rate for spot bills was not quoted below 2 per cent., it was possible to sell remitted bills to arrive in the beginning of July at $1\frac{1}{8}$ and even $1\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. discount. Further weakness was developed to-day, and as bankers were buying bills from the brokers at $\frac{1}{16}$ out of 2 per cent., the working rate on remitted paper of all dates short of six months was seldom better than 2 per cent. Discounters, however, got $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. for full six months' paper. For next week it looks as if $1\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. would be a rather common quotation, but it will be some little time before the market settles down, and to-morrow will be a difficult day with a huge over-turn of credits through the Treasury bills operations and the very little time to do the business in.

It looks as if the £500,000 or so raw gold to be offered in the market next week might be partly absorbed by the Bank of England after all. Owing to the diversion of the French demand upon New York, and the consequent recovery of the Paris cheque to 25.16, the price of bars in the open market dropped back yesterday a farthing to 77s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and to-day the other farthing went, making the figure 77s. 9d. once more. The Bank would be all the better for a little more gold, in spite of its stock of £39,000,000, but it may be relied upon that fresh competition for the supply will be certain to spring up soon should discount and money rates be allowed to fall to pieces as they now threaten to do.

Except borrowing at the Bank on the part of the market there is nothing remarkable in this week's Bank return. The reserve has fallen off £1,022,000, but that is nothing more than was to be expected at this time of year. The market had borrowed £4,677,000 up to Wednesday afternoon, and only retained £2,955,000 of that on other deposits; the remainder having gone either into circulation or on to public deposits, but the Government will be paying out from to-night, and at least £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 of locked up credits will be released by it during the coming week over and above the India Council's money, so low rates seem assured for a time.

SILVER.

A little demand for India, coupled with a certain amount of covering by the "bears," kept the market for bars fairly steady during the first half of the week, but supplies then came out more freely, and prices have drifted back until they close $\frac{1}{2}$ d. down at 26 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for prompt delivery, and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. lower at 26 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for shipment two months forward. For the Rs. 30,00,000 Council drafts on India offered on Wednesday applications came to Rs. 2,78,60,000 in bills and Rs. 35,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. The amount allotted in bills was Rs. 18,64,000, and in transfers Rs. 11,36,000, tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per rupee respectively receiving about 45 per cent. Next week Rs. 40,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, June 28, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 55,677,565	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	37,227,565
		Silver Bullion	—
	£ 55,677,565		£ 55,677,565

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 16,171,319
Reserve	3,136,403	Other Securities	33,395,641
Public Deposits (including		Notes	25,545,835
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,821,217
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	14,455,952		
Other Deposits	44,697,510		
Seven Day and other Bills	91,147		
	£ 76,934,012		£ 76,934,012

Dated June 29, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. June 29.		June 21, 1905.	June 28, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,166,518	Rest	3,127,099	3,136,403	9,304	—
9,016,542	Pub. Deposits ..	13,761,711	14,455,952	694,241	—
50,258,217	Other do. ..	41,742,045	44,697,510	2,955,465	—
159,437	7 Day Bills ..	94,888	91,147	—	3,741
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,987,806	Gov. Securities ..	16,171,319	16,171,319	—	—
36,245,416	Other do. ..	28,718,723	33,395,641	—	4,676,918
24,920,492	Total Reserve ..	28,388,701	27,367,052	1,021,649	—
				4,680,659	4,680,659
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
28,868,790	Note Circulation ..	28,922,215	30,131,730	1,209,515	—
35,339,282	Coin and Bullion ..	38,860,916	39,048,782	187,866	—
4 $\frac{1}{8}$ p.c.	Proportion ..	51 p.c.	46 $\frac{1}{8}$ p.c.	—	4 $\frac{1}{8}$ p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £1,000 out.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE. (For week ended June 24.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs 598,000	National Debt Services .. 59,118
Excise 1,093,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties .. 210,000	Charges 53,750
Stamps 94,000	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty. —	tion —
Property and Income Tax.. 29,000	Supply Services 1,315,000
Post Office 200,000	Bullion Advances —
Telegraphs 180,000	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands 30,000	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds —
Miscellaneous 38,278	Exchequer Bonds —
Bullion advances repaid .. 100,000	Uganda Railway —
Uganda Railway —	Military Works —
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Naval Works —
count —	Telegraph Acts —
Telegraph Acts —	Land Registry (New Build-
Naval Works Acts —	ings) —
Military Works Acts —	Public Buildings Expenses
Land Registry Acts —	Act —
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Act —
Ways and Means —	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Deficiency —	in reduction of debt —
Suez Canal Drawn Shares.. —	Cunard Agreement —
Issue of Exchequer Bonds.. —	Deficiency Advances re-
Transvaal and Orange River	paid —
Colony. Repayment of	Ways and Means Advances
Temporary Advance —	repaid —
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	Increase in Exchequer
tion payments —	balances 1,144,410
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances —	
£2,572,278	£2,572,278

* Exclusive of £426,683 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £1,853,669.

The following bullion movements on foreign ac count have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday, Egypt £8,000	Saturday, Gibraltar £16,000
Net Efflux 16,000	Thursday, " 8,000
TOTAL £24,000	TOTAL £24,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15	25'15	Antwerp	short	25'23	25'21
Brussels	chqs.	25'22	25'20	Italy	sight	25'13	25'14
Amsterdam	sight	12'09	12'08	Constantinople	3 mths	110'10	110'10
Berlin	chqs.	20'47	20'47	B. Ayres gd pm	—	127'27	127'27
Do.	3 mths	20'35	20'35	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	16	16
Hamburg	chqs.	20'46	20'46	Calparaiso	90 dys	16	16
Frankfort	short	20'46	20'45	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Vienna	sight	24'03	24'03	Bombay	T.T.	1/4	1/4
St. Petersburg	3 mths	94'35	94'25	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/10	1/10
New York	60 dys	4'85	4'85	Shanghai	T.T.	2/7	2/7
Lisbon	sight	49	49	Singapore	4 mths	1/11	1/11
Madrid	sight	33'28	33'22	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0	2/0

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
Week ending				
April 5	345,370,000	166,693,000	178,677,000	—
" 12	210,891,000	202,233,000	8,658,000	—
" 19	300,087,000	221,780,000	78,307,000	—
" 26	139,973,000	164,177,000	—	24,204,000
May 3	263,265,000	246,483,000	16,782,000	—
" 10	210,041,000	194,626,000	15,415,000	—
" 17	269,214,000	230,772,000	38,442,000	—
" 24	189,198,000	153,970,000	35,228,000	—
" 31	246,087,000	247,297,000	—	1,210,000
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
	6,097,853,000	5,208,127,000	889,726,000	—

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	1 1/2 2 1/2
Berlin	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Hamburg	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Frankfort	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Amsterdam	2 1/2	March, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2 1/2 2 1/2
Vienna	3 1/2	February 3, 1902	3 1/2 3 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	3 1/2 3 1/2
St. Petersburg	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2 7 1/2
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	3 1/2 3 1/2
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	4 1/2 4 1/2
Stockholm	4 1/2	February, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Calcutta	4	April 27, 1905	— —
Bombay	5	April 14, 1905	— —
New York call money	2 1/2	—	— —

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £1,800,000 in six months' Treasury bills were opened on Monday at the Bank, when the total amount applied for was £4,238,000. Applications at £98 19s. 5d. received about 83 per cent., and those above in full, the average rate per cent. obtained being £1 19s. 11d.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	July 30	2 9 6.
1,800,000	6 months	Aug. 13	2 6 1.
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27	2 2 10.
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10.
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4 1/2.
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4.
1,200,000	—	1906	—
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11.
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10.
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0.
19,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	June 29, 1905.	June 22, 1905.	June 15, 1905.	June 30, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	115,353,840	115,305,520	114,482,160	111,059,360
Silver in hand	44,415,440	44,497,640	44,317,660	45,316,160
Bills discounted	25,170,080	19,305,480	20,050,840	30,523,480
Advances	19,132,560	19,197,760	18,657,360	20,645,640
Note circulation	174,327,160	170,769,040	173,253,920	172,516,800
Public deposits	11,476,320	10,938,240	9,107,360	13,291,840
Private deposits	26,549,200	23,501,400	21,485,480	27,350,680

Proportion between bullion and circulation 91 1/2 per cent., against 93 1/2 per cent. a week ago.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	June 23, 1905.	June 15, 1905.	June 7, 1905.	June 23, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve	47,457,625	47,785,250	47,700,588	47,119,208
Silver reserve	13,128,750	13,078,958	13,086,458	13,015,417
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,727,500	1,728,708	1,683,875	1,824,875
Note circulation	62,861,708	63,274,291	64,186,875	64,641,083
Bills discounted	10,200,500	10,280,916	11,233,666	10,364,300

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	June 24, 1905.	June 17, 1905.	June 10, 1905.	June 25, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Specie	42,874,000	41,172,000	41,098,000	48,074,000
Legal tenders	17,484,600	17,284,600	17,058,600	16,782,000
Loans and discounts	220,560,000	220,980,000	217,900,000	213,362,000
Circulation	9,612,200	9,471,800	9,315,000	7,794,000
Net deposits	229,360,000	228,060,000	224,760,000	228,662,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £3,018,600 against an excess last week of £1,441,600.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	June 23, 1905.	June 15, 1905.	June 7, 1905.	June 23, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand	54,350,950	54,738,300	53,839,050	49,827,000
Bills discounted	44,062,600	42,463,800	42,597,100	37,031,750
Advances on stocks	3,397,400	3,667,300	3,250,650	3,011,850
Note circulation	62,895,000	61,390,850	62,570,600	60,413,400
Public deposits	33,139,750	33,003,400	30,340,100	31,018,350

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	June 24, 1905.	June 17, 1905.	June 10, 1905.	June 25, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	14,833,123	14,823,874	14,815,956	14,716,369
Silver	22,389,600	22,238,954	22,076,733	20,530,358
Foreign Bills	1,697,730	1,685,662	1,662,286	1,798,038
Discount and Short Bills	46,098,370	46,078,604	46,417,878	38,428,975
Treasury Account	21,251,948	21,204,042	21,213,818	21,997,038
Notes in circulation	62,251,102	62,337,131	62,604,830	64,411,126
Current Account deposits	22,764,022	22,703,898	22,787,438	26,410,865
Dividends Interests	1,910,094	1,848,774	1,835,914	2,115,002
Government Securities	4,789,624	4,749,590	4,440,825	4,777,757

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	May 31, 1905.	May 20, 1905.	May 10, 1905.	May 31, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Reserve	25,980,044	26,083,320	91,539,435	26,096,160
State notes and small change..	617,680	600,040	587,600	934,920
Discount and loans	11,156,400	10,427,160	10,382,640	10,331,400
Public stock and State loans..	8,409,240	9,072,480	9,295,240	8,395,040
Credits	6,495,600	6,065,360	6,252,960	5,277,160
Note Circulation	34,336,240	33,597,000	34,155,920	32,320,040
Current account	4,254,840	3,820,600	3,691,360	3,952,400
Deposits	2,648,800	3,139,640	3,040,800	3,176,000

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	June 22, 1905.	June 15, 1905.	June 8, 1905.	June 23, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion	4,837,000	4,804,480	4,834,360	4,548,760
Other securities	23,173,640	22,611,000	22,973,680	21,304,880
Note circulation	26,235,840	26,235,840	26,036,640	24,605,720
Deposits	3,957,840	2,887,320	3,595,080	3,061,400

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 1/14 1905.	May 23, June 5, 1905.	May 16/29, 1905.	June 1/14, 1904.
Gold	£ 94,539,435	£ 90,900,879	£ 91,147,369	82,168,769
Silver and subsidiary coin	6,290,233	6,349,401	6,373,438	8,230,864
Advances and bills discounted .. .	36,262,276	36,029,170	36,421,691	40,548,436
Securities belonging to the Bank .. .	5,894,161	5,942,075	5,456,449	4,224,385
Notes in circulation ..	90,556,902	90,350,218	90,360,002	67,068,809
Deposits and current account	49,466,091	48,046,626	46,221,562	48,280,816
Treasury account .. .	8,951,316	13,934,642	11,495,985	28,142,422

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	June 20.	June 22.	June 27.	June 29.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	12'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	12'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	12'1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. do.	3 months	12'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	12'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	12'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	12'3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hamburg	3 months	20'6 $\frac{1}{2}$	20'6 $\frac{1}{2}$	20'6 $\frac{1}{2}$	20'6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'6 $\frac{1}{2}$	20'6 $\frac{1}{2}$	20'6 $\frac{1}{2}$	20'6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paris	cheques	25'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do.	3 months	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Marseilles	3 months	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Switzerland	3 months	25'4 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'4 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'4 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Austria	3 months	24'2 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'2 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'2 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'2 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Petersburg .. .	3 months	24'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Moscow	3 months	24'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'4 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'4 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'4 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'4 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York	60 days	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	35'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	35'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	35'1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lisbon	3 months	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oporto	3 months	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Christiania	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Stockholm	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	2
Three months	2
Four months	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six months	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Three months fine inland bills	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Four months	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six months	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. short loan rates	3
Bankers' rate on deposits	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 7 and 14 days' notice	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Current rates for 7 day loans	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Do. for call loans	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —2 $\frac{3}{4}$

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

It is little wonder that Stock markets are flat. The news from Russia alone is sufficient to depress all foreign securities and to cause the French people and their Bourse much anxiety and searchings of heart. There can be no real recovery of business on any Stock Exchange while this Far Eastern war continues, and while Russia appears to be lurching downwards with ever-increasing momentum towards anarchy. We therefore feel not only reluctant but unable to discuss market probabilities in any direction, and only keep this column alive, as it were, for opportunities to come. It may be noted in passing, though, that the symptoms of exhaustion in more than one quarter amongst South African finance institutions and firms multiply. It would be well, therefore, if the public would really for once take our hint in time, if there be still time, and clear out of Kaffirs as rapidly and fully as possible. What is the use of coming to us after the event, as so many people do, to say, "If we had only taken your advice, how much better off we should have been to-day." That is no consolation to us. Take the advice at once, and be thankful ever after, for if one or more of the manipulating and propping houses founder, there will be banking difficulties as well.

Apparently the berserkers of finance on the other side of the Atlantic have patched up their quarrels and arranged that among other "assets" the funds of the big insurance companies and trusts shall not be utilised for honest purposes if they can help it. So there has been a sort of revival on the Wall Street market, and prices have been rising by jumps quite merrily, all as if there were no balance-sheet day for dishonest finance in the New World any more than in the Old. Mr. T. W. Lawson has been "all out," as the vulgar phrase is, in his predictions of the coming, coming smash, and the magnates are to all seeming as capable as ever

of keeping their market kites in the upper air, far beyond the reach of the humble public. It is well, but we hope they will be allowed to keep the game in their own hands for a few months longer, because it is a costly game we had much rather see the Rockefellers, Morgans, Harrimans, Goulds, Hills, and Gateses pay for than the poor woolly public.

The Week's Stock Markets.

There is nothing very cheering to be said about markets this week, and dealers in all departments of the House complain loudly of the continued absence of business. We do not see much prospect of an immediate change, partly because the holiday season is now in full swing, but chiefly because public interest is hardly likely to revive until there is some prospect of the Far Eastern war and the turmoil in Russia coming to an end. Nevertheless, members keep up their spirits, and also tried to push prices forward a little during the early days of the week, being encouraged by the more favourable news regarding the Franco-German differences; but the terrible outbreak in Odessa caused some nervousness towards the last, markets closing heavy and tired-looking with stories of trouble about in consequence of the difficulties of an outside speculator. He was involved in Yankees and Kaffirs, and could not find his differences on pay-day, with the result that two firms inside the Stock Exchange have been brought down as well. Despite the end of the half-year, bankers again granted fortnightly loans at 3 per cent. as a rule, and only asked 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. when any considerable quantity of fresh money was required, which they would have to replace by borrowing at the Bank of England. Very little went on in Consols, and after touching 90 $\frac{1}{2}$ prices slipped back, closing rather easier at near figures for money and the account commencing on Monday. Other British Funds also slipped away, fractional declines being visible in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. annuities, Irish Land stock, War Loan, Transvaal 3 per cent., and India Sterling 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bank of Ireland stock was likewise prominent with a loss of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, and in the Home County and Corporation division a few declines of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 were visible, with a very trifling business in Water Board, Metropolitan, and London County issues. Hull 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. exceptionally ended 1 better. Movements were irregular in Colonial Inscribed stocks, but the majority were adverse, and nothing changed more than 10s.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
101	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	100
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
308	297	—	301 $\frac{1}{2}$	301 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	105	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	73	73
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money)	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. Account (July 5)	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
		2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
		Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Local Loans (3)	100	100
		National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. Account (July 5)	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Bk. of England Stock (4 p.c.)	301 $\frac{1}{2}$	301 $\frac{1}{2}$
		India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock. red. 1911	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1918	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock. red. 1926	73	73
		Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$

The weakness of Japanese bonds was the principal incident in the Foreign Government market. They went back on statements that preparations were being made for yet one more loan, and the story is not improbable, even though it be true, as asserted, that the present resources would provide for a further twelve months' war outlay. Japan, no doubt, desires to strengthen her position in view of the peace negotiations, and tangible evidence that she can carry on the war may prove a powerful influence in the direction of peace. Naturally enough, all kinds of rumours were current regarding the form the loan will take—first a 4 per cent. issue at 85 and then a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at 88 or 90, while the amount was put at £30,000,000, to be placed in equal parts in London, New York, and Berlin. At present all is conjecture, but we shall probably hear something definite before long. A sharp recovery from the early flatness in prices of the

old loans is significant. Russian bonds, after showing strength, fell heavily when the news from Odessa became so serious, and other things controlled in Paris, such as Turkish, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian, declined sympathetically. Chinese loans, however, continue strong, and are undoubtedly in high favour with investors just now. In the South American division Argentines keep dull, but Brazilians improved when they moved, and Peruvian Corporation issues showed strength throughout on talk of an early resumption of negotiations with the Government. Colombian bonds recovered from last week's set-back and Honduras and Venezuelans picked up, but of other Central American things Guatemala and Costa Rica fell away. Carry-over rates were again extremely light, and such things as Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean, Chinese, and Peruvian debentures could be continued at 3 to 5 per cent., with Peruvian ordinary and preference only slightly higher. On Japanese the charge was no more than 2 to 4 per cent., Russians again commanded a small "back," Turkish were done "even," Italian at "even" to 2 per cent., Spanish at $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Portuguese at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Making-up prices showed a nearly all-round fall, the chief exception being Chileans, two or three Chinese, Uruguays, and Paraguay 3 per cent. Argentines were down $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Brazilians $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, French Rentes $1\frac{1}{2}$, Greeks $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Guatemala 1, Honduras $\frac{3}{4}$, Japanese $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1, Russians, Spanish, and Turkish 1, and Servian 2.

Eastern deferred suffered most, but Brighton ordinary and deferred, North-Eastern, Great Northern deferred and Scotch issues were all heavy, and Central London ordinary and deferred showed fairly big losses. On the other hand, District was bid for in anticipation of the starting of the electric service on Saturday, and Hull and Barnsley after being depressed recovered, and finished fractionally higher on the week. Money for the account arranged on Tuesday cost $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than last time at 5 to 6 per cent., as a

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	137	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	140	140
165	152½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	160	159
131½	119½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	122½	122
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	114	113
83½	77½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79½	79½
38½	33	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	35½	35½
94½	91½	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	91
86½	79½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	81½	79½
17½	15½	Chatham Ordinary ..	16	15½
47½	39	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	40	40
62	51	Furness (½ p.c.) ..	53	53
34½	28½	Great Central Pref. ..	31½	31½
28½	15½	Do. Def. ..	17	17
93½	86½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	86½	86½
108½	100½	Gr. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102½	102½
42½	35½	Do. Def. (1) ..	36½	35½
145½	136½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	140	140½
55½	52	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	53½	54½
49½	41	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	46	46½
112½	106½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	108	108
100	92½	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	93	93½
42½	36½	Metropolitan District ..	37½	39½
71	65½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	68½
70	63	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	64½	65
83½	79	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79½	79
49½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	44½
144½	137	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	137½	137½
160½	149	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	151	151
94½	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	90	90
134	123	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	126	126
58½	48½	Do. Def. ..	56½	55
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	165½	165½
111½	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109
60½	52½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	57	57

general thing rising to as much as 8 per cent. on Metropolitan, and dropping to under 5 per cent. on Midland, Great Western, North-Eastern and North British deferred, but the increased charge was due more to money market conditions than to anything else. On the fortnight quotations were all lower, and in some instances the declines reached substantial figures. North-Western, for instance, lost $3\frac{1}{2}$, Hull and Barnsley $3\frac{1}{2}$ and Brighton deferred $2\frac{1}{2}$, while

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	84½	86½
107½	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	105½	104½ kd
117	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	113	117
90½	97½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	52½	52½
191½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	179½	182
38	27½	Denver Shares ..	29	31
93½	85½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	90½	89½ kd
49½	38½	Erie Shares ..	42	44½
85½	77½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	81½	83½
73½	58½	Do. and Pref. ..	67½	71
174½	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	169	171½
158½	140½	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	151½	154½
34½	24½	Missouri and Texas ..	28½	30½
160½	140½	New York Central (5) ..	146	150½
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	82½	87
95	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	95	95
65½	41½	Ontario Shares ..	52½	53½
76½	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	70½	72½
51½	40½	Reading Shares ..	49½	51½
47½	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47	47
40½	43½	Do. 2nd Pref. (3) ..	45	45
74	59½	Southern Pacific ..	64½	66½
38½	28½	Southern ..	33	33½
103	97½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	99½	100
140½	116½	Union Pacific (4) ..	127	131½
102½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100	100½
24½	18½	Wabash ..	19½	20½
49½	37½	Do. Pref. ..	40½	42½
86½	69½	Do. Income Debs. ..	75	77
159½	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	155	155½
108½	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
111	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109½	109
23½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	21½	21½
101½	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	101	101
114½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	108½	109
104½	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	98½	99
52½	40½	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	49	49½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109½	109½ kd

Outside support is still lacking in the Home Railway market, and business consequently remains of insignificant proportions. Forecasts of the dividends for the half-year just ended which made their appearance early in the week are not optimistic, and as at the same time traffic returns were disappointing, the "bears" were encouraged to try and hammer stocks down. The raid, however, failed, as the public merely looked on, and when it was found that no stock was forced out a rush to buy back ensued, so that prices, although in many instances still down substantially on the week, are by no means at their lowest. South-

Great Northern deferred, Lancashire and Yorkshire, South-Western ordinary and South-Eastern deferred were all from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lower, and Brighton ordinary and preferred, Caledonian deferred, Chatham preferences, City and South London, Central London deferred,

Great Eastern, Great Western, Midland deferred, North-Eastern and Metropolitan dropped 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

During the early part of the week Yankee Railroad shares were allowed to drift at some fractions under parity, in spite of the strenuous attempts to bolster things up reported from Wall Street. Even in Wall Street the efforts were at first spasmodic, as the exports of gold announced for Paris had a damping effect, but the Standard Oil and other powerful interests then took a hand in the game and pushed prices up merrily. Milwaukee and Union Pacific were seized upon as a starting point, and from these the movement spread gradually until it embraced Baltimore, Erie, Louisville, New York Central, Norfolk and Pennsylvania, all of which show substantial improvements on the week. All this hoisting, however, was obviously professional, and failed to attract buyers on this side, where business remained trifling except perhaps in Atchison and Union Pacific, for which there was a demand in connection with option dealings. The manipulation, therefore, having fallen flat, those responsible then endeavoured to secure profits, and prices melted almost as rapidly as they had risen. Movements on the fortnight, thanks to New York, were uniformly favourable, the largest being a gain of $6\frac{1}{2}$ in Illinois Central. Union Pacific were $4\frac{1}{2}$ higher, Baltimore rose $3\frac{1}{2}$, New York Central 3, Atchison, Milwaukee, Norfolk and Pennsylvania put on from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$, and Atchison preferred, Chesapeake, Erie issues, Reading common and Southern Pacific common and preferred gained from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2. Contangos in this section were, if anything, lighter than at the last settlement and rarely exceeded 4 per cent., while in Union Pacific the rate was exceptionally low at about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
183 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	175	177xd	180
114 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	111	111
125	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	120	120	120
84	77	84	84	84
148 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	136
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$
127 $\frac{1}{2}$	117	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	123	123
118 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	118	118	118
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
108	93	93	94	93
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
135 $\frac{1}{2}$	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	129
90	79	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	81
106	101	102	103	101
94	88	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
70	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	61
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	28	28	28	28
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
117 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	106	106
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	82	82xd	82
68	52	58	58	58
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	68	68
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108	108	108
108	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
29 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
121 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
57	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	50
142	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	132	132	132
198	168	186	19	19
198	178	194	194	194
142	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	132	132
		Antofagasta	177xd	180
		Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	111	111
		Do. Pref. (5)	120	120
		Bahia Blanca Prefd.	84	84
		B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	136
		Do. Prefce (5)	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$
		B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	123	123
		Do. do. 1st Pref. (5)	118	118
		Do. do. and Pref. (5)	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
		B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
		Do. do. Deferred (6)	94	93
		Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7)	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
		Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
		B. Ay. Western Ord. (6)	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	129
		Central Uruguay (5)	82	81
		Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	103	101
		Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	60	61
		Costa Rica (1)	28	28
		Cuban Central	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	112	112
		Do. (Deb. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	106	106
		East Argentine 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	82xd	82
		Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	58	58
		Leopoldina (3)	65	65
		Do. Deb. (4)	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Manila Bonds "A" (6)	111	111
		Do. "B" (6)	108	108
		Mexican Ord. Stk.	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 1st Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	107	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 2nd Pref.	39	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	50	50
		Nitrate Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	132	132
		Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	19
		San Paulo Brazilian (12)	194	194
		Western of Havana (9)	132	132

Canadian Pacific shares fluctuated within narrow limits from day to day, but on the whole were inclined to improve, and the same may be said of Grand Trunk stocks. The monthly statements of both companies were somewhat disappointing, but the market found encouragement in the fact that of the Grand Trunk decrease a large proportion was on the Grand Trunk Western, where business had been unsettled by the teamsters' strike which is now over. Crop prospects, too, were said to be exceedingly good, and altogether dealers were inclined to take a rosy view of the future. Amongst Indian Railways Bombay and Baroda issues were lifted £2 or £3, but there was no visible influence, and the movement was probably induced by the negotiations for the taking over of the line by the Secretary of State. The making-up list shows an advance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Canadian Pacific shares, but the 4 per

cent. debenture stock of that company was put down $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Grand Trunk Ordinary and junior preferences fell $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$. Bombay and Baroda stock was 2 lower on the account, Madras 5 per cent. lost 4, Bengal and North-Western $1\frac{1}{2}$, and East Indian deferred annuity Class "D" and Great Indian Peninsula "B" annuities both dropped 1. The account open for the fall in Grand Trunk stocks is still considerable, and money on these securities was easy at 3 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	20	21	Allsopp Ordinary	22	22
71	54½	—	City of London Ord.	55½	54½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	520	530
27½	25	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	26	25
24½	—	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (30)	27	27
31½	34	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	38	38
68½	52½	56½	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	56½	55½
35	19	20	Do. Def. Ord. Stock (2) ..	20	20
105	100	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	101	101
78½	64½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	64	64
6½	6	6½	Aerated Bread (30)	51½	52
7½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	6½
9½	10½	11½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	6½
11½	12½	12½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	12	12
34	28	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	28	27½
64	5	—	Brunner Mond (35)	54xd	54
111½	94	—	Callender's Cable Ord. 12½ ..	104	104
5½	4½	5½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	4	4
502½	483½	495	Coats Ordinary (20)	54xd	54xd
11½	10½	11½	Do. Preference (20)	495	495
14½	13½	14½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nl)	8	8
14½	15	14½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	18	18
13½	12½	13½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (8) ..	5½	5½
4½	10½	—	Henley's Telegraph (15)	12	12
18½	12	26.0	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	34½	34½
111	106	110½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	14½	13½
14½	12½	20½	Do. Debentures (4½)	110	110
6½	5½	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	14xd	14
16½	15½	22½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	6xd	6x1
17½	16½	22½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	18	18
78½	54½	—	Russian Petroleum (5)	18	18
15	15½	9/0	Savoy Hotel (5)	6	6
104½	102½	104½	Sweetmeat Automatic	8	8
77½	49½	60½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	14	14
108½	98½	103½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	18	18
11½	10½	—	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	18	18
13½	12½	7½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	104½	104½
104½	95½	11	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	71	70½
134½	126½	—	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (12)	43½	43
37½	37½	5½	Do. Debentures (6)	103½	103½
55½	54½	5½	National Discount (10)	9½	9½
13½	13½	—	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½
11½	10½	—	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	7½	7½
13½	12½	11	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11	11
104½	95½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	99½	99
134½	126½	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	129	129
37½	37½	5½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	32	32
55½	54½	5½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	58	58
13½	13½	—	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	12	12
11½	10½	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7) ..	14½	14½
11½	9½	9½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	9½	9½
39½	36½	32½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	308	33
108½	98½	102½	Do. Preference (7)	100	102½
26½	27½	23½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	24	24
14½	14½	—	Cunard Steam	122	122
231	214½	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	224½	224½
32	28½	—	Royal Mail	304	304
8	8	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½	8½
109½	101½	105½	Anglo-American Telegraph— Pref. Ord. (22)	106	106
17½	10	15	Do. Def. Ord.	15½	15½
—	—	—	Commercial Cable (8)	—	106
147½	134½	142½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	142½	142½
141½	132	14	Eastern Extension (7)	142	14
113½	100	102½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	103	103
141½	134	136	Western Telegraph (7)	14	13½xd
102	97	97½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	9½	9½
84½	78	82	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	82	82
129	110	—	London General Omnibus (8)	124½	125½
102	96	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	102	9½xd

Argentine Railway stocks were sold to a moderate extent in the beginning of the week, but as soon as the account had been arranged prices began to pick up again, and most of the declines were either wiped out or reduced to small fractions. Uruguay issues, however, were inclined to be weak as the result of realisations by those who had hastened to buy when the political troubles in that country were reported to be at an end. United Railways of the Havana preferred stock also lost ground, owing to profit-taking, and the stocks of the old Mexican Company were heavy, but Antofagasta stocks continue to advance by leaps and bounds. On the account Antofagasta undivided ordinary stock was 8 up, United Railways of the Havana preferred stock put on $3\frac{1}{2}$, Paraguay Central debenture stock and Colombian National debenture stock rose 2 each, San Paulo ordinary improved $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Leopoldina debenture stock $1\frac{1}{2}$. Movements in Argentine Railway issues were irregular, gains of 2 in Entre Rios preferred, 1 in Buenos Ayres and Pacific

first preference, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in Buenos Ayres Great Southern 4 per cent. debentures being counterbalanced by losses of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 in Great Western first debentures, North-Eastern preferred and debentures, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Buenos Ayres Great Southern ordinary and Buenos Ayres Western ordinary and debentures and 4 in East Argentine. Mexican Railway stocks, too, were down, the ordinary losing $\frac{3}{4}$, the two preferences $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{4}$, and the 6 per cent. debentures 3. Carrying over charges in this market were light enough at 4 to 5 per cent.

Nothing of particular interest happened in Miscellaneous markets, which, as usual, were very poorly supplied with business. Hudson's Bays fell to 69, but were soon rallied to over 70, and closed near that figure. Argentine land shares again came into favour, and showed an all round rise, while Chinese exploration and kindred shares moved irregularly, ending dull. London Docks deferred was flat, but in the Shipping List P. and O. deferred put on a point, and a small rise took place in Orient Steam preferred. Some selling of Gas Light caused a small loss, Telegraph and Telephone issues ended firm, and London General Omnibus was lifted a little in celebration of the "birthday." baronetcy bestowed on the chairman, Lord Mayor Pount. Russian oil shares fell back owing to the Odessa riots, but Nitrates were generally good with another sharp rise in Lautaro. Catering things held steady, Sweetmeats further improved, and Iron and Steel things had no pronounced tendency, although John Brown shares were better on the report. Catalinas Warehouse shares and debentures advanced on a statement that part of the company's property had been acquired by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway. Textiles showed dulness at first, but subsequently improved, while Breweries again became heavy, with the exception of Guinness ordinary and one or two others.

Two failures, involving three members, were announced on the Stock Exchange to-day, the one arising out of the other. Both firms were jobbers, and one of them is said to have been carrying a dead account in Kaffir shares for a long time back. Hence when the failure was announced the Kaffir market went flatter than ever, and it was reported that two or more outside operators or gambling agencies were also in a crippled and foundering condition. Both the Kaffir market and other sections of the Stock Exchange rallied a little before the end, but there was never any business doing, simply because Russian affairs and the continuation of the war depressed all spirits. There was not even courage enough to spread a rumour to-day, and the only thing we heard mentioned was, in a wondering sort of way, whether the Robinson "trust" that was to arise out of the abolished Robinson South African Bank was ever going to be launched or not. One satisfactory point, however, deserves emphasis—good, really trusted securities can always find a market. The price may not invariably be as good as the seller would like, but he can sell, and this shows that apart from the rotten sections of the Stock Exchange there is wealth and a disposition to invest. Paris is wonderfully steady, and was flat to-day only for Russian bonds.

The First Quarter's Revenue.

Not very brilliant, only £28,897,842 into the Exchequer, and £1,864,562 handed over out of the taxes to relieve the rates of the privileged, or £30,762,404 all told. This means a net decrease of £938,910 in the imperial share, and of £960,465 in the total collection. It may all be made up though later in the year, since no less than £1,301,565 of the decline falls on Customs, the dragging receipts from which are being pulled up as we write by the rush to clear tea at the lower duty of 6d. per lb. now charged. Excise, too, has fallen off by £222,822, and income-tax by £453,000, but the declines in both cases might well

have been greater, looking at the alleged reduction in drunkenness and the hustle-up of the income-tax payer before the end of last fiscal year. Estate duties have given £814,832 more, and there is a growth of £211,000 in stamps, as also of £60,000 in the Post Office, and £40,000 in the Telegraph receipts, so that it would be premature to prophesy a bad year. The decline in income-tax and in Land Tax and House Duty, aggregating £573,000 all three together, may not be all made good, because finance is untoward and profits in many directions hurt by political complications, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer can always borrow, and will have the new Exchequer Bond money to lean upon right up to December. During the quarter £4,725,000 net has been handsomely borrowed, apparently exclusive of this Exchequer Bond money, which will be used to pay the July dividend with.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The week opened with the carry-over, which punters anticipated with anything but delight, looking to the persistent slump in prices during the past account. Owing mainly to the fact that it coincided with the end of the half-year, continuation rates were a little stiffer than usual, such things as Gold Fields and East Rands being done at $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against 3-4 per cent., and Barnato Consols and Johnnies' Investment at $5\frac{1}{2}$ -6½ per cent., or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. higher, whilst the general rate on the mixture of stuff was 5-7 per cent., compared with 5-6 per cent. On De Beers the contango was 1 per cent. lighter at $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but that on Jagers was harder at 5-6 per cent. In the Rhodesian section the Chartered rate was likewise a little stiffer, but on the majority of the shares it was unchanged at 5-7 per cent., which was the ruling figure in the Jungle. Egyptians were carried over at 6-8 per cent.; so were many West Australians. Amongst the latter the exceptions were 6-7 per cent. on Associated Northern Blocks; 5-7 per cent. on Kalgurlis, Ivanhoves, Cosmopolitans, and Lake Views; 4-6 per cent. on Great Boulders and Sons of Gwalia; 1-4 per cent. on Golden Horseshoes; 2-4 per cent. on Perseverance. The rate on Great Fingalls went off from 4-6 per cent. to 2-4 per cent., and that on Oroya Brownhill from 4-6 per cent. to 3-5 per cent. On miscellaneous descriptions the general charge was 6-8 per cent.

Declines, of course, greatly outnumbered the few rises in the making-up list. In the South African department the greatest fall was $\frac{1}{2}$ in De Beers deferred, whilst the preferred lost $\frac{1}{4}$, the other principal relapses being $\frac{1}{4}$ in Modderfonteins, $\frac{3}{4}$ in Gold Fields, Apex, Treasuries, and Welgedachts, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Knight's, Modder Deeps, and Wolhuters, $\frac{1}{4}$ in South African Gold Trust, Cason Blocks, Coronation Syndicates, Crown Deeps, Ferreiras, Geldenhuis Deeps, H. E. Props, Langlaagte Estates, Robinsons, Rose Deeps, West Rand Consolidated and Worcesters; $\frac{1}{8}$ in Anglo-French, East Rand Proprietary, Steyn Estates, West Rand Mines, Violets, Roodepoort United Main Reef, and several others. Amongst Rhodesians were losses of $\frac{1}{4}$ in Zambesia Exploring, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Tanganyikas, 7-32 in Northern Copper, 5-32 in Lomagundas, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Explorations, Bankets, and Rice-Hamiltons, and 3-32 in Chartered. In the Jungle list Amalgamated tumbled $\frac{3}{4}$, and there were small losses in a few others. Egyptians were also weak, Nile Valleys making up $\frac{1}{4}$ lower, Egyptian Investments $\frac{1}{2}$, and Nile Goldfields $\frac{1}{4}$. Prices in the West Australian group also went against holders, Golden Horseshoes declining $\frac{1}{4}$ and Great Fingalls $\frac{1}{4}$. Vivien's were conspicuous with a rise of $\frac{1}{4}$. In the miscellaneous list there were few important changes, whilst the chief movement amongst coppers was a rise of $\frac{1}{4}$ in Rio Tintos.

The following dividends have been declared since we last went to press:—

	Dividend.	Issued Capital.	Amount.
	%	£	£
Rand Mines	100	448,989	448,989
Crown Deep	30	300,000	90,000
Geldenhuys Deep	30	300,000	90,000
Robinson Gold	■	2,750,000	220,000
Rose Deep	15	425,000	63,750
Salisbury	10	100,000	10,000
Angelo	25	625,000	156,250
Driefontein	12½	625,000	78,125
			1,157,114

At the opening of the new account renewed weakness was displayed, owing to further realisations by the Continent. Once again the "shops" on this side gave some support, and prices recovered a little later in the day when the selling ceased, inside professionals helping to bring about a rally. Later, the cessa-

tion of French liquidation and the more hopeful feeling entertained in regard to foreign politics caused "bears" to cover, and prices moved a little higher, but genuine business is as meagre as ever, the public standing aside. An astounding piece of news comes in the shape of the proposed amalgamation between the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment and the Barnato Consolidated, which we deal with elsewhere.

De Beers have firmed up slightly after the relapse of the preceding week, Premier Diamonds have been dull, Jagers steady, and Laces strong.

The Rhodesian market has been quiet, with no changes worth mentioning. West Africans have been firmer on the cable from the Ashanti Sansu mine announcing that a new chute of ore has been cut in the No. 5 level, the average assay being 2 ozs. to the ton over a width of 4 to 6 ft. Notwithstanding this the directors say they will adhere to their decision to stop milling for a few months in order to carry out development work. Wassaus have, however, further relapsed. Egyptians have been neglected.

The most important news affecting the West Australian section is the cable from the Great Boulder company's property stating that at the 1,900 ft. level the chute has widened to 11 ft., over which width it assays as much as 36 dwts., this being the deepest point on the Kalgoorlie gold field at which ore of such width and value has been developed. Another important incident has been the receipt of Mr. Rolker's cabled report on the Great Fingall mine, with which we deal in a separate note. Great Boulders and Great Fingalls have both strengthened on the individual news, but most of the other shares have weakened.

In the miscellaneous group Rio Tintos have risen, but other coppers are just steady. Amongst British Columbians Camp Birds and Strattons are better.

VILLAGE MAIN REEF.—In the financial year ending December 31 last an average of 144 stamps ran out of 160 stamps, crushing 246,645 tons, the yield from the mill and the cyanide treatment being 102,909 fine ozs., averaging 8.34 dwts. per ton. This realised, net, £434,071, equal to £1 15s. 2d. per ton, and as the working costs amounted to £296,583 or 24s. per ton the mine profit was £137,488, equivalent to nearly 11s. 2d. per ton. Dividends on investments and loans brought in £24,808 and transfer fees £163, and after deducting capital outlay charged to revenue, London expenses, tax on profits, income-tax and French Government duty there remained a net profit of £134,895 to be added to £50,088 brought in. A couple of dividends were paid aggregating 8s. per share, or 40 per cent., leaving a surplus of £24,983 to be taken to the current year. Working costs showed a reduction of a trifle over 2s. per ton. Hitherto it has been the custom to mine a larger percentage of the richer South Reef than of the lower grade Main Reef Leader, whilst the Main Reef has been untouched. There is left standing above the 10th level a very much greater area of the lower grade Main Reef Leader than of South Reef, consequently it has been found necessary to adjust the proportions of the reefs mined, in which adjustment is included a percentage of Main Reef, and this can only result in a lower grade of milling rock being obtained. On the advice of the consulting engineer the directors have decided to increase the mill of 160 stamps to 200 stamps by the introduction of tube mills, which will cost about £65,000, but this will obviously exhaust the mine the sooner. Depreciation has been charged to the reserve fund, which now stands at £281,896. A strong balance-sheet is issued, liquid resources greatly exceeding current liabilities.

MASHONALAND AGENCY.—Though this Rhodesian company did slightly better in the financial year to December 31 than in the previous twelve months, the results are, nevertheless, still distressing. Profits on sales of shares, dividends, interest on loans, etc.—which are lumped together—amounted to £15,099 against £12,940, rentals brought in £4,393, and transfer fees £129, making a total income of £19,621, compared with £18,149. Ordinary expenditure absorbed £11,646, leaving £6,029. But £4,972 is written off mining claims, stands, and buildings, reducing the balance to £1,057. In order, however, to provide against the possibility of the amount owing by the Beatrice Company not being repaid in full, the directors have decided to utilise the above balance, together with £18,943 deducted from the sum standing to the credit of the profit and loss account at the end of 1903, in creating a reserve account against this doubtful debt. Accordingly, £20,000 has been temporarily written off the item of sundry debtors for cash advances, reducing the item to £42,403. Adding to this £15,225, representing stock sold, but not delivered, debtors appear for £57,629, whilst cash amounts to £12,563, the current liabilities being:—sundry creditors £8,461, bills payable £1,900. During the year 454 claims were pegged and 574 claims abandoned.

JOHANNESBURG ESTATE COMPANY.—In the year ending March 31 last the total income amounted to £29,830, and the net profit was £21,991, to be added to £59,145 brought forward. A dividend of 10 per cent. was paid and a balance of £64,261 is left, the directors promising to declare another 10 per cent. shortly. A very strong balance-sheet is issued.

REZENDE, LIMITED.—The report to be submitted to the statutory meeting states that the total number of shares allotted is 34,334 of £1 each, upon 34,327, of which the sum of 10s. has been called up, and on the remaining seven shares 20s. per share has been paid. Total amount of cash received by the company in respect of shares issued is £17,429, including £264 received in anticipation of calls. It is expected that the transfer of the property from the company, in liquidation, and from the Penhalonga Proprietary Mines, will be completed at an early date.

The accounts show cash in hand £7,074, and the preliminary expenses are estimated at £750.

HOUTPOORT, LIMITED.—In their report for the year to April 18 last the directors inform the shareholders that development has steadily proceeded on the lines indicated in their previous report. It is at present proposed to complete the prospecting and development of the Eastern section before making further progress with similar work on the 500 acres forming the western portion. No profit and loss account is issued. General expenditure for the twelve months was £754 against £41 received from interest on deposits and transfer fees. Cash totals £12,600 and current liabilities are only £888. The directors remit their fees in accordance with their determination to take no remuneration until the first dividend is paid.

YORK GOLD MINING COMPANY.—A strange resolution is to be submitted by the directors of this South African company at a meeting convened for the 14th prox. At a meeting of the directors on January 28, 1899, it was decided, in order to provide the company with additional working capital, to increase the latter by the creation of 21,941 shares of £1 each. Only 600 of such shares could subsequently be sold, and it was found impossible to dispose of the balance of 21,341 shares unless they could be offered below par. It is now proposed to reduce the capital by £21,341, by cancelling these shares. This company is the celebrated old Emma Company, and took on its present title when the latter was reconstructed in 1895. It was again reconstructed in 1898 and further reconstructions seem more probable than dividends.

GREY'S MYNPACHT GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This is a reconstruction, in 1897, of Grey's Mynpacht Development Syndicate, and the issued capital is £200,000, the bulk of which is held by the Consolidated Mining and Investment Corporation, which is prospecting the property under an agreement giving power to reconstruct the company within eighteen months from May, 1903. A circular calling a meeting of Grey's Mynpacht at Johannesburg on the 25th prox, says it has been found necessary to convene such meeting in consequence of the option for the reconstruction of the company not having been exercised. The amount required to liquidate existing liabilities, and to prove the property by boring is estimated approximately at £35,000, and it is proposed to raise this sum by a debenture issue carrying 6 per cent. interest, to be in bonds of £10 each, and to be redeemable at £12 10s. They are secured by a general mortgage on the whole of the property, which, judging by past results, seems anything but a valuable one.

BRAKPAN MINES.—A special general meeting of this company was held on May 31 at Johannesburg to authorise an increase of the capital from £660,000 to £750,000 in £1 shares, in order to acquire claims on the north of the property. This company is still engaged in boreholing, and a fair amount of success seems to have been met with, though up to the present reef values appear to be rather low.

GREAT FINGALL CONSOLIDATED.—Mr. C. M. Rolker, who has been making an exhaustive examination of the Great Fingall property, cables that he considers the estimate of ore reserves made by the managers at the end of December last was 7 per cent. too much. The standing ore reserves at the latter date he computes at 286,405 tons, of a value of 20.97 dwts. per ton; broken ore reserves 85,275 tons, averaging 27.86 dwts. per ton; standing probable ore reserves 255,086 tons, giving 13.46 dwts.; standing uncertain ore reserves 9,213 tons, valued at 15.26 dwts., making a total amount of 635,979 tons, of an average of 18.95 dwts. per ton. He is of opinion that the organisation and extension of the plant has been intelligently and economically carried out under the existing circumstances, and he recommends an additional condenser and new 40-stamp mill. The management he considers most satisfactory. This will relieve the shareholders from much anxiety, as the difference in the two estimates of only 7 per cent. is of no serious importance, especially as Mr. Rolker has the reputation of being a pessimistic man. His praise of the management, too, is certainly gratifying, and is especially agreeable to ourselves, as we have always expressed a similar opinion. This is one of the reasons why we included the shares in our recent mining trust.

HANNAN'S REWARD AND MOUNT CHARLOTTE.—Working of this mine continued under the tribute system throughout 1904; 4,394 tons of ore were treated, producing 4,481 ozs., and 6,866 tons of tailings were cyanided, for a yield of 1,012 ozs., making a total of 5,494 ozs. Receipts amounted to £18,811 and the expenditure to £16,595, leaving a profit balance of £2,214 to be carried forward. The manager says he anticipates a continuance of the present revenue for a considerable time to come; the northern end of the field is now being developed with greater energy than ever in its history, but it does not necessarily follow that it will make the Hannan's Reward a rich and payable mine. There will have to be a marvellous improvement to make dividends possible.

GOLDEN BLOCKS (TAITAPU).—Crushings during 1904 amounted to 2,411 tons of ore, yielding 226 ozs. of gold, or about 18½ dwts. per ton. The profit on this was £2,235, compared with £2,329, and a dividend of 6d. per share, absorbing £2,105, was paid last December, leaving, with the balance of £1,758 from 1903, a credit of £1,758 to carry forward. The directors now propose to pay another dividend of 6d. per share, which will bring the aggregate distribution by this New Zealand company to 4s. per share. Since the close of the year, say the directors, it has transpired that Mr. Johnson, the late manager, had re-

tained 553 ozs. of gold in hand without any intimation to the directors or the company's agent in New Zealand, and this bullion has since been realised. He also endeavoured, they add, to dispose of 98 ozs. of gold at Wellington, for which he has been prosecuted by the Government. Mr. G. F. Giles, the new manager, reports that the mine at present is looking better, and that the crushings up to May 17 amounted to 811 tons, yielding 924 ozs. of gold, averaging about 22¾ dwts. per ton. The prospecting carried out on the Taitapu Estate has, so far, not been successful.

GOLDFIELDS OF MYSORE AND GENERAL EXPLORATION COMPANY.—Though this company issues a profit and loss account it is not a complete one, for administration and other expenditure (£8,063) is capitalised, and from it is deducted revenue received from transfer fees (£37), dividends on Mysore, Champion Reef, Balaghat, and Egypt and Sudan shares (£4,549), water rent (£600), and sundry receipts (£4), a total of £5,191, or £2,872 less than the outlay. The credit entry in the profit and loss account is the sum of £5,000, less £3,440 promotion expenses, received from the Egypt and Sudan Mining Syndicate, for services rendered in connection with the promotion of the Sudan Gold Field, Limited, viz., 10,000 shares of £1 each in the latter company and cash. Thus the net credit was £1,560, of which £1,500 is utilised for depreciation of buildings, machinery, plant, and materials. A balance of £4,489 is brought in from the previous balance-sheet, but as £3,871 goes in income tax there remains the small sum of £678 to carry to the current year's accounts. The aggregate capitalised expenditure is now £30,653, liabilities to creditors are £7,916, and there are contingent liabilities of £27,877 on partly-paid shares, cash and debtors amounting only to £3,918.

DE LAMAR COMPANY.—A great improvement is shown in the results of this company for the year ending March 31, and the shareholders will be pleased with the large dividend that the increased profit makes possible. Sales of bullion realised £74,927, the total revenue, including receipts from other sources, amounting to £79,058, giving a profit of £21,240, compared with £13,373. As a balance of £12,787 was brought from the previous year the available surplus is £34,028, and the dividend is raised from 17½ per cent. to 25 per cent., leaving £13,028 to be carried forward. There were treated 37,408 tons of ore of an average value of \$11.53 per ton, compared with 36,099 tons, worth \$10.75 per ton. The manager, however, is not satisfied with the percentage of value saved, and is experimenting in the hope of arriving at some improvement. The following paragraph in his report should, however, be attentively read:—"There is still a large quantity of ore in the mine, the profitable extraction and treatment of which is largely dependent upon the discovery during the progress of development of lands and feeders of comparatively high-grade ore. While former experience sustains us in the expectation that such will be found, it should be borne in mind that it may become increasingly difficult to maintain such an even output as hitherto." No fresh property was acquired during the year. Inquiries and examinations have taken place in various directions, but nothing worthy of serious consideration has been found." Financially, the position of the company is exceedingly strong, but, of course, the outlook, in view of the statement above quoted, must be considered doubtful.

MONTANA MINING COMPANY.—During the year 1904 6,096 tons of milling and shipping ore were extracted from the Drum-lummon mine, realising \$110,669, represented by 4,712 ozs. and 57,033 ozs. of silver. By the tailings plant 95,490 tons were treated, producing cyanide precipitates, represented by 7,102 ozs. of gold and 88,931 ozs. of silver, realising \$190,246. From the Lucky Girl group of mines 11,225 tons of ore were milled and dealt with by the cyanide plant, producing bullion bars and precipitates estimated to realise \$70,025. According to the revenue account, after allowing for mining and administrative expenditure the net profit was only £4,069, which, of course, is carried forward. The financial position is a strong one, but mine prospects do not look over promising. The development of the Silver Bell mine was continued until it was made clear that the mine was not responding satisfactorily to the tests applied to it. Before, however, taking any decisive action the directors had a thorough examination of the mine made by an expert, and on the receipt of his adverse report it was abandoned. The expenditure on it amounted to £2,499, and has been charged to revenue. Mr. Burrell has visited and reported upon several properties in the outlying states, but as they were either weighted with impossible conditions, or unsuited to the company's requirements, negotiations were broken off. In August last shareholders were told that Mr. Justice Buckley had made the necessary order for the reduction of capital. It is reported that the development of the Lucky Girl group of mines has taken a decided turn for the better, and should the favourable indications in the upper levels continue at depth it will give much cause for satisfaction.

PAHANG KABANG.—During 1904 10,950 tons of ore were crushed by this company for a yield of 160 tons 17 cwt. of black tin, against 8,530 tons, producing 136½ tons, in 1903, a good increase, despite the fact that crushing was suspended for two out of the first three months of the year. This was caused, in the first instance, by serious floods, and subsequently by a fall of ground in Fraser's mine as the result of the heavy rains. After charging all working costs, administration expenses, and a considerable portion of the cost of development, the profit on the year's working was £1,557. Mine prospects appear to be very uncertain, for much of the development work carried

out resulted in no find of importance. An agreement has been entered into with the Malay Exploration Syndicate, a company formed by some of the larger shareholders to prospect and explore over the property and to work any minerals found, either themselves or by means of a subsidiary company. The entire management of the syndicate's operations has been placed in the hands of the Borneo Co., Limited. No expenses are incurred, it is explained, and the Pahang Kabang will be entitled to one-third of the net profits resulting from any discoveries on the property. This company does not yet issue a profit and loss account. Cash is only £309 and debtors owe £823, whilst creditors are owed £4,616.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

This bank earned substantial profits in the half-year ended March 31, the total of £132,810 being larger than the revenue of the corresponding period by £13,228. The balance brought forward was £18,459 making the total for disposal £151,270, so that after providing the usual dividend at 10 per cent. per annum an extra £10,000 at £30,000 can be placed to reserve and £5,000 goes to the officers' provident fund against nothing, but the carry forward falls back a little to £16,270. All this points to general improvement in the position of the colony, due no doubt to the abundant harvests, and we note a pretty big increase in the bank's resources, deposit accounts being larger by £2,500,000 at £23,787,243. Notes in circulation are down about £60,000 to £992,659 and bills payable and other liabilities show the rather heavy decline of £600,000 to £2,461,842, due to the lessened requirements of the bank's importing clients. Against these public liabilities the bank has "cash assets" to the amount of £11,540,189, including coin, bullion and cash balances of £5,592,186, an excellent sum to keep and an increase on the year of £885,636. Other big items in this total are money at short call in London £980,000, investments £1,888,443 and bills receivable in London and remittances in transit £2,866,551, the last showing an advance of £762,873. Bills discounted, loans and advances to customers are actually £555,008 less at £18,531,766, and maybe the directors are anticipating some withdrawal of deposits now that the additional interest which sent them up is no longer payable.

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND, LIMITED.

The year to March 31 last was not quite so profitable for this bank as the preceding twelve months, the gross profit showing a fall of £7,412 to £125,849. Against that the general charges were some £3,100 larger at £73,512, and as rebate required a little more at £2,430, the net balance sinks from £68,403 to £58,310, even allowing for the rather greater sum of £8,403 brought forward. Nevertheless the dividend and bonus for the complete year will again reach 12 per cent., £10,000 less at £20,000 being placed to reserve, and the carry forward dropping by a trifle to £8,310. Reserve will now be within £20,000 of the paid up capital of £250,000. Notes in circulation have gone back a little to £247,126, but deposits and current accounts have further increased £175,041 to £3,218,481, and the liabilities on bills payable, etc., stand at £415,309. Against all this the coin and bullion is in very fair proportion at £782,591, being an advance of £77,013, and we also note an increase from £21,365 to £90,446 in the cash at bankers and money at call. Investments, £206,388, are larger by £26,546, and bills discounted, advances, etc., reach £3,226,684 compared with £3,178,721. Proposals for changing the status of part of the share capital are referred to elsewhere.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

In spite of the great difficulties certain to attend banking operations in a semi-bankrupt country like Turkey, this old institution, which undoubtedly wields great power in the Sultan's domains, continues to enjoy a profitable career. In the twelve months to December 31 the net revenue came to £397,460 or £28,297 more than in 1903, and in glancing over our records we find that in the last half-dozen years, that is since 1898, the profits have grown by almost £116,000, surely remarkable progress. With £24,034 brought forward the total for disposal is £421,494, and after deducting £50,517 required for the reserve fund and percentages in accordance with the statutes, the committee again recommends an increase of ¾ per cent. in the dividend, making 7 per cent., or 14s. per share, the credit carried out being somewhat reduced to £20,977. Notes in circulation are only a little larger at £1,177,794, bills payable show the important increase of £787,576 to £2,851,139, and deposits for fixed terms are up £46,175 to £1,116,714, but current accounts have been reduced from £9,337,954 to £8,601,537, making the total resources, apart from capital and reserve, £13,747,185 compared with £13,589,584. Paid-up capital, it may be mentioned, is £5,000,000 and the reserve will now reach £858,222. Some rather important movements have taken place in the various assets, actual cash held, for example, being £759,160 higher at £2,456,315, while the money at call has been further reduced £389,195 to £1,434,988, and bills receivable are less by £316,440 at £1,856,132. Investments, which last year showed a very big

increase, have now been brought back to £4,349,723, a drop of £361,101, and current accounts are over £1,000,000 lower at £2,834,423, but advances on security have been increased by £1,085,248 to £4,743,062. Statutory advance to the Ottoman Government is £909,091, and the bank has participated in other advances to the amount of £956,998, an increase of £370,607. Current accounts with the Government represent a further sum of £179,414, and bank premises and real estate complete the balance-sheet total of very nearly £20,000,000.

LIMA RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED.

The year 1904 began fairly well for this company, and the traffic in the first two months was heavy, but the opening of the electric tramways in February and July altered the condition of affairs altogether and gross receipts from passengers slumped by £20,530 on the twelve months. Against this the revision of the goods traffic proved satisfactory, and with 35,222 tons less hauled the increase in the yield was £3,223, but miscellaneous receipts were smaller and the gross revenue from all sources showed a decrease of £17,422 at £62,971. On the other hand, expenses were £5,025 heavier at £66,684, of which £2,766 was due to locomotive power and £2,198 to outlay on maintenance of way, and the year's working resulted in a deficit of £3,743. In addition to this London charges and income tax absorbed £2,127, debenture interest and expenses £4,219 and debenture redemption £1,400, and after allowing for £1,317 brought forward and £316 from interest and discount, the total loss was £10,172. The company has been in low water for a long time past, and in January last a receiver for the debenture holders was appointed by the Court. Since then creditors in Peru instituted proceedings for payment, and in order to save the property for the debenture holders the Court had to be applied to for liberty to borrow £6,000 to rank in priority to the debentures, and to be applied in settlement of these claims. Efforts are now being made to improve the position of the company by a committee of shareholders acting with the directors, and a scheme is in course of preparation for the rearrangement of the debenture debt. Negotiations have also been entered into with the electric companies under which those companies would take over the whole of the traffics and make fixed annual payments of about £16,000, and directors and the committee unite in counselling the shareholders to agree to this arrangement.

WEST OF INDIA PORTUGUESE GUARANTEED RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

The working of this undertaking under the agreement with the Southern Mahratta Co. has been carried out in a satisfactory manner and continues to show improvement, so we are told in the report for the past year, and it is only necessary to glance at the figures to find justification for this statement. Not so very long ago the system was worked at a heavy loss, but in the twelve months to December 31 there was a net profit of Rs. 2,48,378, an increase against 1903 of Rs. 78,883. Gross earnings were Rs. 6,84,391, an improvement of Rs. 1,59,519, to which goods contributed Rs. 88,498, the harbour Rs. 57,764, coaching Rs. 4,561 and miscellaneous Rs. 8,606. Working expenses showed an advance of Rs. 80,637 to Rs. 4,36,012, the railway having been operated at 64.08 per cent. of the receipts, and the harbour at 45.51 per cent. Interest is guaranteed and paid by the Portuguese Government, which should now get some assistance from the working of the system, as the whole of the previous deficits on operations, that is to say the excess of working expenditure over revenue, have now been recovered.

OHLSOON'S CAPE BREWERIES, LIMITED.

This undertaking did suffer a little last year from the depression ruling throughout South Africa, and notwithstanding very heavy capital outlays, the profits came down rather sharply. From trading and rentals the revenue was £200,560 in the twelve months to March 31, being a decrease of £36,398 against the preceding year, from which £10,000 is again allowed for depreciation of plant and machinery, leaving the actual income at £190,560. To that is added a sum of £1,956 for interest on deposits and dividends on investments, being the net amount left after providing for interest on loans. This is by no means a satisfactory way of dealing with these items. Considering the large sum of money the company has locked up in loans, trade investments, and mortgages, the revenue which these produce should be separately stated, as also, on the other side of the account, the interest charge for the equally heavy loan indebtedness. However, with this net sum, and £64 received for transfer fees, the total income is built to £192,580, against which interest on debenture stock takes £15,750, London administration £6,541, and income tax £3,026, leaving £167,263, which compares with £201,384. Nevertheless, the dividend and bonus on the ordinary shares will again be 40 per cent., after providing the usual sums for preference dividends, £20,000 less at £45,000 being placed to reserve, and the carry forward going down from £44,460 to £37,223. That, of course, is a very brilliant display, but some of the gilt is rubbed off by the circumstance that the reserve gets no actual benefit from the allocation made out of profits. In fact, the fund is now only £730,000, against £750,000 at the end of March, 1904, because the directors have thought it well to write off £30,000 from the loans, mortgages, and other investments, and as a concern called the Cape Glass Company, in which £35,000 was invested, has gone all wrong, this further sum must also be withdrawn from reserve. Cost of land, breweries, houses, etc., was increased during the year by £174,905, making the total to date £1,256,796, a very heavy amount, on which no direct depreciation allowance seems to be made.

On plant and machinery, however, the wastage provision is £10,000, as above stated, but as the outlay in the twelve months was £37,905, this item is increased from £113,563 to £141,468. Stock in trade and in transit does not appear heavy at £166,505, cash is poor at £23,306, and the large item of sundry debtors, loans, trade investments, and mortgages, £265,170, has led to the creation of loans of £131,000. To liquidate this and provide for further capital outlay in the current year more money is required, and the directors desire to be authorised to borrow up to a limit of £350,000 in excess of the nominal amount of the capital for the time being. That means borrowing powers up to £850,000, and as the present debenture debt is no more than £350,000 the directors will be able to raise another £500,000, a very large sum which will require to be handled with the utmost circumspection.

SOUTH AFRICAN BREWERIES, LIMITED.

Judging from the fabulous profits earned by the leading brewery firms, we should think beer drinking was the favourite pastime of the South African "colonists." During the year to March 31 the profits of this venture increased a little to £238,298, and the dividends, interest on bank deposits and commission, less interest paid on loans—an unsatisfactory way of dealing with these items—returned a net sum of £9,832, transfer fees giving a further amount of £202, so that all told the income was £248,333. Deduct £8,037 for administration charges and the balance remaining is £240,296, to which is added the much smaller sum of £19,994 brought forward making £260,291 compared with £266,695. That reduction need not have affected the ordinary dividend, but the directors prefer to reduce it by 3 to 22 per cent. for the full year in order to add £20,000 to reserve, the balance carried forward also coming down sharply to £6,291. This £20,000 just about provides for the expenses connected with the recent issue of preference shares, £19,789, which are deducted from the reserve, so that the fund is only very slightly larger at £612,913. It seems a very excellent accumulation, and would be had it been gathered together from profits, but so large a part consists of premiums on shares that the account is really little better than an addition to capital. This last will amount to a round £2,000,000 when the balance still owing on the last issue of preference shares is paid up, and we hope the increase in business spoken of by the directors will continue because these shares will in future involve an additional charge of £25,000 a year. We should be glad to learn the actual sum allowed for depreciation of properties, this necessary knowledge being concealed by the plan adopted of giving only the net additions to capital account for the year. They amounted to £173,984, increasing the property account to £1,382,229, a prodigious sum which we feel a dread will become burdensome one of these days. Plant, machinery, tools, &c., represent a further amount of £232,738, and there are other assets, such as stock, £148,236, sundry debtors £132,968, trade loans and mortgages £245,858, investments at cost £101,653—details would be welcome—and cash £181,646; against that sundry creditors are no more than £56,342, and a loan of £50,000 could be easily liquidated, there naturally being no sign of impoverishment while capital can be raised so readily.

DISTILLERS CO., LIMITED.

In its ceaseless efforts to gain complete control of the grain whisky trade this undertaking acquired a large interest in the United Distilleries, Belfast, during the year to May 15, receiving 24,020 fully paid ordinary shares of that concern for 12,010 of its own ordinary shares. In this way the ordinary share capital has been increased from £1,100,000 to £1,220,100, while the interest in this United company figures on the other side at the purchase price of £120,100. In other ways the balance-sheet does not show such prodigious changes as we sometimes see. Land and buildings are some £17,400 less at £545,120, and plant and utensils have been reduced £4,545 to £245,360, showing that the writings off for depreciation are not entirely imaginary. It may here be remarked that the directors take £35,000 from the year's profits for the depreciation and reserve fund and then appropriate a similar sum for writing down the cost account of works. Thus the depreciation, etc., account remains at £250,000, and the fire insurance fund is to continue at £35,000. Fixed indebtedness in the shape of debentures and debenture stock is fairly heavy at £750,000, but ordinary creditors are rather light at say £85,000, and on the other side the total floating assets under "distillery accounts" are £1,487,490, and under "registered office accounts" £99,695. The former includes sundry debtors £363,995, cash £35,154, bills receivable £113,429, and stocks enormous at £974,912, while the registered office accounts consist of sundry debtors, etc., £59,635 and cash £40,061. Profit on trading took another move forward, being up £13,753 to £212,968, and with the balance of £13,282 brought forward and £92 for transfer fees the entire credit is £226,342. Interest on debentures absorbs £31,887, and £35,000 is set aside as already mentioned, so that after providing for general charges and income tax the sum remaining is £143,748. Preference dividend having been provided the directors again pay 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, slightly reducing the carry forward to £12,274.

W. H. CHAPLIN AND CO., LIMITED.

This company has cause to regret that there was ever any such thing as a South African war, as indulgence in luxuries such as it supplies is not now possible on the same lavish scale, and even where the demand for wines and spirits continues it appears to have been diverted towards the very cheapest of

these articles. Trading profits for the year ended March 31, in spite of economies effected in expenditure, fell off by £2,059 to £11,334, and with £1,643 or £380 more brought forward, the amount available for distribution, after providing £300 for depreciation of leases and meeting other charges, was £1,706 smaller at £12,430. This, the directors say, would be sufficient to pay the same dividend as a year ago if only £500 were added to reserve, but they resist the temptation and revert to a distribution of 8 per cent. so as to put £1,000 to reserve. Of the balance £500 goes in directors' fees, £390 to the managing director and £585 is distributed amongst members of the staff, leaving £1,404 to be carried to the new account. Leaseholds, buildings, goodwill, trade marks, etc., after deducting the provision for depreciation of leases, etc., stand at £37,113 or a decrease of £403, against which the reserve comes to £13,000. Liabilities to sundry creditors are £301 up at £30,003, but bills payable have fallen £4,855 to £7,148, thanks to reductions of £3,314 to £92,322 in stocks and £1,592 to £57,327 in the amount due from sundry debtors. Cash is £580 lower at £3,443, but bills receivable, on the other hand, have risen by £620 to £3,007.

W. AND T. AVERY, LIMITED.

No information about the company's business is vouchsafed in the directors' report for the year ended March 31, although the net profits, after providing £5,276 or £100 more for depreciation, were no less than £5,245 down at £25,221. Part of this decrease was hidden by the larger balance of £7,815 brought forward, so that the total available was only £3,726 smaller at £33,036 and by reducing the allocation to reserve from £8,000 to £5,000 the dividend is maintained at the old figure of 10 per cent., leaving £7,444 to be carried to the new account. A sum of £5,011 was spent on capital account bringing the outlay up to £193,732 exclusive of £71,595 for goodwill, but the present addition to reserve makes that fund £88,000 and in addition there is a reserve fund of £46,785, or, together, about 51 per cent. of the capital expenditure, so that the reduction in the sum transferred from revenue is in a measure justified. Sundry creditors have risen by £2,756, but are still light at £17,272 compared with book debts which are £1,332 up at £8,157, while cash shows an increase of £9,677 to £24,447 and stocks and works in progress have only been reduced by £1,432 to £100,725.

HOWARD AND BULLOUGH, LIMITED.

The pronounced revival in the cotton trade meant improved profits for this business of spinning machinery manufacturers during the twelve months to May 31 last. After making provision for depreciation and bad and doubtful debts and meeting all other charges the net revenue for the year was £90,394 compared with £83,530 in 1903-4. Including £49 for transfer fees the total income is £90,443, and after providing the preference dividend the directors raise the distribution on the ordinary shares by $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. besides adding twice as much at £10,000 to reserve. The carry forward, however, is reduced from £10,455 to £9,648. Reserve will now be £190,000, a very fair accumulation, but we cannot tell exactly how it is used because the balance-sheet provides a minimum of information. There are book debts, shares in Howard and Bullough (American Machine Company), investments, loans, &c., all given under one head and standing for £485,316, so that we cannot be sure to what extent the fund is used in the business. The item shows an increase on the year of £51,241 and cash and bills are £4,835 larger at £63,617, but stock-in-trade has been reduced £12,941 to £146,754 and sundry creditors show an advance of £21,325 at £59,903. Property account stands at £863,001 after deducting a sum of £8,865, being the difference between capital additions and depreciation for the year, a method of dealing with this important matter which leaves the shareholders as wise as before.

S. P. AUSTIN AND SON, LIMITED.

Business fell off somewhat during the year ended April 30, and net profits were £1,030 lower at £13,533, but the directors nevertheless have increased the allowance for depreciation by £505 to £2,772. After writing another £200 off suspense account and meeting debenture interest the amount available is £1,535 less at £7,761, so the dividend on the ordinary shares is reduced by 2 per cent. to 5 per cent., leaving £17,790 or £361 more to be carried forward. Capital expenditure in the twelve months came to £5,643, so that even with the increased sum written off this item stands £2,871 higher now than it did a year ago at £159,228, against which there is nothing in the shape of a reserve. Trading balances, however, continue very much in the company's favour, as although there is a small increase of £362 to £6,571 in liabilities to sundry creditors while debtors owe £9,330 less at £11,463, stocks and work in progress have gone up by £4,822 to £20,071 and cash is £1,453 higher at £42,649.

WARING AND GILLOW, LIMITED.

No profit and loss account is ever issued by this large furnishing, upholstering, hotel-building, and office-providing company. It is consequently of little practical use following its history as disclosed in the reports, but the directors tell us that they did a good business last year, carrying out many important contracts, including the royal yacht for the Sultan of Turkey, a palace for Prince Nicholas of Greece, and another for the Sultan of Johore, besides work at the Savoy Hotel, the Waldorf and Lyceum Theatres, the Ladies' Athenæum Club; show-rooms

for Peter Robinson, Limited, the Club Cantabrico, San Sebastian; the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, and the Pretoria Museum, South Africa. Also new offices for the Morgan Shipping combine have been completed in Cockspur Street, and the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly is making rapid progress. These last-named works are apparently carried out by the Waring White Building Company, which is also constructing a new Cotton Exchange at Liverpool, amongst other important undertakings. The accounts of the Waring White Company, however, are not before us, and in those of Waring and Gillow there is not much light. Apparently the value of the freehold and leasehold properties, goodwill, &c., has risen by £15,446 during the year ended December 31 last to £1,435,446, and there is an increase of £124,249 in the stock-in-trade and works in progress as certified by the managers of the several branches, the total being now the handsome one of £491,850, but sundry debtor balances after providing for doubtful debts have shrunk by £99,470 to £381,086. Cash and investments, however, are up £74,634 to a total of £365,095. Amongst these investments it was stated a year ago that the company held £120,000 £1 fully-paid ordinary shares in Messrs. Hampton and Sons, Limited, and we note in the report before us that the premises of Messrs. Hampton were during the past year considerably enlarged and improved. Was the work paid for by shares, or how? Little change has occurred in the capital account, the share issues being the same, but sundry creditors have risen by about £95,000 to £359,039, while debenture capital is less by only £7,370. The reserve and undivided profits, however, are up by £23,396 to £144,510, after providing for the 6 per cent. cumulative preference dividend and the 7 per cent. cumulative ordinary dividend. Another one-fifth, or £9,316, has been written off the preliminary expenses of debenture and share issues made in March, 1903, &c., bringing the outstanding asset under this head down to £28,684.

CHADBURN'S (SHIP) TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

The useful inventions for ship signalling owned by this concern continue to enjoy a well-deserved appreciation, and each succeeding year witnesses some addition to the profits earned. In the twelve months to March 31 last the trading revenue was £26,265, from which a large number of charges, including £1,639 for repairs and renewals and £1,000 placed to special reserve account, altogether absorb £8,445, leaving £17,820 as net revenue. It is increased to £18,095 by interest, transfer fees, &c., and after providing directors' fees and managing directors' remuneration, what seems the fair sum of £6,800 is allowed for depreciation, and £9,861 remains. Capital being moderate, that provides the 6 per cent. preference dividend and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, with a small increase in the carry forward to £7,587. The sum allowed for depreciation brings the property account, which includes goodwill, patents, and trade marks, down to £86,752, not excessive considering the profits earned, and we note that the company has a fair supply of liquid resources against very moderate floating liabilities. The weak spot is the smallness of reserve, the only sum possessed being the £1,000 set aside this year, and we hope to see the question receiving greater consideration.

COMPAGNIE GENERALE TRANSATLANTIQUE.

A report of this French shipping company for the year 1904 is full of interesting material, much fuller than any similar report in this country, frank in tone and clear in substance. Briefly, the directors inform their shareholders that business was difficult last year on several of the company's routes, and especially interfered with through the two strikes at Marseilles and the Atlantic rate war between the English and German companies. In consequence of these drawbacks and of the trouble in Haiti the revenue fell off by 1,344,000f. to 53,788,000f. The directors, however, were able to effect a reduction in the expenses, partly through the suspension of sailings from Marseilles owing to the strikes there, amounting to 1,765,000f., so that the net income was really rather better than that for 1903. That income was 8,272,000f., and of this 7,650,000f. was set aside to a special reserve for the renewal of boilers and large repairs, as also for amortisation in various specified directions. The net available balance was therefore 622,000f., or to take in the odd figures, 622,227f., out of which a dividend of 5 per cent. upon the old shares, or 7.50f. per share was paid, leaving 22,227f. to be carried to the new account. As far as we can judge the company makes ample provision for depreciation of all kinds, and the directors state that they are determined to pile up such an insurance reserve as may enable them some years later to materially reduce the amount paid as insurance premiums. Last year it seems 80,000 new shares were issued to give the company additional funds, and when these are fully paid up they will rank for preferential dividend. The only weak point we see is the smallness of the paid-up share capital compared with the weight of the obligations. Even when the new shares are paid up the debt will, we judge, be nearly four times the amount of the share capital. At the date of the last balance-sheet such share capital came to 12,000,000f., while the total of the obligations, including 98,695,000f. of 3 per cent. bonds, was 99,713,000f.

RIVER PLATE FRESH MEAT CO., LIMITED.

This business is subject to violent reversals of fortune, and the bumper year of 1902-3 having been followed by a descent in the depths, the turn of the wheel has once more proved friendly. During the twelve months ended April 30 the average prices of both sheep and cattle were lower than in the preceding year, but were still much in excess of the values ruling in the old

palmy days when the industry was young and competition small. No difficulty, however, was experienced in disposing of the importations and with moderately good markets the loss of £6,838 was replaced by a profit of £55,744. To this was added £599 from the previous account, and as there is now no debenture interest to be provided £10,000 was put to reserve and dividends of 10 per cent. are paid on both preference and ordinary shares compared with nothing last time, leaving £1,343 to be carried forward. Another £13,701 was spent on additional buildings, plant and machinery, bringing the total capital outlay up to £504,505, against which the reserve now stands at £80,000 or nearly 16 per cent. Liabilities are £19,182 down, but are still very heavy at £394,715, while, on the other hand, an increase of £12,850 to £53,608 in London assets is more than offset by a decrease of £26,486 to £103,973 in assets in the River Plate. Shipments in transit, however, are £36,919 up at £288,023, and cash is much about the same at £65,948.

ALLIANCE MARINE AND GENERAL ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

On December 31, 1903, the balance of the underwriting account for that year was £51,623, of which settlements during the past twelve months have taken £25,364. Including the amount brought forward and interest on investments the net revenue for 1904, after paying underwriters' commission and transferring £8,907 to underwriting suspense account, came to £105,086 out of which a dividend of 30s. and a bonus of 10s. per share are paid. For the twelve months ended December 31, 1904, the net premium income was £150,577, while net losses came to £36,488 and expenses to £38,798, leaving a balance of £75,291 to be dealt with in the current year.

CANADA COMPANY.

The land boom in Canada having fizzled out, this company was only able to sell 92½ acres at an average price of \$1.62 during the five months ended May 31 compared with 372½ acres at \$20.71 in the corresponding period of 1904. Land leased with right of purchase also showed a shrinkage at 3,896½ acres for \$14.12 per acre against 4,144½ acres and \$18.04, but the six town lots sold brought in \$187.50 or \$81.25 more per lot, so that the average secured on the total transactions was \$4.33 less at \$14.11, representing an increase of \$1.66 per acre on the 1894 valuation compared with \$3.51 obtained a year ago. Land leased without option of purchase, too, was of less value and 10,093 acres produced a rental of no more than \$980.50, whereas in 1904 2,500 acres gave \$1,021. The purchase money for land sold or converted into freehold was £3,720 smaller at £11,980, but rent, interest, &c., gave a trifle more at £6,109, timber receipts were £199 up at £526 and minerals and prospecting fees £416 higher at £496, making a total revenue of £19,111 against £22,147. A year ago the dividend for the half-year ending July 10 was increased by 2s. to £2 2s. per share, but on this occasion the shareholders have to be content with a payment of £1 15s. per share. Funds in hand, including the capital reserve fund of £8,463, have fallen £4,960 to £24,910, while liabilities are practically unchanged at £10,654, so that the balance in favour of the company is £4,926 smaller at £14,256, but the contingent liability for deposits by lessees to meet rent and purchase money has been reduced from £7,916 to £6,945.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMPANY.

In submitting their annual report, made up to December 31 in Adelaide and April 29 in London, the directors of this flourishing company describe the year as a fairly prosperous one for all classes in South Australia, another bountiful harvest having been gathered in. The wheat crop was nearly equal to that of the previous year and the grain, being reaped in good condition, weighed heavier than in 1903, so that the price realised was about 6d. per bushel higher. Naturally enough the company's tenants have shared in the general prosperity and the manager reports that in arranging for new leases of a considerable part of the lands from March of the current year he found the tenants anxious to continue in their farms. Against that, however, we may note that the demand for building allotments near Adelaide has fallen off during the later months of the year, and there is not much chance of a revival of sales at present, although more land may be disposed of when the money realised by the favourable harvest gets into circulation. Including £1,886 brought forward the revenue from all sources came to £61,524, and after providing expenditure of every kind the balance over is £39,795, an improvement of £3,829. So another 2s. is added to the dividend making it 50s. for the twelve months, payable in half-yearly moieties on July 15 and January 15 next, £1 13s being carried to reserve and £3 10s to next account. The financial position is a very powerful one, the surplus of assets over liabilities being something like £840,000, including the sums now provided for dividend. Owing to the readjustment of the State finances the land tax for 1905 will be exceptionally heavy, but Ministers have promised that the increase shall be for one year only and the directors hope that the improving state of the revenue may enable the Government to do without additional taxes in future. The people of the colony will share that wish, but relief from taxation can only come when economy and retrenchment give place to extravagance in State departments.

LUNGLA (SYLHET) TEA CO., LIMITED.

The crop for the year ended December 31 was 306,520 lbs. larger than the estimated outturn and showed an increase of 61,337 lbs. over the previous season at 2,534,520 lbs., while the quality was very similar. Over-supply of medium and common teas, however, was an influence which this company could no more hope to escape than its rivals, and the average price realised further declined from 6.81d. to 6.16d. per lb. A saving of 0.20d.

at 4.53d. per lb. in the cost of production did not materially compensate for the smaller price, and gross profits were £4,330 lower at £16,816. To this were added £140 brought forward and £67 from interest, &c., and after providing for debenture interest and other charges the amount available came to £12,460 compared with £17,083, and the preference dividend having been paid the ordinary shares again receive 3 per cent. and £2,500 or £5,000 less is put to reserve, leaving £1,254 to be carried forward. A year ago the balance forward was given at £883, but advantage was taken of this figure to pay up the outstanding balance of directors' fees for the period from 1899 to 1902 and to give the local staff a bonus of £133. Another £2,600 of the debentures was purchased in the past twelve months, of which £2,500 has been cancelled, bringing the total outstanding down to the round £60,000. The block account, including buildings and machinery, stands at £263,207 or nearly £49 per cultivated acre, so that the reserve fund of £10,000 is none too substantial a provision. Liabilities in London and India have been reduced by £2,207 to £27,762 and cash is £6,996 up at £7,788 as the result of a decrease of £10,678 to £34,096 in liquid assets, including tea and tea seed on hand, &c.

ATTAREE KHAT TEA CO., LIMITED.

An unfavourable season and reduced crop in one of the divisions was only partially offset by an increased outturn on the other and the total yield for 1904 was 124,066 lbs. less at 997,440 lbs. By way of compensation the company enjoyed the almost unique experience of realising practically the same price as in the previous year at 7.73d. per lb., but, on the other hand, expenditure, although smaller, worked out at 6.79d. per lb. against 6.58d. Gross receipts, thanks to the smaller crop, were £4,112 lower at £32,199, but after meeting all expenses, including manager's commission, the net profits were only £1,546 down at £3,747. With £1,627 brought in and £160 from interest and sundry adjustments the disposable balance came to £5,534 or £1,457 less, out of which £1,000 is again transferred to reserve but the dividend is reduced by 1 per cent. to 5 per cent., and a smaller balance of £1,197 is carried to the new account. Liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable show very little change at £14,585, but stocks of tea are £1,368 up at £20,280 and cash has fallen £1,854 to £4,312, while sundry debtors owe £1,385 and factory advances are excessively heavy at £2,066.

JHANZIE TEA ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

An increase of 37,799 lbs. to 1,276,072 lbs. in the crop for 1904 was offset by a drop of 0.51d. to 7.62d. per lb. in the average price realised, and gross receipts were £1,419 lower at £40,324. Expenditure has always been exceedingly heavy with this company, and although the cost of production was reduced by 0.43d. to 7.10d. per lb. the outgoings absorbed no less than £37,904 and left but a meagre margin of £2,420 as net profit. The agents once more surrender £500 of their commission, while interest gave £127 or £65 more than a year ago and with £146 brought forward and £22 refunded from the Indian Tea Market development fund the amount available after paying income-tax was £3,151, so the dividend of 3 per cent. is repeated, and £151 is carried to the new account. Block account remains at £102,807 or nearly £29 per acre, while the reserve still stands at £14,000 of which £6,319 is represented by an investment in Rupee paper. Liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors are £1,703 less at £16,083 and the loan from the bank has been reduced by £1,500, thanks to decreases of £2,506 to £18,893 in stocks of tea, and £886 to £2,280 in sundry debtors, as cash is practically unaltered at £1,203.

KELLY'S DIRECTORIES, LIMITED.

A further increase of £1,141 to £48,087 in gross profits was secured during the year ended March 31, and as the balance from the previous account was £2,385 larger at £8,664 the total income came to £3,526 more at £56,751. On the other hand depreciation allowance was cut down by £586 to £3,080, and after providing for debenture interest and preference dividend, administration charges and the interim dividend on the ordinary shares the directors had £32,390 or £4,017 more at their disposal, out of which the usual £4,000 is put to reserve and the ordinary shares receive an additional 1 per cent. at 9 per cent. with a bonus of 3s., leaving £10,841 to be carried forward. Freehold premises are valued at £50,328, printing and publishing plant after deducting the above-mentioned depreciation stand at £56,930, and works in progress, copyrights and goodwill are a trifle of £821 down at £329,235, against which, of course, there is the reserve of £22,000. Stock of directories, paper, &c., has been increased by £469 to £6,003, a modest enough figure considering the nature of the business, and in other respects the company's position seems very good. A decrease of £466 to £13,517 in the amount due to sundry creditors is neutralised by an increase of £418 to £7,337 in the liability to Slater's Directory, Limited, but against these sundry debtors, although £5,624 down come to £38,925 and cash has risen by £4,481 to £27,201 while investments, including Consols taken at 90 at cost and £44,600 of the company's own 4 per cent. debenture stock, are valued at £120,556.

GREENWOOD AND BATLEY, LIMITED.

Profits of this engineering business continue to pick up, net revenue for the twelve months to March 31, after providing for interest on debentures and doubtful accounts, being £32,191 compared with £25,978 in 1903-4 and £19,178 in the year before that, so that the recovery is substantial. The directors think the ordinary shareholders entitled to part of the additional profit

and increase their dividend by 1 to 6 per cent., after which an extra £2,500 is allowed for depreciation at £7,500, and £5,000 goes to reserve against a similar sum written off the book value of investments twelve months back. The balance forward is then raised substantially by £2,358 to £6,026. Reserve will now be £35,000, and is none too much for a company committed in various ways apart from the capital outlay on its own works. This, by the way, amounts to £273,852, including £14,419 added during the year, and after deducting the £7,500 allowed for depreciation. Beyond such expenditure there are investments in shares of other companies £37,625, including the interest in the English De Laval Steam Turbine Company, and an advance to that undertaking of £10,869. We should be glad to hear what revenues these investments bring in. Then expenditure on Electric Light Railways and on patents is now £60,272, but only £4,448 really appears in the balance-sheet, the rest of the money having been advanced by the bankers against warrants issued by the Light Railways Company. The bankers were also called upon to lend the company for its own purposes a sum of £19,627, of which £8,917 remained on hand at the date of the balance-sheet, so that the business relies on credit to a greater extent than seems wise. Trading accounts are well in favour, and there are bills receivable on hand for £3,326, while stocks and stores figure for £71,291, but we fancy the payment of the dividends will involve further borrowing.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

BANKS.

Bank of Egypt.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

London and Hanseatic Bank.—Interim for the first half-year, 1905, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

MINES.

Angelo Gold.—15 per cent. for the period ended May 31.

Balaghat Gold.—An interim of 6d. per share on both preference and ordinary shares for the four months ended April 30, payable July 20.

Brilliant Central.—6d. per share.

Driefontein Consolidated.—12½ per cent. for the half-year ended June 30.

Ivanhoe Gold.—First quarterly interim of 5s. per share, payable July 17.

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. a share for June.

Mysore West Gold, Mysore-Wynaad Gold.—1s. per share, payable July 14.

Nundydroog.—Interim for the four months ended April 30 of 1s. 2d. per share on the fully-paid shares, 7d. per share on the fully-paid new shares, and 2½d. per share on the new shares (3s. 4d. paid), payable 21st prox.

Queen Cross Reef.—6d. per share.

Salisbury Gold.—2s. per share.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Australian Agricultural.—30s. per share, making £3 per share for the year 1904.

Cape Electric Tramways.—Interim of 2½ per cent.

Cotton Powder Company.—7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10½ per cent. for the year.

Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph.—Interim for the quarter ended March 31 of 2s. 6d. per share, payable 15th prox.

Electrical Power Storage.—6 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended May 31.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—1s. per share, payable July 10.

Globe Telegraph and Trust.—Quarterly interim of 2s. each on the ordinary shares.

Henry Ford and Co.—First interim for the current year of 7½d. per share.

J. Cawthra.—Interim of 7s. per ordinary share.

Louisville and Nashville Railroad.—Semi-annual of 3 per cent. payable August 10.

Raphael Tuck.—10 per cent. per annum on ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, with £15,000 to reserve and £3,771 forward.

United Indigo and Chemical.—Interim on the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30, 1904.

United States Brewing.—Further of 4 per cent. on the preference shares, making 8 per cent. for the year ended March 31.

Watson, Woodhead, and Wagstaffe.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended May 31.

White Pass and Yukon.—Interim of 2 per cent. (4s. per share) for the year ending June 30, payable July 15.

Millwall Dock Equipment.—Interim at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, payable July 1.

MINING RETURNS.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal, 18,500 tons; sales, 18,000 tons; consumption, 1,150 tons.

Gibraltar Consolidated.—Tributers crushed 98 tons, 151 ozs.; 5 tons concentrates 39 ozs.; tailings, 15 ozs.; total, 205 ozs.

New Mines: Tributers crushed 44 tons, 25 ozs.; 3 tons concentrates, 4 ozs.; total, 29 ozs.

Komata Reefs Gold.—Crushed 1,300 tons, £3,750.

Lachlan Gold Fields.—Crushed 780 tons, £1,560.

Maryborough Leviathan.—1,001 tons, yield 186 ozs.

Mount Lyell.—30,792 tons treated, in addition to 440 tons of

purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes. Converters produced 632 tons blister copper, containing—copper, 624 tons; silver, 51,919 ozs.; gold, 1,794 ozs.

Pahang.—2,200 tons, producing 42 tons black tin.

Pahang-Kabang.—800 tons, producing 12 tons black tin.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £7,750; yield per ton, .57 of an oz. troy.

Tasmania Gold.—2,870 tons, 1,544 ozs.; chlorination, 367 tons, 448 ozs.; total, 1,992 ozs.

Waihi Gold.—Crushed 23,084 tons for £54,600.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and June 24, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
		Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to June 24, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to June 25, 1904.
Balances, April 1:	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	6,352,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	—	7,262,000	8,610,000
Excise	—	6,542,000	6,823,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	3,437,000	2,702,000
Stamps	—	1,786,000	1,605,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	380,000	500,000
Property and Income Tax....	—	3,873,000	4,190,000
Post Office	—	2,930,000	2,900,000
Telegraph Service	—	920,000	900,000
Crown Lands	—	110,000	110,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans..	—	5,000	219
Miscellaneous	—	387,279	381,534
*Revenue	—	27,632,279	28,721,753
Total, including balance		35,062,557	32,985,595
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	200,000	150,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	100,000	250,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902	—	191,592	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901	—	410,408	—
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900	—	13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds	—	5,945,000	—
Temporary Advances, Deficiency	—	—	1,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)	—	—	7,000,000
Total		41,957,557	41,985,595
*Revenue as above	—	27,632,279	28,721,753
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	—	38,872	43,437
Excise	—	679,952	584,822
Estate, &c., Duties	—	1,134,839	1,074,000
Total	—	1,853,663	1,702,259
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	—	29,485,942	30,424,012
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
		Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to June 24, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to June 25, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	—	6,314,303	6,423,814
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	321,657	297,734
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	—	222,175	90,000
Supply Services	—	21,077,321	24,084,919
Expenditure	—	27,935,456	30,896,467
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	220,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	45,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	2,000,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	150,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903	—	940,000	855,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901	—	400,000	—
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	35,000	76,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	25,000
Deficiency Advances repaid	—	—	1,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—	—	2,500,000
Balances in Exchequer:—	1905. June 24. 1904. June 25.		
Bank of England	£ 9,412,238	£ 4,858,143	
Bank of Ireland	806,863	974,985	
Total		10,219,101	5,833,128
Total		41,957,557	41,985,595

Treasury, June 27, 1905.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

TRUSTEES, EXECUTORS, AND SECURITIES INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting was held on Monday at Winchester House, Mr. George A. Touch in the chair, to consider resolutions approving a scheme for re-arranging the capital and for making certain consequential alterations in the articles of association.

The Chairman said that the directors began negotiations with the trustees for the debenture stockholders on May 11th, and, if the shareholders knew of the legal and other difficulties which had had to be overcome, they would appreciate the fact that no time was lost in issuing the circular embodying the scheme by June 14th. The profit and loss account showed a balance of net profit, after paying debenture interest, of £141,868, or £100,000 in excess of that of the previous year. Dividends, interest and commission amounted to £44,626, showing a decrease of £2,470. The previous year, however, benefited by £5,442 through their having received a year and nine months' dividend on their stock in the Mexican Southern Railway. The trustee fees were £9,442, or £3,700 more, which was the largest amount ever received from this source in any one year since the reorganisation of the company in 1894. It included, however, arrears of £3,351 which came in during the year. The Winchester House rents showed a loss, as a large part of the building had been pulled down. The striking feature in the accounts was the profits on realisations, which had amounted to £111,018, against the average in recent years of about £9,000. This was chiefly owing to the realisation of a large part of their interest in the Mexican Southern Railway, principally their holding of ordinary stock. The profit balance of £141,868 was increased by the amount brought forward to £149,866. An interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. was paid for the half-year ended November 30; they had placed £15,000 to reserve, increasing it to £115,000; and they proposed to pay the usual dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. for the half-year ended May 31st, making 5½ per cent. for the year, leaving a balance of £110,116, of which £100,000 had been allocated for the purposes of the scheme and £10,116 remained to be carried forward. Of their investments, 85.23 per cent. were quoted against 76.117 per cent. last year. At meeting after meeting the shareholders had urged the directors to endeavour to find a way of getting rid of the uncalled liability on the shares, but this was not an easy task, the uncalled capital being specifically charged to secure the issue of the debenture stock, which was irredeemable. They had been constantly considering how they could overcome this difficulty, and it occurred to them that the exceptional profits of the past year might afford an opportunity for dealing with this all-important question—all-important because its prejudicial effects were beyond question. At no time in the last five years had the assets and the reserve represented less than £2 15s. a share, and yet during this time the average price of the shares had been below £1 10s., representing an aggregate loss to the shareholders in capital value of £250,000. Having dealt at length with other features of the scheme, as set out in the directors' circular, he pointed out that by their proposal the shareholder not only got rid of the uncalled liability but that it gave him an addition of between 16 per cent. and 17 per cent. to his capital. Referring to a circular issued by Mr. Williamson Milne, he remarked that it seemed to him that that gentleman's advice to them came to this:—"Pay a dividend in excess of your earnings and put nothing to reserve after this year. In that way you will unquestionably improve the price of your shares and send them to a premium." He need scarcely say that, whether the scheme was accepted or rejected, the directors would never countenance such a proceeding as that. As to the increase proposed by the directors in their remuneration, if the average profits before charging interest on debenture stock, but apart from realisations, were increased by £27,000 from the new money, the board would receive an extra £400 a year, out of which would have to be paid the fees of a new director. If, in addition, they made £9,000 a year by profits on realisations, this would give them £450 more. Mr. Milne's statement, however, was that at the lowest computation what the directors proposed meant an additional £1,000 to £4,000 a year. The debenture-holders at their meeting last Friday had agreed to release their charge on the uncalled capital, although not without opposition, and therefore the position of perfect freedom was within the shareholders' reach to-day. He concluded by moving a resolution approving the scheme and requesting the directors to take all necessary steps to carry it into effect.

The Deputy-Chairman (Mr. W. Capel Slaughter) seconded the motion.

Mr. Alfred Mosely opposed the scheme. It was proposed to extinguish the uncalled capital, and therefore to do away largely with the confidence which people might feel in appointing the company to act as their trustee. It was true that the uncalled capital was pledged for certain purposes, but with a large amount of assets such as they had the £3 a share uncalled was the equivalent, in his opinion, of the uncalled reserve of any large and respectable company. The shareholders had been informed that the company had had certain very lucky sales, but this money represented capital and not profit, and he thought it would have been wise to place the whole of the extra money to the reserve fund, and to aim also at further increasing this fund as years went on, until they could put a sufficient sum on one side and earmark it as representing the liability on the

debentures. The shareholders had only had notice of the scheme within the very shortest possible time allowed under the articles of association. He objected to being put in the position that he must either subscribe more money or that his shares were to be taken away, and he maintained that the price the shareholders were to be paid did not represent their fair share in the assets of the concern. In the "Financial and Commercial Supplement" of the *Times* that day there was a special article on the company, which he would advise every shareholder to read and take to heart. He wished to know whether the directors of the company had paid for the circulars and proxies which had been sent out, and he also desired to know who the underwriters were. He had been pleased to hear that the directors were not interested as underwriters.

Mr. Single supported the scheme generally, but while not objecting to an increase in the directors' remuneration, he strongly dissented to their being paid by results.

Mr. Milne said that he had received many letters from shareholders clearly indicating that they misunderstood the scheme, and he had lodged with the directors, as other shareholders had done, about 100 withdrawals of proxies previously sent to them. He complained of the delay he had experienced in obtaining a list of the shareholders, and said that if the directors had issued with their scheme proxies asking the shareholders to state whether they were in favour of or against the scheme there would have been no necessity for him or any other shareholder to issue circulars to the shareholders. Having referred to statements in his circular, he urged the directors to adjourn the meeting until the views of the shareholders as a body could be ascertained about the scheme.

Mr. C. C. Macrae supported the proposal, and spoke of the serious disadvantage under which the shareholders now laboured owing to the uncalled liability on their shares. There would be no use, he maintained, in having an adjournment. The income derived by the company from acting as trustee and executor did not amount to £10,000 a year, and he took it that the desire of the great body of the shareholders was to see the company carried on as a well-managed trust company, from the business of which they derived the substantial amount of their earnings.

Mr. F. Walker also strongly supported the scheme.

Mr. Alexander Young said that the sole question for the shareholders' consideration really was whether they were paying too much in giving an extra ¼ per cent. on the debenture stock for getting rid of the heavy uncalled liability on their shares.

Other shareholders having spoken,

The Chairman, in reply, observed that a great deal of the criticism which had been raised at the meeting had been answered by the shareholders themselves. The scheme had involved a great deal of work and correspondence, and it had been impossible to furnish lists of the shareholders at a few moments' notice, but all that the directors had been able to do in this matter had been done. Reference had been made to the article which appeared in the "Financial and Commercial Supplement" of the *Times* of that day. The writer of the article said that "the present unpaid capital of £600,000 is the chief part of the public's security," ignoring the fact that the uncalled capital was specifically charged to the debenture-holders. The writer also stated that "there are irredeemable debentures of £400,000, so that, leaving the uncalled capital out of account, the available funds to meet trustee or insurance liabilities" was only £150,000. This statement again ignored the fact that the paid up assets, apart from the uncalled capital, amounted, not to £150,000, but to £565,000 in excess of the debenture stock, and that this margin would be increased to £1,165,000 under the scheme. The writer further stated that the company was adopting the "practice, once common among even good insurance companies but now abandoned, of applying so-called profits towards paying up uncalled liabilities," overlooking the fact that in the present case the credit to capital was merely a partial restoration of capital which had been written off, such restoration arising from the increment of capital in the assets held at the time of the writing off. It was also stated in the article that the company's profits for five years included "an average annual profit of £9,361 from realisations of securities," and that "such a profit should certainly not be available for dividends." But the writer again overlooked the fact that the directors in each year had placed to reserve sums in excess of this profit, and that it was the opponents of the scheme who urged that the annual profit on the realisation of securities should be distributed by way of dividend. When the directors drew up the scheme and submitted it to the trustees for the debenture holders, it contained no provision for additional remuneration to the board, and it was not then intended to be asked for. It was only when those who were going to underwrite the preference shares wanted to be represented on the board that the question arose, and it was stated that they did not wish the new director's remuneration to be paid by the present board. He could not say that he himself shared the objections which had been expressed to remuneration which was based on results. He would, however, be perfectly satisfied to modify the proposed alteration in this respect, so that it should be provided that instead of their being entitled to 5 per cent. of the profits beyond a certain amount they should be entitled to £850 per annum in addition to their present remuneration—or to some other amount which the shareholders might agree to. (Hear, hear.) The cost of the proxies had been paid for by the directors. The board would certainly resist the proposal for adjourning the meeting, for it would only be an indirect way of defeating the scheme. He then put the resolution, and declared it carried by the requisite majority.

Five shareholders having signified, at Mr. Milne's invitation, their desire for a poll,

The Chairman stated that the proxies lodged in favour of the resolution, after making all deductions, represented 125,597 votes, while the number lodged against the scheme represented only 3,969 votes. The result of the poll, if taken, must therefore be obvious.

Mr. Milne stated that he would not put the shareholders to the trouble of a poll, but he contended that the shareholders present, with those whose proxies had been withdrawn, represented 25,000 shares.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by the Deputy-Chairman, the resolutions for altering the articles of association as proposed were carried, the Chairman intimating that he would see that the alteration which he had announced as to the extra remuneration to be paid to the directors should be made at the first opportunity.

The ordinary general meeting of the company was held subsequently, when the report was adopted and the dividend recommended was approved.

AUX CLASSES LABORIEUSES.

DISCUSSION ON THE REDUCED DIVIDEND.

The eighth annual ordinary general meeting of the Aux Classes Laborieuses, Limited, was held on Monday at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C., Mr. D. Dalziel (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. Gordon) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It is with pleasure that we are able to come before you again this year, showing results which may be considered highly satisfactory. You will remember that at our last annual meeting I was able to point out to you that the gross turnover was by over £20,000 the highest in the history of the business. A reference to the balance-sheet before you will show you that this year the progress continues, and that the gross turnover as compared with last year shows a still further increase of 405,404f., or about £16,216, while the gross trading profit this year shows an increase of £4,239 9s. 11d. over that of last year. It is a legitimate ground for self-congratulation when you remember that, although this business has been in existence about 38 years—that is to say, for 30 years as a private business and for eight years as a limited liability company—we are able to record that the accounts for the current financial year, which we are assembled here to pass to-day, show that the progress has been (and we may hope may continue to be) on the upward grade. The branches opened in the provinces, and to which reference was made in my comments last year, are now beginning to show satisfactory returns, and have fully justified the expectations which were formed in regard to them. The managing director has at the present moment further proposals before the board dealing with the opening of branches at Boulogne-sur-Mer, Le Mans, Tours and Dijon. The question will be most carefully considered.

AU PETIT ST. THOMAS.

With regard to our interest in Au Petit St. Thomas, you will be pleased, as outlined at our last meeting, to learn that our holding has been reduced to 360,000f., and that we have realised the balance with interest. A new and entirely French company has been formed to take over that business, and our interests are protected by the presence on the board of Mr. Debraine and Mr. Rene Cahen, and the company has received by way of a bonus profit parts beneficières (founders' shares), which after the payment of the interest on the preference share capital entitle the company to one-tenth of the net profits of the business. We are informed by Messrs. Debraine and Cahen that the future of the business is very promising. It will no doubt be interesting to you to learn that since the closing of the books on January 31 last the gross turnover continues to increase, and up to the end of May the returns are of a highly satisfactory nature. I am not able to give you the exact figures, but the managing director informs me that for the period to June 20 the increase of the turnover, as compared with the similar period last year, amounts to about £20,000. From the figures you have before you, it will be seen, therefore, that the business is rapidly expanding; but while, of course, it has been the aim of the directors to increase the business, and correspondingly the profits, as much as possible, yet their policy in this direction has ever been based on prudence and a due regard to possibilities. Following this view, therefore, they advocate such a policy as will strengthen the position of the company yet further. The directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 3 per cent., making in all 9 per cent. for the year. This reduction of 2 per cent. on the dividend paid last year is due, as you will have seen, from no inability to pay the higher rate, but because, in pursuance of the policy I have already outlined, the directors deem it advisable to add to the resources of the company as much as possible, and give it every opportunity of expansion. As you will see by the accounts, a further sum of £10,000 has been charged against profit and loss account in anticipation of the redemption of debenture stock at 105. This redemption took place in March last, and the debenture debt has now been reduced from £185,000 to £165,960. Your directors again desire to express their appreciation of the efficient managership of Mr. Debraine, who is here to-day. Before putting the resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer, to the best of my ability, any ques-

tions. I now beg to move: "That the directors' report, balance-sheet, and accounts for the year ending January 31, 1905, be and they are hereby approved, passed and adopted."

Mr. Henry Wolfenden seconded the motion.

CRITICISMS OF SHAREHOLDERS.

Mr. T. B. Mellor said he would be very glad if the chairman would explain the policy of the board in reducing the dividend. Although they had increased their net earnings by £4,000 it was proposed to decrease the dividend by 2 per cent. Not only was the trading as good as last year when the board felt justified in paying a dividend of 11 per cent., but it was even better, as they had made a net profit of £4,000 more than last year. It seemed to him that the shareholders ought to know the reasons that induced the board to take what seemed to be the retrograde step of reducing the dividend. That business generally had been very difficult during the past year he thought none of them would doubt, but he believed the general feeling was that they had seen the worst times and that business would probably be better in the future. It was perfectly true that some trading companies had not been able to keep up their dividends, but he did not know of any company which brought before its shareholders a report of such a rosy character and then asked the shareholders to be satisfied with a final dividend of 3 per cent. instead of 5 per cent. He would like to know what induced the board to take that step. He also inquired the holding of the directors in the ordinary shares of the company.

Mr. Patterson congratulated the management in France and Mr. Eugène Debraine upon the very satisfactory results shown in the trading of the past year. They all knew that the past year had not been a very good one in this country, in France, or, in fact, anywhere in Europe. He desired to call attention to the ever increasing difference between this company's trading on the one hand and the net profit earned on the other. He would take for instance the expenses of the debenture issue, which up to the present had cost the company £16,134. He submitted that the item of leasehold premises and goodwill called for readjustment and asked for more definite information as to the company's holding in Au Petit St. Thomas, Limited.

Mr. Marshall Jay Low pointed out that they decided two years ago to open country branches with the object of increasing their profits. Although those branches had been opened, their dividend had not increased. As he was a large shareholder he was not pleased with the reduction in the dividend, and he expected the Chairman to explain the reasons of the falling off. If he understood the position the difference between the gross profit and the net profit was because they made a large reduction in the sale price of the articles sold, by which they bound the customer more closely to them, and besides, they were paying off their debentures at the rate of £10,000 a year, thereby improving the condition of the company and the preference shares. He hoped there was some satisfactory reason why the dividend of 11 per cent. should be reduced to 9 per cent., especially as they had made more profit. He also hoped that they would receive some assurance from the Chairman that their usual dividend of 11 per cent. would be resumed in the current year.

Mr. Barton Kent also remarked that it had been a puzzle to him why the company had made more net profits and yet were paying a smaller dividend.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.

The Chairman, in reply, said, with reference to the questions which had been put to the board as to why they thought it advisable to suggest to the shareholders the reduction of the dividend, he would like to point out that the question of the payment of the dividend was a matter which, according to the articles, rested entirely with the shareholders, and not with the directors. If the board had recommended a policy to the shareholders, it was because they thought that policy was the best in their interests, and unless they favoured the board with their confidence and believed that anything put before them was really dictated by a desire to see the continued prosperity of the concern, they would not succeed. With regard to the question as to the reduction of the dividend, he would like to call their attention to the fact that on several occasions suggestions had been made by the shareholders present at the meeting that the directors should pursue a policy of strengthening the company by having larger reserves and not paying the dividend up to the hilt. That had been suggested, notably at the last meeting. Although a 9 per cent. dividend was smaller by 2 per cent. than the dividend paid last year, still 9 per cent. was a very substantial, sound investment for anybody, particularly when they took into consideration the fact that they were going in the direction of far more substantial dividends on their shares in the future. He wanted to call their attention to the fact that if they were taking £10,000 each year out of revenue for the cancellation of the debentures, in the course of five years—and they were well on to that—the amount of debenture stock which had been redeemed would represent 1 per cent. on the ordinary share capital—he meant the interest which would have been otherwise paid on the debentures would be sufficient to cover an additional 1 per cent. on the ordinary shares. He had no doubt that when that time came the amount available would be still more, if they thought it advisable to increase the dividend on the ordinary shares. A question had been asked with regard to the balance of the debenture expenses, £3,226. That was slightly in excess of last year, but it arose from some legal charges which were added by the auditors to the general writing off of the expenses in connection with the debenture issue.

Those items would shortly disappear also, and, when they did, that amount of money would be at the disposal of the directors again for the purpose of improving the dividend if they thought it necessary. With regard to the question asked by Mr. Patterson as to the shares in the Au Petit St. Thomas, Limited, he (the speaker) explained that fully before that gentleman entered the room. That was in respect to a balance due to them for the sale of those shares which had since been paid. With regard to the criticisms that had been made as to the directors' suggestion that the dividend should be reduced to 9 per cent., he was quite sure that it was good policy, and he was quite sure the shareholders would agree with him when they remembered the peculiar nature of their business. They were giving credit to their customers to a very large extent. The expansion of their business meant the expansion of credit, and when he told them they had already increased their turnover this year by £20,000, they must remember that in order to increase the turnover they must deliver £20,000 of merchandise to their customers, for which they must pay and give fairly long credit. As their business increased, therefore, the necessity to have further sums at their disposal became greater, and when they took into consideration that they had had remarkably good results from the opening of their branches in the provinces, they were encouraged to go on opening further branches, and with the opening of those branches a further investment of capital was necessary. He was sure they would agree with the board in thinking that it was better to provide that by their own resources rather than come to the shareholders for more money. (Hear, hear.) He was convinced that the best way of conducting the business was to provide from time to time the sums necessary to meet the exigencies of the position. He felt confident that they had only to wait a reasonable time, when they would find that the suggestion put forward to them to-day would bear ample fruit, and he felt fairly certain that they would enjoy continued and uninterrupted prosperity in the future. He therefore hoped that the report would be unanimously adopted, and that the recommendations of the directors with regard to the dividends would be supported by the shareholders present.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. J. Lee, Messrs. Henry Wolfenden and Rene Cahen were re-elected directors of the company.

The Chairman then proposed that the payments of the quarterly dividends on the preference share capital of the company at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum and the payment of the interim dividend on the ordinary share capital be confirmed, and a final dividend of 3 per cent. be paid.

This was seconded and agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Kent, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co. were reappointed auditors at a fee of 700 guineas.

A vote of thanks was then given to the chairman and directors, on the motion of Dr. Drysdale, and the proceedings terminated.

DHARWAR GOLD MINES.

The third ordinary general meeting of the Dharwar Gold Mines, Limited, was held on Wednesday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of Captain William Bell McTaggart, the chairman of the company.

The notice convening the meeting and auditors' report having been read by the acting secretary,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, there is so much of importance in the report that I propose to bring some of the salient features specially to your notice. In the report that was issued to the shareholders before the general meeting of last year you were told that the directors had exercised the option of purchase of the four blocks belonging to Mr. E. D. Puzey. It was for the prospecting and purchase of these four blocks that this company was originally chiefly formed. The option agreement entered into between Mr. E. D. Puzey and this company on January 29, 1902, provided that a new company should be formed to carry out the purchase and to provide capital for opening up the mines. "The Dharwar Reefs Co., Limited," was consequently formed in November last, with a capital of £175,000, of which £100,000 was fixed as the purchase consideration and £75,000 as working capital. The assignment of the properties having lately been completed, the purchase consideration has been paid. It will be seen from the profit and loss account that there was a balance of profit at March 31, 1905, of £44,433 8s. 6d., which has enabled the directors to declare a dividend of 133⅓ per cent. for the year—(hear, hear)—payable by the distribution amongst the shareholders of 40,000 fully-paid shares of the Dharwar Reefs Co., Limited, in the proportion of four shares for every three shares held in this company, fractions to be adjusted by payment in cash, a balance of £4,443 8s. 6d. being carried forward. The work done by this company on behalf of the Dharwar Reefs Company subsequently to April 30, 1904, resulted in very favourable developments in the 300 ft. level north of incline shaft and north of No. 22 shaft, as stated in the last annual report, and the shareholders will be greatly interested to learn that by a circular, dated May 31, 1905, the directors of that company called attention to two new discoveries that have lately been made, and which have greatly enhanced the value of the Kabligatti mine. The prospects of that company appear to be highly encouraging, and the 22,886 shares held in it by this company promise to become an asset of considerable value. Your company has also granted an option of purchase on the Block No. 19, situated

immediately to the east of the Kabligatti property, to the Dharwar Reefs Co., Limited, by agreement dated February 8, 1905. The option is for three years, and the price has been fixed at 25,000 fully-paid shares of that company. Now, it is always a difficult matter to strike a happy mean between the interests of both parties, but I think on this occasion we have been eminently successful, because, as all of you will appreciate, that option on their part they need not exercise if they have not sufficient encouragement. If, on the other hand, they find, as they are finding, it is a very valuable mine, then no doubt the option will be exercised and you will receive 25,000 more shares. Of course, the greater their prospects the greater the value of the option acquired; but as you take payment solely in shares, you will participate *pro rata* in the enhanced value of that block, because, if they are successful, their shares will undoubtedly be at a considerable premium; therefore the shares you will receive will also be at a considerable premium. A very important matter for this goldfield is the fact that the Government has recently sanctioned the survey of a railway from Gadag to Yalvigi on the Bangalore-Poona branch of the Southern Mahratta Railway, and should this line be constructed, as it probably will be, it will furnish direct railway communication to the field, saving eleven miles of road carriage and conferring a great boon on the mining companies as well as on the inhabitants of the district. (Hear, hear.) I have now great pleasure in moving the adoption of the report and accounts. (Applause.)

Mr. H. D. H. Fergusson seconded the motion.

Mr. Henry Taylor then gave an exhaustive account of his visit to the properties, and after a few remarks from shareholders the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

W. H. CHAPLIN AND CO.

The annual general meeting of W. H. Chaplin and Co., Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Hotel Cecil, Mr. W. H. Chaplin, the managing director, presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, which showed a net disposable balance of £12,430, enabling the directors to pay an 8 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares besides placing £1,000 to reserve, the Chairman congratulated the shareholders on having a better result than they were justified in looking for, as throughout the period covered by their accounts the general body of the wine trade had had a very bad time, and they certainly had had better luck than many of their competitors. The duty payments of wine for the year 1904 were the smallest for the last forty years. In 1864—three years after Mr. Gladstone's notable reduction of the wine duties—the duty payments were slightly under 11,500,000 gallons. From that date onwards the consumption rose steadily to upwards of 18,500,000 gallons in 1876, when the population was about three-fourths of what it was now. Last year the clearances were under 12,000,000 gallons, instead of 24,000,000 gallons, which might have been expected had they continued the same rate of consumption per head of population as attained in 1876. No wonder that there were loud complaints from the wine trade. The consumption of spirits in the last two or three years had similarly declined, though not in the same proportion, otherwise the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have been in a very bad way. He was inclined to attribute part of the decline to the increase of duties imposed during the South African war, and a further part to the altered habits of the people, and, so far as that was concerned, they could not look for much recovery. People spent more on travelling and week-end excursions than they used, and, consequently, there were not so many private dinners and entertainments, and to that extent the consumption was reduced. But they attributed the diminution mainly to empty pockets—a cause which they hoped soon would right itself. When the clouds which at present hung over them from the war in the Far East, and from some trouble in European politics, were removed, they might look forward to a general revival in the country, which would react on their own trade.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent. per annum was seconded by Mr. W. G. Masters and carried unanimously. Other formal business having been transacted, a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

OHLSSON'S CAPE BREWERIES, LIMITED.

The sixteenth annual general meeting was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. Algeron L. Elwes, the chairman of the company.

The Secretary, Mr. W. D. Buxton, having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that they had made considerably less profit in the past year, to March 31 last, than they made in the previous year; but remembering the state of trade all over the world, and particularly in South Africa, he thought that their report might be regarded as highly satisfactory. In one respect the depression had undoubtedly been of some advantage to the company, as it had enabled them to acquire trade on much more reasonable terms than they would have been able to do if everything had been booming in South Africa. A very substantial portion of their trade in the Transvaal was now tied to them, and they hoped to reap still greater advantage from these

investments when a revival of trade eventually took place. They had felt for the first time in the past year the effects of the excise levied in the Colony. This pretty heavy impost of the Cape Government—it amounted to 9s. a barrel—was to a certain extent borne by the customers, but there was no doubt that the increase which they had been compelled to make in the prices of their beer had, to a certain extent, restricted sales. It would have been only equitable when the excise was imposed if the Cape Government had made a corresponding increase in the duty on the imported article, to which, however, no addition had been made. The profit for the year on the two breweries amounted to £200,559, which was increased to £247,040 by interest and transfer fees and the £44,459 brought forward. After making the usual provision for depreciation of plant, paying interest on debenture stock, the London office expenses and the income-tax, and after paying the dividends on both classes of preference shares, together with the interim dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares paid last January, a balance was left of £155,222, from which it was proposed to add £45,000 to reserve account, to pay a bonus of 25s. a share, less income-tax, and to carry forward £35,222. During the year they had added to the cost of land, breweries, &c., £174,905. Included in this amount was their expenditure in connection with the pneumatic maltings, which were now at work. To strengthen the company's position at Johannesburg they had purchased several hotels and licensed houses, and additions and improvements to their properties had also been made at Johannesburg and Cape Town. The company took over the Thomé brewery at Johannesburg three years ago, and it was recognised from the first that the existing buildings would be quite inadequate for the trade they expected to do and had done. Negotiations had been going on with the Government for securing a perpetual lease of the land, &c., on which the brewery stood, and these negotiations had now been brought to a successful conclusion. On additions to the plant and machinery they spent during the year £37,900. The new brewery buildings at Johannesburg would be completed in about 14 months, but this would involve additional outlay. The item of sundry debtors, loans, trade investments, and mortgages had very largely increased in the past year, and as the amount was large and credit generally in the Transvaal had been affected by the prolonged depression in trade, the directors had thought it advisable to transfer £30,000 from the reserve account as a special reserve under this head. They had also transferred from the reserve account £35,000, which had been used for writing off the amount invested by the company in shares in the Cape Glass Co., Limited. The works of that company had been closed down. After making these transfers from the reserve account, and adding to it £45,000 from profit and loss account, the reserve would stand at £730,000.

Mr. Gerald Buxton seconded the motion, which, after a brief discussion concerning the investment in the Cape Glass Company, was carried unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting was held subsequently, and the Chairman proposed a resolution authorising the directors to borrow up to a limit of £350,000 in excess of the nominal amount of the capital for the time being.

Mr. J. H. Brodie seconded the motion, which was also adopted, the Chairman explaining that the directors had no intention of raising anything like the sum for which they were asking power. The usual votes of thanks closed the proceedings.

THE MORTGAGE AND DEBENTURE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of this company was held at the office of the company, 7, Moorgate Street, London, E.C., on Wednesday, under the presidency of Mr. W. B. Close, chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. R. R. Nelson) read the notice convening the meeting and also the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The report and accounts for the year ended March 31 last have been circulated amongst the shareholders, and I presume that it is your pleasure that they be taken as read. Once more I am in the happy position of being able to congratulate the shareholders on the very satisfactory condition of the company's affairs. The profit for the year ended March 31, 1905, carried to the balance-sheet was £23,229 2s. 5d. against £21,621 13s. 7d. in the previous year. If we add to this sum the amount of £431 19s. 6d. carried forward after the general meeting of last year we have a balance of £23,661 1s. 11d. at the credit of profit and loss account available for dividends and reserve. Out of this the sum of £7,500 was paid in respect of the half-yearly dividend on the preference shares at December 31, 1904, and there remains a sum of £16,161 1s. 11d. to be dealt with at this meeting. As stated in the directors' report, we propose first of all to pay the half-yearly dividend on the preference shares due on the 30th inst., absorbing another £7,500, to declare the usual dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares absorbing £2,000, to transfer £6,000 to reserve account and to carry forward £661 1s. 11d. to next year. If the recommendations of the board be adopted at this meeting the reserve account will stand at the satisfactory figure of £24,500, and I hope that as time goes on this figure may be largely increased, for I am confident that in a company such as ours it is of the greatest importance to build up a large reserve so as to insure the company being in a strong financial position in case of any financial crisis or panic. The amount

of unproductive capital is limited to the two items of "Real estate" and "Foreclosure," amounting together to £1,529 9s. 10d., a bagatelle when contrasted with the invested funds, amounting to over £800,000. It will be noticed that the last of the old Farmland Mortgage and Debenture Company's debentures has now dropped out of the balance-sheet, the last of the terminable debentures that were taken over by this company at the time of the conversion having been paid off during the financial year covered by the present accounts. It has been my practice in the past to give some statistics with regard to the investments of this company in America, and as the figures are always of interest I propose to follow my former practice and give you the particulars based upon the business of the past year. The average rate of interest that we obtained on mortgage loans during last financial year was 6.51 per cent. The percentage of amounts loaned to value of security was 26.08 per cent. The average amount of each loan was £170 14s. 3d. The average acreage of each loan was 157.52 acres, and the average valuation per acre was £4 3s. 1d. Gentlemen, I do not know that there is anything more for me to say. I therefore beg to move that the report and accounts presented to the meeting be received and adopted, and if Mr. Keyser will second that resolution before I put it formally to the meeting I shall be happy to answer any question that any shareholder may wish to ask.

Mr. Keyser seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved the declaration of a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, as recommended, and that £6,000 be transferred to reserve account and £661 1s. 11d. carried forward to next year.

Mr. Keyser seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Mr. Keyser, the retiring director, was re-elected, as were also Messrs. Woodthorpe, Bevan and Co., the auditors, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

GEORGE M. CALLENDER.

The second annual general meeting of the shareholders of George M. Callender and Co., Limited, was held yesterday at Westminster Palace Hotel, S.W., Mr. George M. Callender, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary, Mr. Edward J. Farrell, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, remarked that the trading and net profits had considerably risen during the year, which enabled a dividend of 10 per cent. to be paid on the ordinary shares, after meeting the interest on the 6 per cent. preference shares. He continued: I think that you should be pleased with the progress shown. The results have been better in every way than those of the preceding year. I may say that I personally am a little bit disappointed that the results were not better than they are. During the first six months of the year we were very full of work, but when our contracts were finished there seemed to be, for a short time at any rate, a complete cessation of new work. This I can only account for by adverse financial conditions, which had a restraining influence on municipal corporations, who considered it wise to defer new works, except where they were absolutely necessary, until such time as the financial position improved. Notwithstanding this, we did a business during the second six months which was satisfactory. Since March 31 we have obtained numerous contracts, and though in a great many instances the work has not yet been started, I feel sure that by the end of our financial year the results will commend themselves to you. Our colonial trade has not increased as rapidly as we had hoped, but it shows signs of improvement. We have tendered for several large contracts within the last few months and expect to hear that some of them at least are coming our way. I do not think it wise or in the best interest of the shareholders to give details of the works that we are in terms for abroad, as it would simply benefit some of our competitors. I can only assure you that we are opening up on several new grounds and that the prospects of increased business look very well. Our business in South Africa continues to grow, and with the larger output of gold from that country which is now taking place I see no reason why the mines should not now be in a position to spend money on their reservoirs and dams, so as to make them thoroughly watertight, the question of leakage being a very serious one where water is so scarce and expensive. As mentioned in the report, the Italian factory is now being built. Work of this kind is very slow in a country like Italy, but we hope it will not be long now before the factory there is in full running order. Signor Candiani, the manager, visited London a little time ago, and spent some time at our works at Bow, as well as upon various of our contracts throughout the country. He went back to Italy very enthusiastic, and was quite certain that as soon as the factory was running in Italy a large and profitable business could be done there. We have opened up negotiations (some are more advanced than others) for getting our materials manufactured in other countries to which it is impossible to export from England owing to high protective duties, and I hope in our next balance-sheet I will have something tangible to show you as the result of these negotiations. My own idea is that in a few years' time we should be in a position to have a large part, if not all, of the value placed in the balance-sheet against goodwill represented by shares in other companies, from which a good income would be derived. It is very gratifying to me to see the progress the company has made, but at the same time I would point out to you that success has its disadvantages. The

success of a material like ours has a tendency to induce various people to rush into the trade with an inferior material copying ours as nearly as possible. If I were to tell you of the numerous methods that have been employed to try and take part of our business away from us you would be astonished. However, I do not consider this competition a serious matter. At the same time we are taking steps, which I venture to think will result in our position being made much firmer even than it is to-day. In addition, we have our reputation for good work behind us, and this makes it exceedingly difficult for any other firm to interfere with our trade. The new process referred to in the directors' circular of January 31 is still in negotiation. The matter has been well advanced, and I hope that when next I have the pleasure of addressing you I may be able to prove to you that this new branch is a satisfactory source of income to the company. The vacancy on the board has not yet been filled, but the matter has been receiving my very careful consideration. I am anxious that all the gentlemen associated with the management of the company should have a sufficient knowledge of our requirements to be able to be of service to us. I am at present in touch with a gentleman who I think will join us, and if we are fortunate enough to obtain his services I am certain the shareholders will have no reason to complain.

Mr. Codd seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Theobald moved that the remuneration of the directors for the past year should be fixed at the sum of £250. He was sure the shareholders would feel that it was only a moderate remuneration for bringing before the shareholders such a successful report.

Mr. Macalister seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved the re-election of Mr. W. T. Graham-sley as a director.

Mr. Codd seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Willis, Messrs. W. W. Macalister and Co. were reappointed auditors.

The meeting closed with the usual compliments to the chair.

TRANSVAAL EXPLORING LAND AND MINERALS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Transvaal Exploring Land and Minerals Co., Limited, was held on Thursday at Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., Mr. George Cutcliffe (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. S. S. Kennedy) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, spoke feelingly of the death, in February last, of the late chairman, and afterwards dealt at some length with the position as disclosed in the balance-sheet. Speaking of the company's properties, he said:—In the first instance, the one which is most prominent in your thoughts probably is that of the gold farm Tweefontein. With regard to this property, it has an area, in round figures, of 6,500 acres. The company possesses, partly in its own right, and partly through its agents, having pegged out its claims, an aggregate of something like 800 claims. Of course we are all well aware there are claims and claims, but in this particular instance I do not think I shall make any mistake when I say that those 800 claims represent a very valuable asset indeed in this company, and for this reason—from time to time, as you know very well, attention has been given to this part, where the main reef series has from time to time been discovered. That it has been discovered there is no doubt whatever. It is a fact now, and we may take it as a fact, that the main reef series runs through this farm Tweefontein. Passing from Tweefontein we come to another property, which also is a valuable one—the Gold Farm of Eersteling. Eersteling, as you know very well, is a large property, the area, curiously enough, being almost identical with that of Tweefontein. Since last meeting of shareholders this concession, which at that time was under rearrangement, so to speak, has been transferred to Pretoria, and has for some time past now been actually registered in the name of the Transvaal Exploring Company in the register of deeds at Pretoria, and the company is now in undisputed possession of all rights to this farm Eersteling. After dealing with the Excelsior Colliery, the Carolina Estates, and the beneficial effect upon the company's assets of the increasing gold output, he said, in conclusion:—Before I sit down I should like to say this much—that your position appears to me to be one pre-eminently sound. You have nothing to fear about the question of expense; on the contrary, as I said before, we are actually putting by some money every year, even under the present depressed state of affairs. Supposing we do not get a farthing more revenue than we are getting at the present time, we are perfectly able to go on for an indefinite period; but I hope and trust, before very long, we shall be able to make some proposition which will enable some of these properties to be adequately developed as they unquestionably deserve.

Mr. Henry Samuel, managing-director, seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts, and remarked that the company's properties were probably worth four or five times the amount of their book value of £181,000. He had himself consistently increased his shareholding in the company. Within three months of his death the late chairman increased his holding by some 5,000 or 10,000 shares, and thus became the second largest shareholder. At the conclusion of his speech he said:—All that we require is adequate working capital, times in

our favour, and with smooth running I do not see we can be otherwise than successful. In conclusion, I do want to say this—that you may rely upon one thing, that no effort on my part will be spared to make the company a success. Of course one has difficulties to face, bad times—and bad times there have been since I have been associated with the company—but if you take the whole of the South African industries to-day they have had nothing else but ups and downs from their inception; but, notwithstanding that, you have found men with determination, men who do not look to the Stock Exchange as the only evidence of what they are supervising, who have steadily worked ahead and who have created an industry second to none in this world. I do not mean to faint by the way in trying to achieve what I think this company justly ought to achieve, and that is a prosperous future. (Applause.)

The resolution for the approval of the report was then put to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

The retiring director and the auditors were afterwards re-elected unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JULY 3.

Frank Jones Brewing.—Winchester House, noon.
Hudson's Bay.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Jorehaut Tea.—138, Leadenhall Street, 1 p.m.
Parral Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

TUESDAY, JULY 4.

Cincinnati Breweries.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Great Eastern Railway.—Liverpool Street Station, noon.
National Bank of New Zealand.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Rezende.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
United River Plate Telephone.—Winchester House, noon.
W. and T. Avery.—Birmingham, 2.15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5.

Colombian Hydraulic Mining.—14, Devonshire Square, 3.30 p.m.
Electric and General Investment.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Frontino and Bolivia Gold Mining.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Lima Railways.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.
South African Breweries.—Winchester House, noon.
Village Main Reef Gold Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 6.

Egyptian Land and General Trust.—Winchester House, noon.
London Dyers' and Cleaners' Association.—Cannon Street Hotel, 6 p.m.
Tamplin and Sons.—Brighton, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 7.

John Brown.—Sheffield, 2 p.m.
Mashonaland Agency.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
North Borneo Trading.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Tanganyika Concessions.—Winchester House, noon.
Zambesia Exploring.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Answers to Correspondents.

T. M. H.—Your questions are hardly such as we could deal with under "Answers to Correspondents," as it would take much labour and space in which to work out your problems. We are, however, dealing with a company each week, and shall in due course cover those you name. A private letter on your shares would cost you at least 50s. with all particulars worked out.

Arch (Glasgow).—(1) We discuss the position and prospects of this company in a lengthy article, from which you will gather that dividend prospects are somewhat uncertain. (2) These are worth buying as a speculative investment.

J. H. W.—Yes, you had better sell out.

H. H.—We know too little of the concern to advise a purchase, nor do we know anything of the firm recommending it. There is no market for the shares, as far as we can find out.

Mithra.—(1) It is quite impossible to forecast the future of a concern such as this, but recent developments in the country have undoubtedly improved the prospects. As a long lock-up there might be a chance, but buy sparingly. (2) Business improving, but company not very strong financially. The shares seem rather dear. (3) Too deeply interested in the hotel business for our liking, as we fear there will be trouble one of these days. Best left alone, we think. The dividend is limited to the figure you name, but there are certain additional rights in the event of liquidation. (5) At this figure a few would be worth buying we think, but we doubt if the ultimate price will be as high as 4. (6) Very speculative, and we think you might try one of the other companies engaged in the same industry with better prospects. (7) The company is heavily over capitalised, but there is a chance if you are prepared to take some risk. (8) You will note that we put these in our trust this week, but taken alone the shares must be bought very sparingly.

Watha.—These shares are so much the plaything of speculators that they are not a very safe investment, and as you have a good profit we are disposed to say take it.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

In the twelve months ended December 31 this society issued 14,538 new life policies insuring £3,739,301, on which premiums amounting to £172,703 were received. Claims on death and maturity came to £1,079,427, while commissions and management expenses absorbed £211,849, or 12.1 per cent. of the total premium income of £1,609,173. In addition the society received £31,318 for annuities granted and £96,394 as interest on its investments, the accumulated funds at the close of the year amounting to £20,567,134, an increase of £392,712.

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Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new lists of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—**10s.** for the First Three, and **2s. 6d.** for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than **One Pound**.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the **Investors' Review** will also be **2s. 6d.**, plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

Lord Kitchener, Military Dictator in India.

"It is enough to make any reasonable Englishman blush with shame to think that the wellbeing of our Indian Empire is being sacrificed to absurd and ignorant fears, fears that are making of England the cat's paw of the Government whose aims she is supposed to be circumventing, and the laughing stock of every foreign military man who happens to turn his attention to such remote and negligible places as Chitral, or Gilgit, or the Pamirs." These are the words of Col. H. B. Hanna, and will be found at the close of his admirable pamphlet issued some ten years ago entitled "Can Russia Invade India?" With a closeness of reasoning and a fulness of knowledge never surpassed about the subject in hand, Col. Hanna in that pamphlet demonstrates beyond the possibility of reasonable cavil that India cannot be invaded by Russia or by any other enemy from the north-west. The physical difficulties in the way of the movement of large bodies of troops across the barren mountain passes are insuperable. Hence the military policy which is based upon the theory that Russia can effect such an invasion and is determined to do so at the earliest opportunity, is really the policy of lunatics. There is no softer word by which this dangerous prepossession can be described. All that enormous expenditure of money out of the revenues of India which has gone into the north-west in building railways and erecting fortified camps beyond our natural frontier, the Indus, in ploughing our way across deserts into the bleak, barren, and often almost inaccessible mountain fastnesses, inhabited by the wild tribes which fringe the dominion of the Amir of Afghanistan, or lie between us and Turkestan, has been wealth flung away. None the less is it this demented and ruinous policy which Lord Kitchener is now determined not only to uphold, but to carry to still greater extremes by re-organising the placement of Indian troops so as always to have a large army away near that perfectly impregnable north-west frontier, for fear of Russian invasion. Here is what he says in a memorandum issued in a Blue-book called "Correspondence Regarding the Administration of India." "India is no longer in her former fortunate position of comparative isolation in which she had merely to guard against possible rebellion within her borders, and protect her frontiers from tribesmen and adjoining native states. Slowly but surely the deserts of Central Asia, which were once believed to be an impregnable barrier, have been crossed by a great European power. They are now spanned by railways which have only one possible significance, and we have every indication that our northern neighbour is pushing forward her preparations for the contest in which we shall have to fight for existence." There is no ground whatever for that statement; it is a perfectly gratuitous piece of folly without justification in anything Russia has done or could do. Only the most diseased or uneducated imagination could by any possibility imagine that Russia, by building railways up to the eastern or south-eastern boundaries of her dominions in Central Asia, the foothills of the great mountain barrier that lies between her and India, is preparing to invade that Peninsula. Before anything like an invasion in force

sufficient to ensure even a jumping off place on our side of the mountains could be entered upon, railways would have to be built through Afghanistan or through the Hindu Kush passes, and Russia has neither the means nor the strength to enable her to build these railways, not only now, but for generations to come, nor would they be of service to her for warlike purposes if built, because it would be easy for the defenders of India to block the path of her armies before they had got many miles into the mountains. None but a sea power can dislodge us in India.

But we cheer because Lord Kitchener is our present newspaper fetish-hero of the man-killing class, a hero worshipped totally without justification, for the man has never displayed any remarkable genius, even as a military commander, and certainly has been the reverse of conspicuous as a practical man of business. That he can drill troops is, no doubt, true, and he may even be able to build service railways on occasion and to throw pontoon-bridges over streams, but he is not a statesman and never has had the chance of becoming one. Yet, as we say, because he is the Press warrior fetish of the hour, and therefore, as the *Manchester Guardian* says, a being by whose popularity the present ministry hopes to cling to office, he has been given way to and a costly scheme for "reorganising" the army of India is sanctioned, the ultimate outlay upon which may be nearer £30,000,000 than £15,000,000. His lordship says £10,000,000, and that, probably enough, will prove to be only about one-third of the actual cost. So stupendous is the folly lying behind this latest proposed reorganisation of the Indian army, that one might be inclined to think the motives put forward in justification of it a mere blind, were it not that the schemes involve enormous outlays upon the north-west frontier, the building of additional camps, of further stretches of strategic railway lines, all ensuring not merely a great first-hand outlay, but a continued annual increase in the expense of maintaining the troops once they are gathered into camps so far from sources of supply. For those deserts and mountain passes into which we are burrowing our way in order to be ready for an enemy who can never come near us, produce nothing; they barely suffice to furnish subsistence to the wild tribes that exist in the mountain gorges and upland valleys. Everything, therefore, required by our fortified camps and far-away posts and fortresses, will have to be brought from the plains of India at an enormous cost to the Simla Treasury for additional carriage alone. Some benefit, doubtless, comes to the stockholders in the railways from this waste, but none to the Indian people, none to the stability of our dominion.

No wonder then that the newspapers in India, native and English, are practically unanimous in condemning the subservience of the British Government to Lord Kitchener's other demand for independence of the Viceroy's council. This new military dictator has found it irksome to have to defer to the secretarial department of that council. He has been subject in many things to the will of its military member, his inferior in rank; delays have occurred in the execution of his high and mighty orders, and therefore he has demanded that this absurd dual arrangement shall be put an end to and he, as Commander-in-Chief, endowed with supreme power. "Certainly, certainly," says Mr. Brodrick, "by all means, most anxious to oblige," and his colleagues in the Cabinet doubtless endorse his subservience. So the heretofore humble and altogether subordinate Commander-in-Chief of the Indian army is now to be supreme over every item of army government and control except the mere furnishing of supplies. A military supply department dutifully at the Commander-in-Chief's bidding is to be set up, but the Governor-General in Council, as the Viceroy is still properly described, will henceforth be a mere cipher beside the warrior. We should lament this dangerous, this sinister, change all the more deeply had there been any real civil control over the army in India under the old system, but, as a matter of

fact, there has been none and never could be any until some approach to popular representation is engrafted upon the viceregal council. At present that body represents nothing, is a mere collection of European official subordinates and native sycophants—for the native members of council are little else. Still, mischief is certain to come from this emancipation of the military power from the control of the home Parliament, such control as it could exercise through the Viceroy. More and more the Governor-General will be reduced to the position of a cipher, an ornamental creature, good only for shows—Delhi Durbars and fantasies of that sort—while the real power not only over the army but over the purse of the Indian taxpayer will rest in the commander of the army. And what possible benefit can all these changes and this fuss be to the Indian people? If there is no danger of invasion—and there is none—why is such an army wanted? Surely 140,000 native and 75,000 British troops cannot all be required for the defence of India. The native army, indeed, might become dangerous if there were disaffection within the Peninsula, and were we reforming the army of India we should cut down the native forces to a mere defensive police, useful against wild animals, against brigandage of every description—valuable, too, perhaps, for overawing mediatised native states—and entrust the control of the population of the Peninsula as a whole to the British troops alone. But it is usually quite useless to speak reasonably with the military fanatic, and the worst of all such is the Indian military man, whose mind is haunted and prepossessed by a dread of the designs of Russia. And unhappily the great Lord Kitchener is not only a Russophobe of the most hopeless type, but a man who plainly regards the Indian army as an imperial force—good in an emergency to shoot down citizens here as the Cossacks are shooting down Poles and Russians; good, also, to wage wars, always for the Empire, in any part of the world.

American Life Insurance Offices.

We hear on excellent authority that some of the powers behind these offices in the United States have applied here for the services of a first-class English actuary to go into the affairs of the discredited Equitable. What that means it is impossible to say, but all the advices from the other side go to show that no intention is manifested by the men in control to effect genuine reforms, and very little on the part of either State or Federal officials to bring the guilty to punishment. Two New York newspapers have distinguished themselves by efforts to probe the mystery of Equitable infamies—the *Evening Post* and the *World*—and different in character though these are, they are at one in expressing profound distrust of the new Equitable management. The *World* does not believe that Mr. Ryan has really bought the Hyde shares as alleged, and points out that by the trust deed they cannot be sold until the young man is thirty, which he will not be till next year. Distrust is also expressed as to the character and moral standing of Mr. Paul Morton, the new chief functionary of the office, President Roosevelt's favourite—a man mixed up with the "rebate" scandals of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, and whose career in other respects fails to satisfy the critics. Policy-holders in this country have therefore the strongest possible reason to doubt the genuineness of the efforts now professedly made to put the affairs of the Equitable right.

It must not be forgotten either that the Equitable is only one of three, and we are quite of Mr. Thos. W. Lawson's opinion that the New York Life is worse, if anything, than the Equitable, and the Mutual Life just as bad. That is what he says in his latest instalments of "frenzied finance," printed in the current month's number of *Everybody's Magazine*, and he goes on to invite policy-holders to communicate with him, he having a plan the object of which is "the absolute

preservation of the face value of the policy, the reduction of future premium payments to forty cents, on the dollar of what you now pay, and the restitution of millions upon millions looted from the three great companies, or as much as can be collected after a careful examination of the books and the punishment of the thieves." Mr. Lawson offers to undertake this work without charge to policy-holders. "I will not ask," he says, "any reward or profit-money, office, or otherwise, nor will I under any circumstances accept any." He undoubtedly has behaved straightforwardly throughout his crusade against financial corruption in the United States, and we are strongly disposed to endorse his appeal. Policy-holders will certainly have to band together in this country and follow some powerful lead if they are to assist their fellow-sufferers in the United States in an effective fashion to prevent robbery and force restitution.

How utterly shameless the scandal of the management of the Equitable has been is partly revealed in the able, scathing, although at some points defective, report of Mr. Superintendent Hendricks upon its affairs. All the officials seem to have united in perpetrating what, in the expressive idiom of the American newspaper, is called "grafts" upon the corpus of the society. They attached themselves to it and linked other institutions with it for purposes of private profit. "Hyde and associates" sold bonds to the insurance society at a profit to themselves, dealing frequently with Mr. Jacob H. Schiff's firm of Kuhn, Loeb and Company, Mr. Schiff being himself a director of the Equitable, and dividing up the profits. To what extent this went on the report does not reveal, it only gives a few specimens, but there is enough in the monstrous salaries paid to these "grafting" officials to justify the most scathing denunciations. Between 1900 and 1904, moreover, the salaries of the Society's chief executive officers were increased 61.43 per cent. At the earlier date James W. Alexander, the president, had only \$75,000 per annum, and J. H. Hyde, the young man then fresh from college, just made first vice-president, \$30,000. In 1903, however, both these gentlemen had their salaries raised to \$100,000, or £20,000 each, a resolution effecting this change having been drawn up by a specially appointed "committee" and signed by Chauncey M. Depew and Mr. V. P. Schnyder. In his examination Schnyder declared that he did not know anything about what was in the minute of the committee. He simply signed as Depew asked him, and thought that at any rate Hyde's salary alone was to be raised. As, however, they could not put the vice-president on a higher scale of pay than the president, Alexander's "screw" had to go up likewise. The chief officials of the Society drew in 1900 \$380,100, and in 1904 \$613,600. From all we hear the other two offices, the New York Life and the Mutual of New York, have equally scandalous pay rates. We have again and again been assured, for instance, that the salary paid to Mr. D. C. Haldeman, the British manager of the Mutual Life of New York, is \$100,000, or £20,000.

Reverting to this Equitable business, we find that for, at any rate, six years past Mr. Chauncey M. Depew has enjoyed a retaining fee of \$20,000, that the law firm of Alexander and Green connected with the now ex-president, Alexander, has received in each of the last two years \$43,200 (£8,640), as against \$15,200 (£3,040) in each of the two previous years, and \$27,200 each in 1900 and 1901. Another firm, Alexander and Golby, has had its retaining fee raised from \$15,000 to \$24,000, the amount received in each of the last four years. Other officials have benefited in the same way, G. E. Tarbell, the second vice-president, having had a salary of \$60,000 per annum for the last five years. The principal medical direction has been getting a salary of \$25,000, or £5,000, per annum, and the one next him \$15,000, or £3,000.

Had the business been honestly managed and with reasonable care, it is possible that there might have been some excuse for these monstrous-looking payments, but nothing can be more certain than that there

was no thought of honesty at any point. Obedience to such an antiquated superstition never entered anybody's head. The whole business was conducted like a Yankee patent medicine swindle from the form of the advertisements inwards. No device was too unscrupulous if it served the purpose—to rake in the dollars; and nothing was apparently further from the thoughts of those who had got control of this mockery of a life insurance office than care for the interests of those they had beguiled to take out policies. On all these points Lawson's words are not too strong. "The future," he says, addressing the policy-holders, "of the helpless beings whom your daily labours provide with a livelihood is in the hands of men who admit having expended \$100,000 of your money to provide a lordly and regal entertainment for a set of extravagantly-paid agents and solicitors who, spurred on by prodigal inducements, have piled up huge amounts of new business on the company's books. I have explained to you before what such business is worth, that the agent gets so large a commission that he is practically in a position to accept risks at far below their cost to the company, and that such business as this is seldom renewed. The same men have been paying personal secretaries, gardeners, and flunkies out of your earnings; they have been feasting and travelling in private cars with large parties of the New York flubstocracy at your expense; every possible extravagance they have been guilty of out of the revenues some of you have worked fourteen to eighteen hours a day to gather in. Shame, I say, on such contemptible thievery."

Such being the position if policy-holders in these bloated organisations care to put themselves into communication with Mr. Thos. W. Lawson they should write to him direct. Or, if they like to form a committee in this country, they can use the instrumentality of the INVESTORS' REVIEW to get into communication with each other. Bad as the cases are, they are not bad enough to warrant any policy-holder in giving up his policy. The wealth is still there, the future might still be prosperous if good, careful, and straightforward management took the place of the crookedness we have denounced for so many years.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

RUSSIAN FINANCE.

No real light is thrown upon the position of the Russian Treasury by a message from a Petersburg correspondent printed in Wednesday's *Times*. It is mere inference, quotation from Russian papers, and no genuine facts, probably because no facts are disclosed. One quoted paper, however, declares that in the first two months of the present year the expenditure was £50,800,000 and the revenue £34,300,000, and calculates that at this rate the deficit for the whole year will be £99,000,000. It asks where the money is to come from, and may well do so. Also, it seems, the circulation of rouble notes has gone up from £59,800,000 in February, 1904, to £90,500,000 in the past month, but the gold reserve is still immense, no less than £105,600,000, so that, according to the *Novoe Vremya*, the Government is free to issue another £45,100,000 in paper. We are doubtful still about that gold reserve, and have a suspicion that some at least of the metal must be pledged in Paris, and perhaps in Berlin, for the purpose of sustaining the Russian exchange and preventing a disastrous fall in the price of Russian Government bonds upon foreign Bourses. At the same time, as our Consul, Mr. Wardrop, in Petersburg says, the trade of Russia up to the end of last year did not appear to suffer much by the war. It never does so. At the beginning of a war trade is often stimulated, and as we are learning by bitter experience only years after the war is over does the havoc its waste has caused begin to come home to the people. For the present Russia is buying

less and selling more, so that the balance of trade has been more favourable, thus helping to sustain the value of the rouble in foreign money markets. Favourable though this fact may be, we cannot doubt that the finances of the empire are falling into increasing confusion, and the complete inability of the Tsar's Government to raise public loans in France or anywhere outside Russia, must compel before long a revelation of the truth.

UNITED STATES IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION.

Mr. James Swank, the secretary of the Iron and Steel Association, is an ardent protectionist, but a most careful and painstaking statistician; therefore his figures relating to the production of iron and steel in the United States massed together in his annual reports are always reliable and full of instruction, not perhaps quite in the way that Mr. Swank thinks, but valuable none the less. His report for the year 1904, together with his review of the trade, bringing the figures down to April last, has just made its appearance in the United States, and from a summary of it we learn that the production of pig-iron within the Union fell off last year by 1,512,219 tons, while that of Bessemer steel ingots and castings declined 733,689 tons, and of rails 707,716 tons. That is to say the production of pig-iron was only 16,497,033 tons in 1904, against 18,009,252 tons in 1893, and 17,821,307 tons in 1892; but these figures do not tell the whole story. In 1902 the Union imported 1,206,811 tons of iron and steel and even in 1903 the imports came to 1,178,797 tons, whereas last year the imports dropped, as our Board of Trade figures indicated, to 266,398 tons. At the same time the exports of American iron went up until from 372,399 tons in 1902 and only 326,590 tons in 1903, the total rose last year to 1,167,674 tons. That is to say in 1902 the imports exceeded the exports by 834,412 tons, while last year the net excess of exports was 901,276 tons. These figures indicate an enormous fluctuation in the business of the Union, and assuredly do not support the assertion that protection steadies an industry.

At the worst the consumption of iron and steel within the American Union is by far the greatest in the world. No other country approaches its figures, but magnitude is not always wealth and prosperity, for the trade appears to depend above everything upon the capacity of the railroad companies to raise money with which to purchase rails and equipment. When they can float off bond and share issues they give large orders to the iron masters, often regardless of price, but when they have difficulty in selling their paper the orders fall off. This is illustrated in the statistics of steel rail consumption, which was only 1,906,237 tons last year, or nearly 85,000 tons less than the total for 1881, and 281,000 tons less than that for 1887. Twenty-three years ago, that is to say, the railway companies were spending more upon rails alone than they did last year, and 17 years ago they were spending more largely still. Doubtless there was a greater amount of railroad building going on at these earlier dates, but, on the other hand, there is now a far more extended mileage to maintain, and all the great companies are more or less busy duplicating their lines, and occasionally putting down heavy rails in place of worn out or dangerously light ones. The mere increase in the weight of rail alone should have compelled the companies to purchase a far greater tonnage of rails now than they did 17 or 23 years ago; but such was the uncongenial condition of the investment market and such the railroad poverty in other directions last year that they were compelled to cut down their expenditure on this vital commodity. In another direction also the helplessness produced by inability to sell new securities finds illustration. The gross sales of the Pressed Steel Car Company aggregated last year only \$4,498,268, whereas in 1902 the gross sales came to \$33,883,519, and in 1903 to \$26,601,249. A revival of demand, however, sprang up in the later months of 1904 for all heavy iron and steel productions, and has continued until quite recently, thanks almost entirely to the greater facility afforded by the stock markets for the

sale of new securities. We have frequently called attention to the rapidity with which further issues of railway capital in one form or another have been made of late, and the consequence is immediately seen in a revival of the demand for iron and steel. To some extent the demand has been stimulated by reductions in price; but these reductions have never gone very far, and when they threaten to do so, a stimulus is at once given to the manufacturers to extend and solidify their combination so as to be in a position to thwart the natural laws of supply and demand. It must always be thus in a protectionist country, and threatens to become the fashion in Free Trade countries as well.

A "WORLD COMBINE" IN IRON AND STEEL.

Our newspapers have lately been telling us a good deal about a new all embracing combination or pool amongst steel manufacturers. An agreement, the *Daily Chronicle* of Tuesday told us, is already in actual operation between this country and the Continent. It was indeed supposed to be completed some months ago, and it has now been extended to the United States in the interests of the dropsical Carnegie Steel Trust. Great Britain, Germany, France and Belgium have joined hands with the American protectionist manufacturers in order to regulate the supply of steel in such a manner that each country in the combination shall have complete control over its domestic market. Not only so, but British makers are to be freed from rivalry in all British colonies on the understanding that they refrain from competing, not only in the countries directly in the combine, but in the foreign possessions of these countries. Thus "dumping" is to be stopped all round, not by legislative action, not by the imposition of a punitive tariff against the overloaded manufacturers of any country who may dare to throw their accumulated stocks, unsaleable at home, over upon foreign markets, but by a private arrangement between manufacturers. We shall be much interested to see how long this compact, if it has any real existence, can be kept, and who is to be the first to break faith. The tendency of a trade which is carried on under a high protective tariff is always towards over production. There may be great recoils, but no sooner is the nadir of demand reached and recovery begun than there is a rush to produce which results in another glut. What will happen to the United States iron and steel producers next time they find millions of tons of domestic iron and steel accumulated for which they can find no outlet either within the Union or in Cuba and the Philippines? Will they be allowed or able to dump this surplus stuff in Brazil and the Argentine Republic or Chili or Peru as being independent countries not within the limits of the compact, or will they be obliged to suspend production altogether until the stocks are slowly worked off? Canada will apparently be closed to them under the new alleged compact, and how will Canada like it? That is an aspect of the league which deserves more attention from the Press than it has hitherto received. In other ways the new accord should be interesting enough because it warns us that it may have been well worth the while of Continental and American makers to draw England into their circle, and that we may have British manufacturers sufficiently witless to be willing to surrender their liberty. What we could gain by any conspiracy of the kind nobody seems to have thought it worth while to inquire.

UNDERWRITTEN STOCKS ON SALE.

An interesting sidelight upon the tendency of our investment market to become glutted with new issues which the public has not taken up is furnished by the efforts made to sell numbers of underwritten but unplaced stocks through firms of jobbers upon the Stock Exchange. One such firm has on its books for sale at prices sometimes stated, sometimes apparently left as matter for negotiation, unspecified slices of the following recently created stocks:—£250,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stock of the British Electric Traction Com-

pany; £200,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first debenture stock of the Birmingham and Midland Tramways, Limited, issued and apparently offered at 97; £500,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first mortgage debentures of Wm. Beardmore and Co., Limited; £400,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. mortgage debentures, part of £500,000 authorised, of Cammell, Laird, and Co., Limited—offered at 102 $\frac{1}{2}$, and apparently not readily taken by the public; £250,000 first mortgage 5 per cent. debentures, part of £300,000 authorised, issued by Cleghorn and Harris, Limited, South African wholesale and retail drapers and general warehousemen; £100,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first mortgage debentures of the Callender's Cable and Construction Company, Limited, being the balance of £300,000 authorised and issued at par; an unspecified amount of the preference share capital, £300,000 in all, in 6 per cent. £10 preference shares of the County of London Electric Supply Company; £300,000 in $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock of Edmundson's Electricity Company; £350,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first mortgage debentures of Wm. Gray and Co., Limited; £75,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock of the Star Omnibus Company; £200,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock of the Urban Electric Supply Company, Limited, issued at 98; £300,000 $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loch Leven debentures of the British Aluminium Company, Limited, offered at 24 per cent. discount, 25 per cent. paid; and finally, apparently, some portion of the £299,200 in £5 6 per cent. non-cumulative preference shares of the London Electric Supply Corporation, Limited. Where no price is mentioned in the above list, none is to be found in the printed memorandum issued about each security by the firm of jobbers in question. The interesting point, however, is not so much the price, which could doubtless be ascertained through any stockbroker, as the fact that there are such numbers of unplaced, and in many instances quite good, industrial securities knocking about the market. These are only samples from a great number, and evidently until the accumulations of paper of the description here given can be cleared off there will be no assured buoyancy on the Stock Exchange.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS—HENRY NOURSE.

The Henry Nourse since 1897 has been one of the large dividend-payers on the Rand, and there is every probability that it will continue to pay big dividends for the rest of its life. In 1898 it distributed 150 per cent., in 1899 100 per cent., and in 1903 100 per cent., but last year the dividend was only 90 per cent., when an average of 75 stamps ran out of 80. The consulting engineer estimates that there are approximately 803,530 tons still to be developed on the two payable reefs—the Main Reef and the South Reef—which, based on the 113,000 tons crushed in the past financial year, would give the mine a life of about seven years. The mine has, however, the Main Reef Leader, which has hitherto been unpayable, and which is never likely to become payable. So far only 17,265 tons of payable ore have been exposed on it, and in reference to it the manager, in his latest report, said:—"In development the Main Reef Leader has not shown any improvement in the points that have been opened up, and I am of opinion that in the eastern section of the mine the Leader is unlikely to prove a very valuable asset." There are, however, 34 claims known as the Creek claims as yet untouched, but which hereafter may prove to be of some value as deep level claims. At the end of June, 1904, some 848,584 tons of ore were developed in the mine, of which 557,665 tons were considered payable, without, however, allowing for sorting. Adding these to the ore estimated as still to be developed, it would give the outcrop mine a life of from 11 to 12 years, or, say, 11 years from now on the present rate of crushing. But it is the intention of the directors to add another 40 stamps to the battery, which will exhaust the mine more quickly, so if we put the life at eight or nine years, after making a rough calculation of the ore that will have to be sorted out and the extra tonnage that will be

treated when the 40 stamps are added, we shall hardly be considered too conservative. On the basis of the last making-up price the yield is 12 per cent., so that at the end of nine years the aggregate yield on an outlay of £100 would be only £108. Dividends in the future may, of course, be higher. They may average, let us go so far as to say, 110 to 120 per cent. on which basis the return would be from £135 to £144 on £100 outlay at the end of nine years. This would be less than 5 per cent. per annum, and would not be a profitable investment, looking to all the speculative risks involved. We may be sure, however, the bosses in the meantime would try to push the price much higher and thus greatly extend the risks, for in past years prices have been considerably higher than they are now. Even in 1904 they were never so low. There are no assets worth speaking of except the above deep-level claims, and it has been estimated that they may be worth 30s. per Henry Nourse share, so they will make no appreciable difference to the intrinsic value of the investment. To redeem the principal in nine years would require the annual investment at 3 per cent. of about £9 10s.

MR. HIRST ON ECONOMY AND THE SINKING FUND.

Under the title "National Credit and the Sinking Fund: How to Make £500,000,000," Mr. Francis W. Hirst has written and Mr. Fisher Unwin published at 6d. an interesting pamphlet on one of the burning financial topics of the day. Part of the matter appeared in the columns of the *Speaker*, and the pamphlet as revised and completed is thoughtful and well-informed like all that Mr. Hirst writes, therefore worth reading. We are not sure, though, that the title does not to some extent mislead, for, as we understand it, the nation would not "make" £500,000,000 by the plan put forward. Mr. Hirst would reduce the expenditure upon the special War Office and Admiralty Works—the votes of from £9,000,000 or £8,000,000 specially assigned to these two departments—to not more than £4,000,000. That is to say, the amount of new debt created for these purposes would, according to Mr. Hirst's suggestion, be limited to this smaller sum, and it would then, he thinks, be possible within a short time to convert the existing sham sinking fund into a real one amounting to £9,000,000 or £10,000,000 per annum. Whether this would be so we are not sure, but assuming the project attained in actual fact the result would doubtless be a recovery in the price of Government stocks upon the market, and it is because of this recovery that Mr. Hirst speaks of "making" £500,000,000. He quotes Mr. Lestock Erskine as having put forth estimates of 1,000 million pounds as the depreciation caused by the Boer War, and we have some dim recollection of having years ago worked the whole figures out with thoroughness and arriving at the same conclusion. Long before the war was over the depreciation upon the total of our marketable securities had, as the *INVESTORS' REVIEW* demonstrated, gone beyond 1,000 million pounds. A recovery in market price, however, such as Mr. Hirst predicts, is not a direct gain, and would not benefit the nation to the extent of one farthing upon debt already in existence; it would only render the borrowing of further money less onerous. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would not perhaps have to pay upwards of 3 per cent. for new issues of Exchequer bonds, and from this point of view we are not sure that the adoption of Mr. Hirst's plan would conduce to national economy. What we advocate always, and want to see, is a general reduction in the scale of Imperial expenditure, and a stoppage wherever possible of the extravagant outlays of borrowed money upon naval and military works which are absolute and unrelieved waste, giving nothing whatever in return, yielding no revenue of any sort, but, on the contrary, involving us in a continual increase in the permanent annual expenditure. Without a reduction in the public burdens the product of strenuous, intelligently enforced, and far-reaching economies, there can be no profit of a real description to the nation by sinking fund manipulation, rises in market prices, or anything of the kind.

THE UNITED STATES STEEL TRUST.

Opportunately in connection with the newspaper puffery about universal steel combines and devices of that kind, the City editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* has lighted upon and printed some very interesting facts about this trust, furnished by a letter from Pittsburg. According to this letter, all the small plants of the trust were closed down on May 27 and all the Union mills on June 10. The reason given was lack of orders, but the true reason was probably the attitude of the employees. At a convention of the men held in Detroit last May it was decided to demand an advance of 19½ per cent. in the wages, the amount docked two years ago. If this demand was not conceded a general strike was threatened. To this threat the trust has replied notifying that it will not in future employ Union labour, so a big fight may be at hand. Meantime, the letter goes on, a number of men are being paid high salaries for writing "high-toned" letters on the prosperity of the Steel Trust, which is just, as the City editor of the *Pall Mall* observes, what we should expect under the circumstances. "Do not be surprised," the writer proceeds, "to learn of the biggest trust burst the world has ever known. The common stock is not worth the paper written on." That has always been our contention and opinion, and we do not believe either that the trust can ever establish a complete ironclad monopoly in its particular industries within the American Union even by the help of a dishonestly maintained and altogether monstrous protective tariff. As it is, apparently, the former president of the trust, Charles Schwab, is now about to fight it tooth and nail, and has secured large contracts from Russia for his independent plants at Bethlehem. In other directions production is springing up. In Indiana one plant with eight mills, in Pennsylvania three plants with 18 mills, in West Virginia four plants with 32 mills, in Ohio three plants with 18 mills, making a total of 11 plants and 76 mills, all in rivalry with the Carnegie trust, one of the most shameless creations of dishonest finance even the United States has ever been victimised by.

THE WERNHER-BEIT KAFFIR TRUST.

Its real name is the Central Mining and Investment Co., Limited, and it possesses the nice little capital of £6,000,000 in 300,000 shares of £20 each, of which 292,127 have been issued—allotted to favoured pals would perhaps be a better description. Why the thing was registered here we are not very sure (we could guess), unless to give an appearance of respectability no Pretoria registration can now bestow, because nearly all the shares were handed out to the foreign friends of the glorious band of cosmopolitan capitalists who now rule the destinies of South Africa, "the land of the free" in course of being populated by indentured Chinese. We must not forget though the glorious Englishmen who will guide the operations of this trust, solely for the benefit of the unfortunate holders of Kaffir shares, for have we not been assured that the mighty mine magnates would sooner go out of the business altogether than allow one penny piece of the whole six millions to be used for market rigging? There are Sir Julius Wernher, Bart.—we have been delighted by contemplating this happy effort of the fountain of all "honours" ever since last Friday—mere Herr Alfred Beit—no doubt waiting for a peerage—Mr. Frederick Eckstein, Comte Isaac de Camondo, and M. Georges Rouliot. Grand Britishers all, who would doubtless shed the last drop of our blood in the name of the Empire on which the sun, etc., if they saw more money in the slaughter. The appellations of their friends in adversity are just as entertaining, the curiosities we unearthed when examining the first list of shareholders amply repaying us for the time and labour involved in copying such a long array of jaw-wrenching names. Right away we came across old pals like the Schumachers, the Meyers (of International Bank of London fame), the

Neumanns, the Hirschs, the Mosenthals, the Breitmeyers, and the Leons, and later on such masters in the Chartered style of finance business as Rochfort Maguire, Rutherford Harris, M.P., (good old Dulwich), Lord Farquhar, and John Seear. But glance down the list for yourself, good reader, and try to imagine what a delightful world this must be when men like these will put up their hard-earned savings solely for the good of the mining industry, so that it shall flourish on intrinsic merits alone. Honest, straightforward application to business is henceforth to be the order of the day; no market dodgery, no trying to push out shares in undeveloped, often valueless properties at fancy figures, nothing at all that can ever again make us regret the day when South Africa was handed over to the tender mercies of the crowd of enterprising and super-moral adventurers who have so nearly compassed its ruin. As a final wor, we may draw the attention of the Somerset House officials to the manner in which this list of shareholders was drawn up. Instead of a single entry for each shareholder giving the total holdings, a large number appeared two, three, four, and even five times over, so that aggregate holding in these cases could only be ascertained by constant reference to the names and the final addition of all the individual entries. What the object could be it is difficult to say, unless to conceal as far as possible the interests of the leading men, but in any case instruction should be sent to the company that future lists should be drawn up in conformity with the general rules.

SHARE HOLDINGS ON MAY 26, 1905.

Rosenhain, Max, and Alexandre, Edmond	...	300
Schumacher, Erwin	...	2,750
Meyer, Carl	...	1,250
New Eastern Investment Company	...	400
Mosenthal, Harry	...	400
Exploration Company	...	350
Kitzinger, Berthold	...	750
Newgass, Benjamin	...	100
Ries, August	...	500
Beit, Otto	...	500
Davis, Arthur Wellesley	...	520
Neumann, Sigmund	...	2,500
Hirsch, Henry	...	300
Lewis, Joseph	...	500
Maguire, Rochfort	...	400
Gunzburg, Baron Jacques de	...	500
Marc, Alexander	...	350
Farrar, Sidney Howard	...	500
Levita, Arthur Francis	...	400
Ashton, Right Hon. James Baron	...	750
Littlejohn, Robert	...	500
Koch, Wm. Maurice	...	400
Lowinsky, Thomas Hermann	...	500
Neumann, Ludwig	...	1,500
Benard, Adrien Leon	...	500
Benard, Adrien Leon, and Jarilowsky, Sigismund	...	1,000
Leon, Elie	...	1,500
Gunzburg, Baron Salomon de	...	300
Oberndorffer, Hugo	...	350
Rikoff, Martin	...	350
Senn, Georges	...	400
Verde, Delisle	...	500
Porges, Jules	...	2,800
Layard, André; Elie, Leonce; and Weill, David	...	756
Raphael, Raymond	...	607
Harris, Frederick Rutherford	...	500
Gadala, Theodore Antoine Chas.	...	436
Lehmann, Simon	...	1,722
Roger, Eugene Joseph Denis	...	376
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas	...	8,664
Banque Française pour le Commerce et Industrie	...	2,700
Compagnie Française de Mines d'Or and de l'Afrique du Sud	...	9,728
Association Minière	...	2,000
Comptoir National D'Escompté de Paris	...	1,000
Crédit Lyonnais	...	2,000
Société Générale pour favoriser le développement du Commerce and de l'Industrie en France	...	3,500
Crédit Algérien	...	398
Mulaton, Francois	...	327
Heilbronn, Ernest	...	1,010
Heilbronn, Ernest Georges	...	332
Hirsch, Louis	...	5,893
Levy, Eugene	...	2,354
Tardieu, Ambroise	...	705
Barbe, Paul, and Dernier, Emile	...	1,000
Pigeard, Charles	...	438

L'Argentiére, Auguste Theodore	393
Société Marseillaise de Crédit Industriel and Commercial and de Dépôts	424
Cognacq, Theodore Ernest	1,007
Mayer, Henri	461
Wernher, Julius	13,770
Beit, Alfred	13,767
Breitmeyer, Ludwig	6,434
Eckstein, Fredk.	6,420
Phillips, Lionel	5,900
Rube, Charles	5,767
Stevens, Edward, and Richardson, Wm.	840
D'Erlanger, Baron Emile Beaumont	1,000
Sterd, Sir Edward David	600
Green, Frederick Wm.	1,100
Cassel, Sir Ernest	1,250
Goldschmidt, Adolph Benedict Hayum	1,500
McDermott, Walter, and Green, Frederick Wm.	2,500
Spashett, Christopher F. A., and Barrett, George	1,000
Weinertzhagen, Daniel	750
Bischoffsheim, Henri Louis	1,000
Bischoffsheim, Ferdinand Raphael	750
Kahn, Albert	1,250
Thors, Joseph Henry, and Chevrant, Edouard	9,500
Taylor, James Benjamin	600
Marks, Hermann, and Rumelin, Paul	5,000
Nathan, Henry	2,500
Gutmann, Eugen	2,500
Mieller, Waldemar	2,500
Farquhar, Lord Horace Brand	1,500
Rothschild, Hon. Walter, Hon. Nathaniel Chas., and Lionel Nathan de	1,900
Grenfell, Arthur Morton, and Lake, Ernest John	1,540
Deutsch, Henry	300
Michaelis, Max	5,000
Wertheimer, Julius and Ernst	1,250
Rouliot, George	750
Andrae, Alexander, and Salomonsohn, Dr. Arthur	7,500
Ess, Christian, and Smith, Albert Naylor	750
Stern, Julius	2,500
Seear, John	500
Montagu, Lord Charles, and Friedlander, Arnold	300
Evans, Samuel	600
Reyersbach, Louis	1,066
Schumacher, Raymond	1,067
Fitzpatrick, Sir James Percy	1,067
Wagner, Ludwig	3,844
Stern, Sir Edmund David	400
Hellman, Max	1,270
Chrambach, Carl	1,250
Risch, Waldemar, and Rosenberger, Julius	400

SPIERS AND POND.

An immutable power has marked out this over-capitalised and debt-stricken enterprise for reconstruction, and it is hastening towards the end at breakneck speed. The latest annual report and statement of accounts made up to March 31 are just as we, a year ago, said they must be. For the first time in the history of the undertaking, a matter of 22 years, no dividend can be paid on the ordinary shares, and we hardly think the directors will continue to attempt to disguise the long patent fact that a huge part of the share capital has been irretrievably lost. Let us glance retrospectively at the position running back, say, to 1898. Since that year the share and debenture capital has been increased by the enormous sum of £900,000, raising it to the present amount of £2,206,000, yet we now find the profit thousands below the sum earned when the capital was at its smallest. A good deal of fluctuation has been witnessed in the meantime, flash-in-the-pan advances to well over £100,000 taking place in the years ending in 1902 and 1903, but taken as a whole the tendency has been steadily downward, and from the 10 per cent. paid in 1898 the dividend on the ordinary shares has slowly dwindled to nothing. What prospect is there of a turn in the tide? We must leave the shareholders to answer that question. There is absolutely no hope at all unless proprietors instantly bestir themselves and make a real effort to rescue the company from the slough of despond into which it has fallen. We know there is little time for effective organisation, because the annual gathering, at which the chairman will give vent to some nicely prepared phrases about the company's dreadful sufferings from bad trade, competition, and anything else having a plausible ring about it, will be held on Monday, but opportunity is afforded to make a beginning, and with a good start the rest

might be easy. It seems that Mr. Felix Wm. Spiers has already resigned his seat on the board, and Mr. James Bailey, who now retires, does not seek re-election. That places two seats at the disposal of the shareholders, and they should be filled by the election of a couple of honest, intelligent, businesslike men, who will at once utilise their powers to ascertain the true position of affairs. Trade is steadily leaving the company to the advantage of the more up-to-date rivals, and we have yet to learn what the loss of the Chatham Railway refreshment contract, now in the hands of J. Lyons and Co., will mean in the future. The lease of the Winchester House restaurant has also expired, and so far as one can judge no effort is made to fill up these gaps by promoting business elsewhere. It is in all directions a policy of drift, and to a great extent the directors are powerless to prevent the retrogression, so hopelessly entangled have the finances become. There are no reserves which could be utilised to give a helping hand in the present hour of acute embarrassment as the directors would hardly dare trench on the resources to the extent of a single penny while faced with such an enormous burden of debt, fixed and floating. In fact, the company has no free resources because sundry creditors reach the great sum of £189,228, bills payable amount to £18,522, and the undivided profit balance comes to £47,644, in all £253,394. Against that debtors, cash, bills, and investments, and the £22,500 already paid out on account of preference dividend, reach less than £150,000, meaning a deficiency as between floating liabilities and assets of £100,000. We are, of course, aware that in addition there are wines, spirits, provisions, &c., to the value of £232,818, the purchase of which is no doubt largely responsible for the heavy sums due to creditors; but these stocks are probably as low as they can be safely kept, and could not be reduced in order to pay off debts. Thus it will be seen that the finances are clogged and fettered in all ways because of the enormous capital commitments, especially in hotels. Freehold and leasehold properties have actually risen a little on the year to the enormous figure of £1,790,304, while the plant, furniture, &c., is the merest trifle lower at £469,407. What proportion of these assets is involved in the general stores, refreshment, and hotel ventures respectively does not transpire, but this much we do know, because the directors tell us, that although the new hotels have in the aggregate shown a steady increase in their receipts and profits they are not yet earning the full interest on the new capital raised to build and equip them. Will they ever do so? We doubt it very much. Hotel patronage is probably more extensive to-day than ever before, but hotel building is being ridiculously overdone and the mania for lavish display is such that in some cases a "full house" year in and out would probably not produce profits commensurate with the outlay involved. Then how can such buildings as those belonging to this company be expected to pay? There can be no satisfactory answer until much more concerning the general position is ascertained, but if, as the directors say, the hotel profits are expanding, then the other branches of the business must be steadily growing worse, because profits last year were down again and the outlook seems more hopeless than ever. Business done in the twelve months to March 31 was £1,462,988 compared with £1,476,635, a drop of £13,647, and as the total outgo could only be reduced £5,760 to £1,374,452, down goes the profit from £96,516 to £88,646. Debenture interest absorbs £46,340 as before, leaving £42,306, to which is added £5,338 brought forward making £47,664. Directors' fees take £2,115, auditors' fee is £500, and debenture trustees' remuneration £840, while £1,410 is wanted for the debenture redemption fund. Balance still left is £42,778, and since the preference dividend requires £30,000, the directors are bound to send the ordinary shareholders empty away, the carry forward going up to £12,778. In order to make our statement complete we should mention that the amount of the general reserve is £29,380, debenture redemp-

tion fund comes to £38,541, and the reserves for amortisation of leases reach £73,972. Debenture debt all told amounts to £1,006,000, the Blackpool property is mortgaged for £40,000, and the share capital is £1,200,000. That is the position, and if shareholders regard it with despair few would wonder. But supineness and apathy in the present crisis can only lead to still worse disaster, and if a united front be presented we fail to see how the directors can resist the appointment of shareholders' nominations to the board to be followed by a carefully selected committee of investigation.

A TRUST IN GAS SECURITIES.

For an investment giving a fairly high return with reasonable safety as regards capital, it would, perhaps, be difficult to find anything better than the securities of really good gas undertakings. On the following selection the average yield is about £5 2s. per cent., and if the past history of the companies can be taken as a guide, there seems to be every prospect of this return being continued indefinitely. Incorporated in 1845 the Alliance and Dublin Consumers' Gas Company has pursued an even course, and for the last 20 years has paid regular half-yearly dividends at the rate of 10½ and 7½ per cent. on its two classes of shares. Although the Brentford Gas Company does not date quite so far back, it, too, has a good record, having paid 12 per cent. on the consolidated stock and 9 per cent. on the new stock for ten years. The next two are foreign undertakings, and of these the Oriental has made regular distributions of 8 per cent. per annum for the twelve years ended November 30, 1904, while the Primitiva, which was registered in 1901, has steadily improved its position. In the first year of its existence no dividend was paid on the ordinary shares, but in 1902 they got 3 per cent., in 1903 5 per cent., and in 1904 6 per cent. The electrical portion of the business has been sold to a German company for £600,000 and interest at 4 per cent., payable by 80 half-yearly instalments of £15,000 and one of £19,234, and the money thus received will be applied towards redeeming the debentures, so that the position of the shareholders should be gradually strengthened.

	Nominal Value.	Amount.	Dividend.
	£	£	£ s. d.
30 Alliance & Dublin Consumers' 7 per cent. Standard shares ..	300	435	22 10 0
£300 Brentford new stock.....	300	571½	27 0 0
£300 Oriental stock.....	300	439½	24 0 0
60 Primitiva ordinary shares ..	300	345	18 0 0
	1,200	1,791	91 10 0

FURNESS, WITBY AND CO.

The various industries in which this company is engaged again suffered from the general depression in trade during the year ended April 30, but not quite so severely as in the previous twelve months. Good employment was found for the steamship lines, although the freights earned were below the normal rates, and the dry dock and ship repair departments continued well employed, but the shipbuilding yard turned out 27,392 tons compared with 36,176 tons and the directors again regret that the keen competition left only a small margin of profit on these orders. Profits at head office, shipyard and branch offices, however, amounted to £85,095, and although this is still much below those red-letter years 1901-2 and 1902-3 it means a recovery of £9,912, which is not so bad all things considered. Dividends on investments, too, were £16,146 up at £119,101, but other receipts fell off by about £4,600, so that the increase in the total revenue was £21,453 at £219,693. Thanks to the redemption of debentures the sum required for interest and preference share divi-

dend, directors' fees and income-tax was £6,676 less at £39,445, leaving an improvement of £28,128 in net revenue, to which was added £51,394 from the previous account making an available total of £231,642 compared with £221,394. The dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 10 per cent. and in addition to placing £50,000 to the special reserve £25,260 is provided for insurance and repairs and £36,382 is carried forward. During the year the debentures were reduced by purchase to £305,700 and a further £7,600 have since been redeemed, leaving £298,100 outstanding. The £100,000 transferred to a special reserve in the past two years has been applied in writing down investments, and the item of steamships, freeholds, leaseholds, buildings, dry dock, stock and work in progress at shipyard and investments in other companies now stands at £1,910,432 or £186,670 less. It would, however, be much more satisfactory if this item were split up into its component parts, particularly as the auditors certify to the correctness of the balance-sheet, "subject to the valuations of stocks and investments." Bills payable are £75,536 down at £384,398 and other current liabilities show a reduction of £16,409 to £135,330, and on the other side bank deposit, loans, cash and bills in hand have risen by £45,568 to £344,946, sundry debtors are £20,215 higher at £173,857 and bankers' balances on current accounts after payment of dividends on April 30 are £5,832 up at £117,577, so that the position is certainly more satisfactory than it was twelve months ago.

THE NEW JAPANESE LOAN.

Mr. Takahashi, the Financial Agent of Japan, lost no time on his return to London in putting the case for this additional loan partially before the British public. It was assuredly necessary for him to use expedition, because the first hint that such an operation was contemplated unquestionably produced a bad impression. There is still one instalment to pay upon the £30,000,000 loan issued early in the present year, and that Japan should need another advance of equal amount so soon was never for a moment imagined. Why then was the fresh operation resolved upon with such apparent suddenness that not even the banks which have been responsible for issuing the previous Japanese war loans knew anything about it? "We have about \$50,000,000 in New York remaining of the last loan, and some £8,000,000 in London, in addition to the final instalment not yet due, so that Japan is not in the least immediate need of further money," said Mr. Takahashi. Why then issue another loan? No public apology or explanation is offered, but we hear that the idea is to put the Japanese Government in an impregnable position when negotiations for peace with Russia are entered upon. The reasoning followed is this:—Russia is continuing the struggle in the hope openly and often expressed of wearing the Japanese out, and forcing the Government of the Mikado to its knees for lack of funds. If that Government is able to enter upon the negotiations, with not only the balance of the last £30,000,000 loan in hand, but an untouched further loan of a similar amount actually subscribed, it will be impossible for Russia to nurse that delusion any longer. Russian finance and not Japanese will then look like suffering from immediate exhaustion. This is astutely reasoned, and offers justification, otherwise lacking, for the apparent precipitancy with which loan is following loan. Still we are not quite sure that the step was a wise one. The strongest argument perhaps in support of it is to be found in the present low value of loanable capital on all great money markets. Were Japan to wait until late in the autumn money might be dearer everywhere than it is now. Rates are already somewhat ticklish in New York, and therefore it may be wise to hurry out this issue when bankers appear to have large masses of unplaced funds at their disposal, and when investors are presumed to be in the mood to subscribe fresh engagements. The terms as communicated to Reuter's agency are:—One-third of the £30,000,000 to each of the three

countries England, the United States and Germany, interest to be $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the issue price 90, with an underwriting commission of 2 per cent. Japanese loan prospectuses are always kept back from the financial weeklies so we cannot vouch for these details in every particular, but the loan is being underwritten now. Reuter adds that the bonds will have a currency of 20 years, so that the loan will probably be consolidated with the existing £30,000,000 in $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents., one instalment of which is still to pay, and it will bring the total foreign debt of Japan to upwards of £101,000,000, including the two yen loans sold here, but not the £6,100,000 of domestic 5 per cent. yen bonds dealt in and quoted on the Stock Exchange. In addition, Japan, we believe, has raised £50,000,000 in internal loans since the war began—a stupendous effort for a country whose total revenues a few years ago came to less than £20,000,000 per annum.

EDMUNDSON'S ELECTRICITY CORPORATION.

For the first time in this company's history the net trading profits show a small decrease of £1,023 at £38,618, but the falling off was more than compensated for by an increase of £11,190 to £30,105 in the income from investments, and although nothing was realised from sales of securities compared with £5,058 a year ago, the total profits showed an improvement of £5,125 at £68,823. With a larger balance of £13,923 brought forward the amount available was £7,314 larger at £82,746, but owing to the issue of 10,000 preference, and 10,000 ordinary shares, and £37,804 debentures during the year, interest and dividend payments required more, and in order to maintain the ordinary dividend at the old rate of 7 per cent. nothing is written off goodwill against £5,000, and after putting £6,635 or an increase of £1,197 to reserve the balance forward is raised to £15,007. The new issues of capital yielded £13,364 in premiums, and this sum has also been placed to reserve bringing it up to £90,000. This does not seem an over-generous provision in view of the heavy capital commitments, but it is merely a matter of book-keeping, and the actual reserves are considerably larger. Most of the capital is employed in investments in or advances to subsidiary companies, a list which accompanies the report showing that £364,903 is held in shares and £98,300 in debentures of these subsidiaries, while £632,673 has been advanced to them, and there is also £156,912 in other undertakings, making £1,252,790 in all, of which £439,326 has not yet reached a dividend-earning stage. From this, however, £172,705 has been deducted as reserves, so that altogether about 20 per cent. of these commitments have been accumulated, and as most of the undertakings seem to be doing a good business this proportion should prove an ample safeguard against loss. Sundry debtors were reduced by £177,202 to £127,798 by the repayment early in the year of a loan of £200,000 to the Urban Electric Supply Company, but liabilities to sundry creditors and bills payable come to no more than £55,695, and cash in hand stands at £48,124. Capital expenditure must now be near an end as the central station at Newbury was opened in January and the stations at Inverness and Ramsgate, which will be opened within the next few months, complete the company's plans for the present.

THE BUDGET OF PARIS.

For the current year Paris has to provide for an expenditure of £15,520,000, of which £13,240,000 comes from taxation of various kinds, most of it indirect taxation—that is to say, octroi duties provide £4,412,320 and large sums are received from various public undertakings, including £944,000 from the gas company and £907,000 from the water. The State contributes £510,000 towards the expenses of the municipal police and £3,232,000 is the expected product of the direct taxes called communal centimes, special imposts, the dog tax, and taxes on changes of employment. Public carriages furnish about £629,000,

and there are a number of smaller sources of revenue which we need not now specify. What does Paris want with such a heavy budget, a budget which implies in the current year a necessity to draw upon borrowed money to the extent of £2,223,000? Well, its public debt takes £4,840,340 for its service, showing an increase of £176,000 this year over last. The expenses of the prefecture of police come to £1,114,000 and of public charity engulfs £1,482,000, said charity representing not merely doles to the indigent, but the maintenance of the insane, of abandoned children, and so on. Then upwards of £1,200,000 is spent upon primary instruction and secondary schools, besides a small sum of about £59,000 assigned to bursaries at the lycées and other establishments. The public thoroughfares take £942,000 and the architecture and fine arts of the city £490,000. The cost of collecting the octroi is £474,000 and the central administration of the prefecture, together with the mayoral expenses of the various arrondissements, require £432,000. The great burden, however, is the burden of debt, and that goes on increasing year after year with no prospect of diminution in the near future. Indirectly, perhaps, this debt returns something to the city, but not much. There is a slight profit, if the term may be used, derived from the cemeteries, receipts from which exceed expenses, but the city does not seem to possess any large amount of rent yielding property, and much of the income from such institutions as halles and markets, entrepôts, rights of way, public paving, and the like must be regarded as little other than forms of indirect taxation. Happily, Paris is a cosmopolitan city, the wealthiest in the world of its size in all probability, so that its inhabitants appear to bear their enormous burden without serious inconvenience. None the less does such a budget impose upon the bulk of the population many privations, and we have always felt that much of the restlessness and proneness to revolutionary outbreaks which characterise its history is ascribable to the misery in which the bulk of the people exist. The octroi alone is a permanent source of impoverishment of a dangerous description. We sometimes grumble here at the speed with which our metropolitan rates are moving up, but London still looks lightly taxed compared to Paris, and by-and-bye London will have a large income from property and public undertakings.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN TRADE FOR 1904.

Each of the past four years has witnessed a rise in the foreign trade of the Dual Monarchy, the figures of one year showing a marked advance on those of its predecessor. Starting with £147,400,000 in 1901, the total value of imports and exports rose the following year to £151,500,000 and to £165,900,000 in 1903, winding up with £171,500,000 last year, these being the figures now dealt with. Dividing this total into its component parts, our Consul-General, Mr. von Schoeller, states in his latest report that imports represented £85,200,000, an increase of about seven millions sterling, while the exports have decreased £2,600,000, their total being £86,200,000. Trade, therefore, was not so good as it looked, though, at the same time, it must be remembered that the decline in exports was due entirely to natural causes. The prolonged drought which prevailed throughout the country not only caused a failure of the crops, and consequently a prohibition of the export of fodder, but also, by reducing the water in the Elbe to a very low level, seriously interfered with an important means of communication to the north. Moreover, the increase in the imports was accentuated by the high prices ruling for wool and cotton, raw material of which Austro-Hungary buys considerable quantities. So had the weather been normal and prices about the same as in previous years, the rise in the imports might not have appeared so remarkable nor the decline in the exports so serious. A more detailed examination of the returns shows that raw material alone increased something like six millions sterling to £51,900,000, though semi-manufactured and manufactured articles at £10,800,000 and

£22,500,000 respectively were both appreciably higher. On the export side, however, another tale is told, since here raw material for the reasons stated above dropped something like four millions sterling to £35,300,000. Part of this was made good by increased exports of semi and wholly manufactured goods, their respective values being £12,600,000 and £38,300,000; but the decline was none the less unpleasant, and unfortunately was nearly all borne by Hungary, since, with the exception of oats and maize, the Austrian harvest was not below the average of the last ten years. Great Britain and its colonies' share of this trade amounted to £12,170,275 imports and £9,616,766 exports, the first being an increase of £1,256,132 and the second one of £981,401. Of this our contribution to the imports was £6,180,201, exclusive of precious metals, while we bought £6,981,878. Coal and coke, tea, cotton yarn and goods, wool and woollen yarn, silk, leather, and machinery were among the more important articles sent from this country, and in all save wool, woollen yarns, and silk, the returns were considerably higher in price, if not in quantity. On the other hand, Austria sent us practically no sugar, and there was likewise a serious falling off both in the value and the amount of wood and timber we bought, though, apart from these two, the majority of the other articles remained at about the same level as in 1903, or showed a slight improvement.

Passing Events.

We shall be interested to learn what success Messrs. Herold and Co. may have in their public-spirited attempt to enlist the shareholders of the International Bank of London in support of a petition for a compulsory winding up. They have sent a circular to their fellow shareholders intimating that this petition is to be filed and asking for financial assistance. The legal expenses, they say, will not be large, and they merely ask for a subscription of a shilling or only sixpence per share towards meeting them—an entirely voluntary contribution, and it would be a pleasant surprise to find the appeal well responded to. It is not the habit of shareholders in this country to combine together with any energy or public spirit when they find themselves defrauded or face to face with loss, arising no matter how. They habitually desert each other, each going his or her own way, and refusing to help; or if help is given, it is usually with a selfish object, with the hope perhaps that the course of action suggested may have a favourable influence on market prices and allow the caught ones to escape. No scruple is ever shown in deserting when the chance offers. We hope Messrs. Herold's experience will be in this respect unusual.

Shareholders of the Barcelona Tramways Company have just received the pleasing intimation that a contract has been entered into for the sale of their undertaking at a price which, including accrued profits to June 30 last, will pay off the debenture issues and preference shares, with interest, and leave about £14 for each ordinary share. A first instalment of £5,000 has been paid to the company and a banker's guarantee for securing payment of the remainder of the purchase money has been arranged to the satisfaction of the board. Clearly then the directors are leaving nothing to chance, which is good, because, if we remember aright, some previous negotiations for the disposal of the business proved abortive, the company retaining a deposit amounting to some thousands of pounds. An extraordinary general meeting will be called shortly when the agreement will be submitted for approval of proprietors.

Shareholders of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company will meet together next week to consider the directors' proposal for increasing the capital of the company by no less than £200,000, that is from £300,000 to £500,000. It seems a deal of money, especially as all the existing authorised capital has not yet been issued, but the directors say that in view of the very large and continued expansion of the business

the present opportunity should be taken to make provision for the outlay necessarily involved. A further resolution for altering the articles of association so that the shares may obtain an official quotation will no doubt be readily agreed to. We wonder when a first dividend will be forthcoming.

Matters have taken a rather unexpected turn in connection with the default on the Beira Railway debentures. Some independent bondholder has commenced an action in the courts for the appointment of a receiver, apparently oblivious of the fact that this course may have the effect of converting the rent charge of £42,500 possessed by the working Mashonaland Railway Company into a permanent prior lien debenture. Naturally enough the bondholders' committee, which has so far done excellent work in protecting holders' interests, views the turn of events with some anxiety and is understood to be considering the desirability of intervening in the action. Perhaps the independent bondholder is not so innocent as at first sight appears. Is he the nominee of some of the Chartered wire-pullers? We do not know, but have no doubt at all that bondholders cannot do better than give the strongest support to their committee.

An interesting light on the attitude of Canada towards the mother country in the matter of military expenditure was afforded by Sir F. W. Borden in a speech delivered at a banquet in Ottawa in connection with some military function or other. Since 1867, he says, Canada's revenue has gone up from £2,600,000 to £14,000,000, and because of this prosperity the Government has decided to undertake the defence of the country on its own charges. To prove Canada's sincerity in this respect and that it was her desire to relieve to some extent the heavily-burdened taxpayers of the British Isles, the Dominion Government had decided to assume full responsibility for the cost of maintaining Halifax and Esquimaux. Then follows the significant passage:—"Some people had recommended a direct contribution from Canada to the Imperial Exchequer, but speaking for himself he declared that the people of Canada would insist that money taken from their pockets by way of taxation must be expended by the men whom they elected, and who were directly responsible to the people," and he went on to define that true British imperialism was the perfect domestic independence of each separate country within the empire. His speech was "loudly cheered." So much for the Chamberlain ideal of "imperial unity."

Lord Selborne is not quite happy in his handling either of the Boers with their objections to the military vote, the carving out of electoral districts, and such things, or of the Chinese labour question, but he is a great deal better, in words at least, than Lord Milner was. He talks softly and tries by gentle speech to smooth away discontent and difficulties—is a regular Sam Slick in fact. It seems interesting, though, to learn that the only cause of the trouble between whites and yellows on the mines is the unfortunate disposition of the Chinese to use coarse language. That is the statement put forward by the Transvaal correspondent of the *Times*, and it is, if not highly suggestive, at least most diverting. What fools he must take us all to be.

A correspondent takes us to task for our wholesale recommendation to sell South African mines. He admits that if that advice had been taken when first given by the INVESTORS' REVIEW, it would have paid everybody, because the shares could now have been bought back at half the prices then ruling, and goes on to complain that no discrimination is shown, instancing the Glencairn and New Primrose shares as cases in point. When the mining member of the staff comes back from his holiday we shall deal with the letter, and meanwhile need only observe that the history of these two mines has not been such as to lift them into a separate category. So far we have not found one mine worth its current price on the data available.

A French correspondent obligingly points out to us in connection with our note last week upon the Com-

pagnie Générale Transatlantique, that both this company and the Messageries Maritimes have within the last three years reduced their share capital by half, converting the shares from fr. 500 to fr. 250. This, in nautical language, was done to lighten the ship and also to facilitate the issue of fresh capital in other forms. Both companies have sought since the reduction took place to issue preference shares, but were until recently unable to do so because the French law did not permit them. As he wittily says, "*En France, vous le savez, tout ce qui n'est pas interdit formellement est défendu.*" The Messageries Maritimes company had even to submit to see an emission of preference shares it attempted to make annulled by the tribunals, and it was forced to fall back upon bonds. Within the past year, however, owing to the necessities of these companies, the Government has passed a law which now permits preference shares to be issued, and both have taken or will take advantage of the liberty.

Mr. Deakin seems to be ambitious to play the Joseph Chamberlain of the Australian Commonwealth, and has certainly qualified for the position by frequent changes of opinion. He is now taking office after having defeated Free Trade Mr. Reid on a preferential tariff programme, whose unfolding will doubtless be watched in this country with more or less amused interest. We know what "preference" has meant in Canada—a general advance in Customs duties with special rebates to England and increased loss to the community at large. It seems a pity that all these young countries will shackle themselves with fetters of this description, but then they have first of all piled debt upon their backs to an extent which makes it impossible to raise sufficient revenue in any other way.

The fiscal year of the Canadian Dominion ends on June 30, and it closed with a surplus of about £1,800,000. A year before the surplus was over £3,011,000, the largest Canada ever saw, and such big sums of money undoubtedly promote extravagance, hence the total appropriations for the year on which the country has now entered amount to £14,378,000, and Mr. Fielding, the Minister of Finance, hopes that there will be income enough to cover this with something over. Large sums are set aside for the construction of the "National Trans-Continental Railway," and as long as this railway is built mostly out of revenue we suppose it is all right, but why pile additional Customs duties upon the people to augment the sufferings of the many? Rolled oats are to be charged 60 cents per 100 lbs. for equalisation purposes. The duty on white lead is to be raised from 5 per cent. to 30 per cent., subject to British preference, which reads like sarcasm. Then cement coming from the United States is to be burdened with an extra duty of 25 per cent., and so on.

No news of any value comes through from the seat of war in Manchuria. We cannot tell whether it is deadlock or whether the Japanese are slowly making their way round behind the Russians. Fighting appears to go on with killings announced by each side to be satisfactory from its point of view, but nothing decisive happens. It is a weary, weary business, and a ruinous.

The internal state of Russia meanwhile grows steadily worse, but there, likewise, it is impossible to separate truth from falsehood. Twice, at least, the mutineers on board the *Potemkin* are declared to have been sent to the bottom with their ship, and it is also alleged that the crews of the other vessels of the Black Sea Fleet, at first supposed to be inclined to rebel, have been brought back to duty, but in the northern naval yards revolt appears to spread and likewise amongst the civil population all over the country. It is alleged, too, that the troops newly called up, reservists and others, are determined to join the movement over a constitution, and all the Tsar has been able to do is to appoint a reformer of a modified type, Mr. Shipoff, to be Minister of the Interior. No general assembly of representatives has been called together as yet; the State drifts,

and universal anarchy must be the result unless something approaching a miracle happens.

On Thursday night the promoters of the new Electric Monopoly Bill for the metropolis were able to carry the second reading in the House of Commons by a majority of 40 in a House of 356. The incident has a scandalous look about it, and it is openly alleged that at least prospective boodle was at the bottom of the support given to the measure by a number of prominent Liberals. Contracts are said to have been already assigned for coal, iron, and steel, and other materials likely to be required by the new monopoly, and in consequence of the chances of gain these offered Liberal members in numbers more than sufficient to carry the measure betrayed London. Well, it is one thing to get a Bill of this kind through the House and another to raise the enormous amount of capital which will be required to bring the scheme to completion. We hope, however, that sufficient resistance will be shown in committee to prevent the measure from passing this session, and by the time it comes up again London may have the protection of another and a better Parliament. It will be heavily its own fault if it has not.

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, did well to speak a word of caution to the market at the recent shareholders' meeting. In gentle words, but clearly enough, he warned all not to expect too much in the future either from the fur trade or from the general mercantile business of the company. In both directions it meets with a competition growing in force and effectiveness, one large French firm of furriers having gone into the Canadian North-West to stay. Also he pointed out that the amount of land which would fall to the company as their twentieth of the area of the fertile belt was by no means fixed yet. It would depend on the extent to which the Government might survey the whole area within a given date. Also he might have added that wails of distress from those already in the Canadian North-West are by no means so rare as the "bulls" of Hudson's Bay shares would have us believe.

Critical Index To New Investments.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF THE HAVANA AND REGLA WAREHOUSES, LIMITED.

This company dates back to 1898, and owns 245 miles of railway situated in the finest part of Cuba together with warehouses in the port of Havana. Further funds were required to pay for certain interests in neighbouring lines, the acquisition of new rolling stock and appliances, &c., and an issue of £500,000 five per cent. cumulative preference stock was made. Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. subscribed for the full amount, paying in cash at 101½ per cent., and offered it this week to holders of existing ordinary and debenture stocks at the price of 105 per cent. Net receipts of the property during the three years ending June 30 were £165,122, £224,608, and £300,137, or an average of £229,955 per annum, of which debenture interest would take £100,000, and as only £25,000 is required for dividend on the present issue the balance, after meeting this fixed charge, would cover the preference dividend more than five times. Cuba is doing wonderfully well at present, and its future seems bright, so that this stock should prove a fair investment.

COPPER CLIFF MINES OF MONTANA, LIMITED.

A group of seven claims and four fractions making in all about 140 acres in Powell County, Montana, U.S., is acquired by this company from a syndicate for £15,000 in cash and £135,000 in ordinary shares. The total capital is £200,000 in £1 shares, and the balance of 65,000 were offered for subscription in the form of "A" shares entitled to dividends aggregating 100 per cent. before the vendors' shares can receive a penny piece. On the surface this would seem to be a fair sporting offer, but we should like to know what the property

actually cost the syndicate and what its real value is. Five experts are said to have examined the property, but only one report is quoted, and in it the ore in sight is put at about 72,140 tons with an average assay value of 3.15 per cent. copper. This does not sound like wealth, and even the talk of increasing the average to 7 to 9 per cent. by working the richer portions of the lode is not very convincing as to its being a paying proposition. It is, however, estimated that by spending £10,000 to £12,000 on development and £15,000 to £20,000 on plant the mine could be made to produce 150 tons of ore per day, and taking copper as worth £55 per ton a profit of £175 per day is worked out. The colouring of this picture seems to be overdone and naturally raises the question as to why if the property is so good it has been found necessary to come here for the capital? Yankee miners are not as a rule noted for letting really good things go past them.

NORTH SUSSEX GAS CO.

This company has been formed with a capital of £12,000 in £5 shares to undertake the supply of gas in sundry parishes in Sussex and proposes to acquire a freehold site near Billingshurst Station on the Brighton Line. An agreement has been entered into with the Finance and Construction Company for the construction of the works, mains, &c., and the payment of 5 per cent. per annum for a period of five years from September 29, 1905, on the 2,000 shares forming the present issue in return for £8,500. If the gas works are really needed, the whole amount is so small that it might surely have been raised locally.

THE NORTHERN COUNTIES ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED.

An issue of £100,000 in 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock at par is announced by this company. It has a share capital of £200,000 in £1 shares of which 4,000 have been issued fully paid, besides 31,463, having 17s. per share called up, and 14,537, with 9s. called up. This leaves 50,000 shares still to issue. The company has been in existence since November, 1900, and was started to carry out electrical undertakings under provisional orders in the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, and York. At present it is only at the beginning of the realisation of its enterprise, but the progress last year was important, and the quantity of electricity supplied in the first six months of this year was 140 per cent. greater than in the same half of 1904. At this rate of progress the board reckons on a sale of 12,000,000 units in 1907, but a good deal less will apparently give enough security for this debenture stock. It, therefore, seems a moderate industrial risk.

BRISTOL CORPORATION THREE AND A-HALF PER CENT. REDEEMABLE STOCK.

An issue of £755,000 of this stock is made at par by the Union of London and Smiths, Stuckey's, and Robarts, Lubbock and Co.'s Banks. The money is to be applied as to £605,000 to the new dock undertaking at Avonmouth and other dock works, and as to the balance of £145,000 for the purposes of the Corporation as a municipal, educational, and urban sanitary authority. The stock will be redeemed at par on July 10, 1965, but redemption may be hastened at the option of the Corporation on and after the same date in 1925, on three months' notice given. It is stated in the prospectus that the rateable value of the city is £1,751,313, and is steadily increasing, the estimated population being 360,000. And the debt also increases, its total now being about £6,250,000, including this new loan. Bristol is popular though with the London market, and in spite of the absence of an underwriting fee the stock will go off—slowly, perhaps, but it will go.

THE HORDEN COLLIERIES, LIMITED.

An issue of £300,000 5 per cent. first debenture stock is announced by this company, whose authorised share capital is £600,000, of which two-thirds

has been issued and paid up. Par is asked for the debenture stock, but £181,550 of the issue has already been allotted to underwriters or their nominees, leaving only £118,450 to be taken up by the public. The security appears to be extensive and valuable, consisting as it does of about 16,000 acres of leasehold coal royalties and over 2,000 acres of freehold coal in the county of Durham, estimated to contain over 150,000,000 tons of coal capable of being worked. When the money now being raised is spent, no less than £604,000 will have been sunk upon the property, and we can only hope that the investment will prove satisfactory to all concerned.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The board of this company offers 248,000 new shares for subscription, as authorised by the general meeting held on May 18 last. They are £5 shares, and are offered at par, ranking for dividend from January 1, 1906. Every existing shareholder can apply for one new for every old share held.

WARING AND GILLOW, LIMITED.

This large company, whose issued share capital is already £1,505,000, now offers at par further capital in the shape of £300,000 4½ per cent. irredeemable mortgage debenture stock, and 145,000 7 per cent. cumulative ordinary shares of £1 each, the whole to be paid up by September 15 next, as set forth in the prospectus. With these amounts added, the total share capital involved in this vast business will mount up to £1,650,000, composed of £500,000 in 6 per cent. cumulative preference, £600,000 in 7 per cent. cumulative ordinary, and £550,000 in deferred ordinary shares. Over and above all this there is a debenture debt which the additional £300,000 now announced will bring up to a round million, making the entire capitalisation involved £2,650,000. There is no other business of the kind in this country; none, perhaps, in the world that can compare with figures like these, and we sincerely trust the high hopes of the future expressed by the chairman at the meeting will be fulfilled.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

CROYDON GAS.—£15,000 4 per cent. perpetual debenture stock will be sold by auction on the 11th inst.

EAST SURREY WATER.—Tenders will be received up to July 28 for 1,000 ordinary shares of £10 each.

ISLE OF WIGHT ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY.—An issue of £25,000 4½ per cent. first debenture stock is offered for subscription at par. This amount is in addition to the £50,000 existing, and is redeemable at par on July 2, 1938, or earlier at 105 per cent.

LONDON, CHATHAM AND DISTRICT RAILWAY.—Stockholders are offered £250,000 3½ per cent. debenture stock, forming part of an authorised total of £1,250,000, at the price of 96 per cent., payable 10 per cent. on application, and 86 per cent. on July 14.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE AND GATESHEAD GAS COMPANY.—Tenders will be received on July 31 for £60,000 ordinary stock.

SOUTHAMPTON GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY.—Tenders will be received on the 17th inst. for £11,300 5 per cent. ordinary stock at a minimum price of 111 per cent.

UNITED RIVER PLATE TELEPHONE COMPANY.—An issue of £50,000 in ordinary shares will be offered at par to ordinary shareholders.

WASSAU (GOLD COAST) MINING COMPANY.—Shareholders were offered 35,000 new shares at £1 10s. per share, payable 10s. on acceptance of allotment, 10s. on July 31, and 10s. on August 31.

ROBERTSBRIDGE, SALEHURST, AND HURST GREEN WATER AND GAS CO., LIMITED.—Applications at par will be received for 500 5 per cent. debentures of £10 each, redeemable at 10 per cent. premium at any time within seven years from allotment, and for 1,000 6 per cent. preference shares and 400 ordinary shares of £5 each. With the increase, the total share capital will be £17,000, divided into 2,200 preference and 1,200 ordinary shares, of which only 770 preference and 479 ordinary shares have been issued, so that it is quite a tiny affair.

The *Strand*, the *Sunday Strand*, and the *Grand* each in its own particular way continues to do its best to be entertaining. And a very good best it is with a judicious blending of the serious and the gay, not to mention the sentimental for which, perhaps, the *Sunday Strand* takes the palm. In the *Strand* Father Gapon commences the story of his life and experiences, a story that promises to prove very interesting, and the Irish R. M. continues the account of his. Needless to say both are profusely and well illustrated, while the *Grand* succeeds, without any such advantages, in being interesting and amusing.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended June 21, \$2,852.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 26, \$14,187, decrease \$1,922; aggregate from January 1, \$380,450, increase \$89,617.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 3, Rs. 49,270, increase Rs. 3,709; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 12,89,142, increase Rs. 1,72,388.

Bengal Central.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 10, Rs. 23,504; increase, Rs. 4,119; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 5,76,257, decrease Rs. 1,647.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 30, \$131,800, increase \$34,600; total from July 1, \$3,871,800, increase \$747,000.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 3, Rs. 28,298, decrease Rs. 3,993; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,58,020, decrease Rs. 84,460.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 10, £458, increase £57.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of June, \$18,460, increase \$550; aggregate from January 1, \$335,063, increase \$7,096.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 3, Rs. 11,844, decrease Rs. 919; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 2,43,195, increase Rs. 15,145.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended June 30 amounted to \$80,470.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for 5 days ending June 30, £1,507, increase £530; aggregate from January 1, £31,225, increase £3,843.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending June 30, £779, increase £112; aggregate from January 1, £19,065, decrease £1,264.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for April, £4,203, decrease £299.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending July 1, £243, decrease £124; aggregate from January 1, £9,944, decrease £764.

Liverpool Overhead.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 25, £1,602, decrease £119; aggregate from January 1, £39,453, decrease £1,767.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 30, £1,356, increase £491; aggregate from January 1, £31,999, increase £9,827.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for two days ending July 2, £6, decrease £4; aggregate from July 1, £6, decrease £4.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 30, £6,044, increase £660; aggregate from January 1, £125,090, decrease £25.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending June 23, £27,237, increase £1,222; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £620,874, increase £53,622; 424½ miles, against 414½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, £1,149, increase £36; aggregate from January 1, £27,517, increase £2,648.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for two days ending July 2, £55, decrease £34; aggregate from July 1, £55, increase £34.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 30, £178, decrease £8; aggregate from January 1, £2,989, increase £16.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 30, £5,934, increase £311; aggregate from January 1, £125,379, increase £2,369.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, £5,485, increase £508; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £122,594, increase £9,937.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 30, £325, increase £25; aggregate from January 1, £6,526, decrease £315.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, £907, decrease £83; aggregate from October 1, £14,700, decrease £652.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £16,103, increase £2,703; aggregate from April 1, £178,109, increase £36,521. Miles 47 against 39.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, £27,516, decrease £380; aggregate from January 1, £610,658, increase £119.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, £9,393, increase £128.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 30, £198, increase £14; aggregate from January 1, £4,986, increase £403.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, £12,545, increase £656; aggregate from January 1, £345,702, increase £23,030.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, £2,594, increase £294; aggregate from January 1, £54,667, increase £7,573.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, £326, increase £45; aggregate from January 1, £7,777, increase £1,085.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to May 31, \$831,422, increase \$86,027. Net earnings from July 1 to May 31, \$302,842, increase \$39,289.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £15,277.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 3, \$41,687, decrease \$4,465; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$25,742.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, Rs. 40,976, increase Rs. 7,085; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 10,34,476, increase Rs. 1,31,237.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of June, £3,177, increase £1,115. Total to June 30, £22,016, increase £2,075.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, \$355,213; aggregate from January 1, \$1,389,516. Net traffic receipts, \$184,404; aggregate from January 1, \$700,347.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	% of 1904.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	% of 1904.
Brecon and Merthyr	July 2	£ 2,038	—	24	50,144	+	406
Cambrian	" 2	6,194	—	290	1,055	—	45
Central London	" 1	6,530	+	54	179,900	+	1,676
City and South London	" 2	2,406	—	105	27	—	3,939
Furness	" 2	10,251	+	594	232,004	+	6,067
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 2	69,069	+	3,744	1,706,809	+	92,208
Great Eastern	" 2	103,900	—	6,500	2,461,200	—	74,400
Great Northern and City	" 1	1,473	+	544	40,677	—	—
Great Northern	" 1	107,400	—	5,506	2,686,612	—	86,972
Great Western	" 2	244,200	+	5,900	5,739,600	+	300
Hull and Barnsley	" 2	9,713	+	330	225,870	+	1,357
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 2	110,322	+	2,707	2,663,410	+	65,045
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 1	75,150	+	1,878	1,499,080	—	16,334
London & North Western	" 2	288,000	+	1,000	6,754,000	—	88,000
London & South Western	" 2	101,700	+	2,500	2,250,500	+	25,600
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 2	11,051	—	63	217,825	+	892
Metropolitan	" 2	18,107	—	690	454,581	—	2,647
Metropolitan District	" 2	7,479	—	113	193,474	—	6,649
Midland	" 1	215,703	—	1,444	5,511,651	—	3,000
North Eastern	" 1	191,028	+	6,277	4,347,527	—	56,741
North London	" 2	8,555	—	349	230,249	—	14,684
North Staffordshire	" 2	16,959	—	22	442,621	—	9,759
Rhymney	" 2	5,720	—	216	152,304	—	674
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 1	96,440	—	4,666	—	—	—
Taff Vale	" 2	19,068	—	653	473,288	—	1,50

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	July 2	93,730	—	1,210	1,819,786	+	12,158
Glasgow & South-Western	" 1	41,217	—	1,038	714,823	—	12,354
Great North of Scotland	" 1	10,670	—	232	193,825	—	5,796
Highland	" 2	10,958	—	907	195,556	—	6,097
North British	" 2	97,336	+	794	1,910,173	+	5,693

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	June 30	4,032	+	796	70,564	+	2,147
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 30	1,842	+	703	41,936	+	254
Great Northern	" 30	21,430	+	479	454,406	—	534
Midland Great Western	" 30	13,831	—	2,370	281,758	—	5,881

From Jan. 1 to date.

PELICAN & BRITISH EMPIRE

LIFE OFFICE.

A.D. 1797.

70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Total Assets exceed - £5,100,000.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $2\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent. on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

We have had an easy short credit market all the week, but it is less so at the end than at the beginning. Even before the dividends came out on Wednesday there was plenty of short banking credits about, and after the British and Indian Government moneys had been disbursed something like a surfeit of money seeking employment arose. Call loans went down to 1 per cent., and did not rise above $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Gradually, however, the repayments due at the Bank told upon this excessive supply, and to-day there was frequently quite a struggle for call loans, so that borrowers bid up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for them. Enormous repayments fell to be made at the Bank, and as there is still a fair amount due there next Monday, it is not unlikely that we shall find the market, if anything, short of means, rather than otherwise before the end of the month. The India Council was calling in throughout the early part of the week, but has been renewing these last two days at $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for a month.

Before money became cheap, as just described, discount rates were weak, and we may call the rate $1\frac{1}{4}$ — $1\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. for remitted bills of all dates up to and including four months. Some discount houses bravely call the four months' rate $1\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., but business has been done in six months' bills at 2 per cent., and we are assured that threes and fours have been easy enough to place at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. These would be special bills, of course, still, that is the most general working rate, although the brokers say the market is firm throughout. Joint-stock banks have been buying mixed parcels of August and September bills from the brokers at $1\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. One bank, however, is said to be sitting upon its balances. Very little has been done in bullion all week. The Bank of England has got nothing except a parcel of sovereigns from Egypt, all the bars in the open market having been taken for Paris, with the probability in the present depressed state of the French cheque that next week's small supply of £300,000 or so will likewise go thither, notwithstanding continued shipments of the metal from New York. There are, however, 1,000,000 sovereigns coming to us from India, part of the proceeds of the questionable finance represented by a debasement of the Indian currency, and meanwhile the Bank is not particularly weak in any sense. The reserve did fall off £1,166,000 last week, but it is still £26,200,000, and the decline was incidental to the end of the month payments. For the present, moreover, the market is strong in other deposits, the total on Wednesday night being £49,955,000, but this will gradually dwindle as the debt to the Bank is paid off, unless the Treasury and Government spending departments pay out freely to recoup to the market part of what it loses by paying off its temporary borrowings. The Government itself seems to have had to borrow a little, after all, at the end of the quarter, since Government securities show an advance of £581,000.

Will the Money market remain easy? Yes, we think so, unless an explosion in some important credit distilling machine or other working at high pressure upsets all calculations.

SILVER.

Dealing in this market has been very restricted throughout the week, neither buyers nor sellers show-

ing much disposition to trade. Under the influence of moderate covering by "shorts" prices were early lifted to 27 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for cash and 26 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for future positions, but this demand was soon satisfied, and the higher figures bringing out sellers, quotations slipped back to 27d. and 26 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. respectively, forward metal being specially dull. A little Eastern support prevented any further decline, and the close was quietly steady. For the Rs. 40,00,000 Council drafts on India, offered on Wednesday, the applications amounted to Rs. 3,64,15,000 in bills and Rs. 20,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. All but Rs. 1,94,000, which were allotted in transfers, were sold in bills, tenders at 1s. 4d. per rupee receiving about 9 per cent., transfer applications at 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee obtaining a similar percentage. Next week another Rs. 40,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, July 5, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 55,123,720	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	36,673,720
		Silver Bullion	—
	£ 55,123,720		£ 55,123,720

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 16,752,444
Reserve	3,342,904	Other Securities	36,374,819
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	11,361,171	Notes	24,412,445
Other Deposits	49,955,542	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,788,063
Seven Day and other Bills ..	91,147		
	£ 79,327,771		£ 79,327,771

Dated July 6, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. July 6.		June 28, 1905.	July 5, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,379,562	Rest	3,136,403	3,342,904	206,501	—
7,016,247	Pub. Deposits ..	14,455,952	11,361,171	—	3,094,781
42,355,262	Other do. ..	44,697,510	49,955,542	5,258,032	—
115,351	7 Day Bills ..	91,147	115,154	24,007	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
16,993,766	Gov. Securities ..	16,171,319	16,752,444	—	581,125
28,009,300	Other do. ..	33,395,641	36,374,819	—	2,979,178
23,406,356	Total Reserve ..	27,367,052	26,200,508	1,166,544	—
				6,655,084	6,655,084
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
29,319,825	Note Circulation ..	30,131,730	30,711,275	579,545	—
34,276,181	Coin and Bullion ..	39,048,782	38,461,783	—	586,999
46 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	Proportion ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	42 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	—	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
3 ..	Bank Rate ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$..	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £292,000 in.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.			WITHDRAWALS.		
	£			£	
Tuesday, Egypt	300,000		Nil.		
			Total Influx	300,000	
TOTAL	£ 300,000		TOTAL	£ 300,000	

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
Week ending				
May 3	263,265,000	246,483,000	16,782,000	—
" 10	210,041,000	194,626,000	15,415,000	—
" 17	269,214,000	230,772,000	38,442,000	—
" 24	189,198,000	153,970,000	35,228,000	—
" 31	246,087,000	247,297,000	—	1,210,000
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
	6,433,237,000	5,471,148,000	962,089,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended June 30.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services .. 10,000
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties .. 233,000	Charges 81,089
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty .. 47,000	tion
Post Office	Supply Services 5,668,900
Telegraphs	Bullion Advances
Crown Lands	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares .. 60,563	Advances for Interest on
Miscellaneous	Exchequer Bonds
Bullion advances repaid	Exchequer Bonds
Uganda Railway	Uganda Railway
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Military Works
count	Naval Works
Telegraph Acts	Telegraph Acts
Naval Works Acts	Land Registry (New Build-
Military Works Acts	ings)
Land Registry Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin)	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Ways and Means	Act
Deficiency	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Suez Canal Drawn Shares	in reduction of debt
Issue of Exchequer Bonds .. 30,000	Cunard Agreement
Transvaal and Orange River	Deficiency Advances re-
Colony. Repayment of	paid
Temporary Advance	Ways and Means Advances
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	repaid
tion payments	Increase in Exchequer
Decrease in Exchequer	balances
balances	
£5,759,989	£5,759,98

* Exclusive of £10,899 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £1,864,568.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15	25'13	Antwerp	short	25'21	25'20
Brussels	chqs.	25'20	25'19	Italy	short	25'14	25'13
Amsterdam	sight	12'08	12'07	Constantinople .. 3 mths	110'10	110'10	110'10
Berlin	chqs.	20'47	20'47	B. Ayres gd pm	127'27	127'27	127'27
Do.	3 mths	20'35	20'36	Rio de Janeiro	168d.	168d.	168d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'46	20'46	Valparaiso	90 dys	153d.	153d.
Frankfort	short	20'45	20'45	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Vienna	sight	24'04	24'04	Bombay	T.T.	1/4	1/4
St. Petersburg .. 3 mths	94'25	94'35	94'35	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/10	1/10
New York	60 dys	4'85	4'85	Shanghai	T.T.	2/7	2/7
Lisbon	sight	49	48	Singapore	4 mths	1/11	1/11
Madrid	sight	33'22	33'17	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0	2/0

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2 1/2
Berlin	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2
Hamburg	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2
Frankfort	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2
Amsterdam	2 1/2	March, 1905	2 1/2
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2 1/2
Vienna	3 1/2	February 3, 1902	3 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	3 1/2
St. Petersburg .. 5 1/2	5 1/2	February, 1904	3 1/2
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	3 1/2
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	3 1/2
Stockholm	4 1/2	February, 1905	5
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4
Calcutta	4	April 27, 1905	4
Bombay	4	July 6, 1905	—
New York call money .. 3	3	—	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	July 30	2 9 6
1,800,000	6 months	Aug. 13	2 6 1
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27	2 2 10
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4 1/2
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
11,200,000	—	1906	—
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
19,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 6, 1905.	June 29, 1905.	June 22, 1905.	July 7, 1904.
Gold in hand	£115,584,200	£115,353,840	£115,305,520	£110,249,920
Silver in hand	44,469,880	44,415,440	44,497,640	45,245,680
Bills discounted	22,958,400	25,170,080	19,305,480	22,122,000
Advances	20,540,240	19,132,560	19,197,760	21,222,840
Note circulation	176,140,520	174,327,160	170,769,040	169,631,320
Public deposits	8,024,440	11,170,320	10,938,240	7,406,200
Private deposits	2,614,608	26,440,200	23,501,400	26,803,360

Proportion between bullion and circulation 90½ per cent., against 91½ per cent. a week ago.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	June 30, 1905.	June 23, 1905.	June 15, 1905.	June 30, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£46,847,791	£47,457,625	£47,785,250	£47,212,375
Silver reserve	13,073,125	13,128,750	13,078,958	12,906,458
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,868,125	1,727,500	1,728,708	1,714,833
Note circulation	67,688,166	68,861,708	63,274,291	69,002,333
Bills discounted	13,718,875	10,200,500	10,280,916	12,727,125

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	July 1, 1905.	June 24, 1905.	June 17, 1905.	July 2, 1904.
Specie	£42,948,000	£42,874,000	£41,172,000	£47,874,000
Legal tenders	17,685,000	17,484,600	17,284,600	16,996,200
Loans and discounts	224,180,000	220,560,000	220,980,000	215,000,000
Circulation	9,707,400	9,612,200	9,471,800	7,842,000
Net deposits	233,200,000	229,360,000	228,060,000	230,600,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,333,000 against an excess last week of £3,018,600.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	June 30, 1905.	June 23, 1905.	June 15, 1905.	June 30, 1904.
Cash in hand	£47,539,550	£54,350,950	£54,738,300	£43,502,400
Bills discounted	56,770,050	44,062,600	42,463,800	47,543,000
Advances on stocks	9,149,360	3,397,400	3,667,300	7,801,500
Note circulation	77,740,100	62,895,000	61,390,850	73,892,600
Public deposits	28,955,050	33,139,700	33,003,400	26,987,650

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 1, 1905.	June 24, 1905.	June 17, 1905.	July 2, 1904.
Gold	£14,838,920	£14,833,123	£14,833,874	£14,712,850
Silver	22,481,238	22,389,600	22,238,954	20,510,533
Foreign Bills	1,744,978	1,697,730	1,685,662	1,810,418
Discount and Short Bills ..	46,283,832	46,098,370	46,078,604	38,533,722
Treasury Account	21,268,303	21,251,948	21,204,042	21,995,811
Notes in circulation	62,427,767	62,251,102	62,337,131	64,811,527
Current Account deposits ..	26,603,594	22,764,022	22,703,898	25,837,319
Dividends Interests	3,796,499	1,910,094	1,848,774	3,455,917
Government Securities	4,627,114	4,779,624	4,749,590	4,135,268

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 10, 1905.	May 31, 1905.	May 20, 1905.	June 10, 1904.
Reserve	£25,956,120	£25,980,044	£26,083,320	£26,102,040
State notes and small change ..	653,520	617,680	690,040	900,200
Discount and loans	10,953,200	11,156,400	10,427,160	10,026,600
Public stock and State loans ..	8,376,280	8,409,240	9,072,480	8,395,480
Credits	6,388,320	6,495,600	6,065,360	5,485,080
Note Circulation	34,217,280	34,336,240	33,597,000	31,913,760
Current account	3,804,400	4,254,840	3,820,600	3,963,360
Deposits	2,679,800	2,648,800	3,139,640	3,411,480

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	June 29, 1905.	June 22, 1905.	June 15, 1905.	June 30, 1904.
Coin and bullion	£4,729,320	£4,837,000	£4,804,480	£4,458,520
Other securities	23,738,920	23,173,640	22,611,000	22,148,960
Note circulation	26,986,680	25,789,120	26,235,840	25,716,920
Deposits	3,442,040	3,957,840	2,887,320	2,862,200

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 1/14 1905.	May 23, June 5, 1905.	May 16/29, 1905.	June 1/14, 1904.
Gold	£94,539,435	£90,900,879	£91,147,369	£82,188,769
Silver and subsidiary coin	6,290,233	6,349,401	6,373,438	8,230,864
Advances and bills discounted	36,262,276	36,029,170	36,421,691	40,548,436
Securities belonging to the Bank	5,894,161	5,942,075	5,456,449	4,224,385
Notes in circulation	90,556,902	90,350,218	90,360,002	67,068,809
Deposits and current account	49,466,091	48,046,626	46,221,562	48,280,816
Treasury account	8,951,316	13,934,642	11,495,985	28,142,422

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	June 27.	June 29.	July 4.	July
Amsterdam and Rotterdam ..	short	12'1 1/2	12'1 1/2	12'1 1/2	12'1 1/2
Do.	3 months	12'3 1/2	12'3 1/2	12'3 1/2	12'3 1/2
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'3 1/2	25'3 1/2	25'3 1/2	25'3 1/2
Hamburg	3 months	20'6	20'6	20'6	20'6
Berlin & German B. Places ..	3 months	20'6	20'6	20'6	20'6
Paris	cheques	25'14 1/2	25'14 1/2	25'14 1/2	25'14 1/2
Do.	3 months	25'3 1/2	25'3 1/2	25'3 1/2	25'3 1/2
Marseilles	3 months	25'3 1/2	25'3 1/2	25'3 1/2	25'3 1/2
Switzerland	3 months	25'4 1/2	25'4 1/2	25'4 1/2	25'4 1/2
Austria	3 months	24'26	24'26	24'26	24'26
St. Petersburg	3 months	24'1 1/2	24'1 1/2	24'1 1/2	24'1 1/2
Moscow	3 months	24'1 1/2	24'1 1/2	24'1 1/2	24'1 1/2
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'4 1/2	25'4 1/2	25'4 1/2	25'4 1/2
New York	60 days	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ..	3 months	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2
Lisbon	3 months	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Oporto	3 months	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Christiania	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Stockholm	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	12-12½
Three months	12-12½
Four months	12-12½
Six months	2-2½
Three months fine inland bills	2½-2½
Four months	2½-2½
Six months	2½-2½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	2½
" " short loan rates	3
Bankers' rate on deposits	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	1½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	1½
Current rates for 7 day loans	1½-1½
" for call loans	1-1½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

The number of people, members of the Stock Exchange and others in the City, who now curse the South African market and heartily wish it had never been created is sensibly on the increase. Gradually it seems to be borne in on the minds of Stock Exchange men that the gold furore of a decade ago has demoralised business in many directions and tempted to their loss not merely individuals of various degrees of wealth or none, but joint-stock banks and other large wielders of credit into forms of speculation they formerly would never have dreamt of touching. Perhaps if the South African magnates were really able to create a lively market in the wares they have brought into existence in such countless numbers, and to keep prices rising for a space of three or four weeks this mood of anathema might pass by. This, however, they are unable to do, and it is because of the crippled state of some, at least, amongst these houses, as evidenced by the extent to which their resources are locked up in sustaining the market, that we keep telling people it is better to sell than to hold. There must come a liquidation of the rotten finance whose roots date back to the early years of the past decade, and when the day of retribution arrives the good shares will go down with the bad. Why therefore should the public stay and be victimised still further? There are no dividends coming forward in sufficient amount to compensate one holder in a thousand amongst those caught in the vortex of this gold gamble for the mere interest they pay and have lost through their holdings, let alone the loss caused by the shrinkage in prices.

This week has again been an unpleasant one on the Stock Exchange, in spite of a revival of investment business such as always comes after the quarterly dividends are disbursed. No renewal of speculation has been felt, only a great deal of liquidation, partly forced, partly voluntary in some directions besides the Kaffir Circus. People, for instance, have been driven to sell Home Railway stocks, either to reduce their stale accounts open for the rise and to clear their feet so as to cope with losses in other directions, or simply because they are tired out. The predicted boom that was to make every "bull" happy in the Home Railway market, of which we heard so much six or eight months ago, or even less, has never come off, and we cannot see how it possibly can come off if attention is paid to the one dominating fact that our railway companies are continually and heavily adding to their capital accounts and thereby undermining the position of the holders of the common stock.

But all is happy in the Yankee market we are assured, and prices are going bounding up there to an extent we poor plodding earth worms cannot conceive. Did not the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway talk of \$300 or \$400—or was it \$500?—as the real intrinsic worth of the \$100 share capital, much of which was originally allotted to Lords Strathcona and Mountstephen with their friends at 75 per cent. discount, and are not all the bosses on Wall Street united to sustain the market so as to pave the way for further issues of bonds and other papers calculated to draw in the dollars? Probably; it may be all true enough, and the prophets are doubtless as sincere as men "on the make" usually are, but the market is not one we should care to trust any money to, outside the fairly secured classes of bonds, and if the British public con-

tinues to stand aloof from the Wall Street gamble, the day cannot be very far off when it will have good cause to rejoice over its self-denial.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The tendency of markets at the start was rather more encouraging, professional operators making a brave effort to put a better complexion on affairs, but the public gave no encouragement to the movement, and prices soon began to crumble away once more. The continued weakness in the Kaffir Circus was said to be the principal cause of the all-round flatness, operators there being obliged to throw over good class securities in order to meet differences at the coming settlement, which is expected to prove an anxious one. There may be something in this explanation, but the troubles are really of very long standing, as we have so often said, and good, solid markets are impossible until this concealed rottenness has been brought to the surface and cleared away. International politics had no influence one way or another, neither Russian nor Franco-German affairs really

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
91½	87½	—	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	90½	90½
91½	87½	90	Do. Account (August 3)	90½	90½
90½	86½	88½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905	89	89½
100½	99½	—	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905	100½	100½
95½	89	92½	Irish Land (2½)	92½	92½
101	96½	99½	Local Loans (3)	100	100
99½	97½	—	National War Loan (2½ p.c.)	98½	99
99½	97½	98½	Do. Account (August 3)	98½	99
101½	98½	99½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	99½	100
308	297	—	Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.)	301½	301½
109	105	105½	India 3½ p.c. Stck. red. 1931	105½	105½
99½	95	97½	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1948	97½	97½
85½	80½	81½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stck. red. 1926	83	82
66½	65½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper	65½	65½

coming under discussion, and such was the universal misery that the flow of dividend money into the investment section, and promises of a comfortable money market for some time, had little influence in sustaining quotations. Monday was contango day in Consols, and everything was arranged with the greatest comfort, money being in ample supply at 2½-2½ per cent. The making-up price was 90, or just £1 less than at the previous settlement, but the quarterly dividend of ½ had been deducted in the meantime, so that the actual loss was only ¾. An effort was at once made to recover this, and early in the week business for cash was marked as high as 90½, but quotations soon began to settle down again and finish with little change. Other British Funds, however, managed to retain most of the improvement which occurred at the end of last week and the beginning of this, and gains of ¼ to ½ were visible in 2½ per cent. annuities, Irish Land stock, Khakis, Exchequer Bonds, Local Loans, Egyptian Guaranteed, Transvaal 3 per cent. and India 2½ per cent. Bank of Ireland stock exceptionally gave way 3. In the Home County and Corporation division some Birmingham, Brighton and Bristol loans were notably flat, the last on the issue of a new 3½ per cent. loan, but Metropolitan Water Board "B" and London County issues ended some fractions better.

In the Foreign bond market Japanese issues were somewhat depressed by the forthcoming new loan, which it is now tolerably certain will be for £30,000,000 in 4½ per cent. bonds, to rank equally with the latest 4½ per cent. It will probably be offered in equal amounts on the London, New York, and German markets at 90, the underwriting commission having been fixed at 2 per cent. On the news the older 4½ per cent. issue fell to under 2 premium, but the market is well supported just now, and no real weakness was allowed to develop. In other directions trading was exceedingly narrow, but most Continental things, such as Spanish, Turkish, French Rentes, Portuguese, German, and Italian, went up, and even Russians showed a sensible recovery. Greek issues alone failed to respond, showing pronounced dullness, but towards the last the tendency became a little un-

settled all round, and in one or two instances, particularly Russians, part of the early gain was lost. Chinese things went up when they moved, and leading South Americans were quite steady, but amongst Central American issues Costa Ricas and Guatemalans were flat, while Colombians recovered rapidly from a bad start, and Honduras bonds were again better. Peruvian Corporation issues benefited from a good traffic, but closed rather dull.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 1/2	100 1/2	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103 1/2	101xd
102 1/2	97 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101 1/2	99 1/2xd
106 1/2	101	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	102 1/2	101xd
104 1/2	98 1/2	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	103 1/2	101 1/2xd
93 1/2	85 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	92 1/2	90 1/2xd
89 1/2	85 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89 1/2	89
90 1/2	85 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89 1/2	89
104	99 1/2	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101 1/2	102
89 1/2	82 1/2	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	86 1/2	86 1/2
99 1/2	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	96 1/2	97
105 1/2	101 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	105 1/2	104 1/2xd
88 1/2	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	87 1/2	85 1/2xd
101	93 1/2	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	100 1/2	101
94 1/2	87 1/2	Chilian 4 1/2 p.c. 1889 ..	94 1/2	94xd
95 1/2	89 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1886 ..	91 1/2	94 1/2xd
96	88 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1895 ..	91	93
101 1/2	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	100xd
92 1/2	91 1/2	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	94	94
106 1/2	103 1/2	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106 1/2	104 1/2xd
105 1/2	100 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	102 1/2	103
98 1/2	92 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1898, Gold ..	97 1/2	98
102 1/2	97 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	102 1/2	103
59 1/2	28 1/2	Costa Rica A ..	58	56
51 1/2	24 1/2	Do. B ..	50	46
44 1/2	26 1/2	Colombian External ..	44 1/2	43
108 1/2	104 1/2	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	107	107
107	104 1/2	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	105	105
103 1/2	99 1/2	Do. 3 1/2 p.c. pref. ..	101 1/2	101 1/2
106 1/2	102 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
91 1/2	88 1/2	German 3 p.c. ..	88 1/2	89
52 1/2	47	Greek, 1884 ..	52	50 1/2xd
54 1/2	48 1/2	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53 1/2	52 1/2xd
42 1/2	38 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41 1/2	41 1/2
52 1/2	47	Do. Funding ..	41 1/2	41 1/2
100 1/2	97	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	99 1/2	97xd
106 1/2	102 1/2	Italian 5 p.c. ..	105 1/2	104xd
101 1/2	88 1/2	Japan 5 p.c. ..	100	100
101 1/2	88 1/2	Do. New ..	99 1/2	100
89 1/2	76 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	89	87 1/2xd
106 1/2	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102 1/2	103 1/2
104 1/2	102 1/2	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104	103xd
70 1/2	64 1/2	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	68 1/2	67 1/2xd
91 1/2	86 1/2	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	88 1/2	87 1/2xd
79 1/2	76	Servian 4 p.c. ..	79 1/2	79 1/2
95 1/2	89 1/2	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	90 1/2	89 1/2xd
103	100	Turks 3 1/2 p.c. Tribute ..	101	101
105	100 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103 1/2	103 1/2
89 1/2	86 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	87 1/2	87 1/2
73	63 1/2	Uruguay 3 1/2 p.c. ..	69 1/2	69 1/2
94	80 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. ..	93 1/2	92 1/2xd
48 1/2	43	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	47	46 1/2

A little of the dividend money disbursed in the beginning of the month found its way into the Home Railway market, but it went mostly in the direction of the privileged issues, and business in the ordinary stocks was far from important. The influence of surrounding markets, however, was favourable, and prices

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	137	Brighton Ord. (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	140	139
165	152 1/2	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	159	160
131 1/2	119 1/2	Do. Def. (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	122	121 1/2
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3 1/2 p.c.) ..	113	113 1/2
83 1/2	77 1/2	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79 1/2	79 1/2
38 1/2	33 1/2	Do. Def. (3 p.c.) ..	35 1/2	34 1/2
94 1/2	91	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	92
86 1/2	79 1/2	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	79 1/2	79 1/2
179 1/2	152 1/2	Chatham Ordinary ..	158 1/2	158 1/2
47 1/2	39 1/2	City and South London (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	40	40
62	51	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	53	52
34 1/2	28 1/2	Great Central Pref. ..	31 1/2	31
108 1/2	100 1/2	Do. Def. ..	107 1/2	107 1/2
93 1/2	84 1/2	Great Eastern (3 1/2 p.c.) ..	86 1/2	84 1/2
108 1/2	100 1/2	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102 1/2	102
42 1/2	35	Do. Def. (1) ..	35 1/2	35
145 1/2	138 1/2	Great Western (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	140 1/2	139 1/2
55 1/2	52	Highland (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	54 1/2	54 1/2
49 1/2	44 1/2	Hull and Barnsley (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	46 1/2	46
112 1/2	106 1/2	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 1/2 p.c.) ..	108	107 1/2
98 1/2	92 1/2	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	93 1/2	93 1/2
42 1/2	36 1/2	Metropolitan District ..	39 1/2	38
71	65 1/2	Midland Pref. (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	68 1/2	68
70	63 1/2	Do. Def. (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	65	63 1/2
83 1/2	76 1/2	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79	79
49 1/2	43 1/2	Do. Def. (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	44 1/2	43 1/2
144 1/2	136 1/2	North-Eastern (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	137 1/2	136 1/2
160 1/2	149	North-Western (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	151	149 1/2
94 1/2	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	90	88
134	123	Do. Pref. (4 1/2 p.c.) ..	126	124
56 1/2	48 1/2	Do. Def. ..	55	53 1/2
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	165 1/2	163 1/2
111 1/2	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	109	108
60 1/2	52 1/2	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	57	56

at first crept up by fractions at a time, but the whole of the improvement and more was lost before the end of the week owing to sales by speculators in the Kaffir Circus, who had to realise in order to meet their losses there. South-Eastern issues, which enjoyed a brief spurt on a story that the Cunard intended to make Dover a port of departure, were amongst the first to suffer, and North-Western, Great Western, and South-Western stocks all ended substantially lower. The fiasco attending the opening of the line for electric traction depressed District stock but naturally had the opposite effect on Central London. Metropolitan, too, was heavy at one time on reports of friction with the District over the electrification question, but the story was promptly denied and the loss was wiped out. Scotch stocks met with a little support from Glasgow in the beginning of the week, only to fall back later.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95 1/2	80 1/2	Atchison Shares (4) ..	86 1/2	87 1/2
107 1/2	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	104 1/2xd	105 xd
101	102 1/2	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	117	116 1/2
99 1/2	99	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
101 1/2	97 1/2	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	55 1/2	55
101 1/2	173 1/2	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	182	184
93 1/2	91	Denver Shares ..	31	31 1/2
93 1/2	85 1/2	Do. Pref. (5) ..	89 1/2xd	89 1/2xd
93 1/2	85 1/2	Erie Shares ..	44 1/2	48
49 1/2	38 1/2	Do. Pref. (4) ..	83 1/2	84 1/2
85 1/2	77 1/2	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	71	71 1/2
174 1/2	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	171 1/2	171 1/2
158 1/2	140 1/2	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	154 1/2	152 1/2
34 1/2	24 1/2	Missouri and Texas ..	30 1/2	30 1/2
169 1/2	140 1/2	New York Central (5) ..	150 1/2	153
90 1/2	77 1/2	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	87	88 1/2
65 1/2	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	95	95
65 1/2	41 1/2	Ontario Shares ..	53 1/2	54 1/2
76 1/2	67 1/2	Pennsylvania (6) ..	72 1/2	73
51 1/2	40 1/2	Reading Shares ..	51 1/2	53 1/2
47 1/2	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47	47
46 1/2	43 1/2	Do. 2nd Pref. (3) ..	45	46 1/2
74	59 1/2	Southern Pacific ..	66 1/2	66 1/2
38 1/2	28 1/2	Southern ..	33 1/2	33 1/2
103	97 1/2	Do. Pref. (5) ..	100	100 1/2
140 1/2	116 1/2	Union Pacific (4) ..	131 1/2	132 1/2
102 1/2	98 1/2	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100 1/2	100 1/2
24 1/2	18 1/2	Wabash ..	20 1/2	20 1/2
49 1/2	37 1/2	Do. Pref. ..	42 1/2	42
86 1/2	69 1/2	Do. Income Debs. ..	77	76
139 1/2	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	155 1/2	156
108 1/2	102 1/2	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
111	108 1/2	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109
23 1/2	19 1/2	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	21 1/2	22 1/2
101 1/2	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	101	101 1/2
114 1/2	107 1/2	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	109	109 1/2
104 1/2	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	99	99 1/2
52 1/2	46 1/2	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	49 1/2	50 1/2
109 1/2	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108 1/2xd	108 1/2

Wall Street, of course, was closed on Tuesday for Independence Day and some ultra-patriotic members began their holiday in the end of last week, but in spite of their absence the support received from that quarter was sufficient, with a little help from dealings in con-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
188	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	180	188
240	144 1/2	Do. Def. (15) ..	230	240
114 1/2	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	111	111
125	113	Do. Pref. (5) ..	120	120
84 1/2	71	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	84	84
148 1/2	134 1/2	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	136	137 1/2
130 1/2	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	128 1/2	129
127 1/2	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	123	123
118 1/2	108 1/2	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118	118
109 1/2	99 1/2	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	106	107
111 1/2	101 1/2	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	105	105
108	93	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	93	93
168 1/2	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	165
108 1/2	103 1/2	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107 1/2	107
135 1/2	126 1/2	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	129	129 1/2
90	79	Central Uruguay (5) ..	81	81
106	101	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	101	101
88	91 1/2	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	91 1/2	91 1/2
70	60 1/2	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 1/2) ..	61 1/2	60 1/2
2 1/2	2 1/2	Costa Rica (1) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2
6 1/2	5 1/2	Cuban Central ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
112 1/2	101 1/2	Do. Pref. (5 1/2) ..	112 1/2	112 1/2
107 1/2	104 1/2	Do. (Deb. 4 1/2) ..	106	106
90 1/2	82	East Argentine (4 1/2) ..	82	82
6 1/2	5 1/2	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
6 1/2	5 1/2	Leopoldina (3) ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
96 1/2	80 1/2	Do. Deb. (4) ..	93 1/2xd	94xd
110 1/2	108 1/2	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	111	108xd
108	104 1/2	Do. "B" (6) ..	108	105xd
29 1/2	19 1/2	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	20 1/2	21 1/2
121 1/2	103 1/2	Do. 1st Pref. (5 1/2) ..	106 1/2	109
57	30 1/2	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	38 1/2	41
69 1/2	48 1/2	Mexican Southern (2 1/2) ..	50	50
14 1/2	10 1/2	Nitrate Ord. (5 1/2) ..	13 1/2	13 1/2
19 1/2	16 1/2	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	19
198	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	194	194
14 1/2	12 1/2	Western of Havana (9) ..	13 1/2	13 1/2

nection with options on this side, to send prices up. Much of the improvement, however, was so purely professional that while New York was busy with its fireworks there was no inducement to maintain quotations at the levels to which they had been hoisted, and they were allowed to slip away immediately the prop was withdrawn. On Wednesday the lever was again employed on selected things like Milwaukee, Norfolk, Reading, New York Central and Union Pacific, but the market was hollow and the announcement that £200,000 in gold had been engaged for shipment to Paris caused prices to crumble again in spite of the efforts of the big operators, and these, when they found the current too strong for them to contend with, also turned round and commenced unloading.

ment of dividends at the rate of 4 per cent. on the undivided ordinary and 8 per cent. on the deferred, but the eager buying was promptly resumed and further large gains were recorded. Leopoldina stock, too, has come very much to the front of late and Paraguay Central debenture stock was bought this week from the Continent, while a fresh bull movement has been inaugurated in the issues of the old Mexican Company. United Railways of the Havana stocks, too, remain in high favour although there has been some grumbling at the manner in which the directors have dealt with the new issue of preference stock. Argentine Railways, on the other hand, have gone out of fashion altogether and speculation in them has shrunk to very small proportions.

The stagnation in the Miscellaneous markets becomes daily more pronounced, and with an almost complete absence of support the smallest offerings of stock cause prices to crumble. London Docks deferred was extremely flat, as fears are expressed that the forthcoming half-yearly statement will be poor. The preferred, however, kept up, and nothing else moved in the Docks section. Shipping issues were unchanged or a trifle higher. Dealers did not altogether relish the chairman's speech at the Hudson's Bay meeting, as something more than a hint was dropped that the shares were quite high enough, and prices responded with a sharp fall. Chinese land and exploration shares were likewise heavy, but Argentine land issues attracted some attention and closed better. Textile things lost ground owing to the sharp rise in the price of cotton, and Catering shares were heavy, particularly Lyons and Spiers and Pond preference, the latter on the disastrous report. There is no end to the decline in Brewery issues, and a large number again fell away. Nitrates, after a steady opening, were disposed to dulness, but Russian oils had an improving tendency, with the exception of Russian Petroleum. Anglo-American and Great Northern issues were good in the Telegraph division, and Iron and Steel things kept steady.

Late Note on Friday Evening.

What may be the matter with the Kaffir Circus we cannot fathom, but it is in a very depressed condition. Market men tell us that the public is selling, tired out, disgusted, and that the dribble of orders to clear out is unceasing. No doubt in time this would force liquidation amongst some of the big propping institutions, and perhaps touch the stability of a bank or two, but we cannot discover that such extremities have been reached just yet. What the gossip does point to is rottenness in one or more of the second or third rate African finance structures. Dry rot which set in when the war began is bearing its inevitable fruit, and no one need be surprised if some of these houses succumb and pull down better concerns than they ever were along with them. All this, however, is still in the region of conjecture, and we can only report to-night that the market closed sick and flat in spite of a state of neutrality in Paris, and that the weakness extended to Consols. This rather points to some important financial institution compelled to jettison its good cargo in the effort to keep afloat. But we cannot be certain. The only thing we regret is that readers of this REVIEW did not promptly act on its advice long ago. It was disinterested advice, founded upon the most careful and impartial survey of market conditions it was possible for human minds to make. We have no interest one way or another in what may happen to the Kaffir market, and consequently had no motive to tell the public anything except the actual position as far as we were able to get it. We believe that condition must get worse before a chance of genuine improvement can arise, but it is almost too late now to tell the public to get away with what may be left of the moneys sunk in the morasses. It is for each man to judge for himself. Only please, good reader, do not curse us any more for having told you the truth always, for having warned you in good time. Some of you have done that freely, you know.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	20	21	Allsopp Ordinary	22	21
71	53½	—	City of London Ord.	54½	53½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	530	530
27½	24½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	25	24½
28½	28	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	28	28
37½	31½	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	38	38
68½	52½	56½	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	55½	55½
35	19	20	Do. Def. Ord. Stock (2) ..	20	20
105	100	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	101	101
78½	58	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	64	58
6½	5½	5½	Aerated Bread (30)	5½	5½
7½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
6½	5½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	6
1½	1½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
3½	2½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
6½	5	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5½	5½
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	10½	10½
5½	4½	5½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	5½	5½
502½	483½	495	Coats Ordinary (20)	51½	51½
1½	1½	1½	Do. Preference (20)	495	495
1½	1½	1½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (m)	1½	1½
8½	5½	5½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	11½	11½
13½	10½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (6) ..	5½	5½
4½	3½	3½	Henley's Telegraph (15)	12	12
1½	1½	26/6	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	11½	4
11½	106	110½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	11½	11½
1½	1½	20/3	Do. Debentures (1½)	110	108½
6½	5½	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	11½	11½
11½	11½	22/0	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	6½	5½
1½	1½	1	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	11½	11½
7½	5½	9/0	Russian Petroleum (5)	6	6
15	13½	10/6	Savoy Hotel (5)	6	6
1½	1½	18/3	Sweetmeat Automatic	11½	11½
104½	102½	104½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	14	14
77½	49½	69½	Wellsbach Ordinary Stock ..	11½	11½
48½	38½	42½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	11½	11½
108½	99½	103½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	104½	103½
98	88	—	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	70½	68½
11½	10½	7½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	43½	43½
8½	7½	11	Do. Debentures (6)	103½	103½
13	10½	11	National Discount (10)	97	97
104½	95½	—	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½
134½	126½	—	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	7½	7½
5½	3½	5½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11	11
147½	134½	142½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	99	98½
147½	134½	142½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	129	129
11½	11½	11½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	11½	11½
39½	26½	32½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	5½	3½
108½	93½	102½	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	11½	11½
28½	2½	28½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7)	11½	11½
147½	134½	142½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	9½	9½
247½	214½	—	United States Steel Ordinary ..	33	33½
32	28½	—	Do. Preference (7)	102½	103½
8½	8	—	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	28	28
109½	101½	105½	Cunard Steam	11½	11½
17½	10	15	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	224½	224½
147½	134½	142½	Royal Mail	30½	30
113½	100	102½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	8½	8½
147½	134½	142½	Ordinary (5)	8½	8½
102	98	9½	Anglo-American Telegraph—	106	107
129	110	—	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	15½	14½
102	98	—	Do. Def. Ord.	142½	145½
102	98	—	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	14	14
102	98	—	Eastern Extension (7)	103	103
102	98	—	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	13½	13½
102	98	—	Western Telegraph (7)	98	98
102	98	—	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	98	98
102	98	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	125½	125½
102	98	—	London General Omnibus (8)	98½	98½
102	98	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	98½	98½

Favourable crop reports induced Wall Street to seize upon Canadian Pacific shares as a useful screen with which to cover their sales in other directions, but they were promptly thrown over again when they had served their turn and the net gain on the week was consequently only fractional. Grand Trunk stocks, too, were firm at first, the decrease of £6,700 in the traffic return instead of the £15,000 expected having a favourable effect, but they followed Canadian Pacifics in finishing well below the best.

Antofagasta stocks continue to provide a somewhat sensational display and went rocketting up still further this week. They fell back a few points on the announce-

Jobbers in the securities of London electricity companies not only put the shares down to-day, but widened the margin between the buying and selling figures, thus marking their dread and disapproval of the "Trust" measure whose second reading passed the House of Commons last night.

The Board of Trade Returns.

These have reached us too late on Friday to be adequately dealt with this week. In summary, however, the leading facts may be given now. Imports for the month of June totalled £43,557,407, an increase of £360,623 on June, 1904, and of £2,261,857 on June, 1903. Exports of domestic produce came to £25,985,397, or £1,915,627 more than a year ago, and no less than £3,713,437 more than two years ago, and there was likewise an increase of £740,205 on June, 1904, in the reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise, the aggregate value of which was £6,399,164 last month. Adding these handsomely cheering figures to those of the preceding five months we get an aggregate of £273,131,516 as the value of the imports for the first half of the year, or £1,177,745 more than for the same half of 1904, and £12,601,627 more than in 1903. Exports of British and Irish produce totalled £155,706,221, an increase of £11,589,554 and £13,183,596 respectively over the first halves of 1904 and 1903. Also exports of foreign and colonial merchandise rose by £2,991,288 over the figure for the June half of 1904, to a total of £40,054,293, and the most satisfactory point about the record is that whereas the increase in imports was due mainly to raw materials, that in exports was due to manufactures. Moreover, the business appears to have been sound and to have brought no unbearable strain upon the credit institutions of the country at any point. This, at least, is what we should infer from the recorded movements of bullion, which show a net increase of £5,300,000 in the country's holding of the metals, or in the imports over exports for the six months. Both the cotton and woollen trades have done well, but especially cotton, and our iron, steel, and machinery trades are all flourishing. Adding together imports and exports of all descriptions we get the magnificent figure of £513,248,000 as the gross value of our trade out and in for the first half of this year.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The plight of the Kaffir Circus would almost provoke feelings of sympathy were it not perfectly natural and thoroughly well deserved. There is an old saying about fooling the people, and it seems to apply wonderfully to the South African market and its crowd of would-be riggers at the present time. The wire-pullers have evidently been just a little too smart; the game of heads I win tails you lose was played once too often, and outsiders have thrown up the business in disgust, leaving the shops with the profitable necessity of absorbing the little blocks of shares that come tumbling out in a never-ending stream lest the market break down altogether. It will do that one of these fine days; nothing is more certain, because facts cannot be for ever ignored, and the carrying capacity of the finance houses, to say nothing of the joint-stock banks, must have a limit. Why was the Barnato amalgamation launched at the present inauspicious moment? What is the fresh capital really required for? Is development work so very urgent, or must the market be supported at all costs? Anyone can answer these questions. In the beginning of the week the tendency seemed a bit better, notwithstanding the disappointment caused by the announcement that the dividends declared by the Rand mining companies during the first half of the present year were no more than £2,008,422. That is much the same as for the corresponding period of 1904, despite an advance of 40 per cent. in the tonnage milled and 30 per cent. in the gold output. Do not forget, though, the lower grade of ore and the fact that Chinkee is probably swallowing up a lot of the profit. Still there was alleged support from the Continent and the Cape, to say nothing of much shouting by punters here and by dint of much effort a few improvements of 6d. to 2s. 6d. were brought about. But even this modest rally was instantly taken advantage of by

poverty-stricken professionals, and when liquidation was resumed in connection with last week's defaults prices immediately flopped. Provincial selling heightened the misery, and although the "shops" were supposed to come to the rescue there is another long list of declines to be recorded for the week. Rhodesians naturally rattled down as well and Premiers provided a good deal of excitement in the diamond section. Month by month the average yield grows steadily and beautifully less, and when the June return came out, showing a recovery of only 50 carats per 100 loads against 64 carats in the previous month, the deferred shares were banged down to 12½. The recovery from that was rapid, but the market looks dangerous. How do those happy people feel who bought at £18 for the half-crown share? Other diamond shares, including De Beers, were tolerably steady and Laces even rose a few shillings.

There is little or nothing to say about other sections of the markets. West Australian things moved irregularly within the narrowest limits, there being no news to influence prices one way or the other. Egyptians were dull, with principal weakness in Nile Valleys and Block "E," and dealers in the Jungle market evidently forgot its existence. Rio Tinto Copper shares were given a smart lift, reacting slightly towards the end, and San Miguels were also better, but Tyees lost ground. Of other miscellaneous mines Indians were steady on the returns for June, Broken Hills kept dull, Briseis Tin were bought from the colony, and Eaglehawk relapsed sharply when the dividend was cancelled.

Only one dividend has been declared this week, as follows:—

	Dividend.	Issued Capital.	Amount.
	%	£	£
Glynn's Lydenburg ..	15.	167,352	25,103

CHINESE LABOUR.—The report of the executive committee of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines shows that the number of coolies in the employ of members on April 20 was 35,516, while the arrivals on the Rand for May aggregated 2,619, making 38,135 in all. On the other hand the deaths reached 69, so that the number at work on May 31 was 38,066. Others arriving in port during May have since been sent forward. The Lohian arrived at Durban on May 30 with 2,041 Chinkees, the Indravelli left Chinwangtao with 1,978 on May 13, and the Ibbal sailed on June 3 with 1,923. We hope the new arrivals will refrain from the use of bad language in English. Retrenchment being the order of the day on the Rand, the executive council of the Chamber is considering the question of an amalgamation of the native and Chinese labour associations in order to effect economies and greater efficiency in administration. Myes—the plan will prove useful in hiding up the enormous cost of procuring the Chinese slaves.

MORE BARNATO FINANCE.—What deep game are the Barnato people playing? Right on top of the announcement concerning the "Johnnies" and "Barneys" amalgamation comes the news that another big trust has been registered at Pretoria under the name of the Consolidated Exploration Syndicate, Limited, the capital being £950,000 in £1 shares. The principal assets acquired seem to be 325,000 Roodepoort Estate and Gold Mines shares, 25,000 new Rietfontein shares, 25,000 shares in the Swaziland Corporation, 25,000 shares in the Turf Mines, and 10,000 Knights' shares. With the exception of the last, all these interests are of very problematical value; the Roodepoort shares have no market quotation, while the worth of two large blocks of claims consisting of 183 claims on Vitvalfontein (Western Rand) and a one-half interest in 362 claims on Braamfontein (considerably north of the main reef formation) is just as uncertain. Yet in exchange for these share interests and presumably untouched properties, 650,000 shares are to be allotted, Messrs. Barnato subscribing for a further 100,000 at par to provide initial working capital, and having an option over the remaining 200,000 at 30s. each for three years. It is a nice little scheme, and we shall wait patiently to see at what price the promoters will attempt to market the 650,000 shares received as purchase consideration. Speculators, beware! Barnato finance has not made many fortunes so far.

TREASURY GOLD MINES.—This is one of the "Neumann" group of companies, and during the year ended March 31 milled 96,747 tons of ore for an extraction of 28,040 ozs., worth £118,071, and as 16,360 ozs. of the value of £68,767 were obtained from 96,368 tons treated by cyanide the total recovery was 44,400 ozs. valued at £186,838. Expenses of mining and development were £58,270, milling, crushing and sorting cost £23,511 and cyaniding £16,181, surface maintenance accounting for a further sum of £903 and miscellaneous charges for £4,960. Thus the net profit was £83,012, and with £9,029 brought forward and £1,276 received for interest, &c., the disposable balance is brought up to £93,318. From that two dividends of 6¼ per cent. each making 12½ per cent. for the year have been paid, 10 per cent. on the amount involved or £6,750 is placed to reserve, debenture interest is £1,620 and one or two other charges absorb £413, leaving £17,035 to be carried forward, subject to Government tax, say £7,000. Ore developed during the 12 months was 153,973 tons, being 37,100 tons above the quantity mined, so that the reserves have been increased from 328,500 tons to 365,600 or 292,480 tons after making an allowance of 20 per cent. for sorting out of waste rock. That seems all right, but unfortunately there is no cause for rejoicing, because the average value of the ore has decreased from 9.7 dwts. to 8.1 dwts. per ton, a very serious decline. This tendency towards lower values is present with nearly all South African mines and if the annual tonnage treated is to be increased in order that the output may be maintained the life of the mine must be correspondingly

shortened. Take note, too, that last year the average value of the ore milled was 10.47 dwts. per ton, making it appear that only the best stuff available was put through, and even this figure was slightly below that of the previous year. These are significant facts, though, to be fair, we may mention that the working costs have been lowered 6d. per ton, and also that since the end of the financial year there has been a marked improvement in the values on the main or south reef in the western block, where the property extends under the Jumpers Gold Mining Company. Moreover there is still a large portion of the property not prospected and it is possible that something may crop up to improve the prospects, but at the moment the outlook is by no means encouraging.

PEAK HILL GOLDFIELD, LIMITED.—This West Australian mining company, once so full of promise, has encountered evil times, and unhappy shareholders have this week received a very doleful report. Troubles, both administrative and financial, have been rife and we find that since the last general meeting four directors have retired from the board and a similar number of fresh men have been elected in their place. These changes, however, were in accord with known arrangements and require no comment at this point, so that we can at once pass to matters financial. Last year the directors made an earnest appeal to the shareholders to come to the company's relief by subscribing for an issue of debentures, but the response was poor and the guarantors were called upon to find practically the entire sum of £30,000 which they had agreed to underwrite. Nevertheless in a spirit of great generosity they allowed the company to keep any further subscriptions that came to hand instead of taking them in relief of their underwriting, so that altogether the company managed to get £40,881. It relieved the most pressing liabilities and practically saved the company from being sold up, but there are further debts still to be liquidated, and once more the directors urgently beg the shareholders to take up the outstanding balance of the debentures amounting to £9,119. The record of the past year's work will hardly encourage them to do so. Revenue from gold was £57,294 but the expenses swallowed all this and £6,358 besides, so that right away there is a loss of the latter sum. That is trifling, though, compared with what is to follow. By the time general and other expenses were met and interest provided on the debentures the deficiency had been raised to £10,559 and to add to the misery it has been decided that no less a sum than £81,720 must be written off against development and exploration expenses, plant, machinery, &c., and investment in Lake Way Goldfields, &c., bringing the total deficiency to £92,279. How is it to be met? Well, the premium account, that is, capital, will provide £50,450 and £6,539 was brought forward giving a total of £56,989, the remainder being carried forward against future profits. After such a story as this shareholders will not be surprised to learn that the past administration has been deplorable—scandalous would not be too harsh a term. When Messrs. Alexander Hill and Stuart took over the management in May, 1904, they found everything at the mine in a most disgraceful condition, not due, so far as we can judge, to neglect on the part of the previous manager but to the maladministration of the London board. The mine had been worked to a standstill, no ore reserves were possessed, development was impossible owing to the absence of mining timber and there was evidently grave danger of the whole mine collapsing. To such a pass had matters come that the then manager had in the previous April threatened resignation through fear of a charge of manslaughter should anything terrible happen. However, strenuous efforts on the part of the new managers have relieved immediate peril and there is some hope that the main shaft can be saved, although it is still a source of great anxiety. Moreover, in face of tremendous difficulties Messrs. Hill and Stuart succeeded in keeping the mill running and actually succeeded in earning a profit in December despite the fact that the ore in the mine was of much lower grade than it had formerly been made to appear. Profits, indeed, are still being gathered together, and the thanks of the shareholders are due to Messrs. Hill and Stuart not only for telling them the truth, but for preventing what might have been a terrible disaster. Summing up, it seems that the foundations of the machinery at the shaft mouth have been made good. The mill has been improved and the capacity of the stamps nearly doubled, while the yield of gold over the plates has been increased. In addition a considerable amount of exploration work has been done and much useful information obtained as to the nature and formation of the lodes. Profits are expected to continue and in the course of exploration work another rich chute of ore might be encountered which would give sufficient money for the exploration of the lower levels and the adequate development of the property. Those are the best hopes that can be held out to the shareholders, and while there is nothing particularly exhilarating, we think comfort can be taken from the fact that the affairs of the company are now in honest hands. What about the men who brought matters to such a pass? Oh, nothing. They have resigned, you know, leaving others to do the clearing up and, after all, this is only a comparatively minor scandal compared with some which have made the West Australian goldfields notorious.

SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA.—The committee appointed to examine into this company's affairs, and, if possible, to find a way out of the tangle into which they had got, is able to offer but cold comfort to the shareholders. Many causes appear to have contributed to the company's downfall, amongst others being the incompetence and costliness of the local management and the absence of supervision, insufficiency of working capital, and loss of credit. When the Consolidated

Nickel Mines, Limited, prospectus appeared in July, 1903, it was stated that an arrangement had been made by the Smelting company to treat the ores produced for half the profits, but it was not until December last that any shipments of ore were made to the Dapto smelter. The Nickel company has spent all its capital, and is now in about as desperate a condition as the Smelting company, as all it has to show is some 20,000 tons of ore, averaging 6½ per cent. of nickel, and valued at £21,000 in stock, ready for shipment, and a vague number of tons developed. But the committee can find no better way out than an amalgamation of these two cripples, and proposes that the Nickel company should purchase the undertaking of the Smelting company for £100,000 4 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, to be secured on the combined properties. The Smelting company has issued 144,020 preference and 407,111 ordinary shares, and there are also £100,000 5 per cent. debentures, which it is suggested should be replaced by £80,000 4 per cent. debentures. Preference shareholders are to be permitted to take 166,432 ss. shares, credited with 1s. 3d. per share paid, and for every share so taken would be given another, and the ordinary shareholders may have 407,111 ss. shares at par, with a bonus of one for every two bought. It is a mixed-up affair altogether, and it is more than doubtful whether it will prove an efficacious remedy. The Nickel company does not seem to have the elements of success if the accumulation of 20,000 tons of ore in two years is the best it can do.

BONNIE DUNDEE GOLD MINES.—The report and accounts cover the financial year to August 31, 1904. Active operations at the mines have been suspended for some time. Revenue from gold and other sources amounted to £12,294, and a further loss of £897 has to be added to the previous debit of £6,968, raising the latter to £7,865. The company's financial position has for a long time been the subject of anxious consideration on the part of the board. Mr. Plant, the managing director, has suggested another reconstruction, and with a view of ascertaining the opinions of the shareholders in Charters Towers informal meetings were held by him last September, when the shareholders expressed their willingness to consent to reconstruction on the basis of a further assessment of 5s. per share, provided the head office be removed to Charters Towers and the business of the company be managed there entirely. But steps are to be taken to learn the views of the English shareholders before anything definite is decided upon.

COLOMBIAN HYDRAULIC MINING COMPANY.—Mining operations were again seriously hindered during 1904 by the shortage of labour and the want of skill on the part of the men at work, so it is explained in the report of the directors. Returns of gold were 725 ozs., realising £2,648, and the cost, including the erection and equipment of disintegrators, was £6,521, the latter, therefore, showing an excess of £3,873. The greater part of the year was occupied with the erection of two of the new mills, and it was only in November that these began to add anything to the monthly returns. Since then the returns have been steadily increasing every month, and the mine is now declared to be paying its way and will be earning a profit as soon as a full supply of labour is available and the mills can be worked to their full capacity.

MILL'S DAY DAWN UNITED.—The output for the half-year ending April 15 was 5,151 tons of ore for a yield of 3,720 ozs. of gold, worth £12,866; 153 tons of concentrates of a value of £1,538, and 4,997 tons of residues realising £3,202, making a total of £17,606, which is a considerable improvement on the results of the preceding half-year. The profit amounted to £6,587, raising the credit balance to £9,634. In regard to the future of the mine, attention is drawn to the improved character of the reef to the eastward of the dyke in the Nos. 7 and 8 levels. The matter of the amalgamation of a portion of the company's ground with the adjoining lease owned by the Day Dawn Freehold Consolidated Gold Mining Company is still in abeyance, but the directors hope that a satisfactory scheme will ultimately be adopted.

BROKEN HILL JUNCTION.—In their report for the half-year to March 31 the directors state that the work of preparing the mill for the resumption of concentrating operations was pushed vigorously during that period, and a proper start was made on February 8. Since then productive work has continued, but up to the present the results have not been quite up to expectations. Further improvements in the plant are being effected, and the directors look forward hopefully to better returns in the future. A satisfactory contract has been made for the sale of the company's output of concentrates in the current year.

RHODESIAN RICHES.—The *Bulawayo Chronicle* is not very kind to those lucky people who make wonderful finds in various out-of-the-way places in Rhodesia. The diamond discovery is thought to be rather encouraging, but we gather that that Bulawayo "banket" is a bit of a frost. Referring to the matter, the *Chronicle* says:—"We understand that the ore body found on the Mabel claims, and which gave rise to the reported 'banket' strike, was located at a depth of 70 ft. This reef is about 4 ft. wide of schist, and contains three separate quartz leaders. The gold is said to be found chiefly in the quartz, which runs from 8 dwts. to 2 ozs., the schist carrying only about 2½ dwts. The proprietors of the reef are to be congratulated upon their strike, but if the foregoing information is correct, the discovery shows nothing that is unusual. It certainly would not appear to warrant the report of a payable 'banket' discovery." Not very boom-inspiring, eh!

EAGLEHAWK CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The London directors of this company have issued the report of the

Victorian directors, together with that of the mine manager, for the six months to the end of March. The annual general meeting is to be held next month, and the directors hope, so they say, to be in a position to recommend a dividend. During the entire year—including the first six months—there were treated 10,370 tons of quartz, for a yield of 4,363 ozs., an average of 8.4 dwts. per ton, and 14,520 tons of sands and slimes were dealt with by the cyanide plant, for a return of 1,422 ozs., showing a total output of 5,785 ozs., realising £23,274, including £13 12s. profit from tributors. Total disbursements, covering outlay on shaft sinking and development, income-tax, and £6,000 distributed in dividends, amounted to £14,592, showing a cost of over 28s. per ton against 29s. 4d. in the previous year. The yield of gold was smaller than in the preceding twelve months, accounted for by the stone decreasing in value as risen on in the stopes. According to the mine manager's estimate there is, at least, twelve months' ore in sight, but since the report was issued the local directors have upset shareholders' calculations with a most remarkable cable. The London officials telegraphed out for money to pay two 3d. dividends, a final for the last half-year and an interim for the current year. In reply they got a message to the effect that no dividend could be paid, and that little or no gold was present in the lower levels. Vigorous prospecting is recommended. Rather a nasty business, and the forthcoming meeting should provide some excitement.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING CO., LIMITED.

For the year ended December 31 the railway owned by this company returned a net revenue of £28,087, being £2,444 less than in 1903, the Rivers Steam Navigation Company, in which the concern holds a large interest, paid 1 per cent. less at 7 per cent., meaning a decline in income of £612 to £4,285, and the Brahmaputra Sultanpur Railway produced only £308 compared with £916. Against these declines, however, we find the trading account giving an extra net revenue of £2,663, the Assam Oil Company paid a first dividend of 5 per cent. bringing in £4,146, and general and other interest amounted to £1,214 against nothing, so that with one or two other items the aggregate receipts were £73,219 or an improvement of £4,384. Deducting various charges which, in the aggregate, were a good deal smaller, the net balance is £69,779 compared with £63,867, and with £1,423 brought forward we get a disposable balance of £71,202, an improvement of £5,863. It provides debenture interest and the dividends on the pre-preference "A" and new 6 per cent. preference shares together with 8 per cent., being a full year's payment, on the preferred "A" shares, carrying forward £1,952. No arrears on these preferred shares can be picked up, and they therefore remain at £385,350, or £9 3s. 6d. per share, a tremendous sum which will probably be dealt with by means of a funding scheme one of these days. In the general trading account some reserve has this time been made for colliery depreciation, making the total accumulations £10,000, which still seems a very slender sum, although we cannot say what the actual expenditure is, the collieries, saw mills, and brick and pottery works all being confused into one item. The Makum (Assam) Tea Company, in which 20,000 £1 shares are held, is not expected to make a very satisfactory display for the 1904 season, but the prospects for 1905 are regarded hopefully.

AMAZON STEAM NAVIGATION.

The directors of this business report trade pretty good on the Amazon during the year to December 31, the steamers being more fully employed than for some time past, due apparently to the high prices for rubber. Freights, passenger fares, earnings of tugs and lighters, rents, &c., therefore came to 5,094,015 reis, an increase of 512,915 reis, and although the subventions from the Federal and State Governments were reduced by a trifling sum to 898,495 reis the revenue from all sources was 5,992,511 reis compared with 5,486,599 reis. Charges and expenses, however, increased by a still larger sum to 5,504,595 reis, so that when it comes to net revenue there is a small decrease of 13,154 reis at 487,915 reis. In sterling this gave £24,904, interest and dividends on investments came to £7,704, exchange difference on remittances and conversions into sterling to £15,086, and other items to £38, or a total of £47,733. London charges, telegrams and income-tax altogether took £5,016, leaving £42,717, but all this is not available because two of the company's steamers were severely damaged by submerged logs during the year. Book value of the boats was £26,000, and the directors provide for the loss to the extent of £16,000, as it may be possible to effect considerable salvage. This deducted and the sum still left is £26,717, which provides two dividends aggregating 5 per cent. with an increase in the carry forward from £1,443 to £2,898. Another steamer was also badly damaged, but in this case no direct loss will accrue to the company as the vessel was insured for its book value. Value of the steamers and tugs is now put at £277,883, while the lands, houses, machinery and plant are worth £49,428. Other property directly used for the service stands at £50,314, and as there are insurance and reserve funds

of £160,000, mostly in high-class securities, the position of affairs looks pretty good. Floating liabilities are very light at £32,714, being rather an exception for a shipping company, and there are more or less immediately available assets, such as sundry debtors £56,066, bills receivable £22,743, balances due for freight and subventions £52,801, and cash £3,790.

ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this undertaking can only point to severity of competition as the reason for a most alarming decline in the profits for the year to May 31 last. It must have been exceptionally acute, as the gross revenue was no more than £39,671 compared with £54,623 in the previous twelve months, and over £61,000 in 1902-3. The reduction in loans mentioned a year ago brings the interest charges for the year down from £12,642 to £10,250, and the general and other charges were lowered nearly £1,000 to £18,464; but even so, after providing £2,048 for maintenance and £5,000 for depreciation the net balance is no more than £3,909, a decline of £10,864. It would not meet even the preference dividend, which requires £4,395, but this is paid by reducing the balance carried forward from £3,805 to £3,319. Unfortunate ordinary shareholders, whose two previous dividends had been 6 and 4 per cent. respectively, naturally get nothing, but the prospect for the moment seems a little brighter as the directors say there are signs of improved trade in the near future, albeit competition is hardly likely to grow less severe. Happily capital expenditure was kept down last year, the addition being no more than £1,226, making the value of properties and goodwill £388,617, against which the depreciation and reserve funds reach £90,000. Shares in other companies entered at £123,759 gave £5,681 in dividends last year and are therefore none too moderately valued, but the position generally seems fair enough as the excess of debtors over creditors is £43,352. Stock and work in progress are valued at £70,822 and cash is £16,850. Loans have been further reduced £2,500 to £7,500, and with improved business may disappear altogether during the current year.

ELECTRICAL POWER STORAGE CO., LIMITED.

This company's profit for the year to May 31 showed a further moderate decline of £626 to £9,130 compared with the preceding twelve months, making a drop of almost £2,000 within the past two years. Balance brought forward, too, was slightly less at £471, making £9,601, and in order to maintain the dividend at 6 per cent. the directors put by £1,000 less at £3,500, a sum of £2,500 going for depreciation of patents, goodwill, &c., and £1,000 to the contingency fund. Balance forward is a good deal larger at £711. In addition to the £2,500 now taken from revenue the board withdraws a further sum of £13,500 from the special reserve in order to write down the patents, goodwill, &c., by £16,000 to £72,385, and the step seems a proper one, even though the business is merely a matter of book entry. When this has been done the special reserve will stand at £10,000 and the contingent fund at £8,000, together £18,000, nearly all of which is separately invested. Buildings, plant, tools, fixtures, &c., were increased by £1,211 and depreciated by £1,618, leaving them at £16,272 and stock on hand at cost or under is valued at £18,796. Sundry creditors are very moderate at £12,286, and on the other side we get debtors £20,500 and cash £11,918, so that the position altogether is fair.

APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS, LIMITED.

The directors of this rather watery enterprise seem rather proud of the fact that all the expenses incurred in the year to March 31 were charged to revenue, and utilise a whole line in the report to tell us that all the advertising outlay has been written off profit and loss account. This is about all the information we get, as the sales of "Polly" and Johannis are no longer announced, and shareholders must be satisfied with the information that both sales and profits show an increase over those of the previous year. The gain was nothing very startling so far as profits were concerned—merely £573 to £182,540, including transfer fees—and after meeting general charges and directors' fees the balance over is £783 to the good at £176,947. Balance brought forward was £3,164 larger at £11,381, making £188,328 from which debenture interest takes £34,000 and preference dividend £59,500. After meeting these charges the ordinary shares again receive 5 per cent., another £20,000 goes to reserve, and the sum carried out is further increased to £15,328. Reserve is now £100,000 against the capital outlay of £3,243,744, of which an enormous part is represented by goodwill. Sundry creditors are only £9,571 against debtors of £158,670, including dividends to come in, and cash £29,388, but the thing is too overweighted with capital to ever become really strong.

"BODEGA" CO., LIMITED.

We are glad to find this old-established business extricating itself from the troubles which so recently beset it, thanks to the dishonourable action of one of the late directors in whom the fullest trust had been reposed. We should judge the company to be capably and honestly administered now, and although we do not feel altogether satisfied with the main item of the balance-sheet there is no doubt that the present directors are doing their best to pull things round. Thus the stock of wines, spirits, cigars, &c., has been further reduced by £15,213 to £79,434, enabling the company to pay off mortgages to the amount of say £12,000, and it is worth noting that within two years the existing board has been able to reduce these two items by

£44,000 and £32,000 respectively, thereby saving a considerable annual interest charge. The freehold and leasehold properties, trade mark, fixtures and working plant standing for £352,186 is the asset we feel a little doubtful about, especially after the remarks made by the chairman at the last annual meeting concerning the unwise selection of depôts, heavy rates, rents, interest charges, &c., and we hope, when opportunity offers, to find the directors increasing the reserve from the present slender amount of £14,000. In other ways the position is not unsatisfactory, as although sundry creditors exceed debtors by £6,262 there is cash £19,522 and high-class investments £19,991. A further sum of £8,471 has been invested in a policy in the Sun Life Office, but with what object we are not quite sure. Profit on sales for the year to March 31 was £80,709, interest and transfer fees, &c., gave £593 and £384 was brought forward making a total of £81,686 compared with £81,851. Against that, however, there was a saving of about £4,800 at £56,470 in the total expenditure, so that after providing directors' fees £1,400 and auditors' fee £105 the net balance improves by £4,635 to £23,711. Therefore, after allowing an additional £813 at £3,306 for maintenance and repairs the directors provide the preference dividend and increase the distribution on the ordinary shares by 1 to 5 per cent. and the sum carried forward by £1,022 to £1,405.

AUX CLASSES LABORIEUSES, LIMITED.

Despite the fact that protests against the reduction were made at the recent annual meeting there can be no shadow of doubt that the directors of this big French business of drapers and general furnishers have acted wisely in lowering the ordinary dividend from 11 per cent. to 9, notwithstanding a further improvement in profits. The nature of the business calls for an exceptionally strong financial position, and until that had been obtained there was never any justification for raising the dividend to such a high level. In order to promote trade the company is bound to give rather long credit to its army of customers—the number of accounts reaches something like 250,000—and this naturally involves a big lock-up of resources, so much so that trouble might easily result should the directors divide too close up to the hilt and run the risk of crippling the company's finances. Sundry debtors reach the enormous sum of £305,048, meaning that goods to that amount must be bought and supplied while payment for them is made but slowly, and it is clear that operations like this require a very strong backing. Reserve, be it noted, is decidedly slender at £26,252 against a capital outlay on freehold and leasehold premises, goodwill, &c., of over £517,000, and fixtures, fittings, &c., of £8,252. The debenture redemption fund of £19,524 may be said to constitute an additional accumulation, and certainly does, but even then the total is not exactly lavish. Sundry creditors on general account are by no means heavy at £54,046, but we note a loan with accrued interest standing at £11,089, proving that the liquid resources are none too large. Cash, indeed, is no more than £17,042, and stocks look small at £36,758 considering the magnitude of the business. A loan granted by the company, together with accrued interest, represents a further sum of £2,566, sundry investments at cost come to £19,212, and balance owing for shares sold in Au Petit St. Thomas, Limited, is £18,087. After writing off one-fifth, or £3,227, the expenses of the debenture issue remain on the assets side of the balance-sheet at £9,701. Now as to trading results. The gross turnover for the twelve months ended January 31 exceeded that of the previous year by £16,216, and resulted in a net profit of £84,009, compared with £79,671. After allowing for difference in exchange and adding dividend, transfer fees, &c., the total income is £85,447, which a large number of charges, fully detailed in the accounts and including debenture interest of £8,881, reduce to £66,833. With £18,032 brought forward the total for disposal is £84,865, and the directors provide the preference dividend, pay 9 per cent., or 2 per cent. less, on the ordinary shares, set aside £10,000 for debenture redemption, and add £3,552 to reserve. Commission to general manager absorbs a further amount of £5,062, a trifle of £131 was lost on sale of investments, and £11,834 is carried forward.

EAST INDIA AND CEYLON TEA CO., LIMITED.

Although this company naturally suffered with others engaged in the same industry from adverse market conditions, it may fairly be said that good progress was made during the year ended November 30 with the work of establishing the business on a sound basis. The total crop was 91,537 lbs. larger than in 1903 at 1,812,067 lbs., and of this 1,258,916 lbs. were sold in London at an average of 5.9d. per lb., and 398,598 lbs. were disposed of in Calcutta and Colombo, and the balance of 154,553 lbs. was sold in Colombo as green tea at a price equivalent to 6.39d. in London. A year ago the averages worked out at 6.52d. and 6.93d. per lb. respectively, so that a somewhat serious drop took place, and the trading profits fell off by £3,273 to £10,111, but no exceptional expenditure had to be met this time compared with £1,222 under various headings on the last occasion, and after meeting debenture interest the amount available, including £13,128 brought forward, was £22,239. Out of this arrears of dividend on the preference shares for three years have been paid, so that there is now only one year's dividend outstanding and £4,239 is carried forward. Liabilities on bills payable have increased by £3,744 to £5,635, sundry creditors, including £835 for unpaid law costs, are £1,393 up at £2,472, and outstanding charges on tea unsold at the date of the balance-sheet come to £614 more at £2,405. Against these, however, stocks of tea stand at £21,709, or an increase of £7,822, sundry debtors are £707

higher at £2,620, and although the item of £1,949 for bills receivable has disappeared cash has risen by £2,715 to £3,386, and remittances in transit amount to £974, so that altogether the assets are largely in excess of the liabilities. The actions in connection with the Hopewell Tea Company were settled out of Court by the sale of the shares to the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company for £8,600, but law and other expenses took £1,290 of this, so that on the original investment of £60,300 the company suffers a loss of no less than £52,990, and it is proposed to reduce the ordinary share capital by £50,000 as being approximately the sum unrepresented by assets.

DHENDAI TEA CO., LIMITED.

This is the first year of this company's working and does not appear to have been over satisfactory, as instead of the crop of 400,000 lbs. expected only 349,875 lbs. were made or 16,742 lbs. less than in the previous season. The average price, too, fell from 7.78d. to 7.49d. per lb. and gross receipts were consequently £1,048 lower at £10,916, but against this a saving of £1,214 was effected in expenditure and the net profits came to £1,282. Considering that the cultivated area stands in the books at nearly £46 per acre some provision for reserve would seem to have been desirable, but the directors think differently and use up all but £2 of this balance in paying a dividend of 4 per cent. It is true there is a capital reserve of £1,394 formed out of difference between assets and liabilities taken over, but that can hardly be taken as sufficient excuse for dividing the profits so closely up to the hilt. Liabilities to sundry creditors and others are moderate enough at £888, while sundry debtors, including £2,560 due from Messrs. G. Williamson and Co., come to £2,593.

RAJMAI TEA CO., LIMITED.

The total crop for the year ended December 31 exceeded the estimate by no less than 88,814 lbs., and was 53,716 lbs. larger than in 1903 at 992,814 lbs.; but the increase was accompanied by a further drop of 0.35d. to 7.71d. per lb. Expenditure, however, was about the same, so that the cost per lb. was rather less at 5.84d. compared with 6.06d. and after deducting managers' commission the net profits were £60 up at £8,334. Including £751 brought forward, £36 from underestimate of the 1903 crop and £754 from investments, the total income came to £9,876, or £534 more, out of which a dividend of 10 per cent. is again paid and £4,000 is added to reserve for equalisation of dividends against £3,000 a year ago, leaving £276 to be carried forward. Liabilities to sundry creditors have risen by £551 to £3,317, drafts in transit come to £300 and wages unpaid to £641, while the bank overdraft has risen by £1,417 to £3,403. On the other hand, cash is £525 up at £1,415 or practically the amount of the fresh borrowing, but tea stocks are £1,429 lower at £14,568 and sundry debtors are down £1,013 to £2,597.

TAMPLIN AND SON'S BREWERY, BRIGHTON, LIMITED.

Profits for the year ended May 17 showed a recovery of £1,694 at £80,692, but expenses rose by £1,350 to £28,752, and after writing off £31 more at £4,697 for depreciation the increase in net revenue was only £313 at £47,243. A much larger balance of £7,462, however, was brought in, and with £98 from interest gave a total of £54,804 against £53,464 a year ago, out of which the directors, with a questionable fidelity to tradition, declare the usual dividend and bonus of 12½ per cent., and transfer another £1,000 to general reserve, leaving £8,855 for the new account. This addition brings the general reserve up to £56,000, and in addition there is a property reserve of £59,444, making £115,444 in all, or about 15 per cent. of the capital outlay, but of this no more than £2,503 is invested outside the business. Against £4,252 written off for property sold and depreciation of leases £3,088 was spent on new purchases and improvements, leaving a reduction of £1,164 to £768,813 in the value put upon estates and goodwill, &c. One very good point in the balance-sheet is the smallness of the trading liabilities which amount to £4,567 only, while book debts, rents and loans outstanding, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, stand at £22,691, cash is up £224 at £17,208 and stock is £2,291 higher at £25,752.

INDIAN AND GENERAL INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED

In the year ended April 30 there was a considerable increase in this company's gross revenue, which was as much as £3,960 better at a total of £29,358, inclusive of £1,474 from underwriting commissions. General expenses and debenture interest absorbed £13,535 of this or £53 less, £5,888 is put to reserve against £1,830 and £9,935 is left compared with £9,979. The preference dividend is met and the deferred shares again get 3 per cent., which absorbs the whole of the available credit. An additional £1,032 was put to the reserve, being net surplus on sales of investments, but £5,253 had to be deducted from the same fund to meet depreciation on investments, leaving the aggregate £1,666 higher at £29,774.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

Very steady progress was made during the year ended December 31 when all previous achievements in the way of getting new business were once more surpassed. New policies were issued insuring £3,515,612 or £383,884 more than in 1903, and yielding £153,052 in premiums against £124,290. The premium income after deducting reassurances rose by £77,098 to £665,730, of which claims and bonuses thereon absorbed £332,698 and expenses and commission took £103,519 or 15.5 per cent. compared with 15.7 per cent. Annuities sold produced £83,914 or £30,498 less but with interest, dividends, &c., the total revenue was

£63,045 higher at £964,430, and after meeting all outgoings £415,971 was added to the funds, raising them to £5,548,812.

HEARTS OF OAK PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY.

The share capital of this society was increased by £44,017 to £370,664 during the year ended March 31, and deposits in the banking department rose by £16,633 to £158,084, while loans of £162,280 made upon 493 mortgages resulted in an increase of £11,024 to £538,920 in the balance due to the society. Of this amount no less than £446,558 is in sums not exceeding £500, another £65,281 between £500 and £1,000, and £26,980 between £1,000 and £3,000, and it says much for the administration that out of the 2,071 properties mortgaged the society has not a single one in hand through the repayments being in arrear. Gross profits on the year's operations came to £20,793, and after providing for the usual interest on investment shares and deposits there was a surplus of £4,188, out of which a bonus of 10s. per cent. is paid on shares of at least two years' standing.

JOKAI (ASSAM) TEA CO., LIMITED.

The crop for the year ended December 31 amounted to 4,429,244 lbs., which was 70,044 lbs. more than the estimated quantity, but still fell short of the previous season's output by 76,818 lbs., owing to severe hailstorms which visited several of the gardens, including the one where the best tea is made. On this the average price realised was 7.82d., or, allowing for freight and other charges saved on 993,295 lbs. sold in Calcutta, 8d. per lb., compared with 8.24d. and 8.71d. in the two preceding years, while the cost of production was slightly higher at 6.97d. Net profits were consequently lower, and with £2,945 brought forward and £2,442 from interest on investments, etc., came to £19,149, against £24,415, so the reserve is again ignored and the dividend is reduced to the 1902 figure of 4½ per cent., leaving £1,899, or £1,046 less, to be carried forward. Even this comparatively small return, however, could not have been made had due regard been paid to the reserve fund and to the question of depreciation. The block account has been left at £354,940, or about £40 per cultivated acre, while, on the other hand, the reserve remains at £60,000, and has not even been increased by the interest on the investments representing it, as this was required to eke out the dividend. Bills payable are £5,000 lower, but are still enormously heavy at £55,000, and sundry creditors have been reduced by £2,131 to £5,078, but this result, with an increase of £2,800 to £6,080 in the cash, has only been achieved at the cost of a decrease of £27,936 to £58,703 in stocks of the sundry debtors.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

BANKS.

Anglo-Foreign.—Usual interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year to June 30.

Bank of Bengal.—For the past half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 1 per cent., placing Rs.4,00,000 to reserve, Rs.1,00,000 to pension fund, and carrying forward Rs.5,55,934.

Bank of Bombay.—At the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, placing Rs.3,00,000 to reserve, and carrying forward Rs.3,02,500.

Bank of Madras.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, placing Rs.1,00,000 to reserve, and carrying forward Rs.2,43,000.

Capital and Counties.—For the past six months at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, with £15,000 applied in reduction of premises account, and £10,000 set aside as a contribution to the officers' superannuation fund, leaving £50,094 to be carried forward.

German of London.—Interim for the past half-year of 5s. per share.

Halifax and Huddersfield Union.—Interim of 8s. per share for the half-year ending June 30.

Halifax Joint Stock.—Interim for the six months ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Lancashire and Yorkshire.—Interim for the past half-year at the usual rate of 15s. per share, being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.

Lloyds Bank.—Interim for the half year ended the 30th June last of 14s. per share, being at the rate of 17½ per cent. per annum.

London and Westminster.—6½ per cent. for the half-year ended June 30, carrying forward £37,000.

London and South-Western.—At the rate of 16 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, carrying forward £36,800.

London Joint Stock.—At the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, placing £5,000 to superannuation allowance fund and carrying forward £20,321.

London Trading.—For the past half-year at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Merchant.—Interim for the past half-year at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Metropolitan (of England and Wales).—Interim for the past half-year at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum.

Natal.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum.

North and South Wales.—Interim of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, and a bonus of 4 per cent. per annum.

Russo-Chinese.—Seven and a-half roubles per share.

Union of London and Smiths.—10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share, equal to a further 1 per cent. per annum, on the paid-up capital, carrying forward £88,342.

Union of Manchester.—Half-yearly dividend of 12s. per share.

Williams Deacon's.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum.

Wilts and Dorset.—20s. per share.

MINES.

Camp Bird.—Interim of 1s. per share for quarter ending July 31, payable August 5.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—15 per cent.

Great Boulder Perseverance Gold.—For the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable July 28.

Ida H. Gold.—Second interim of 5 per cent. on account of 1905, payable July 15.

Victorian Cornish.—Interim of 1s. per share.

Stratton's Independence.—Further interim of 6d. per share.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway.—Final of £4 per cent. on the undivided ordinary stock, and £8 per cent. on the deferred ordinary stock, making 10 and 15 per cent. for 1904 respectively.

Apollinaris and Johannis.—Final of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 5 per cent. per annum for the year ended March 31. Placing £20,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £15,327.

Brown Bayley's Steel.—Interim of 5 per cent.

Dooars Tea.—For 1904 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £16,700.

Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.—4 per cent. on the preference capital out of the profits of 1904, leaving 1 per cent. in abeyance.

Employers' Liability Assurance.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

English Crown Spelter.—10 per cent. per annum for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £299.

Imperial Tea.—One per cent. on the ordinary shares for 1904.

Lovell and Christmas.—Final for the six months ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £14,489.

National Discount.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £11,000.

National Telephone.—For half year ended June 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock and 5 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, carrying £110,000 to reserve and about £9,500 forward.

New Darvel Bay (Borneo) Tobacco Plantations.—Interim of 1s. per share to June 30, payable 29th inst.

Prudential Mortgage.—Bonus of £1 per cent., making a total for the year of £5 per cent., carrying forward £2,857.

Rafferty Thornton and Co.—Interim of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30.

Reversion Investment.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Richmond Gas-Stove and Meter.—Interim for the six months ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Rosario Nitrate.—Interim of 3 per cent. on account of the year ending Sept. 30, payable July 15.

Santiago Nitrate.—Interim of 5s. per share, payable July 15.

Serdang Tabak Maatschappij.—At the rate of 7½ per cent. on the "A" shares, and ½ per cent. on the "B" shares.

Short's.—First interim for the year ending March 31, 1906, of 5s. per share on the deferred ordinary shares.

South African Breweries.—Final of 12 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 22 per cent. for the year.

Union Discount.—For the half-year at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, placing £5,000 to provident reserve, and carrying forward £53,030.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JULY 10.

Cape Asbestos.—8, Minorities, noon.

Dumont Coffee.—Winchester House, noon.

Spiers and Pond.—Criterion Restaurant, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 11.

British North Borneo.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

Bodega.—Trocadero Restaurant, 11.30 a.m.

East India and Ceylon Tea.—River Plate House, 11.30 a.m.

Gold Fields of Mysore and General Exploration.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

International Tea Company's Stores.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

Trustees, Executors, and Securities Insurance Corporation.—Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12.

British Assets Trust.—Edinburgh, 10.30 a.m.

Eaglehawk Consolidated Gold Mining.—65, London Wall, noon.

Egyptian Estates.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

London and Greenwich Railway.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 13.

Assam Oil.—Winchester House, noon.

Apollinaris and Johannis.—Holborn Restaurant, 3 p.m.

Chili Telephone.—42, Old Broad Street, 12.30 p.m.

Electric Construction.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Electrical Power Storage.—4, Great Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

Indian Electric Supply and Traction.—Winchester House, noon.

Moabund Tea.—138, Leadenhall Street, noon.

Majuli Tea.—138, Leadenhall Street, 3 p.m.

North and South-Western Junction Railway.—Euston Station, noon.

Tyee Copper.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

FRIDAY, JULY 14.

Kent Collieries.—Winchester House, noon.

Manchester and Liverpool District Banking.—Manchester, noon.

MINING RETURNS.

Alaska Treadwell.—Crushed 87,556 tons, value \$92,564; saved, 1,748 tons sulphurets, value, \$81,658.

Ashanti Goldfields.—Crushed 3,970 tons, 3,770 ozs. (including 1,570 ozs. from cyaniding, the current tailings, and the rich tailings from the old No. 1 Mill). Ayeinm Mill.—Crushed 3,210 tons, 550 ozs.; total, 7,180 tons, 4,320 ozs.

Associated Gold of W.A.—Milled 7,188 tons; slimes 4,485 tons; yield, £19,444.

Associated Northern Blocks.—Milled 3,200 tons; slimes, 549 tons; yield, £15,580.

Balaghat.—3,950 tons, 3,157 ozs.; tailings, 2,750 tons, 269 ozs.; total, 3,426 ozs.

Barrett Gold.—423 ozs.; value, £1,500.

Bonanza.—Crushed 8,600 tons, 2,676 ozs.; cyanide and slimes, 8,779 tons, 1,651 ozs.; total, 4,327 ozs.

Brilliant Block.—Crushed 415 tons, 292 ozs.; value of cyanide bullion, £1,000.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—3,694 tons ore produced 645 tons concentrates, containing 393 tons lead and 18,705 ozs. silver.

British Exploration of Australasia.—Cyanide, 855 tons, 514 ozs.

Broomassie.—Crushed 498 tons, 914 ozs.; and 2½ tons of concentrates; value, £36 19s. per ton.

Cassel Coal.—Output, 13,974 tons.

Champion Reef.—19,150 tons, 15,799 ozs.; 13,494 tons of tailings, 1,920 ozs. Final clean-up plates, No. 2 mill—691 ozs.; total, 18,410 ozs.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output, 18,000 tons; sales, 14,000 tons; consumption, 1,250 tons.

Coronation Colliery.—Output, 16,000 tons.

Dawn Dawn Block and Wyndham.—1,730 tons, 1,130 ozs.; 3,207 tons of tailings; value £3,276.

Durban Navigation Collieries.—Output, 9,700 tons.

Durban Roodepoort.—Milled 11,350 tons for 3,980 ozs.; tailings 7,650 tons for 1,237 ozs.

Durham Prospect.—Crushed 1,320 tons, 405 ozs.

Eaglehawk Consolidated.—Crushed 950 tons, 333 ozs.; from cyanide copper plates 173 ozs.

Elandslaagte Collieries.—Output, 14,668 tons.

Etruscan Copper Estates.—70 tons matte, containing 20 tons copper, and 933 ozs. silver; 1,115 tons of ore smelted.

Geldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 16,825 tons, 4,200 ozs.; from tailing 2,324 ozs.; from slimes, 698 ozs.; total, 7,222 ozs.

Glencoe (Natal).—Output 12,216 tons.

Golden Pole.—Crushed 1,820 tons, 2,942 ozs.

Great Eastern Collieries.—Output 17,200 tons.

Hainault.—Crushed 4,241 tons for 1,742 ozs.

Himan Concessions.—490 ozs. from 519 tons crushed.

Hutti (Nizam's) Gold.—1,164 ozs. from 2,050 tons crushed.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output of coal, 37,044 tons.

Kalgurli.—Treated 6,170 tons, 4,469 ozs.

Koffyfontein.—2,950 carats of diamonds.

Lace Diamond.—Loads of blue ground floored, 45,585; total loads of blue ground on floors, 432,131.

Lancelot Freehold Tin and Copper.—Crushed 255 tons tin bismuth stone, yielding 20 tons, 65 per cent. tin bismuth ore; shipped 18 tons ore.

Lloyd Copper.—Treated 5,200 tons of ore, producing 124 tons copper.

Middleburg Steam Coal.—Sales, 7,900 tons.

Mount Boppy.—4,207 tons, 943 ozs.; cyanide, 2,802 tons, 1,224 ozs.; slimes, 1,151 tons, 635 ozs.; concentrates, 35 tons, 270 ozs.; total, 3,072 ozs.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—4,525 tons crude ore for 64 tons of concentrates, containing 49 tons copper.

Mysore.—16,350 tons, 15,367 ozs.; 13,650 tons tailings, 1,684 ozs.; total, 17,051 ozs.

Mysore West and Mysore-Wynad.—1,027 ozs. from 2,295 tons crushed.

Natal Navigation Collieries.—Output, 17,605 tons.

New Vaal River Diamond.—Value of diamonds registered by diggers on the Vaal River Estate, £5,150.

North Lachlan Gold.—Crushed 574 tons, £1,650; bullion, including slag, value, £250.

Nundydroog.—6,650 tons, 5,536 ozs.; 7,020 tons tailings, 618 ozs.; total, 6,154 ozs.

Ooregum.—10,011 tons, 4,388 ozs.; 10,201 tons of tailings, 1,147 ozs.; total, 5,485 ozs.

Oroya-Brownhill.—Crushed 9,065 tons, 12,918 ozs.

Ottos Kopje Diamond.—30,933 loads washed, 2,000 loads floored, 1,500 loads reef hauled, 620 carats of diamonds won.

Peak Hill.—5,292 tons crushed, and 5,147 tons slimes and sands treated; yield from battery, 517 ozs.; from sands and slimes, 523 ozs.; total, 1,040 ozs.

Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—113,268 loads treated, yielding 57,584 carats diamonds.

Red Hill, Westralia.—731 ozs. from 1,173 tons crushed.

Rezende.—Milled, 3,000 tons; mill and cyanide, 1,167 ozs.; in concentrates, 17 ozs.

St. David's.—Crushed 1,202 tons, 455 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £24,250; yield per ton, '57 of oz. troy.

Sheba.—Output 2,350 ozs.

Sons of Gwalia.—Crushed 9,794 tons, 3,621 ozs.; tailings, 6,390 tons, 956 ozs.; concentrates, 222 tons, 738 ozs.; total, 5,315 ozs.

Surprise.—Crushed 2,842 tons, 1,050 ozs.; cyanide, 500 ozs. from 2,925 tons.

Tanganyika Concessions.—Output by sluice boxes, 411 ozs.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained about 900 tons lead, 121,000 ozs. silver, 73 ozs. gold.

Transvaal Gold Mining Estates.—Works crushed 10,864 tons;

2,287 ozs.; central cyanide works, 4,920 tons, 955 ozs.; slimes works, 3,460 tons, 545 ozs.; outside cyanide works, 1,625 tons, 315 ozs.; outside slimes works, 730 tons, 116 ozs.; total, 4,218 ozs.

Victorian Cornish Gold.—Crushed 1,190 tons, 1,204 ozs.

Waihi.—23,084 tons, yielding £54,600.

Wankie (Rhodesia) Coal.—Output, 6,873 tons; sales, 5,345 tons.

Wassau (Gold Coast).—Crushed 2,675 tons, 1,170 ozs.; cyanide 2,450 tons (including 1,720 tons from old tailings), 842 ozs.; total, 2,012 ozs.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and June 30, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to June 30, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to June 30, 1904.
Balances, April 1:—			
Bank of England	£	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
		7,430,278	4,263,842
REVENUE.			
Customs	34,950,000	7,735,000	9,032,000
Excise	30,200,000	6,800,000	7,035,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	3,670,000	2,826,000
Stamps	8,000,000	1,930,000	1,719,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	330,000	500,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	3,920,000	4,373,000
Post Office	16,500,000	2,960,000	2,900,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	940,000	900,000
Crown Lands	470,000	110,000	110,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	5,000	219
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	447,842	441,533
* Revenue	142,454,000	28,897,842	29,836,752
Total, including balance		36,328,120	34,100,594
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		200,000	150,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		410,408	130,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds		5,975,000	—
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	1,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		—	7,500,000
Total		43,253,120	43,850,594
* Revenue as above	142,454,000	28,897,842	29,836,752
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	38,872	43,437
Excise	5,291,000	681,851	669,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,829,000	1,143,839	1,173,007
Total	9,756,000	1,864,562	1,886,117
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	30,762,404	31,722,869

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to June 30, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to June 30, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 6,324,303	£ 6,423,815
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	402,746	403,822
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	222,175	222,210
Supply Services	111,252,000	26,746,221	28,182,819
Expenditure	142,032,000	33,695,445	35,232,666
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		220,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		45,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		2,000,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		150,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		940,000	855,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		400,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	76,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	23,000
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	1,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	2,300,000
		37,498,445	41,288,666
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	1905. June 30. £ 4,976,712	1904. June 30. £ 1,766,65	
Bank of Ireland	77,913	795,27	
		5,754,675	2,561,928
Total		43,253,120	43,850,94

Treasury, July 4, 1905.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—Independence Day celebrations in America commenced early and ended late, so that the time available for business has been a good deal restricted. With the reopening of the New York Produce Exchange on Wednesday, however, trading was on a rather large scale, the turnover being heavier than for some time. Just at the start prices displayed a disposition to improve, but subsequently broke sharply, owing to heavy world's shipments, the receipt of very weak cables from all western points, better crop news, more encouraging harvesting returns, and a favourable weekly Government crop report. The Chicago market was equally depressed, and although some nervousness was displayed owing to the disturbances in Southern Russia, the weakness spread to this side when it became known that the Black Sea shipments would be heavy. A decline in prices in the north was the result, but this was followed by a modest recovery, and it is to be noted that operators on the London cargo market show no disposition to let quotations down. According to Dornbusch, the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom is 3,130,000 qrs., against 3,090,000 qrs. last week, and to the Continent 2,170,000 qrs., compared with 2,180,000 qrs.

WOOL.—The London sales of colonial wool being in full swing, there is a lull in business elsewhere and a desire to know the rates at the end of the sales before moving. They started with an upward movement of 5 per cent. and more for merinos, 5 per cent. for fine and medium crossbreds, and as much as 10 per cent. for coarse. Leicester market has been calmer this week, but is still very active, and large quantities of home-grown wool find a ready sale at high rates. Unfortunately, buying is more or less of a speculative nature, as consumers' orders are not in any way adequate to the raw wool changing hands. Manufacturers keep demanding an advance, but so far are unable to get higher prices for their goods, and thus contracts remain unprofitable. There is, however, a fair trade among them as a whole on home account, but shipping generally is restricted.

LINEN.—The half-yearly figures of imports and exports from Belfast show but slight differences compared with those of the first half of last year. Flax imports show the greatest, an increase of 20,633 from 17,193 last June. Imports of linen yarns were 3,440 tons or a decrease of 165 tons. Exports of these were 4,077 tons, a decrease 434 tons, and linen piece exports were 24,868 tons against 24,143. Accounts of this year's crops are not encouraging from abroad, and spinners are advised to stock well while they can get the raw material at present prices, for the tendency is ever upwards. The markets are not in such a happy frame of mind as they have been lately, and a certain anxiety is expressed about this probable crop failure. Trade is duller, though not worse perhaps than is to be expected during the holiday season, and exports everywhere maintain a fairly steady action.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—This has been one of the most extraordinary weeks in the cotton industry for some time back, owing to the sudden important rise in raw American cotton in New York and Liverpool. On Monday last Liverpool was easier and prices fell in the afternoon at the close. After business hours the Washington Bureau report as to the condition of the growing plant appeared, and on the following day prices rushed up to the extent of 67 points owing to the poor report of the crop. The percentage of figures given by the official statistician in Washington was 77, whereas 80 and 82 were expected. Since then prices have gone even higher, but on Thursday last there was an easing off in Liverpool, bringing the official quotations to 5.89 or a rise since Monday of 51 points. This upward movement has quite upset cotton piece goods in Manchester. Business on ordinary lines since Monday evening has been quite out of the question. Few transactions of any kind have occurred. Buyers have held aloof. On the other hand, sellers have quoted much higher prices by way of protection. The result of the week's business so far has been hardly any sales. Home-trade American yarns have also been affected in the same way. Quotations have been raised nearly 1d. per lb. Users of cop twist and weft have simply looked on and not been disposed to buy. It is said that some manufacturers have been seriously short. No trustworthy information on this point can be stated. Shipping yarns have also been inactive. No serious attempt has been made at business for either India or China. The Continent has not followed the upward course of values. Bolton spinnings have been also dearer in price owing to the rise in Egyptian cotton, but here also no business worth naming has occurred. Speaking generally, trade has been suspended in Manchester owing to the extraordinary movement in New York and New Orleans. It remains to be seen how matters will develop during the next few weeks, but in the meantime Lancashire has received a rather serious blow. If the new crop is to be a small one, then at the present level of values trade will probably be restricted in our leading eastern cloth outlets.

American markets have again been excited and unsettled and no one ventures to predict the immediate course of prices. With the reopening after the holiday tremendous realising went on owing to the more favourable weekly crop report, and prices broke sharply. They were further driven down by all-round liquidation, some of the big operators throwing out moderate quantities, but before the close heavy buying was resumed, prompted chiefly by better advices from this side and reported damage by the tornado in Texas.

COAL.—The demand for house coal is not sufficient to absorb the output, and with stocks accumulating prices have tended to ease off. In South Yorkshire a passing interest was aroused by the fixing of supplementary contracts for some of the rail-

ways at prices 3d. per ton lower than those paid in January. Other business in this district keeps pretty good, although the export trade to the Baltic is not so brisk as it might be, but in the north of England trade is said to be slackier than for many years past.

COPPER.—The demand for refined metal shows signs of contraction, and as the statistics for June published on Saturday last showed an appreciable increase in the visible supply speculation was reduced to a minimum. American advices, however, continue satisfactory, and when a modest demand sprang up for forward delivery "bears" were disposed to cover their operations, bringing about a small recovery in prices. Towards the end the tendency once more became dull and the market ended quietly at £66 2s. 6d. for spot and £66 5s. for three months' delivery. During the past month the total supplies amounted to 26,525 tons, and the deliveries, including 150 tons of "standard" shipped to America, to 25,717 tons, so that visible supplies show an increase of 808 tons on the month and 1,785 tons compared with June 15 at 18,035 tons. According to Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co.'s statistics, practically the whole of this increase is in the quantities on passage from Australia, which have risen from 900 tons on May 31 and 800 tons a fortnight ago to 2,800 tons. Stocks in England and France are down to 12,110 tons.

TIN.—After a slight reaction in sympathy with lower Eastern cable advices the market again took an upward turn under the influence of a decrease of 931 tons in the visible supply and stronger New York advices, which led to a moderate American demand. Eastern prices also again coming better, the improved tendency continued to the end, the early loss being easily recovered and quotations showing a further improvement on the week at £140 15s. for cash and £139 10s. for future shipments. The imports of Bolivian tin for the first half of the year amount to 4,775 tons against 5,399 tons for the opening six months of 1904.

IRON AND STEEL.—Lancashire reports show that the anticipations of a revival in trade have not been realised, and business in all departments seems likely to continue restricted until the autumn. Pig-iron is particularly dull, consumers buying only what they need for the moment, in the hope that prices will be lower in the near future. Quotations, in fact, are dwindling now, and makers are willing to make further cuts if by so doing they can place large quantities, but this attitude merely tends to increase the hesitation of buyers. Cleveland warrants remain at the old figure, but mainly because speculators control the market, and orders are going direct to the makers rather than into warrants, as producers' terms are more advantageous. Stocks of Cleveland pig-iron in the public stores are increasing steadily, owing to the heavy gambling in warrants, which caused speculators to pile up stocks against the warrants sold. They now amount to over 500,000 tons, or more than 300,000 tons above the stocks on January 1. Makers are now getting the benefit of this speculation, and shipments in June reached the highest figure touched during the past twelve months, but the gambling earlier in the year had proved detrimental rather than otherwise, and the statistics for the first half show a heavy falling off in shipments to 459,667 tons, or the lowest for thirteen years. Finished iron and steel branches have been more prosperous, and it seems probable that the activity which has now set in will continue for some months to come, as works are well employed and have a good many orders in hand.

TEA.—The quantity of Indian tea brought into the market this week was trifling and amounted to no more than 2,750 packages, including 857 packages of new season's Darjeeling. A good inquiry was experienced for all classes, especially for the new teas, which were of fairly good quality and realised an average of 8.84d. per lb. compared with 7.44d. at the corresponding period of last year. Ceylon teas were in larger supply, 26,453 packages being offered, but a strong demand was experienced and last week's quotations were fully maintained. The market for Java tea was again firmer with an advance of ¼d. or more per lb. in some instances. In view of the reduction of the duty on July 1 facilities were granted by the Customs for removing tea from London warehouses in advance on deposit of the 6d. duty, and these were largely taken advantage of. Deliveries from the warehouses during June amounted to 21,236,672 lbs., and in London duty at the old rate was paid on 4,184,953 lbs. only, while the 6d. duty was paid on 14,212,472 lbs. up to and including July 1. Details of the country payments are not available, but the proportions were probably much the same.

SUGAR.—The "bears" took advantage of the disinclination of buyers to work at all freely and drove prices for August beet down from 11s. 3½d. to 10s. 11¼d., but at this figure covering purchases caused a rally to 11s. 3d. Nov.-Dec. sugar, too, was weak at the start, but improved later on the reports of the great heat drying the soil. A fresh relapse followed on news of local thunderstorms, and closing quotations were about the lowest of the week. Mr. Czarnikow reports that the trade continues to do a hand-to-mouth business, but he expects that with the small cane imports the consumption of beet for June, and perhaps also for the next three months, will reach about the same totals as a year ago. On the other hand, the German and French requirements may be less, but for all that stocks on October 1 cannot be anything but low. Holdings in the United States are very moderate, but dealers seem to think that Cuba will be able to supply present needs and the demand for foreign sugar is therefore small. Landings in the three ports for the week amounted to 29,000 tons, but owing to the holiday meltings were only 20,000 tons, and stocks have risen to 237,000 tons compared with 210,286 tons last year.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

EDMUNDSON'S ELECTRICITY.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of Edmundson's Electricity Corporation, Limited, was held yesterday at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria Street, S.W., Mr. Francis E. Gripper, M.I.E.E. (chairman and managing director of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Frederick Payton) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman: In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I think I may say that, on the whole, they show a satisfactory year's work. When I met you here a year ago, I explained that it was not the intention of the directors to seek for any further powers for new undertakings, as we have ample scope in the development of the undertakings in which we are already interested. During the year the electric lighting works at Newbury have been completed and opened, and the works at Inverness and Ramsgate have been so far completed that the supply was commenced at Inverness in April last, and at Ramsgate we shall be ready to give a supply some time during this next August. The works in connection with the Lancashire Electric Power Company have also been so far completed that a commencement of supply will be possible at the end of this month. The progress of the various undertakings in which the company is interested is shown by the increase during the year of the lamps connected from 568,000 to 761,000. Our capital requirements for the year have been much smaller than heretofore, and have been met by the issue of 10,000 ordinary shares, 10,000 preference shares and £37,804 debenture stock. The directors do not anticipate any further issue of share capital being required, at any rate for some considerable time to come. On looking at the balance-sheet you will see the result of the year's trading is a net profit of £38,618 os. 1d., which is about £1,000 less than last year. This is the first time that we have to note a decrease in our trading profits, and the explanation of such decrease is that a smaller amount of work has been carried out for our various subsidiary companies. This must naturally be the case as the growth of the capital expenditure of these companies decreases. There will still be a large amount of work to be done in connection with the extensions that are continually required in the various towns, but this will, of course, be less now the works are all established and have started running. On the other hand, the revenue which we have received as interest and dividends on our investments during the year has been £30,104. This is about £11,000 more than the amount that was derived from this source last year, which is a satisfactory increase. As you will see from the list of investments in our various subsidiary companies, a considerable proportion have not yet reached a dividend-earning stage, so that we may look forward to a continued growth of our revenue from this source, and it is upon this growth that the continued improvement in the progress of the company will mainly depend.

The total profits, including a small amount for transfer fees, amount to £68,822 as against £63,698 last year. This is an increase of about £5,000. Including the balance of £13,923 brought forward from last year's account, the total amount to be dealt with this year is £82,746. Interest on our debenture stock has absorbed £13,830. Dividends upon our preference shares paid and accrued have required £22,006, and the interim dividend paid on the ordinary shares amounted to £8,750, leaving £38,158 now to be appropriated. The directors recommend that £6,635 be carried to the reserve fund, that a final dividend at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum be paid for the half-year upon the 70,000 old ordinary shares, and that a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum be paid on the 10,000 new ordinary shares. This will make the total dividend on the ordinary shares 7 per cent. for the whole year, the same as last year, and will leave £15,007 to be carried forward to the next account. I have already dealt with the amount of new capital which has been issued during the year. Premiums amounting to £13,364 have been received in respect of these issues, and this amount you will see has been added to the reserve fund, which with the amount you are now asked to carry to this fund from the profits will increase the reserve from £70,000 to £90,000. The amount of our investments in subsidiary companies taken at par value amounts to £1,252,789, and particulars of the various items are given in the schedule which accompanies our report. The amount of reserve against these investments has been increased this year by £7,320, making a total of £172,705. You will see that the increase of this reserve is much smaller than last year, when a very large amount was added to this reserve. The value of these investments is increasing from year to year, and we anticipate that it will not be necessary to continue to add to this reserve to so great an extent; in fact, we hope that a considerable portion of the reserve that has been set aside in this manner will so increase in value that it may properly be taken at par value, and thus increase our profits during the next few years. I now formally move: "That the eighth annual report and statement of accounts for the year ended March 31, 1905, be and are hereby adopted, and that, as recommended therein, a final dividend at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum for the half-year be paid on the 70,000 old ordinary shares, making 7 per cent. for the year, and that a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum be paid on the 10,000 new ordinary shares."

Mr. W. R. Davies seconded the motion.

Colonel Wheatley: Is the reserve fund invested in any special outside security or is it invested in the business of the company?

The Chairman: Perhaps I had better answer the various questions *en bloc* when I have heard them all.

Mr. Cooper: Will you kindly tell us whether any of the undertakings which are treated as investments are likely to be purchased by the local authorities during the next few years?

Mr. Wedekind: Nothing has been written off the goodwill, in spite of what the board promised to do last year.

Mr. Paxton: I have no question to ask, but I should like, with your permission, to make one or two remarks upon the report and accounts. I am sure it is very gratifying to hear that the increase in the number of lamps has been so very satisfactory—(hear, hear)—and I am also very pleased to see the progress, mentioned in the report, that has been made at the works at Inverness and Ramsgate. It gives me considerable pleasure to see that the board are following out the programme which they put forward last year, and I am sure that there is full scope for all the energy of the company. I am sure that the capital requirements of the company will be very heavy from time to time. I should like to say a word or two with reference to the question put by one gentleman with regard to the local authorities. I have no doubt that if any satisfactory offer was made by them, it will be considered by the board, because it is obvious that any money we receive in this way will always be very welcome to us, to use as advances to other companies and in making extensions to our own company. (Hear, hear.) It is very satisfactory to find that the dividends received in respect of the holdings of the corporation in the subsidiary companies are substantially improving from year to year, and also that the reserve which was established in respect of these holdings will very likely improve, and will thus add to our dividends, and altogether I think the report is an eminently satisfactory one—(hear, hear)—and we can quite safely look forward to a continual and satisfactory progress in the future. (Applause.) I have nothing further to add except this, that we as shareholders ought to be very satisfied with the position of the company as it stands to-day. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman: I will now answer the questions in the order in which they were put. With reference to the question as to the investment of the reserve I may say that it is invested in the business; it is practically invested in the various investments set forth here, being, in fact, a part of these investments and it is not in any way invested outside the business. With regard to the question as to whether the local authorities are likely to purchase any of our undertakings, I am afraid that that is a very difficult question for me to answer, as local authorities are very ticklish concerns, and I should not like to prophesy what they are likely to do in the matter; but we have, of course, in our agreements with them certain fixed years, or rather periods of years, after which they have the right to purchase, and in one or two cases—only two, in fact—have any of these terms been reached and then in neither case have the authorities adopted their right to purchase. I do not think that we wanted them to adopt it, for the longer we are allowed to go on developing and improving the undertaking the more satisfactory it will be to ourselves. (Hear, hear.) I do not think there is likely to be any purchase within the next year or two, but after five or six years we shall have the right to purchase exercised by them in one or two cases. I will not mention which cases these are, as I do not wish to invite them to purchase. I may say that the substance of the agreements varies very considerably, but they are all of them the best we could get. Some of the terms are extremely good terms; others are not such good terms, but are still very satisfactory. (Hear, hear.) We have always endeavoured to make the very best terms for the purchase, and in every case the local authorities must purchase at a very considerable profit to this company. With regard to the question of goodwill, it is true that nothing has been written off that item this year, because the directors thought that they had reduced the amount standing against the goodwill in the balance-sheet to such reasonable figures that it would not be necessary to reduce them any further. (Hear, hear.) I do not think that the gentleman who made this observation quite grasped the meaning of the figures. I will now, if there are no more questions, put the resolution.

No further questions being put, the Chairman moved the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry Wolfenden moved the re-election of Mr. J. W. Edmundson as a director. That gentleman, he said, had been connected with the company from the commencement, and his record spoke for itself.

Mr. Walter R. Hopkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The auditor, Mr. W. H. May, having been reappointed,

Mr. Cooper moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and officers of the company for carrying on the undertaking so successfully in the past year. The shareholders hoped prosperity would continue, and that they would for many years to come see the chairman occupy the position that he held that day.

Sir E. W. Fithian, in seconding the motion, said they owed Mr. Gripper, not merely thanks for his conduct in the chair, but for the skill and ability which he had displayed in conducting the business of the company. The satisfactory dividends they had received constituted the highest encomium of praise upon the management of this corporation.

The motion was carried by acclamation, and the Chairman returned thanks.

The proceedings then terminated.

EGYPTIAN LAND AND GENERAL TRUST, LIMITED.

The statutory meeting was held on Thursday at Winchester House, under the presidency of Sir W. F. Haynes Smith.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, The Chairman said: The company was incorporated on March 27 last, and the necessary certificate to commence business was obtained on April 11. The capital offered for subscription was £200,000 in £1 shares, and applications were received for 941,438 shares, 584,160 being applied for Egypt and 357,278 for London. The company was formed without the assistance of any promoter, and the expenses, which were clearly stated in the prospectus, were paid by the company; with the exception of these expenses, which were exceptionally small, the company started business with its capital intact. All who were interested in Egypt had learned to wait for—as one of the events of the year—the publication of the annual report of Lord Cromer, some of the salient facts in which he proceeded to quote. Continuing, he remarked that every year a stream of gold flowed into Egypt, supplied by the increasing numbers of people who visited the country for amusement, health or business. The rising prices quoted for leading stocks in Egypt showed that the investor there did not appear to look so much to present dividends as to the property and reserve funds acquired by the different corporations. Land and its development was naturally one of the investments which first attracted attention, and although various companies had recently been formed with objects similar to their own, yet there seemed no reason to doubt that there was an ample field open for the profitable use of their capital if it were judiciously invested. The company, in dealing with Egyptian affairs, had the advantage of the services as directors in Egypt of Crookshank Pasha, Mr. Lonsdorfer, a well-known merchant, and our agent-general, Mr. Hooker. As Crookshank Pasha was so intimately connected with the Daira administration, he would briefly draw the shareholders' attention to some of the published results. The whole of the debt was to be liquidated in October next. The rent roll had been increased to no less than £11,094,815, or an average of £86.52 per acre. With respect to the value of the land, his Excellency wrote: "With the conversion of the basin irrigation in Middle Egypt into perennial irrigation and a constant supply of good water assured by the Assouan dam and the Assiout barrage, I am confident that we have not yet reached the highest prices that the land is worth." This view was shared by many other high authorities. To the same effect was a record of the sales of the Domain's lands last year—2,958 acres were sold by auction; they were estimated at £26 6s. per acre, but realised £64 17s. per acre. Dealing with agricultural lands, there appeared to be a great opening for their company in acquiring land which required reclamation. They would reclaim land thoroughly within a fixed period, and then sell it in suitable portions to the small proprietor. An important point in connection with these questions was that under the Land Department of the Government it was easy to obtain a registered title, while the fee on transfer had been reduced from 5 per cent. to 2 per cent. The directors had in hand important business for the acquisition of lands in Cairo, and they were also considering the question of acquiring and developing lands in Alexandria for building purposes. They had other important business under consideration which was not ripe to put before the meeting that day. He regretted that they were unable to participate in the issue of a company for the development of one of the large mining concessions on the lines intended, but there were various other enterprises connected with the development of land in Egypt which were now being worked out, and the question as to how far these could be advantageously supported by the company would come before the board. It was not merely that the large centres like Cairo and Alexandria were greatly extending, but improvement was manifested in all parts of the country. It was, of course, necessary to be reticent as to pending business, but the shareholders might, he thought, be assured that the prospects open for the employment of the company's capital were likely to be fully satisfactory to them. The company had every prospect of entering upon sound business, which must develop and increase, and which, with the continued prosperity of Egypt and its growing volume of trade, must yield good results. Crookshank Pasha afterwards briefly addressed the meeting, remarking that he was present rather to emphasise all that the chairman had stated as to Egyptian investments. He was particularly interested in Egypt, where he had long resided, and he thought that his colleagues there and himself would know how to invest the company's money to the best possible advantage. The shareholders must, however, bear in mind that in Egypt things went rather slowly, and the board must be given a little time. Within the last few years the price of land in Egypt had risen in the most extraordinary way—not that it was not always fully worth the higher prices, but, in his opinion, it was only in the last few years that people had begun to realise what could be made out of land. Having congratulated the shareholders on the land business, which was under the directors' consideration, he observed that the board in Egypt had had a number of things submitted to them of the "wild-cat" order. The shareholders might be quite sure that nothing which was submitted by his colleagues and himself to the London board for ratification would be forwarded to the latter until it had received thorough investigation on the spot, or until the three members of the local board were united in the belief that it was going to be a good thing. (Applause.) No business resolution was submitted to the meeting, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

WARING AND GILLOW.

The eighth annual general meeting of Waring and Gillow, Limited, was held yesterday at Moorgate-place, E.C., Mr. S. J. Waring, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. Joseph Ritson, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: My first and pleasant duty is to congratulate you on the satisfactory results of the company's business for 1904, which show a profit before providing income-tax, directors' fees, and interest of £131,551. This profit enables us to pay the 7 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, to put £15,000 to reserve (which will then amount to £115,000), and to carry forward a balance of £13,585 to the current year. These results show that the progressive character of our enterprise, which has always been one of its distinguishing features, is being fully maintained. The year under review was by no means a generally active one for British trade, and the fact that we did so well, notwithstanding the prevalent dullness, may be taken as an indication that we have built upon sure foundations. I may point out that the growth of the annual profits has been continuous. In 1900 the amount, before the deduction of the charges I have referred to, was £77,155; in 1901, £86,201; in 1902, £101,927; in 1903, £119,983; and in 1904, £131,551—the last two items including the dividends received in connection with the company's holding of ordinary shares in Hampton and Sons, Limited. It will be seen by the report that we were engaged during 1904 in a number of important contracts, many of which—especially the Sultan of Turkey's yacht, the Waldorf and Lyceum Theatres, and the work entrusted to us at the new Savoy Hotel—have won the most favourable opinions of the Press. With our exhibit at the St. Louis World's Fair we carried off two Grand Prizes for Furniture and Decoration, besides Gold Medals for Sanitation, Upholstery, &c.; and we have good grounds for hoping from the work already placed in our hands that the impression made will bear fruit in the United States now that they have realised the artistic possibilities of refinement and simplicity in the decorative treatment of their homes. The year 1904 was further signalled by the formation of the Waring-White Building Company, the object of which was to combine the latest inventions and most useful features of American construction with the soundness and stability associated with British methods. I ventured last year to predict that this combination would mark a new epoch in the building trade. It has already fulfilled its promise. Within nine months from the starting of the foundations in Cockspur-street the American Shipping Combine were in possession of their new offices; the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly is being built with a vigorous spirit rarely, if ever, witnessed in England before; and the company has the Liverpool Cotton Exchange and other important buildings in hand, which will be carried out with the same thoroughness and energy. The company works upon a scientific basis; it is prepared to build upon a commission based upon cost, or in competition, guaranteeing to erect its buildings within fixed limits of cost and within fixed dates for completion. Thoroughness, scientific construction and promptitude are the salient points of the Waring-White Company's programme. Most of you, I suppose, have seen the handsome new building which is being erected for our occupation in Oxford Street, and which is rapidly approaching completion. We hope in these new premises to assist public taste in the choice of beautiful domestic surroundings, and to bring within the reach of all classes the possibility of artistic excellence in the English home. The large additional space at our disposal will enable us to greatly extend our business by the introduction of many new departments connected with the equipment of a house, for which our present premises have not been sufficiently large. It will be our constant endeavour to secure and keep, in this new departure, that complete public confidence which only good style and good workmanship combined with moderate prices can permanently retain. Special consideration will be given to customers who are restricted to a limited expenditure. I desire to emphasise this point of inexpensiveness. With such a programme and with such greatly increased facilities, it is quite reasonable to look forward to a commensurate expansion of business. Your directors, therefore, cherish the conviction that the opening of the new premises will be an important landmark in the history of the firm, and that there will be a considerable growth in the volume of the business, and necessarily this will be reflected in increased profits. It is more than probable that this will result in the early future in the deferred shares becoming a good profit-earning security, but as at present these are almost wholly held by the Waring family and by a trust for the benefit of the employees of the firm, it is the intention of the present board not to recommend any deferred dividend until the reserve reaches the figure of a quarter of a million. This expansion will naturally necessitate an issue of further capital, which will be offered for subscription forthwith. I need hardly say that in the allotment of this capital special consideration will be given to the applications of shareholders and customers. You will be pleased to hear that the whole of the debenture issue made by the company on its formation has now been repaid, so that the only debentures now outstanding consist of the irredeemable first mortgage debenture stock. Although our attention has been largely occupied with the immense amount of detail work in connection with the new premises, nothing has been left undone to advance the interests and prosperity of the Company. As stated in the report, we have on hand, amongst many other important contracts, work on H.M.S. "Renown" for the Prince and Princess of Wales's Indian trip, a yacht for

H.H. the Khedive of Egypt, a new palace for the Maharajah of Kapurthala, which for refinement and practicability will create a new standard amongst the palaces of India, and of which I may say that it will not be an illustration of the aggressively gaudy styles of British art which Lord Curzon deprecates in India, the interior of a new train for the Grand Duke Constantine, the Hamburg-American liner "Amerika," one of the largest, if not the largest, vessels afloat, which will surpass anything previously carried out in ship decoration, the offices of the International Mercantile Marine Company, Cockspur-street, and many other important contracts; and I am happy to add that our general trade during the current year shows a considerable expansion, which is indicated by the fact that we have now on our books the names of over 35,000 customers. You are shareholders in a business which I ventured to say once before is absolutely in its infancy, and which is now entering upon an era of great promise of progress and development. I think that the trade signs for the near future are distinctly hopeful. I am glad to be able to congratulate you on the past and the present, and to assure you of your board's complete confidence in the progress and prosperity of the company's future. Your directors and every member of the staff, down to the humblest worker, are looking forward with enthusiasm to our migration from the present London branches to the new premises where, "with ample room and verge enough," we shall aspire to make felt an even more enduring influence than we have yet done upon the artistic and industrial activity of the twentieth century. I would only like to add, gentlemen, that we hope on the next occasion to welcome you all at our new establishment, where we propose in future to hold our annual meetings and where you will have an opportunity of walking through the showrooms and inspecting the premises generally and our method of business, and of judging whether we have carried out the policy defined above to your satisfaction.

The report and accounts were adopted and the usual formal business transacted.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

There is nothing very striking about the returns from the Kolar Goldfield for June. The Champion Reef makes the best return, the yield being up 306 ozs., but in no other instance does the improvement reach 100 ozs. It is, however, satisfactory to note that no company announces a set back, and from all the mines we find the output was 458 ozs. larger at 51,553 ozs.

Name of Company.	Mar. Tons.	Ozs.	Apr. Tons.	Ozs.	May. Tons.	Ozs.	June. Tons.	Ozs.
Balaghat	3,910	3,384	3,920	3,388	4,030	3,401	3,950	3,426
Champion Reef	19,020	18,329	18,930	19,587	19,025	18,104	19,150	18,410
Coromandel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mysore	16,500	17,361	16,200	16,822	16,500	16,976	16,350	17,051
Mysore W. and Wynaad	2,005	1,007	1,972	1,002	2,033	1,010	2,295	1,027
Nundydroog	6,550	6,057	6,520	6,027	6,700	6,121	6,650	6,154
Ooregum	10,088	5,491	10,119	5,498	10,063	5,483	10,011	5,485

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1905 and the previous five years:—

	1900. Ozs.	1901. Ozs.	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.
January ..	41,185	42,820	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999
February ..	39,238	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629
March ..	40,674	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629
April ..	40,774	42,038	38,329	48,271	49,991	52,324
May ..	40,021	42,110	28,093	48,628	50,445	51,095
June ..	39,872	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,553
July ..	39,355	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	—
August ..	42,703	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	—
September ..	41,765	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	—
October ..	41,834	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,031	—
November ..	41,772	41,669	48,332	51,559	50,442	—
December ..	44,089	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	—
Total ..	493,342	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	307,229

Answers to Correspondents.

Cardigan.—These bonds were to be redeemed by annual drawings at 105, but the sinking fund has been suspended until 1910. Having regard to the fact that they may be paid off at any time, and probably would be if the overdue obligations of the Government were met, the price you name seems quite high enough.

B. S. K.—1. The management of this company is excellent, and either the stock or the shares a decent investment, though not exactly cheap. 2. This is also a very good company, and at present prices the stock seems a fair investment.

C. B. V. No 42.—The company you name is engaged in tobacco growing, not rubber, and is of high standing. The shares are quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

Olive.—We know of no reason why these shares should go back, and if you are not in want of the money keep for the present.

Provident.—Pay up your premiums, as it is very improbable that a complete break up of the society will be allowed to take place. The consequences would be too devastating.

K. V.—The procedure adopted by your brokers is the invariable custom with all Stock Exchange firms, and the authority you mention is therefore at fault. You have no cause of complaint. Option dealing is generally most expensive.

F. T.—Take your profit, or, say, one-half, and keep the rest for a possible further rise, as the outlook does not seem unpromising.

T. W.—We cannot write you a letter or speak definitely without a list of the things you hold. An improvement is possible, but not, as things are, very possible.

H. BAYLEY.—Yes, to a moderate amount, although you have left buying till rather late.

P. V. D.—Prospects seem fairly good, and you should hold for the present.

W. H. G.—No. 1 is right enough for the present, but there is a reserve liability of £20 per share which may one day become active, so no harm would come through selling that one. No. 2, outlook only middling, but may be kept for the present in preference to No. 3, which we think about at top price. No. 4 may improve by-and-bye, but is not a thing to keep long.

The Union of London and Smiths Bank has opened a branch of the bank at 179, High Street, Southampton, under the charge of Mr. E. Bullions Moody, formerly manager at Alresford branch.

The Hon. John Michael Gordon Biddulph has been elected a director of the Equitable Life Assurance Society in the place of the late Edward Bullock, Esq., deceased.

The Bank of Montreal has purchased and taken over the business of the People's Bank of Halifax, with the following branches:—Andover, N.B.; Bathurst, N.B.; Bridgewater, N.S.; Buctouche, N.B.; Canso, N.S.; Cookshire, Quebec; Danville, Quebec; Edmundston, N.B.; Fraserville, Quebec; Grand Falls, N.B.; Grand Mere, Quebec; Hartland, N.B.; Lake Megantic, Quebec; Levis, Quebec; Lunenburg, N.S.; Mabou, N.S.; Mahone Bay, N.S.; Port Hood, N.S.; Sawyerville, Quebec; Shediac, N.B.; St. Raymond, Quebec; Warwick, Quebec; Wolfville, N.S.; Woodstock, N.B.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

New Issue of Shares for Increase of Capital.

In pursuance of an Extraordinary General Meeting held on the 18th May, 1905, the Board of Directors of the AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT offer 248,000 New Shares of the said Bank of Five Pounds sterling each. These Shares will constitute an increase of the Capital of the Bank, and are issued in conformity with the Statutes at the price of Five Pounds sterling per Share, payable on application.

Applications should be made:—

In Egypt: To the Head Office of the National Bank of Egypt at Cairo and to the branch at Alexandria.

In London: To the London Agency of the National Bank of Egypt, 4 and 5, King William Street, E.C.

The new Shares will rank for dividend from the 1st January, 1906, that is to say, from the beginning of next year.

Every Shareholder has the right on application to an allotment of one new Share in respect of every old Share held.

All Shareholders who wish to exercise their rights must, under pain of forfeiture of those rights, lodge their applications at one of the places named above, on or before the 2nd October, 1905, depositing their Share Warrants, together with the total amount payable, viz.: £5 per Share.

The President of the Board of Directors,
Cairo, the 8th July, 1905. (Signed), ELWIN PALMER.

THE UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED.

39, Cornhill.

Capital Subscribed ..	£1,500,000
Paid up ..	750,000
Reserve Fund ..	420,000

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the RATES OF INTEREST allowed on money on Deposit are this day REDUCED as follows:—At call to ONE-AND-A-QUARTER per cent., at seven and 14 days' or longer notice, to ONE-AND-A-HALF per cent. The Company discounts approved Bank and mercantile acceptances, receives money on deposit at rates advertised from time to time in the London Daily Papers and grants loans on approved negotiable securities.

CHRISTOPHER R. NUGENT, Manager.

5th July, 1905.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital ..	£4,233,325
Paid Up ..	846,665
Reserve Fund ..	400,000

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATES OF INTEREST allowed for money on Deposit are REDUCED as follows:—To ONE AND A QUARTER per cent. per annum at call; to ONE AND A HALF per cent. at seven and fourteen days' notice.

PHILIP HAROLD WADE, Manager.
WATKIN W. WILLIAMS, Sub-Manager.

Approved mercantile bills discounted. Loans granted upon negotiable securities. Money received on deposit at call and short notice at the current market rates, and for longer periods upon specially agreed terms.

No. 35, Cornhill, E.C.
5th July, 1905.

The Investors' Review

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The Investors' Review.

Six Months' Foreign Trade.

A *resumé* of the figures for the first half of the current year relating to our import and export trade was given in last week's number. The results must surely be perplexing to those gentlemen who seek to persuade us that the method of the bludgeon, of hatred and retaliation, is the true modern system under which the great commerce of this country should be conducted. In spite of all they say about the horrible condition of the country's trade and the impudent forwardness of the Germans and of other foreign competitors, our business continues to expand. It expands, too, just in the way that is least likely to please those who prophesy the ruin of the nation at an early date. Last month, for instance, imports rose in value less than 1 per cent., while exports of home produce rose nearly 8 per cent. in value, and re-shipments of foreign and colonial merchandise, a valuable portion of our trade, increased by upwards of 11 per cent. We need not repeat the gross figures given last week, and tabulated below; it is enough to cite the percentages of expansion in order to show the character of the progress made. If we are being ruined by the competition of the foreigner in our home markets, it is difficult to trace where this destructive force comes in. To our modern theorists of reaction, however, preachers of the gospel of hate, and, therefore, upholders of militarism and all the abominations it brings in its train upon every country subjected to its malign influence, it is not enough that our own trade should prosper; the trade of other nations must be crippled or ruined.

If any country dares to invent something and to put it upon the market in successful rivalry to the productions of English manufacturers, that country is to be regarded as a public enemy. Hence our fulminations of rage against the people of Germany, who, in right of their position as a great nation, are developing their foreign commerce with an intelligence, a perseverance, and a scientific thoroughness and training that here and there threaten to leave us far behind. We cannot rise to the height of German intelligence, our new professional wailers tell us, in effect, therefore let us dash in their brains with the bludgeon, and see whether we cannot force those who dare to trade with them to turn their custom over to us. We have but to hold a pistol at their heads, and surely all will be well, experience having demonstrated the excellence of this mode of developing trade. That is the sort of doctrine preached in the Albert Hall and in other places where peers and plutocrats gather together to discourse upon the ruin of England, and prepare the way for British industrial slavery, a rise in rents, and the triumph of monopoly. In the details of our foreign trade we find much that is instructive always and not a little to reassure the mind. Almost when we read the jeremiads of the Protectionists we begin to fear that the business of England must be suffering deadly hurt from competition, and have to think a little in order to bring back serenity of mind, to realise that the prosperity of every other country means prosperity for us. The more other nations advance in civilisation, in the capacity to produce, and, therefore, to sell and to buy, the better customers they become. It is only when nations remain savage, primitive in their requirements, that trade with them becomes impossible or of little value. If German trade and industry were stagnant, think you

the business between us and Germany would have attained its present magnitude?

The figures of the month need not detain us; it is more interesting now to look at those dealing with the first half of the year, and they nearly everywhere indicate good solid business, often progressive, rarely falling back. Prices are now and then somewhat against us. We have been paying rather more for our cereals than we did a year ago, though buying rather less, and meat is generally dearer, as well as butter, and, above all, sugar—how beautiful are the fruits of the convention for all who consume!—but our raw cotton has cost us much less, and there has been a satisfactory decline also in the price of flax, though not in that of jute or raw silk. On the whole, however, the advance in prices where it has occurred has never been of a kind destructive to progress, and the recent flurry in the cotton market, amid which the price of the raw staple was jerked up in a fashion that brought visions of another cotton famine to Lancashire minds, should not alarm us over-much. The pity is that a magnificent industry of this description should be so much the sport of gamblers in the United States—and to some extent here—but that phase will pass, and the gambling has done at least this good, it has stimulated the cotton magnates of Lancashire to endeavour to create other sources of supply. They will succeed, too, and one of these days the cotton growers of the United States will find themselves left behind, and have nothing to thank their gamblers for, any more than the United States steel producer or toolmaker, to whom the tariff has been a patent market-closer.

Wool, it should be added, remains dearer, as well as cotton, but that does not hinder our export trade from being so well founded that while we imported woollen manufactures to the value of less than £6,500,000 we exported more than £14,600,000 worth. This is not so great a contrast as that presented by the accounts of our trade in cotton yarns and tissues, but then England has never held the supreme position in woollen manufactures which it has so long maintained in cotton, and no tariff manipulation would ever lift it into that position. It would be as reasonable to suppose that we might be able to establish a banana-growing industry on the Surrey hills as to entertain the notion that we could oust France from her supremacy in some of the finer branches of woollen weaving—a supremacy of too long standing to be disturbed. And in this connection it may be pointed out that not all the competition of Germany or any other country in the cotton trade has done anything as yet to hurt us. The world outside the British Empire took in the first half of the current year about 1,660 million yards of cotton tissues, as against about 1,350 million yards for the whole of the British Empire, including India, and the value of our exports of cotton fabrics of all descriptions was £44,462,000, as against less than £4,000,000 worth imported.

The particulars about the various branches of our mineral and metal trades are also singularly encouraging to those who believe that the more trade is liberated from state control, state subsidy, or state impositions of every description, the more prosperous will it be. We sent out of the country last half-year nearly 23,000,000 tons of coal, exclusive of coke and patent fuel, and upwards of 17,400,000 tons of that went to countries in Europe, exclusive of Turkey. The demand for coal for British possessions is always insignificant, and tends to decline. British India, for instance, is now providing itself with coal, and so, to a great extent, is British South Africa and Australia. Strange to say, the world outside the British Empire still takes most of our exported pig iron. Out of 450,000 tons exported in the half-year just ended about 324,000 tons went to foreign countries enumerated, and only about 44,000 tons to countries flying the British flag. It is not the same with all descriptions of iron; British possessions are the best customers we have for rails and other railroad furnishings, as well as for wire and the manufactures thereof; but foreign countries are to the fore in the demand for gal-

vanised iron, for black plates for tinning, and tinned plates. In the last-named the United States still takes the lead as a customer, British India coming next, followed by the Netherlands and Germany, so that out of a total export of tinned plates for the half-year, amounting to fully 186,000 tons, only about 44,000

IMPORTS.

	June.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
General merchandise.	41,295,550	43,196,784	43,557,407	+ 360,623
Gold	3,039,011	3,147,650	3,199,231	+ 51,581
Silver	970,020	1,628,352	1,249,328	— 379,024
	45,304,581	47,972,786	48,005,966	+ 33,180

EXPORTS.

	June.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	22,271,960	24,069,770	25,985,397	+ 1,915,627
For. and Col. M'dse..	5,850,852	5,658,959	6,399,164	+ 740,205
Gold	1,777,142	1,470,371	1,322,891	— 147,480
Silver	643,201	1,130,912	1,165,021	+ 34,109
	30,543,155	32,330,012	34,872,473	+ 2,542,461

IMPORTS.

	Six Months ended June 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
General merchandise	260,529,889	271,953,771	273,131,516	+ 1,177,745
Gold	13,656,327	17,110,448	19,483,437	+ 2,372,989
Silver	4,789,823	6,946,798	6,627,711	— 319,087
	278,976,039	296,011,017	299,242,664	+ 3,231,647

EXPORTS.

	Six Months ended June 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	142,522,625	144,116,667	155,706,221	+ 11,589,554
For. and Col. M'dse..	36,047,868	37,063,005	40,054,293	+ 2,991,288
Gold	7,602,116	14,285,512	11,252,326	— 3,033,186
Silver	5,096,074	7,223,199	6,991,675	— 231,524
	191,268,683	202,688,383	214,004,515	+ 11,316,132

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	June.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. .. .	45,304,581	47,972,786	48,005,966	+ 33,180
Exports	30,543,155	32,330,012	34,872,473	+ 2,542,461
Excess value of imports over exports	14,761,426	15,642,774	13,133,493	— 2,509,281

	Six Months ended June 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. .. .	278,976,039	296,011,017	299,242,664	+ 3,231,647
Exports.. .. .	191,268,683	202,688,383	214,004,515	+ 11,316,132
Excess value of imports over exports	87,707,356	93,322,634	85,238,149	— 8,084,485

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

went to British possessions. Equally satisfactory is the record of the exports of British cutlery, for which we naturally have a splendid market within the empire. Notwithstanding this fully half the entire export goes to countries outside the British Empire, and of hardware exported only about 40 per cent. is consumed within that empire. In all forms of machinery, too, except mining machinery, the foreigner continues to

be our best customer, and of our mining machinery more than half now goes to foreign countries. These also take the larger proportion of agriculture and miscellaneous machinery exported by us, and nearly all our export of sewing machines, the trade in which has been captured by us from the United States. To talk of capture reminds us that we are rapidly coming to the front as a country capable of exporting electrical machinery. Readers will be familiar with the wails uttered about the backwardness of English manufacturers in this particular line. It will soon be impossible to find any justification whatever for weeping. As yet the trade is comparatively small, but we exported 4,407 tons of electrical machinery in the first half of this year, as against only 2,985 tons a year ago, and domestic manufacturers are now able to compete with success against the foreigner, no matter whether he be German or French. We can produce as good an article cheaper than any foreigner can, so that this branch of our export trade is bound to grow. Its declared value for the six months just ended was only £324,000, but that was an increase of nearly £110,000 on the figure of a year back. It is unnecessary to point out either that we are the one country in the world capable of building ships for all other nations, no mean advantage, since, in spite of the tremendous progress made by the German mercantile marine, we have this year already exported £2,156,000 worth of new shipping, of which none were ships of war. Perhaps we shall lose this trade in time, although that is highly doubtful as long as foreign builders have to work under the stress of more or less ruin engendering tariffs, but there is no indication as yet that it is about to leave us, and in the past month the value of the new shipping built in this country for foreign owners was greater than in the same period of either of the two preceding years.

Minor industries should not be overlooked in any survey of the component parts of our foreign business, and the statistics relating to these are generally encouraging, though usually very defective. We sent out, for instance, large quantities of apparel of various kinds, and find customers for such commodities all over the world, although the best amongst them are naturally British possessions, South Africa leading, followed by Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. We also do a large business in chemical manures, for which Germany, France, Belgium, and Spain are by far our best customers. Outside the empire, however, there is apparently little demand for British-made boots and shoes. On the other hand, the foreigner is an excellent customer for our earthen and glass ware, especially the United States and the Argentine Republic, either of which has taken more in the current year than any single British possession; in fact, only about 36 per cent. of this class of exported British goods is consumed within the empire. Where our exports of plate and other glass, bottles, etc., may go the Board of Trade figures do not tell us, but the business is steady and on the whole improving, especially for plate and flint glass, so that altogether the value of our exports of earthenware and glass in the first half of the year was about £1,525,000; not quite so much as in the first half of 1903, but more than in the first half of last year. Our colonies seem habitually to consume much of the paper made in this country for export, but out of a total of 652,000 cwts. exported this year about 258,000 cwts. went to foreign countries. On the other hand, most of the bags and sacks made by us for packing are consumed abroad, the Argentine Republic being our best customer therefor. That remark, however, does not apply to cement, very little of this home-made product going outside the empire, and that is probably due to the backward condition of our plant, a defect, however, which is rapidly being remedied. There is no reason at all why we should not be able to undersell American or German producers of cement if we were to apply ourselves to the task of devising economical processes of manufacture and set up the latest machinery for the purpose. Tariffs will never encourage our manufacturers in this

course at any point; they are meant to benefit the slothful, the men who are beaten, the failures in an industry or trade, men who are unable to stand up to their work and desire to have a shelter into which they may creep and hide themselves as men afraid to face the world manfully, incapable of standing forth, dependent upon their own energy and resources to win in the battle of life.

The Development of the German Mercantile Marine.

By much the most interesting portion of Consul-General Sir William Ward's report on the affairs of Hamburg for the past year is devoted to information about the remarkable energy with which the Germans are developing their over-sea trade. The greatest among all the ocean carrying companies of the empire is the Hamburg-American Steamship Company, and the mere recital of its tonnage does not convey an adequate idea of its capacity and competing power. At the end of last year it owned 310 sea and river going vessels of all kinds of an aggregate capacity of 738,694 tons. Some slight decrease took place in the tonnage of the ocean-going vessels, but, on the other hand, the company had 110,000 tons building at the end of the year against only 75,000 tons at the end of 1903. Besides its direct carrying trade, however, which is enormous and constantly increasing, this company is interested in subsidiary lines, including a Brazilian coastal service, recently started under the name of the East Coast of South America line, an experimental service on the coast of Venezuela, a Calcutta line in conjunction with the Bremen "Hansa" line, a Mexican line, and a line from New York to the West Indies. The West Coast of South America business is also shared in by this great company along with the Hamburg-Cosmos line, and the results of the world enwrapping appear to be satisfactory, for last year the Hamburg-American Company itself paid a 9 per cent. dividend, after writing off no less than £925,000 from the value of the ships. The total profits of the year came to £1,560,000. This magnificent result was due on the one hand to the high prices paid by the Russian Government last year for several steamers bought by it, and on the other to increased receipts on account of goods traffic on some of the lines. Apparently the long-continued Atlantic rate war last year was felt by the company much less than has been asserted.

Consul-General Ward points out in a significant passage that the remarkable success of this Hamburg-American Steamship Company in recent years must in great measure be ascribed to its constant endeavour to introduce every possible modern improvement, not only as regards the construction, speed, and safety of its ocean-going steamers, but also in the accommodation and comfort of every description provided for passengers, and he illustrates the zeal displayed in these directions by mentioning that in some of the company's steamers passenger lifts have lately been constructed, while on board the company's tourist boats apparatus for hygienic gymnastics, &c., has been erected, and in the newest vessels the company intends to establish restaurants in order to offer passengers the option of taking their meals alone and at any time instead of being obliged to conform with the hitherto customary meal arrangements. Business consequently grows, and the competition of this powerful company must be more and more felt by us along the routes where it comes into contact with our own great ocean-carrying lines. The company, for instance, is a very powerful competitor for the Argentine and Brazilian trade, and has even reached out to lay hold of some portion of the trade of Australia, running a monthly service to that part of the world *via* the Cape of Good Hope and India. The vessels going to Australia, however, are exclusively cargo boats, and, being slow, can compete at low freights. The trade of Cape Town, it is noted, was altogether unprofitable. Nor was the trade done by the German East African line satisfactory in 1904.

The gross profits came to about £80,000, but after writing off an adequate sum for the deterioration of steamers there was nothing left with which to pay a dividend.

Sir William Ward speaks not unfavourably of the results of efforts made to form combinations to sustain freights, and mentions that the combination, as it might be called, amongst the owners of sailing vessels has had good results in this direction. Perhaps in time the ocean-carrying lines of the world will all be formed into a trust and have the nations trading with each other substantially at their mercy. That time has not yet come, but were there some means of popular control likewise to be established, much friction and waste could be avoided through some such general arrangement. Germany's trade with Canada last year, it may be mentioned, mostly conducted through Hamburg, was the lowest of five years back so far as both imports and exports are concerned, and unquestionably the tariff war going on between the two countries has been injurious to both. Earnest hopes, he says, are entertained by the leading commercial classes in Hamburg and in other parts of his consular district, that it may soon be possible to put an end to the present unsatisfactory commercial régime existing between Germany and the Canadian Dominion. It will, we fear, take some little time yet, and meanwhile the illustration furnished by the mischief now done to traders and producers in both countries is valuable to those who are struggling here to prevent a policy of retaliation and truculence from getting the upper hand with our trade. So far as the statistics of the report of Hamburg go, it may be added, the German colonies in Africa cannot be considered to have so far contributed much to the expansion of German industries or to the enrichment of the traders venturing to deal with those parts of the world. It may be noted in conclusion that the Hamburg grain trade firms in agreement with those in other prominent German markets and also in Holland last year established a new form of grain contract for part cargoes of grain from the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and the Danube, in which the most important point is that all arbitrations have now to take place in Germany instead of as heretofore in London or in some other non-German port. Much interesting information about the component elements in the trade out and in are contained in Sir William Ward's carefully composed essay, but they are hardly of sufficient interest to occupy our space, whether as supplement to or illustration of the figures relating to the entire foreign trade of the empire. It may, however, be mentioned that the State of Hamburg, which governs the port and district and manages its finances so well, continues to spend freely on works calculated to improve and enlarge the harbour, and that it is intended to dredge the River Elbe to a depth of 32 ft. 8 ins. Only a comparatively few years ago the depth was only 13 or 14 ft.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

CAPITAL ISSUES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1905.

The *Times* publishes its usual interesting table setting forth particulars of these issues from January 1 to June 30, and, as far as we have tested it, it seems to be unusually complete. Some obscure mining issues may have escaped notice, and the return does not profess to be full so far as issues by tender are concerned, but it certainly embraces all important public appeals for new capital made by prospectus or other advertisement in the columns of the newspaper, and a good many abortions, or things of no consequence. The total of such public appeals foots up to £132,721,486, over and above which particulars are given of £20,678,545 of new capital asked for by tender. In this smaller total, however, £10,000,000 of Exchequer bonds, together with £2,000,000 of India Government

stock, £6,000,000 of Irish Land stock, and £2,500,000 of London County stock are included, and if the whole of the issues by tender enumerated even in the INVESTORS' REVIEW had been added in we imagine the round figure would have been some £5,000,000 more than the *Times* gives. As to the larger total embracing issues made by prospectus and offered in the market at a fixed price, they contain such items as £10,000,000 of Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé fifty-year 4 per cent. convertible gold bonds and £20,000,000 of 3½ per cent. Pennsylvania Railroad convertible bonds, some considerable portion of which may have been taken in America or on the Continent. We are not sure whether the same remark applies to the £5,000,000 asked for by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, which issued 4 per cent. collateral trust bonds to that amount early in the year. The probability is that the bulk of this company's money was subscribed here, at any rate by underwriters. Apart from these United States enterprises, by far the largest demands for new capital made during the past half-year have been on behalf first of the Japanese Government, next of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and then of the various Argentine Railways, followed by sundry Egyptian enterprises, the Lagos Government, and at the end of the list, as it were, a number of domestic undertakings. The Grand Trunk Company, in one form or another, for instance, has issued upwards of £6,000,000 of new capital, and the Canadian Northern Railway has asked for more than £2,500,000. Of the Argentine Railways the Rosario alone has raised £2,000,000 in the half year, but we were under the impression that both the Great Southern line and the Pacific came for more money, although we do not find them set down in the *Times* table, because they issued no prospectuses. South Africa has been to the fore with a good deal of hunger for capital, including £2,500,000 for the Johannesburg Municipality, £2,560,000 for the Mashonaland Railway Company, £3,400,000 for the Rand Water Board, £500,000 for the South African Breweries in 5 per cent. preference shares, and £350,000 for the County of Durban Electrical Power Distribution Company, besides £500,000 in 4 per cent. stock for the Durban Municipality and £2,135,000 in 3½ per cent. stock for Cape Colony, with £210,000 in 4 per cent. stock for the city of Cape Town and a number of smaller municipal loans, mine company issues, and such like, aggregating more than £13,000,000. The largest domestic issue was that of the Mersey Harbour Board, which raised £3,500,000 in 3½ per cent. debenture stock; and the largest foreign state issue, apart from the British half of the £30,000,000 found for Japan, was £3,000,000 for Brazil. It would be interesting to know what proportion of all these new capital commitments has been placed with the British public. An impression exists in the City, and seems well founded, that much of the paper still remains in the hands of the underwriters waiting for a favourable market.

"BARNEYS" AND "JOHNNIES."

By means of a circular issued to the shareholders this week the Barnato people have done something to remove the unwholesome impression created when the suggested amalgamation of the Barnato Consolidated Mines and the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company was first launched. The latest step may have been forced upon them by the universal outcry against the apparent attempt to rush the thing through without giving the shareholders of either venture an idea of what they were being landed into, or an opportunity to express their assent or dissent to the scheme, and we have little doubt that the controlling powers found themselves faced by a more powerful opposition than was exactly pleasant. This is leaving out of account altogether the ugly stories floating around concerning "bear" positions nicely set straight by means of the fall in prices which the fusion proposal is supposed to have brought about. But let the circular speak for itself. It is issued by the

"Johnnies" Company, and after referring to the adverse criticism which the scheme provoked goes on to say that the weapon of attack consists in the supposition (1) That the assets of the Barnato Consolidated Mines are practically worthless; (2) that the scheme will be rushed through in Johannesburg without shareholders being given an opportunity to express their opinion. In an effort to disprove the first theory, a list of the Barnato Company assets is appended, and we think the space will not be wasted if we print them in full. Here they are:—1,421 mining claims and the freehold of the farm Cyferfontein; 93,644 Angelo South Mines (recently converted into 24,298 shares of the Angelo Deep standing at £2); 10,000 B.L.K. Syndicate shares; 7,604 Delagoa Bay Lands Syndicate; 251,100 Ferreira Deep, Limited (standing at £5½); 19,304 Jumpers Deep, Limited (standing at £3½); 309,501 Kleinfontein Deep, Limited (a large block of these shares has recently changed hands at 22s. 6d.); 6,267 Leeuwpoot Gold Mining Co., Limited; 52,778 Main Reef West (standing at 17s. 6d.); 100,000 Orkney G.M. Company; 48,668 Randfontein Deep (standing at 25s.); 124,500 Rand Central Mines (these shares have recently changed hands at £2); 250 Sub. Nigel, Limited; 6,489 Transvaal Estates (standing at £1 7s. 6d.); 364,499 Van Ryn Deep (a large block of these shares has recently changed hands at 22s. 6d.). Quantity is there if not quality, although some of the holdings, such as the shares in the Ferreira Deep, Jumpers Deep, Angelo Deep, and Van Ryn Deep may one day develop into remunerative assets. The value of a good many of the other things, however, is, to put it mildly, very problematical, and we should like to know the precise conditions attending the transactions before getting excited over the large blocks of shares "changing hands"—right hand to left, eh?—at stated prices. It is one thing for a share to "stand" at a pre-determined figure and quite another to realise it thereat. However, by means of the "values" given above we are told that even in a time of great depression like the present the shareholdings can hardly be worth less than, say, £2,500,000 to £3,000,000, and although we need not accept these figures there is satisfaction in the fact that the Johannesburg shareholders now know what they are buying. Moreover, it is estimated that the Ferreira Deep shares alone will produce for the current year something like £85,000, equal to 7 per cent. dividend on the 1,200,000 shares to be given for the Barney assets. So much for the reply to the accusation regarding worthless properties, and coming to the second point shareholders are at once assured that the fullest opportunity will be afforded for an expression of opinion. Any intention of "rushing the matter" is altogether disclaimed. The meeting to consider the scheme will not be held for some months, and, in the meantime, the boards of both companies will issue their balance-sheets and furnish shareholders with all the necessary information to enable them to form a correct judgment. In due course forms of proxy, both for and against, will be issued to shareholders; they will be received by the London office, to be used in strict accordance with the shareholders' wishes. What more could you have than that? Really, this sudden swerve back to the straight and righteous path is quite disconcerting, and causes us to marvel not a little. We wonder, for example, whether sufficient shares are controlled to render outside opposition a negligible quantity, and if any nice little blocks were picked up during the recent slump. You believe nothing good can come out of this ship, then? Friend, what would past experience teach you to believe?

LORD "BOBS" THE ALARMIST.

If Lord Roberts is right in declaring that our army is in no better condition for making war now than it was before we set out to conquer the Transvaal by a nicely-arranged military parade to Pretoria at an estimated cost of some £10,000,000, and General Buller "home for the next Derby," then we should like to

know where the money goes that is now being poured out upon it. Compared with the expenditure before the war, our army is now costing us quite double what it did. What is being done with this money, who gets it, why is it that we have neither killing tools nor men in quantity and quality sufficient to enable us to hold our own in any fight? We keep asking this question, having some little interest in the nation's economies, but know perfectly well that it is hopeless to expect an answer through anything the present worn-out and demoralised Parliament can do. But Lord Roberts probably meant to scare us by his rant with ulterior objects in view, not to state a definite fact. The military faction is at one with the man from Birmingham in trying to excite that hatred of Germany and the Germans it is no longer fashionable to nourish here against France. So we must have a strong army, forced military service, and all the civilisation-ruining apparatus of brute empire in order to be able to repel a German invasion, to grab German colonies, to destroy German foreign trade, etc., etc. "All pure phantasy!" Perhaps, but the methodical ranter generally knows his fool, and Lord Roberts would no more talk the way he does than Mr. Chamberlain if he did not have good reason to think that his mental pitch attunes well with the actual phases of jingo insanity. It really seems at times as if more blood-letting were needed to cure the nation of its vagaries.

TRANSVAAL FINANCE.

The estimates of the Transvaal for 1905-6 were laid before the legislative council last Tuesday, and show an expected income of £4,545,000, or £295,000 more than the receipts of the year closed on June 30 last. Expenditure, however, is up £325,236, and the anticipated surplus is accordingly a mere £87,480, but the treasurer explained that there was every reason to hope this would increase. In the year just closed the actual surplus was £370,222, of which £350,685 will be devoted to extraordinary expenditure, leaving £19,537 to be added to what is called the consolidated revenue balance fund, raising it to £1,571,070, £910,000 of which has disappeared as "temporary loss on advances." Does that loss include the £20,000 lent by the Transvaal treasurer to Mr. Van Rensburg, a former member of the Federal Council, now bankrupt? It may be added that the Customs revenue at £1,600,000 is put £50,000 less than in the expired year, but the mining revenue is raised by £295,000 to £1,115,000. This includes £275,000 half profits of the diamond mines, the other half being earmarked for reduction of debt. Native revenue is put at £575,000, and posts and telegraphs at £495,000. Then, as to expenditure, of which particulars are not given in the *Times* man's telegram, there are increases of £50,331 in prisons, £46,528 in education—rather a significant contrast—and £37,900 in agriculture and forests, but beyond this there is an extraordinary expenditure of £347,442 which has to be met out of the consolidated balances, including the "temporary loss," we suppose. We should like to examine the items of the accounts. How much do the Chinese slaves contribute to the revenue of the State?

NAKED PROTECTION IN CANADA.

Would those gentlemen who are busy propagating heresies of the Tariff League under pretence of strengthening the bonds of empire and uniting the colonies more closely with the mother country kindly tell us what we are to infer from the speech delivered by Mr. W. K. George, president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, at the luncheon given by the Eighty Club to the visitors from Canada on Monday last? Mr. George was frank and honest in what he said, telling us that Canada believes in protection, reciting his faith in the value of tariffs as developers of home industries. It was the intention of Canadians, he said, to make within the country everything which they could advantageously produce, and to make it as well as it was made in any other part of the world,

therefore he illogically and, as we think, foolishly, but quite intelligibly, went on to declare the necessity for a high tariff. The Canadians were quite willing to assist in building up our empire, and it was with that idea if it were feasible that they had pronounced themselves in favour of the Canadian preferential tariff; preferential, i.e., to us. No reduction in tariff, however, would be granted by Canada likely to interfere with the ideal just described. His experience taught him that almost every industry in Canada today was their own on account of the measure of protection which had been accorded to it. Thanks to protection also United States capital and enterprises were coming over into the Dominion, running up branch establishments, and all this he considered to be good. Absolutely nothing but the tariff had compelled the United States manufacturer to duplicate his plant in Canada in order to try and retain or to secure a portion of the Canadian market. How all this can be expected to conduce to the increase of wealth amongst the commonalty in either country it baffles our wit to conceive, but the Canadians will have it so. Protection is the fashion there and in all new countries, and they must have their way. It is not our business to interfere with them, and we are glad to see, according to Mr. George, that the Canadians have no intention whatever of mixing themselves up with our affairs. How, then, is "preference within the empire" to be established upon an intelligible, let alone a working basis? Some of our ever-ready critics will perhaps enlighten us upon this point. If Canadian industries must be fenced in against us what on earth are we to gain by "preference"?

BARCELONA TRAMWAYS SALE.

Some further particulars concerning the sale of the Barcelona Tramways Company have just been issued to the shareholders, who will no doubt signify a ready acquiescence to the scheme. The purchase price is £637,000, of which a deposit of £5,000 has been paid, a further sum of £245,000 will be handed over on completion of the notarial transfers of the concessions, and the balance of £387,000 after the transfer to the purchasers has been completed with all necessary formalities. The company will retain possession of the undertaking until the final payment has been made, but the profits are to belong to the buyers as from the date of payment of the £245,000, the company receiving 5 per cent. interest on the balance of £387,000 until paid. As already announced, the directors estimate that after redeeming the outstanding debenture issues and discharging all liabilities and expenses, the purchase price will be sufficient to repay the capital at par, and give at least £14 for each ordinary share. That makes the bargain an excellent one, and shareholders are asked to vote the directors a sum of £5,000 in consideration of the board's special services, and also some compensation for the staff. There will be grumbling at this perhaps, and some will say the board ought to have got more money, which may be true in a sense, and yet the bargain be the best attainable in the circumstances.

THE POSITION OF THE ASSAM COMPANY.

For some years past the board of this venerable tea company has abstained from sending us its annual reports, in this respect acting very differently from nearly all other Indian and Ceylon tea companies in existence. What reason there may be for this secrecy we do not know, but a complaint has been made to us by a shareholder and ex-servant of the company, Mr. T. G. D. Reed, that no attention whatever is paid to his criticisms of the company's management, that he has not been allowed to lay his views before the shareholders at their meeting, and that the directors have altogether refused to print a word of what he has written, he having many pertinent criticisms to offer. From a manuscript submitted to us we gather the impression that it may have been far from unreasonable on the part of the meeting to refuse to listen to Mr.

Reed's story. The form of his observations does not indicate a man accustomed either to put his ideas upon paper or to express them *viva voce*. This, however, does not affect the substance of his remarks, and these appear to us to be well worth notice. When we turn, however, to the published reports of the shareholders' meeting we not only find that the criticisms of this shareholder are ignored but that the directors, by the mouth of their chairman, fell into an almost abusive attitude, not only towards Mr. Reed, but towards Mr. George Seton, a man who should certainly have commanded respect and attention at their hands. That Mr. Seton should have supported Mr. Reed is itself evidence that something must lie in the criticisms offered, and the recent history of the company certainly lends countenance to the view that its affairs are not well and economically managed. Dividends have always fluctuated to some extent, but it is a long fall from the 20 per cent. paid in 1885 to the meagre 5 per cent. now distributed, and dividends in recent years have been both poor and uncertain. Why should this be so? Mr. Reed, speaking with intimate knowledge, assigns various reasons. The cost of coolies, he says, is excessive, and could easily be reduced one-half by employing Kacharies in lieu of Bengalese. He says also that the company pays an extravagant price for its tea boxes. Formerly it cut up wood grown on its own property for these boxes; now the wood is bought from another company in which some relatives of members of the board have an interest. He computes that on the box item alone the loss has been about 12½ lacs of rupees in the past 12 years. He thinks that the company should utilise its own saw-mill as formerly and its own forests, taking care to replant wherever timber is cut down. He also declares that the company has plenty of land on which it could grow rice for its coolies with considerable direct and indirect profit, pointing out that the Doom Dooma Company had a profit of Rs.20,000 on its rice in 1903. In his opinion the Assam Company might easily double that amount. In fact, he asserts rice could be grown on its land at a cost of R.1.8 annas a maund, whereas the company is paying Rs.3.5 annas for it. Deducting swamps and barren hills it is estimated, he adds, that there still remains in the Brahmapootra Valley as much as 5,000,000 acres of good land awaiting the plough, and he sees no good reason why the company should not grow its own rice. These are some of the leading points recited in Mr. Reed's notes, and they appear to us to be of sufficient substance and gravity to deserve more attention at the hands of the directors than they seem disposed to give.

RAILWAY JOBBERY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Scandals seem to be as rife in the United States as with us. We hear, for instance, that a nice little scheme for private profit has been arranged between the Government of Washington and what is called the "Harriman group" of financial conjurers. It appears that a loan of \$30,000,000 dollars in 5 per cent. bonds is to be issued at par by the United States Government in order to provide for railways about to be built in the Philippines. The public, however, is not to get the privilege of subscribing for these bonds at par. That blessing goes to Harriman and pals, who have arranged to put them on the market at 115, a figure which means a profit to the syndicate of \$4,500,000. The Government, according to the story, is also to pay 15 per cent. premium to the builders of the railroads—a plan which means another \$4,500,000 net gain. Furthermore, power is given to the Harriman group to issue pure "water" stock to an amount equal to the bond issue for each section of the line as completed. This is the usual American manner of compensating private enterprise. The stock does not represent a penny of expenditure on the lines: it is merely plunder to be utilised in the first instance for immediate profit to those endowed with the privilege of creation and afterwards as instruments for maintaining or raising the charges levied by the railways for the work done. It is said, further, that this stock is to be exchanged against an

issue of Union Pacific stock, which will fetch, at least, 120 per cent., making the total chance of profit on this additional privilege \$36,000,000. Add that to the \$9,000,000 otherwise assigned, and the boodle in the entire deal will be seen to amount to \$45,000,000, or £9,000,000, that is to say, one and a-half times the estimated net cost of the railways to be built. Why President Roosevelt and his War Secretary, Mr. Taft, consented to any such arrangement—if they have consented to it—we cannot imagine, and we hope the story is, at least, an exaggeration; but our correspondent gravely warns us, when a new issue of Union Pacific stock is put on the market and offered in England, to note that it is designed to hand on Philippine Railway watered capital—"water with an insurrection one day behind it."

OUR MODEL TRUST.

This week's trust is of a rather more miscellaneous character than usual, and for that reason it may prove more attractive to many investors. The Surrey Commercial Dock dates back to 1865, and although its business has not been quite so remunerative in recent years the dividend on the ordinary stock for the past five years has been steadily maintained at 5 per cent. Fletcher, Son, and Fearnall took over a business of ship repairers and engineers in 1896, and after a couple of years of misfortune have gone ahead until the dividend on the ordinary shares reached 15 per cent. The debenture stock is redeemable after 1925 at the option of the company on six months' notice, but at the price of 110 per cent., so that in the event of the option being exercised holders at the present quotation would secure a good premium. Salmon and Gluckstein debenture stock is secured by a specific first mortgage on the freehold property acquired out of the proceeds of the issue and on the leaseholds, &c., owned. It is repayable on April 1, 1950, at 110 per cent., but may be repaid prior to April 1, 1910, at 115 per cent. on the usual notice or at any time after that date at 110 per cent. The Bon Marché is the well-known Brixton drapery business, of which all the share capital is held by the directors and their friends. Its debenture stock is secured on the freehold and leasehold premises, and may be repaid at 112 per cent. at any date after July 31, 1910, on six months notice. All of the companies have paid good and regular dividends on their share capital, and as the yield works out at nearly 4½ per cent. the selection seems a fair one.

	Nominal Amount.	Price.	Dividend.
	£	£	£ s. d.
£300 Surrey Commercial Dock ordinary stock	300	349½	15 0 0
£300 Fletcher, Son, and Fearnall debenture stock	300	301½	13 10 0
£300 Salmon and Gluckstein debenture stock	300	336	13 10 0
£300 Bon Marché debenture stock	300	324	13 10 0
	1,200	1,311	55 10 0

THE NATIONAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The figures of income and outgo for the period ended last Saturday embrace seven working and eight drinking days, and it is no doubt partly for this reason that the total amounts to £4,394,000. No less than £1,162,000, however, came from Customs, a great leap due to the clearings of tea at the beginning of the month, when the duty came down from 8d. per pound to 6d. Another large amount, £1,140,000, is furnished by the Post Office, and then comes nearly £670,000 from the Suez Canal, our one paying investment, so that ordinary branches of the revenue were not called upon to do much towards swelling out the total. In spite of this large revenue, the balances at the Bank were reduced by £1,766,000, because nearly £5,000,000 was

absorbed by charges on the National Debt. It is more interesting, however, to look back to the figures of the past quarter, as disclosed in the previous week's exhibit. They show an income of £28,898,000, and an expenditure of £33,695,000, exclusive of borrowed money outgoings to the amount of £1,340,000. No wonder, therefore, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been obliged to absorb the proceeds of the Exchequer bond issue made by him with such promptitude at the beginning of the financial year. Up to the end of June £5,975,000 had been received on account of that issue, and the borrowings altogether within the three months amounted to £6,295,000. Of that total, however, £2,000,000 was utilised to pay off Treasury bills, but even so the expenditure upon naval and military works has gone on at such a pace, taking no less than £1,340,000 in the three months, that the balances of the Exchequer in the Banks of England and Ireland were reduced by £1,675,900 at the end of June, compared with the total on April 1. Our finances are thus still in a chaotic state, and as the year progresses we think it probable that they will go from bad to worse.

Passing Events.

The Edinburgh *Evening News* explains that the inclusion of Mr. Lewis Harcourt, M.P. for Rossendale, in the directorate of the *Morning Post* company is merely a family arrangement. Lord Glenesk, the proprietor of the *Morning Post*, recently lost his only son, but that loss has not induced him to sell his newspaper at a fancy capitalisation to a syndicate by which staff and public alike would be exploited; he has merely converted it into a private limited liability company, modestly capitalised at £200,000, and Mr. Harcourt becomes a director in virtue of family relationship, because his mother and the late Lady Glenesk were sisters. The incident implies nothing whatever of sinister import to Liberalism.

A correspondent has kindly forwarded to us some documents issued by a concern named the United Kingdom Savings Investment Corporation, Limited, asking us to draw attention to it. We cannot quite say all we should like about it because it is one of those "bond investment companies" whose treacherous character the *Manchester Guardian* did so much recently to expose, and into whose proceedings a departmental committee is now making investigation. We shall wait for the report of that committee before dealing at length or thoroughly with this or any other of the unsavoury group. Our correspondent, however, raises one point. "A poor spinster I know," he says, "has just been 'landed,' and the bonds themselves are stamped to the effect that the corporation is not responsible for any statement its agents may make." That is quite in accordance with what we should expect, and all we need add now is a warning to people who desire to really put their savings in a safe place to give all adventures of this kind a very wide berth. The authorised capital of the particular thing before us is only £50,000, and how much of it may be paid up the papers before us do not disclose, but we know that if the business were large ten times £50,000, all paid up, would not go very far in meeting the ultimate deficiencies sure to accrue.

The dispute over Morocco between France and Germany has been, happily, ended as we always expected it would be, by adroit diplomacy and ingenious piecing together of nice phrases. Substantially it leaves the position of France much where it was before the Kaiser spoke, the only essential difference being that Moroccan affairs seem now likely to be submitted to a conference of the Powers. What they are to confer about we do not quite know, since France is to have fair liberty to deal with her next-door neighbour as circumstances may dictate. So far the dispute has done good though, by causing the democracies of France and Germany to look each other in the face and discover that they are not at enmity, have no just grounds

for mutual hatred, no matter what emperors and chancelleries may say. We hope, nevertheless, that when next the Kaiser expresses a desire to sojourn at Cannes the French Government will raise no objection.

A redistribution measure, which filches 22 seats from Ireland and distributes them over England, Wales, and Scotland (England especially) without touching any of the graver anomalies of our present system of allotting Members of Parliament to constituencies, seems a distinctly clever feat, and the study of it has amused us not a little. Really Mr. Balfour deserves a testimonial for the adroit manner in which he continually dishes the Opposition, an Opposition limp and ill-knit together. There is no reason why he should not carry his measure, none whatever, if he has the necessary audacity.

From the Monte Video *Times* we learn that the trade of Uruguay was astonishingly good last year, from one point of view at least, in spite of the fact that during the nine months of 1904 there was "a determined and reckless civil war" going on. This is the description we get of that war from the newspaper, but however we may agree with the adjective reckless we doubt the determination. Had the rebellion really been incited and carried on by men intent on killing, it must have done more mischief and effected greater damage to business than it did. As it is, the exports for 1904, amounting to \$38,456,167, were the largest in the history of the republic. More trace of the effects of civil war is to be found in the imports, which fell to \$21,216,689, the lowest figure since 1897. From the point of view of the foreign creditor this restriction of imports and expansion of exports is, perhaps, to be regarded as an additional security, and on the strength of such a wholesome margin the Uruguayan Government is plucking up courage to come to London for yet another loan. For is it not announced that an extraordinary loan of 1904 to the amount of at least \$8,000,000 gold, bearing 6 per cent. interest with 1 per cent. cumulative sinking fund, is to be launched, floated, or distributed, to pay for the civil war or revolution? Out of that \$8,000,000 \$6,000,000 will be required to meet war indemnity claims, of which there are 8,500. Another \$1,000,000 will be absorbed by railway claims, and \$869,000 by transport claims. Where the loan is to be issued we do not know, but these and other particulars appeared in Thursday's *Financial News*, and doubtless the London market will be ready to buy at a price. The officials of the republic seem to think that they can get about par, and perhaps they can, the world being simple.

From the same paper we learn that a dead set is being made against foreign insurance companies in Uruguay. Senor Soza has introduced a Bill in the House of Deputies which, if carried, would have the effect of driving all foreign insurance offices out of the republic, since the proposed law would compel them to place their funds arising from local business within the republic, to deposit 50 per cent. on all local premiums received, and forbid them to select the banks into which they would put the money. There is a good deal to be said for this proposal, in view of the revelations continually being made about the methods of business pursued by prominent Yankee offices, but we really do not think that any British insurance company deserves cuffing and kicking after this brutal fashion.

If it be true that a failed Paris bucket shop known as the Banque de Reports, whose proprietor took his own life some weeks ago, raised money with one of the leading French banks by pawning clients' securities handed to it for safe keeping, there may be some troublesome complications to face when the owners call for their property.

Amongst the interesting articles in the *Book Monthly* for July is one that strikes us as somewhat daring in character, for it is no less than a criticism upon what is called "the parochial novel" by a publisher, Mr. R. Brimley Johnson. His criticisms are pertinent, as we can testify from experience. Rarely do we find a contemporary English novel of

sufficient interest to beguile a tired mind, and the manner in which so much of the fiction of the day is overloaded with studies in "local colour," descriptions of scenery and surroundings, pictures of social gatherings, and so on, to the drowning out of any mere human interest, has become to us quite intolerable. Another interesting article is "What Sailors Read," and there are some quaint reminiscences of the late Mr. Lawrence Hutton, an American man of letters little known here. We were less fascinated by the account of Mr. Gerald Massey than with the general run of interviews contained in this most useful monthly. That there should be so many good books nearly ready at this time of year as is described here was something that quite astonished us.

Two new developments in life assurance are announced by that ever-watchful and enterprising office, the Clerical, Medical and General. They may be described as admirable samples of evolution along the lines we like to see life insurance business moving. Surrender values will in future be automatic with this office. If a policy-holder fails to meet his premium there will be no forfeiture but a free or paid policy equivalent to the amount of the surrender value will be kept in force as a matter of course, and the amount will be always greater than would be granted in the ordinary way of new business for a similar consideration in cash. That is one step. Another is the institution of "convertible contract" policies, a sample of which has been sent to us. The meaning of this phrase is that every policy-holder will have upon his contract not merely the amount for which the policy has been written but its actual cash or free paid-up policy value at any given date of its life and that at any date the contract can be changed from the one form to the other. Thus in the example before us a policy for £1,000 taken out at 30 will, if discontinued in two years, entitle the holder to £8 14s. 2d. in cash surrender value or to a paid-up free policy of £25 payable at death. After twenty-one years cessation to pay premiums would ensure a return of £238 9s. 2d. in cash as surrender value or a paid-up policy of £487, the conversion being in all cases automatic at the will of the holder. Various advantages arise from this frank and straightforward statement to those who seek to insure their lives, and one of the most prominent of them is that every individual can know beforehand exactly what is involved, what the risks are, what the certainties.

Among the various stories coming over about that wretched Equitable of the United States Life Office scandal is one that looks even nastier than that little deal of Mr. Chauncey Depew, who, it was stated in evidence before Mr. Hendricks, the Superintendent of Insurance for the State of New York, contrived to get a loan of \$250,000 for some enterprise with which he was associated, practically without security, since neither interest nor principal of the debt has been paid. We now hear that, owing to a dispute with the Chinese Government, the Morgan-Harriman syndicate bought back the Chinese Government Railroad bonds, which it had sold to the King of the Belgians and the Queen of Holland with some of the money of the Equitable policy-holders. How much was involved in that transaction we have not heard, but it does not smell sweet in any shape.

Are the troops called "constabulary" who have been brought on to the Witwatersrand to overawe the tortured and constantly revolting Chinese coolies to be paid for by the mine-owners, or will the charge involved be laid upon the general tax-payers of the Transvaal? Perhaps some M.P. will cross-examine Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, our simple-minded Colonial Secretary, on this point.

It is pleasant to find the sailors of England and France fraternising at Brest, and we hope that it may mean everlasting peace between neighbours. One cannot, however, help regretting that it should still be left to the mediæval barbarism implied in fighting forces of any description to emphasise the better feeling now undoubtedly existing between the populations on each

side of the Channel. In time, perhaps, we shall light upon a better way, but for the present it is well to be thankful, since the peace of Europe can be kept by France and England if they work together, and what the peace kept means to humble investors there is no poet now living who could adequately describe.

Shareholders in Crisp and Co. did not respond with any fervour to the liquidator's invitation of last February to take up debenture stock and shares in a new company to be formed and a last desperate attempt is made to save something out of the wreck of the business. Creditors are now appealed to to accept 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock and fully-paid 10s. shares in satisfaction of their claims, so as to prevent the forced realisation of the assets. Under this scheme debts up to £10 will be paid in shares or cash in such proportions as the liquidator may be able to arrange, and all amounts over £10 will be satisfied by allotments of equal proportions of debenture stock and shares. The 10s. shares will wipe out 6s. 0½d. of debt, but the £10 debenture stock will be in full satisfaction.

The substitution of M. Witte for M. Muravieff as Russian peace negotiator has stimulated all bourses. All along M. Witte has been classed as an opponent of the war in Manchuria, and he is said to have refused to accept the mission unless endowed with full powers to conclude a treaty with Japan. All this news comes most opportunely for the success of the new Japanese loan, but does nothing to help Russia to borrow. Neither abroad nor at home are the Tsar and his bureaucracy able to secure fresh advances. All markets are closed to them, and the latest domestic loan of 150,000,000 roubles is said to have been withdrawn. This is the most pacific news yet published, for if the Russian Government cannot procure money it cannot go on sending its troops to the slaughter. Perhaps, therefore, peace is now not far off. No wonder, then, that markets are joyful at the prospect and eager to discount the event.

Foreign nations appear to be doing a fine foreign trade as well as ourselves, and that is in accordance with the universal law—prosperity spreads itself. The Board of Trade returns of the external trade of foreign countries, just published, and containing figures received up to the end of June—which means for five months of the current year in the case of Belgium, France, and the United States, and for four months in the case of other nations—show expansion in the exports in almost every instance with, occasionally, stagnation in the imports. But the United States, Belgium, France, Spain, Austro-Hungary, Japan, British India, and Canada, have all imported more for the first four months of 1905 than in the same period of 1904.

Notes on Books.

The Business of Advertising. By Clarence Moran. (London, Methuen and Co. 2s. 6d. net.)—It cannot be said that this book appeals much to the general reader, but to all who advertise it will prove a valuable acquisition, and it is very interestingly written, dealing as it does with all forms of advertising in a way which is both instructive and amusing. Not the least attractive feature in the book is the illustrations, some of which are in colours. That poster, for instance, drawn by Mr. John Hassall to advertise Colman's mustard, depicting a pilgrim to Klondyke sitting in the snow with a tin of Colman's mustard before him, at which he is warming his hands, is exquisitely humorous. Some very useful hints are given to the large class of people who advertise in newspapers, and we learn that it is an expensive method of promoting trade, but one which apparently once entered upon cannot be abandoned. Mr. Moran instances a firm which by persistent advertising to the extent of £10,000 a year won a leading position in a particular trade. Thinking that this position was unassailable the advertising bill was cut down by one-half, and the consequence was that the business fell off rapidly, so much so that the firm was compelled shortly after-

wards to spend £20,000 in a single year on advertisements in order to restore it. The dictum is laid down that no amount of advertising can force an article into popular favour unless backed up by the intrinsic merit of the article itself, but a footnote admits that this assertion of the advertising agent is hardly borne out by facts, since the great success of certain patent medicines of no apparent merit goes against it. We should say that if the advertising is only skilfully enough gone about it will succeed for a time, no matter how worthless the article advertised may be. We can call to mind in this relation the story of a Yankee visitor to the first International Exhibition, that of 1851, who boasted that he had taken up the manufacture of photographic lenses without knowing anything whatever about it, he being a manufacturer of glass door handles, and that by dint of advertising he had developed a tremendous business in his worthless productions, a business which did not live long, it is true, but out of which he none the less made a large amount of money, until signs multiplied that a crisis was coming, when he prudently did a final cheat, sold the whole enterprise, and cleared out. The extent to which art has been enlisted to further the business projects of advertisers is admirably handled in the chapter called "Art and Advertising," and some of our English artists have gone far to rival the French, who until lately took the lead in this line of artistic production. The laws, police, and municipal regulations and other methods for controlling publicity by advertisement are summarised in the concluding portions of the book, which is altogether a very valuable addition to Messrs. Methuen's series of "Books on Business."

The Shipbuilding Industry. By David Pollock, M.I.N.A., M.I.E.S. (London: Methuen & Co. Price 2s. 6d., net.)

This is the latest volume of the "Books on Business" series, and an excellent addition it is. Though giving a short survey of the history of shipbuilding from the earliest times, Mr. Pollock deals chiefly with the steamship and its modern development, and this naturally leads up to a description of modern yards and their equipment. The book is illustrated throughout with admirable photographs and diagrams, which add considerably to the reader's interest in the subject, though that is perhaps hardly necessary, since the author has done his work well, producing an excellent little book.

The Bank and the Treasury. By Frederick A. Cleveland, Ph.D. (Longmans, Green and Co. Price 7s. 6d. net.)

We have found this book rather tough reading by reason of the American business technicalities with which it is loaded. That, however, is not the fault of the writer, but arises from our unfamiliarity with the American modes of expression, and the book is a good one, containing much interesting information regarding the working of the United States banking system and its relations to the Treasury, for it is American banking and the American Treasury it deals with, not our Bank of England and Exchequer. A valuable addition to the text consists in a series of diagrams illustrative of the movements of banking credit in a variety of forms. Mr. Cleveland says there are two schools of banking reform in the United States, but the aim of both appears to be to devise some means for automatically inflating the currency in times of expansion or speculation, and we are not much in love with any of these projects. It seems to us that under the present arrangements the paper money of the United States can be inflated to a dangerous extent, and that currency once in circulation is very difficult to withdraw again. Mr. Secretary Shaw made a suggestion that banks might be allowed to expand their note circulations beyond the limit now fixed by law—a very elastic limit so long as Government bonds can be printed, and bought with bank notes manufactured for the purpose—by charging them say 6 per cent. upon all such excess issue. That is practically our rough and ready plan in the time of panic when there is a sudden expansion in the demand for Bank of England

notes. It can, after licence to do so obtained from the Government, issue these notes at will, but has to pay a very heavy percentage to the Treasury upon the amount of the excess, and the result is that those who apply for the use of this credit money are compelled to pay 9 or 10 per cent. for it, have been so compelled in past crises. The moment the pressure is over there is consequently a rush to reduce these costly advances and the circulation automatically comes back within normal limits. We agree with Mr. Cleveland in thinking the funding system in the United States superior to ours, although not to the system prevailing in many parts of the Continent, but think their National Bank system with its huge manufacture of paper money, by no means a guarantee of sound finance. Nor are we satisfied that the United States Treasury should itself be a money dealer or creator. That appears to us to be outside the functions of a Government. It should guarantee the quality of coins, but the whole provision of money in every form should be left to the commercial community, the people at large. This is all we have space to say at present about the argumentative portions of this interesting volume, but those who care to read it merely for the information conveyed as to the United States banking system will find the task—and it is rather a task—not without profit. Mr. Cleveland insists that the note circulation of the National Banks is really a circulation of Government money since the notes are issued practically under Government guarantee against deposits, principally of debt obligations. We should not think of disputing this view, but it does not alter the fact that the United States banking system is sustained to a far greater extent than prudence warrants by paper money—credit expedients. It is an imperfect form of currency, much inferior to the cheque system so universally prevalent in this country, whereby each customer of a bank may be said to be his own note issuer.

Critical Index To New Investments.

BALFOUR IMPLEMENT CO., LIMITED.

This is a Canadian company which has been formed to take over a business of supplying agricultural and other implements to farmers and traders throughout Western Canada, and has a capital of \$500,000 divided equally into 7 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of \$100 each. Of this capital 1,606 ordinary shares have been issued for cash and the preference shares are offered for subscription at the price of £20 per share. The business is said to have been carried on with steadily progressive success for seven years, and to be increasing with such rapidity that additional funds are required to keep pace with the developments in the Canadian North-West. Profits are given for 1903 and 1904 only, and these hardly seem to bear out this boast as the net figures were only \$16,223 and \$17,202 respectively, or an increase of about £200.

ORIENTAL CAFES, LIMITED.

In February last the capital of this concern was blown out from £10,000 to £50,000 in £1 shares, and 34,000 shares were offered for subscription, but the issue was not favourably received, and only 13,429 shares were applied for. Since then 5,953 shares have been taken by shareholders, and the company having in the meantime opened a model bakery in Lavender Hill, S.W., and a general stores in Holloway Road, N., the directors once more tempt fortune by inviting applications for the remaining 14,618 shares. At the time the earlier prospectus was issued the company had not been trading for a full year, yet a dividend of 6 per cent. was paid, and the directors talked largely of the success achieved by other catering companies. Much the same course is followed on this occasion, and the directors are still anticipating "from experience already gained that this company will share the remarkable successes of many other well-known cater-

ing companies." What the experience has cost is a subject which they evidently prefer not to discuss, and their reticence as to results so far achieved should cause investors to think twice before applying for shares.

BEAN AND CO., LIMITED.

This company has been formed with a capital of £100,000 in 6 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £1 each to take over the business of London and suburban carriers, etc., which has been carried on for the past thirteen years under the name of Bean and Co.'s Express. As evidence of the expansion which has taken place, it is stated that in 1891 only 16 horses and vans were employed compared with over 400 horses and nearly 200 vans at the present time, but it appears to have been growth without strength. Net profits, after providing for wear and tear of horses, plant, utensils, and rolling stock, but before charging anything for depreciation on the freehold premises, are given at £6,730 for the five years to December, 1896, or an average of £1,346 per annum; for the next five years they were £12,371, or £2,474 per annum; and for the three years to December 31, 1904, £12,897, or £4,299 per annum. In other words, the considerable increase in vans and horses has resulted in profits being little more than trebled. No independent valuation of the assets handed over to the company appears to have been made, but the vendor puts down the freehold land at £31,000 and his book debts at £5,364; and on this flimsy foundation asks £65,424 for his property, including £10,000 for goodwill. Of this sum £35,424 is satisfied by the company assuming liabilities to that extent, and of the balance £25,000 is taken in ordinary shares and £5,000 in cash or preference shares. The managing director, who is also the vendor, receives £500 a year, and in addition stipulates for £50 out of every 10s. per cent. net profits earned and available for dividend on the ordinary shares, whether declared or paid or not, but at present this does not mean much as the ordinary shares are not offered to the public. Even the preference shares, however, do not seem in any way attractive as an investment.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. STERLING LOAN.

The prospectus for the second series of the above loan was issued after business hours on Monday, and met with such an instantaneous success that the issuing banks were able to close the lists at 2.30 p.m. on the following day. Like the first series, this loan is secured on the tobacco monopoly revenues, and is repayable at par on July 10, 1925, or about five months after the earlier portion, but it may be redeemed at any time after July 10, 1910, on six months' notice. The total is £30,000,000, offered in equal amounts in London, New York, and Germany, and the price asked for the portion issued here is again 90 per cent. Instalments are smaller than on the last occasion, as after 5 per cent. has been paid on application and 15 per cent. on allotment, there are three of 10 per cent. each on August 29, September 29, and October 31, and two of 20 per cent. each on November 29 and December 21.

THE NICOLE RECORD COMPANY, LIMITED.

An issue of 15,000 6 per cent. £1 preference shares at par is offered by this company, whose total share capital is £30,000, the other half being in £1 ordinary shares, all of which issued so far are held by the board and their friends. This issue of preference shares is made to redeem £3,755 of 10 per cent. debentures, and to provide working capital. It is stated that the "talking machine business" is making "enormous strides," demanding a factory in London to cope with it. No promotion money has been or will be paid, and unless at least 10,000 shares are subscribed, the directors will not go to allotment.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

An issue of £1,500,000 in 3 per cent. new debenture stock is announced by this company, principal and interest guaranteed by the Secretary for State for India in Council, the line being the property of the Indian Government. Subscriptions will be received by the Governor and Company of the Bank of England at the fixed price of 92 per cent., which appears to be low. This issue is in addition to the £6,500,000 in debenture stock already created and sold under the company's powers, and will be merged therewith, making the total debt of the line £8,000,000. No fixed date of redemption is assigned, but the stock cannot be redeemed until May 4, 1929. Thereafter it can be called in at any time on twelve months' notice given by the Secretary of State. Statistics of traffic earnings are given in the prospectus for the past two years, and indicate a wonderfully expansive prosperity.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

CONTINENTAL UNION GAS COMPANY.—£60,000 ordinary stock, standing in the names of the chairman and deputy-chairman, is offered to preference and ordinary stockholders, in proportion to their holdings, at 102 per cent.

MOND NICKEL.—Shareholders are offered 25,000 preference shares at £1 premium per share.

UNITED ELECTRIC CAR COMPANY.—This company, which was formerly known as the Electric Railway and Tramway Carriage Works, is issuing £100,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares at par.

UNITED RIVER PLATE TELEPHONE COMPANY.—An issue of 10,000 £5 ordinary shares, forming part of 100,000 created in June, are offered to shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every complete multiple of seven existing shares.

Answers to Correspondents.

A. B.—The business is a speculative one, and the high dividend paid shows that a good deal of risk attaches to the shares.

T. R.—(1) A very good company indeed. (2) Also a good company, but the shares at the present price seem dear. Please note that you are not complying with our rules.

C. JAY.—Up to the end of 1903 the company had piled up a comparatively heavy debit balance, and we are extremely doubtful as to its future. The report for 1904, however, is due next month, and you might wait until that is issued before doing anything.

W. B. R.—The project has already depressed prices, but it may be only a temporary decline, and you need not be in a hurry to sell.

L. E. W.—(1) The company does not seem to be very well managed, but the preference shares should be reasonably safe. (2 and 3) Although the new board is doing its utmost to pull the company round, its affairs have been allowed to get into such an unsatisfactory state that we fear it will be a long time before dividends can be resumed. (4 and 5) It is quite impossible to prophesy. The company, however, has acquired another undertaking, and we can see no reason to suppose that dividends will be further reduced as prospects seem fair. (6) We are very doubtful if these shares will touch the price you mention within a reasonable time. (7) Such investments no doubt came under the clause you quote, but it is a great pity they were ever selected as the trade is so peculiarly susceptible to outside influences. Your seven questions resolve themselves into five, and we hold the balance of the fee to your credit.

MITHRA.—(1) We think not. There is no doubt a certain scope for the company's system, and we believe a fair business is being built up, but capital outlay is large and progress slow. The 10 per cent. dividend which would be necessary to justify present prices seems a very long way off. (2) Business has been excellent lately, and a small purchase on the chance of an increased dividend would be a fair risk. (3) Yes, there seems a chance here, traffics for the past year having been so good that a dividend seems highly probable. (4) Because rubbish sometimes pays to hold there might be a chance here, but you must not look for dividends yet awhile. Up till quite recently the system was in a deplorable condition, and net revenue is being spent on betterments. The line is in the receiver's hands. (5) Not worth the risk, the company being in a very bad way. (6) These appear to be quite high enough on immediate prospects, because all the prior charges are not being met, but as a lock up a small purchase may turn out all right. (7) Not just at present. There are too many ventures of this character springing up, and we are not sure that many of them are going to be a success. The prospects of the mining company you mention are fair.

K. V.—(1) They are above your price now, and seem rather dear, but prospects still appear promising enough. (2) This mine has the advantage of good and, we believe, honest management, and is probably as good a speculation as any Kaffir. Address of London agents, Salisbury House, London, E.C. (3) No, we think these shares quite fully priced. (4) The company has just raised its dividend to 5 per cent. per annum, but your profit is tempting, and should be taken on the rise.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—The principal incident of the week has been the issue of the United States Government monthly crop report, which, as expected, proved rather in favour of the "bulls." On the basis of the announcement Mr. Heinzer, the statistician of the New York Produce Exchange, estimates the average yield of winter wheat at 13.9 bushels per acre, and a total yield of 413,150,000 bushels against 14.4 per acre and a total yield of 428,011,000 a month ago. The spring wheat crop he figures at 16.6 bushels per acre, with a total yield of 292,376,000 bushels, against 17 bushels per acre and a total yield of 299,421,000 bushels last month. So after a rather easier opening due to disappointing advices from Europe and reports of more favourable weather in the west the market became harder and gradually advanced under active covering and some new speculative buying in sympathy with Chicago wires coupled with further news of unfavourable weather in the south-west. Then Bradstreet's estimate was another bullish influence, as it showed that the quantity in sight east of the Rockies was only 19,139,000 bushels against 20,476,000 bushels last week and 20,049,000 bushels a year ago. The Armour people were reported heavy buyers on the Chicago market, and reports of rust and rains in some quarters induced active bear covering, but later the sentiment changed and values slowly receded. On the London cargo market very little was doing, holders declining to lower quotations, notwithstanding an entire absence of demand, and business in the north seems equally stagnant. Dornbusch estimates the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 2,945,000 quarters compared with 3,130,000 quarters last week, and to the Continent 2,040,000 quarters against 2,170,000 quarters.

WOOL.—The sales have gone on steadily throughout the week with no unusual feature to disturb them. Buyers have attended largely, each in search of his own particular class of wool. For merinos Continental houses have as usual been well to the fore, though they have not altogether neglected crossbreds. These, both fine and coarse grades, have been in liberal supply and bought up mostly by Yorkshire and American traders. Prices have not gone quotably higher than at the close of last week, but the tendency has been always against the buyer. Markets generally have risen in sympathy with the sales, but difficulties have only increased thereby. Merchants declare that on the present basis of prices business is impossible, profits are nil, and Continental consumers will not rise to the occasion.

LINEN.—Before the Belfast holidays commenced this week the markets roused themselves a little and were more brisk and healthy than for two or three weeks past. The improvement was noticeable in every department. Brown power looms, damasks, hollands, &c., were in better demand. Export trade was good, both Barnsley and Belfast reporting a very satisfactory business with the United States, while the colonies and South America are coming to the front. A very fair day-to-day business has been done in yarns; stocks are small, and in view of the very unfavourable crop outlook spinners are making a firm stand and insist on being paid full prices.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the week under review raw American cotton has dominated the attention of the Lancashire cotton trade. There have been numerous fluctuations in prices in Liverpool, but the tendency has been towards a hardening state of the raw material. Today (Wednesday) American has been reduced 13 points, bringing the official rate down to 5.99d. Our trade is still in a most unsatisfactory state as compared with a month ago. No one in our market of authority places much reliance on the recent figures of the Washington Agricultural Bureau as to the condition of the growing plant. Recent revelations in the Census Office at Washington have led to the belief that official statistics as to crops from the States are not worth the paper they are printed upon. Be this as it may, we are experiencing a much higher level of values. The rise during the last fortnight or so has entirely upset our cotton piece goods business. The offers coming round from Bombay and Calcutta this week have been quite out, manufacturers not caring to entertain them owing to their engagements. Few sales of any kind have occurred. China buyers have been looking on, and shippers to the nearer outlets have not felt in the mood to give out orders at current rates. Altogether it may be said that the turnover during the past week in piece goods has been of smaller extent than for a long time past. Manufacturers are pretty well sold and at the moment are not anxious for business. They fear that later on a less remunerative trade will be experienced. The Board of Trade returns for the past six months respecting our cotton trade shipments are very encouraging. There is no doubt that our exports during the next few months will be on a large scale. Home trade American yarns have been much dearer in price and quotations are well held. Buyers, however, have held back and the total sales in cop twist and welt during the week under review have been quite unimportant. Shipping yarns have been neglected—that is to say the offers coming round from abroad have been too low to be entertained. Bolton spinnings have kept firm at quotations owing to engagements and the absence of stocks. The movement for an advance of operative spinners' wages has received a check by the decision of the masters not to pay the demand. It remains to be seen during the next few weeks what arrangements may be made. It may, however, be taken for certain that there will be no strike. Employers will arrange something a few weeks hence to tide over the crisis. On

Thursday business in Manchester was entirely suspended owing to the King's visit.

American markets have been rather upset by the scandals in the Government department whereby information regarding the crops was made available to a favoured few, but business was again very active, with a big tussle between "bulls" and "bears." At the start buying went on furiously owing to stories of heavy rains and bad crop reports from various States, but quotations soon broke sharply, partly on disappointing advices from this side and partly because of heavy realising by some of the leading operators. Losses, however, were partially recovered again, the weekly Government report being regarded as bullish and a certain amount of buying coming from Wall Street. The market, indeed, was in a very unsettled state throughout the week, but the tendency on the whole was always towards lower prices. It is rumoured that Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, will resign owing to the crop scandals.

COAL.—Business in Welsh steam coal has kept up very well during the past week, and good orders are said to have been booked for at least two months forward, but there seem to be fears of labour troubles in the near future which may eventually develop into a general stoppage of work by the miners. Shipments from South Wales in June, however, were substantially below those of the corresponding month of 1904, and for the first half of the year foreign shipments from Cardiff alone were nearly 750,000 tons down. In the north of England trade has been dull owing to the rise in freights to the Mediterranean caused by Russian doings, but, on the other hand, coke manufacturers are very fully employed. The hot weather is preventing any improvement in house coal, and stocks are being steadily increased.

COPPER.—Dealing remains exceedingly quiet, neither buyers nor sellers showing the least disposition to do business, and the number of warrants changing hands this week was exceedingly small. The market, however, continues firm, prices again having an upward tendency, and a slightly improved demand in the last day or so caused them to finish at £66 8s. 9d. for spot and £66 13s. 9d. for future delivery.

TIN.—An active demand was again experienced for this metal, good buying being reported both on Eastern and American accounts. Quite early in the week the cash quotation reached £143 per ton, and although this was followed by a moderate reaction the market rose rapidly towards the end and finished at £144 7s. 6d. for cash and £143 7s. 6d. for three months' delivery.

IRON AND STEEL.—Prices of both Cleveland and hematite pig-iron have fallen 3d. per ton, but the reduction has done nothing to encourage buying by consumers, as the impression prevails that the speculators responsible for the "corner" in Cleveland warrants will shortly be forced to unload from sheer inability to carry the ever-increasing burden. Some 20,000 tons were added to the stocks in the public stores during June, and already in this month 6,600 tons have been sent in bringing the total well over 500,000 tons. Partly because of this gambling in warrants the output for the past quarter is estimated to have reached 538,000 tons, compared with 485,000 tons in the corresponding three months of 1904, while exports from Middlesbrough were considerably smaller at 406,000 tons. In manufactured iron and steel the outlook is said to be more promising, especially for steel rails, where much is hoped from the International Rail Pool, but for the present trade is slack, and some of the Barrow mills have been closed for lack of work. The quarterly meeting of the Midland iron trade took place at Birmingham this week, when a number of good orders were given out for both iron and steel.

TEA.—The clearances of tea on the reduction of the tax have been extremely heavy, and between July 1 and 11 duty was paid on no less 25,183,900 lbs. against 6,389,700 lbs. in the corresponding period of last year. With such large withdrawals the stocks in dealers' hands were considerably reduced and Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton report a sudden rise in all but the very commonest descriptions. Indian medium grades fetched fully ½d. per lb. more and in the best qualities the improvement was even more pronounced. In Ceylon teas the advance was not quite so marked, partly because the quality of the teas coming forward continues poor, but here also a gain of ¼d. to ½d. per lb. was secured on medium and fine grades.

SUGAR.—In spite of the steady depletion of stocks in the hands of the trade, buyers still lack confidence and the market therefore remains largely in the hands of the "bears." Prices consequently fell away rapidly, August dropping to 9s. 9d. to 9s. 9½d., granulated to 12s. and Paris from 31f. to 29.50f., but new crop figures were only down from 9s. 4½d. to 9s. 0½d. to 9s. 2d. American markets follow the same course as on this side and refiners continue to hold back. Consumption there is good but the truth seems to be that dealers do not as yet think that bottom has been touched and look for quotations to go to a much lower level. Landings in America last week were 29,000 tons against 39,000 tons melted, and stocks are now down to 227,000 tons.

A provisional agreement has been entered into for the amalgamation as from July 1, 1905, of the banking business of Bolitho Williams, Foster, Coode, Grylls and Co., Limited (the Consolidated Bank of Cornwall), with that of Barclay and Co., Limited, who have for many years acted as one of the London agents of Bolitho and Co. The business will be continued under the local management of the present directors and of Mr. C. H. Dent, the present general manager of Bolitho and Co. Mr. Thomas Robins Bolitho and Mr. William Edward Thomas Bolitho will join the board of Barclay and Co.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and July 8, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to July 8, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to July 9, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	8,797,000	9,894,000
Excise	30,200,000	7,347,000	7,590,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	3,874,000	2,988,000
Stamps	8,000,000	2,130,000	1,910,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	390,000	500,000
Property and Income Tax	31,000,000	4,384,000	4,771,000
Post Office	16,500,000	4,100,000	4,000,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	940,000	900,000
Crown Lands	470,000	110,000	110,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	674,573	607,244
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	448,715	441,615
* Revenue	142,454,000	33,292,288	33,711,859
Total, including balance.		40,722,566	37,975,701
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		200,000	150,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		410,408	630,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds		6,400,000	—
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		—	8,500,000
Total		48,072,566	50,425,701
* Revenue as above	142,454,000	33,292,288	33,711,859
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	38,872	43,437
Excise	5,291,000	681,851	669,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,829,000	1,273,839	1,310,242
Total	9,756,000	1,999,562	2,023,352
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	35,291,850	35,735,211

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to July 8, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to July 9, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 11,266,813	£ 11,392,330
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	486,409	487,275
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,252,000	28,311,122	30,005,523
Expenditure	142,032,000	40,296,519	42,117,338
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		220,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		45,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		1,700,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		300,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		940,000	855,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		400,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	76,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		135,000	—
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	1,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	2,600,000
	1905. July 8.	1904. July 9.	
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 3,293,763	£ 1,501,684	
Bank of Ireland	692,254	650,679	
Total		3,988,047	2,152,363
Total		48,072,566	50,425,701

Treasury, July 11, 1905.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING.—Liabilities on June 30, amounted to £44,813,391 on simple contracts and £2,322,238 on acceptances, against which the assets were £9,395,293 in investments, £8,784,327 in bills of exchange, £18,115,974 in loans and advances to customers, £7,992,035 in cash at the Bank of England and on hand, and £3,412,986 in money at call and notice.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended June 21, \$2,852.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 9, \$18,696, increase \$2,321; aggregate from January 1, \$411,416, increase \$88,599.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 10, Rs. 50,277, increase Rs. 1,472; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 13,41,389, increase Rs. 1,75,830.

Bengal Central.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 29,193; increase, Rs. 11,110; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,05,470, increase Rs. 9,482.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 7, \$83,700, increase \$23,400; total from July 1, \$83,700, increase \$23,400.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 10, Rs. 25,895, decrease Rs. 5,998; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,83,679, decrease Rs. 90,694.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 24, £492, increase £166.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of June, \$18,460, increase \$550; aggregate from January 1, \$335,063, increase \$7,096.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 10, Rs. 11,871, decrease Rs. 1,733; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 2,55,000, increase Rs. 13,346.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended June 30 amounted to \$80,470.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending July 8, £1,225, increase £6; aggregate from July 1, £1,338, decrease £174.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for 8 days ending July 8, £1,150, decrease £307; aggregate from July 1, £1,150, decrease £307.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for April, £4,203, decrease £299.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending July 8, £268, decrease £64; aggregate from July 1, £268, decrease £64.

Liverpool Overhead.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 9, £1,646, decrease £26; aggregate from July 1, £1,646; decrease £26.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 8 £12,916, increase £368; aggregate from January 1, £358,618, increase £23,398.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 8, £2,485, increase £145; aggregate from January 1, £57,152, increase £7,718.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 8, £324, increase £37; aggregate from January 1, £8,101, increase £1,122.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to May 31, \$831,422, increase \$86,027. Net earnings from July 1 to May 31, \$302,842, increase \$39,289.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £15,277.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 10, \$43,089, decrease \$4,209; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$29,951.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 8, Rs. 42,526, increase Rs. 13,706; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 42,526, increase Rs. 13,706.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of June, £3,177, increase £1,115. Total to June 30, £22,016, increase £2,075.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, \$389,425; aggregate from January 1, \$1,778,941. Net traffic receipts, \$216,920; aggregate from January 1, \$917,267.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	July 9	£ 1,995	— 89	1	£ 1,995	— 89	
Cambrian	" 9	6,650	— 595	1	7,795	— 640	
Central London ..	" 8	6,360	— 54	1	6,360	— 54	
City and South London ..	" 9	2,300	— 36	1	2,300	— 36	
Furness	" 9	10,444	+ 361	1	10,444	+ 361	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 9	66,824	+ 2,109	1	66,824	+ 2,109	
Great Eastern ..	" 9	111,800	— 1,200	1	111,800	— 1,200	
Great Northern and City ..	" 8	1,495	+ 527	1	1,495	+ 527	
Great Northern ..	" 8	106,100	— 4,679	1	120,888	— 3,709	
Great Western ..	" 9	244,600	— 3,100	1	244,600	— 3,100	
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 9	7,484	— 2,563	1	7,484	— 2,563	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 9	113,68	+ 1,550	1	113,680	+ 1,550	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 9	69,861	— 1,819	1	69,861	— 1,819	
London & North Western ..	" 9	283,000	+ 3,000	1	283,000	+ 3,000	
London & South Western ..	" 9	100,800	— 1,200	1	100,800	— 1,200	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 9	11,639	— 332	1	11,639	— 332	
Metropolitan	" 9	17,927	— 129	1	17,927	— 129	
Metropolitan District ..	" 9	7,331	— 116	1	7,331	— 116	
Midland	" 8	210,245	+ 6,900	1	210,245	+ 6,900	
North Eastern	" 8	181,815	— 5,721	1	181,815	— 5,721	
North London	" 9	8,816	— 586	1	8,816	— 586	
North Staffordshire ..	" 9	17,333	— 156	1	17,333	— 156	
Rhymney	" 9	5,768	+ 90	1	5,768	+ 90	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 8	109,252	+ 6,599	1	117,498	— 2,634	
Taff Vale	" 9	17,573	— 1,613	1	17,573	— 1,613	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	July 9	88,921	+ 3,586	23	1,908,707	+ 15,744
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 8	37,343	+ 39	23	752,166	— 12,315
Great North of Scotland ..	" 8	10,392	— 363	23	204,217	— 6,159
Highland	" 9	13,422	+ 99	23	208,978	— 5,998
North British	" 9	98,478	+ 5,054	23	2,008,651	+ 10,747

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	July 7	3,950	— 117	1	3,950	— 117
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 7	2,178	— 92	1	2,178	— 92
Great Northern	" 7	21,123	— 44	1	21,123	— 44
Midland Great Western ..	" 7	10,952	+ 63	1	10,952	— 2,194

† From July 1 to date.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 7, £1,393, increase £449; aggregate from July 1, £1,393, increase £449.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 9, £21, decrease £6; aggregate from July 1, £27, decrease £10.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 7, £5,551, increase £118; aggregate from January 1, £5,551, increase £118.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending July 7, £29,147, increase £2,566; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £679,386, increase £59,437; 424½ miles, against 414½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 10, £1,154, increase £130; aggregate from July 2, £1,154, increase £130.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 9, £173, decrease £1; aggregate from July 1, £227, decrease £34.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 7, £132, decrease £29; aggregate from July 1, £132, decrease £29.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 7, £5,466, increase £135; aggregate from July 1, £5,466, increase £147.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 8, £5,490, increase £551; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £128,084, increase £10,487.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 7, £268, decrease £33; aggregate from July 1, £268, decrease £33.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 8, £1,165, decrease £41; aggregate from October 1, £5,865, decrease £611.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 1, £16,184, increase £2,855; aggregate from April 1, £194,294, increase £39,107. Miles 47 against 39.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 8, £28,353, decrease £14; aggregate from July 2, £28,353, decrease £14.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 8, £9,603, increase £176; aggregate from July 1, £11,222, increase £685.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 7, £196, increase £2; aggregate from July 1, £196, increase £2.

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary and Secretary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED **£5,500,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $2\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent.
on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

In the early part of the week doubts were nourished about the ability of the short loan market to carry through the Stock Exchange settlement without help from the Bank. This was just sufficient to keep the rate for seven day loans at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and sometimes call loans could also be placed at that figure. When the settlement passed off with an ease totally unexpected, and with banking credit in plentiful supply, rates naturally weakened, until bankers to-day had to accept $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for seven day money and 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for call money. Discount rates followed, and from being $1\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. early in the week on three months' remitted paper, slipped back gradually, until this afternoon some houses gave us $1\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as the working rate. No house quotes more than $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and most of them admit that the market is easy at that figure. Most days good business in bills has been transacted, but towards the end of the week the supply has somewhat shortened. American paper is coming forward freely, and inquiries for autumn rates seem larger than usual.

What influences have produced the ease in the market? Merely the release of money by the Japanese Government and our own Exchequer. The Bank return, however, indicated that the supply of floating credits was still well above the market poverty line, other deposits standing at £44,449,000, notwithstanding £7,382,000 paid off by the market on other securities. Were any gold coming in we might be certain that ease would prevail throughout the autumn, but gold is not arriving, except now and then a few sovereigns, or £1,000,000 at times from India, and therefore it is possible enough that low rates may not stay with us long. There is, however, no sign of change at present, and the fact that France has been snapping up all the raw gold coming into the open market need not worry us much, since the stock in the Bank of England exceeds £38,000,000. Bar gold is nominally 77s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz., having fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ d. since Monday, but whether the £500,000 of the metal due in next week will be taken for export or not we cannot say. The Paris cheque, however, has risen, and some gold is on its way to Paris from New York.

SILVER.

The Continent has been a pretty steady buyer all week, and although there was some disposition to sell from China, supplies on the whole have been very moderate. Quotations consequently hardened gradually, and close to-night steady at 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for spot and 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for delivery two months forward, or an improvement of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in both cases. Tenders for the Rs.40,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday reached a total of Rs.3,43,50,000, all in bills, and applicants at 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee received about 47 per cent. The amount to be offered next week has been increased to Rs.60,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, July 12, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	54,807,860	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	36,357,860
		Silver Bullion	—
	£54,807,860		£54,807,860

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	16,752,444
Reserve	3,354,357	Other Securities	28,992,334
Public Deposits (including		Notes	24,538,210
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,845,725
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	9,671,414		
Other Deposits	44,449,130		
Seven Day and other Bills	100,812		
	£72,128,713		£72,128,713

Dated July 13, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year, July 13.		July 5, 1905.	July 12, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,388,345	Reserve	3,354,357	3,354,357	11,453	—
6,724,146	Pub. Deposits ..	11,361,171	9,671,414	—	1,689,757
41,143,779	Other do. ..	49,955,542	44,449,130	—	5,506,412
102,651	7 Day Bills ..	115,154	100,812	—	14,342
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
16,903,766	Gov. Securities ..	16,752,444	16,752,444	—	—
25,150,891	Other do. ..	36,374,819	28,992,334	7,382,485	—
23,857,264	Total Reserve ..	26,200,508	26,383,935	—	193,427
				7,393,935	7,393,938
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,741,605	Coin and Bullion ..	30,711,275	30,269,650	—	441,625
34,148,869	Proportion	38,461,783	38,203,585	—	258,198
49 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	Bank Rate	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	6 p.c.	—
5 ..		2 $\frac{1}{2}$..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$..	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £5,000 out.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended July 8.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts ..	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£6,886,074	£6,886,074

* Exclusive of £135,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £1,999,568.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 4.	July 6.	July 11.	July 13.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂
Do.	3 months	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄
Hamburg	3 months	20 ⁶ / ₂	20 ⁶ / ₂	20 ⁶ / ₂	20 ⁶ / ₂
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20 ⁶ / ₂	20 ⁶ / ₂	20 ⁶ / ₂	20 ⁶ / ₂
Paris	cheques	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂
Do.	3 months	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄
Marseilles	3 months	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄
Switzerland	3 months	25 ⁴ / ₂	25 ⁴ / ₂	25 ⁴ / ₂	25 ⁴ / ₂
Austria	3 months	24 ² / ₆	24 ² / ₆	24 ² / ₆	24 ² / ₆
St. Petersburg	3 months	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂
Moscow	3 months	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25 ⁴ / ₂	25 ⁴ / ₂	25 ⁴ / ₂	25 ⁴ / ₂
New York	60 days	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂
Lisbon	3 months	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂
Oporto	3 months	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂
Copenhagen	3 months	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂
Christiania	3 months	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂
Stockholm	3 months	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
	£		£
Total Efflux	85,000	Wednesday, Bolivia	5,000
		Thursday, S. America	60,000
		Thursday, Gibraltar	20,000
TOTAL	£85,000	TOTAL	£85,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
Week ending				
May 3	263,265,000	246,483,000	16,782,000	—
" 10	210,041,000	194,626,000	15,415,000	—
" 17	269,214,000	230,772,000	38,442,000	—
" 24	189,198,000	153,970,000	35,228,000	—
" 31	246,087,000	247,297,000	—	1,210,000
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
	6,658,296,000	5,649,369,000	1,008,927,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	Antwerp	short	25 ² / ₀	25 ² / ₀
Brussels	chqs.	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	Italy	short	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂
Amsterdam	sight	12 ⁰ / ₇	12 ⁰ / ₇	Constantinople	3 mths	110 ¹ / ₁₀	110 ¹ / ₁₀
Berlin	chqs.	20 ⁴ / ₇	20 ⁴ / ₇	B. Ayres gd pm	—	127 ² / ₇	127 ² / ₇
Do.	3 mths	20 ³ / ₅	20 ³ / ₅	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	168 ¹ / ₂	168 ¹ / ₂
Hamburg	chqs.	20 ⁴ / ₅	20 ⁴ / ₅	Valparaiso	90 dys	158 ¹ / ₂	158 ¹ / ₂
Frankfurt	short	20 ⁴ / ₅	20 ⁴ / ₅	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Vienna	sight	24 ⁰ / ₄	24 ⁰ / ₄	Bombay	T.T.	1/4	1/4
St. Petersburg	3 mths	94 ³ / ₅	93 ⁴ / ₀	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/10	1/10
New York	60 dys	4 ⁸ / ₅	4 ⁸ / ₅	Shanghai	T.T.	2/7	2/8
Lisbon	sight	48 ¹ / ₂	49 ¹ / ₂	Singapore	4 mths	1/11	1/11
Madrid	sight	33 ¹ / ₇	33 ¹ / ₇	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0	2/0

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2	2
Berlin	3	February 25, 1905	2	2
Hamburg	3	February 25, 1905	2	2
Frankfurt	3	February 25, 1905	2	2
Amsterdam	2	March, 1905	2	2
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2	2
Vienna	3	February 3, 1902	3	3
Rome	5	September, 1904	3	3
St. Petersburg	5	February, 1904	7	7
Madrid	4	August 21, 1901	3	3
Lisbon	5	January 11, 1899	4	4
Stockholm	4	February, 1905	4	4
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4	4
Calcutta	4	April 27, 1905	—	—
Bombay	4	July 6, 1905	—	—
New York call money	2	—	—	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 13, 1905.	July 6, 1905.	June 29, 1905.	July 15, 1904.
Gold in hand	116,110,000	115,584,200	115,353,840	109,347,160
Silver in hand	44,344,240	44,469,880	44,415,440	45,113,440
Bills discounted	22,226,160	22,958,400	25,170,080	23,339,840
Advances	19,321,560	20,540,240	19,132,560	20,159,680
Note circulation	175,755,640	176,140,520	174,327,160	170,966,360
Public deposits	7,941,160	8,024,440	11,476,320	7,127,480
Private deposits	23,965,680	25,614,608	26,549,200	25,741,960

Proportion between bullion and circulation 91½ per cent., against 90½ per cent. a week ago.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	July 30	2 9 6
1,800,000	6 months	Aug. 13	2 6 1
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27	2 2 10
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4½
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
1,200,000	—	1906	—
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9
19,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	July 7, 1905.	June 30, 1905.	June 23, 1905.	July 7, 1904.
Gold Reserve	46,856,208	46,847,791	47,457,625	47,664,083
Silver reserve	13,008,208	13,073,125	13,128,750	12,817,625
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,911,375	1,868,125	1,727,500	1,742,125
Note circulation	66,400,666	67,688,166	62,861,708	67,731,250
Bills discounted	13,026,000	13,718,875	10,200,500	11,830,125

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	July 8, 1905.	July 1, 1905.	June 24, 1905.	July 9, 1904.
Specie	42,194,000	42,948,000	42,874,000	48,618,000
Legal tenders	17,314,600	17,685,000	17,484,600	16,492,200
Loans and discounts	223,300,000	224,180,000	220,560,000	215,660,000
Circulation	9,772,400	9,707,400	9,612,200	7,833,600
Net deposits	231,660,000	233,200,000	229,360,000	231,640,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,591,600 against an excess last week of £2,333,000.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 7, 1905.	June 30, 1905.	June 23, 1905.	July 7, 1904.
Cash in hand	47,304,050	47,539,550	54,350,950	43,741,300
Bills discounted	51,065,650	56,770,050	44,062,600	43,464,250
Advances on stocks	4,574,900	9,149,360	3,397,400	4,441,350
Note circulation	71,911,650	77,740,100	62,895,000	69,464,250
Public deposits	26,336,300	28,955,050	33,139,750	25,531,250

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 8, 1905.	July 1, 1905.	June 24, 1905.	July 9, 1904.
Gold	14,855,044	14,838,920	14,833,123	14,723,465
Silver	22,233,005	22,481,238	22,389,600	20,292,393
Foreign Bills	1,666,771	1,744,978	1,697,730	1,673,313
Discount and Short Bills	46,613,929	46,283,832	46,098,370	38,688,449
Treasury Account	21,276,693	21,268,303	21,251,948	22,016,665
Notes in circulation	63,145,780	62,427,767	62,251,102	65,495,029
Current Account deposits	23,018,483	26,603,594	22,764,022	26,209,839
Dividends Interests	3,327,984	3,796,499	1,910,094	2,494,988
Government Securities	4,057,364	4,627,114	4,789,624	3,507,525

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 10, 1905.	May 31, 1905.	May 20, 1905.	June 10, 1904.
Reserve	25,956,120	25,980,044	26,083,320	26,102,040
State notes and small change	653,520	617,680	690,040	900,200
Discount and loans	10,953,200	11,156,400	10,427,160	10,026,600
Public stock and State loans	8,376,280	8,409,240	9,072,480	8,395,480
Credits	6,388,320	6,495,600	6,065,360	5,485,080
Note Circulation	34,217,280	34,336,240	33,597,000	31,913,760
Current account	3,804,400	4,254,840	3,820,600	3,956,360
Deposits	2,679,800	2,648,800	3,139,640	3,411,480

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	July 6, 1905.	June 29, 1905.	June 22, 1905.	July 7, 1904.
Coin and bullion	4,890,520	4,729,320	4,837,000	4,624,800
Other securities	23,292,720	23,738,920	23,173,640	21,414,560
Note circulation	26,266,040	26,986,680	25,789,120	25,257,160
Deposits	3,901,960	3,442,040	3,957,840	2,970,040

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 16/29, 1905.	June 1/14, 1905.	May 23, June 5, 1905.	May 16/29, 1905.
Gold	91,865,757	94,539,435	90,900,879	91,147,369
Silver and subsidiary coin	6,147,428	6,290,233	6,349,401	6,373,438
Advances and bills discounted	35,452,416	36,262,276	36,029,170	36,421,691
Securities belonging to the Bank	5,639,431	5,894,161	5,942,075	5,456,449
Notes in circulation	91,117,788	90,556,902	90,320,218	90,360,000
Deposits and current account	53,578,346	49,466,091	48,046,626	46,221,562
Treasury account	8,242,101	8,951,316	13,934,642	11,495,985

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	1 1/2-1 3/4
Three months	1 1/2-1 3/4
Four months	1 1/2-1 3/4
Six months	1 1/2-1 3/4
Three months fine inland bills	2 1/2-2 3/4
Four months	2 1/2-2 3/4
Six months	2 1/2-2 3/4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	2 1/2
" short loan rates	3
Bankers' rate on deposits	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	1 1/4
" 7 and 14 days' notice	1 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	1 1/4
" for call loans	1-1 1/4

The Week's Stock Markets.

Markets were rather more cheerful this week, just a natural reaction after the previous depression. The recovery, however, was entirely the outcome of professional operations, the rally in the Kaffir Circus making its influence felt all round the House, and as yet there is little sign of a speculative spirit again manifesting itself in the general public. But there are one or two hopeful signs, such as the continued ease in the money market and the appointment of M. Witte—whose leaning towards a cessation of hostilities is well known—as one of the Russian representatives at the forthcoming peace conference, and should the hopes which this choice naturally raises be fulfilled, dealers are hopeful that the autumn will bring with it a brighter prospect. Speculation, though, must not be carried too far, because there does not seem much room for a further legitimate rise, such things as Foreign, American, and Colonial railways, Foreign bonds, Miscellaneous securities of all kinds, and mines appearing very fully valued already. The principal incident of the week was, of course, the issue of the latest £30,000,000 Japanese loan, which was offered simultaneously in equal parts in London, New York, and Germany at the price of 90. In each place the subscription was very heavy, our proportion probably being covered ten times over. At first a premium of 1/4 was established, but there has been a good deal of fluctuation since, and we have yet to learn what will happen when the allotments are out. They are promised for Monday. For settlement purposes bankers usually charged 3 per cent. for loans, and so skilfully was the position handled that the recent break-down resulted in only one failure. A good many lame ducks were helped over, but it is hoped the recent recovery will prevent further immediate difficulties. Consols were rather neglected most of the week, but finished firm on peace prospects, and other British funds showed fractional gains, India sterling issues being an exception, owing to a statement that a large fresh loan will be raised in connection with the Bombay, Baroda Railway purchase. The movements in Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks were few and unimportant, and need not be detailed.

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Should peace negotiations be entered upon in a serious and honest spirit by both belligerents, it is probable enough that the results will be anticipated by stock markets in the usual way. Prices are already being lifted on the strength of prospects, and may very likely go higher. Such times, however, are not good times to buy; the people who retain their wits and are careful will rather sell when they see quotations going up, because nothing can be more inevitable than the reaction after peace has been attained. At present liabilities of all descriptions incurred by the belligerents are in a state of suspense. Russian public credit is inoperative, and although Japan is getting loans out with great ease, and, in the eyes of her well-wishers, distressing abundance, even peace to her may bring some recoil and lassitude. Therefore it is well to be on the safe side when reaction sets in, and we should say that at the very best the present is not, as a general rule, a good time to buy. Investment stocks of a carefully selected kind are probably right enough. They are so always in some senses, but there is no lasting force behind markets for any of the speculative classes of securities, no force sufficiently strong to give justification for confident purchases just now.

A happy change came over the Kaffir market during the account, happy for all the hundreds of thousands of distressed and weary holders who are anxious to sell. Our only fear is that the favourable movements in price cannot be made to last long enough or to go far enough to permit people to sell and get their money back. Already as we write there is a kind of pause, and we doubt the ability and still more the desire of some of the leading African houses to keep quotations moving upwards, or to carry without staggering and stumbling the incalculable masses of paper with which they have smothered the market that might have been good and profitable had it been honestly created and wisely nourished. It is because it is a market saturated with dishonest finance that we are always opposed to it. That is our principal reason, the one on which we always rest that never varying opinion that the sooner a victimised public can escape from the snares of the African fraudulent company promoter and share rigger, the better will it be for its future peace of mind. Begin consequently selling out on a rising market. Do not throw everything away, but whatever has risen sensibly and offers a substantial dividend, as it were, on the money sunk ought to be realised in part, so that South African shareholders may be in an easier position when the next downward sweep comes along, as it most certainly will.

Money has been showing traces of scarcity and dearth in New York these last few days, but prices have again been worked upwards by the bold financiers in control of Wall Street with great skill. The higher they go the more eager holders on this side should be to sell. There can be no profit in the long run to buyers of any American railroad speculative security at current prices. That is all we have to say about this part of the market which is one that we distrust profoundly, so far as shares go. Bonds may often be different, but even they require to be handled with discrimination, because "bond" does not always mean "mortgage" or imply the existence of property.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 1/2	87 1/2	Consols (2 1/2 p.c. Money)	90 1/2	90 1/2
91 1/2	87 1/2	Do. Account (August 3)	90 1/2	90 1/2
90 1/2	86 1/2	2 1/2 p.c. Stock red. 1905	89 1/2	89 1/2
100 1/2	99 1/2	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905	100 1/2	100 1/2
95 1/2	89	Irish Land (2 1/2)	92 1/2	92 1/2
101	96 1/2	Local Loans (3)	100	100
99 1/2	97 1/2	National War Loan (2 1/2 p.c.)	99	99
99 1/2	98 1/2	Do. Account (August 3)	99	99
101 1/2	97 1/2	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	100	100
30 1/2	29 1/2	Bk. of England Stock (6 p.c.)	30 1/2	30 1/2
109	105	India 3 1/2 p.c. Stock. red. 1931	105 1/2	105
99 1/2	97 1/2	Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1948	97 1/2	97
85 1/2	80 1/2	Do. 2 1/2 p.c. Stock. red. 1926	82	81 1/2
66 1/2	65 1/2	Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Rupee Paper	65 1/2	65 1/2

With the exception of Russian issues, which were dull almost to the end, the Foreign bond market, was firm, although not very liberally supplied with business. The restriction in dealings was most marked towards the last, owing to the close of the Paris bourse for the national fêtes. Japanese bonds were well supported in order to assure a brilliant success for the new loan, and Chinese issues improved in a small way. Most Continental things also went up as a rule, a trifling set-back in Spanish and Turkish one day being of no consequence, and even Russians steadied when the appointment of M. Witte as a peace representative was announced. Little went on in South American securities, but they were all firm, and in the Central American division Colombians and Venezuelans were distinctly better, the last on the due payment of interest on the new Diplomatic debt. Costa Ricas, on the other hand, were heavy, and Peruvian Corporation lost part of an early advance. Contango rates on Tuesday showed practically no change; Argentines, Brazilians, Chinese, Peruvian debentures, and Central American loans all being continued at 3

to 5 per cent., and Peruvian ordinary and preference at 4 to 6 per cent., as before. Uruguays were done "even" as were Russians, Japanese were carried over at 2 to 4 per cent., Italian even to 2 per cent., Portuguese at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., Spanish at 2 to 3 per cent., and Turkish Unified at "even" to 1 per cent. Making up prices were again rather irregular, and whereas a good many Argentines were up $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ several others were $\frac{1}{8}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ down. The same can be said of Brazilians and Chilians, the largest fall being $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the greatest gain 1, and while the Chinese 1895 gold loan was down $2\frac{1}{2}$, the railway loans were up $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$. Costa Rica "A" and "B" showed losses of $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$, Greeks went down $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2, Hungarian $2\frac{1}{2}$, Italian $1\frac{1}{2}$, Japanese 4 per cent. sterling 2, Paraguay $1\frac{1}{2}$, Portuguese $1\frac{1}{2}$, Russians 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$, San Paulo 5 per cent. $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Uruguay 5 per cent. 1896 $\frac{3}{4}$. It must, however, be remembered that in most cases the decline merely consists of dividend deductions.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	101xd	101
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	100
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	Do. 6 p.c. Funding	101xd	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	92
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	89	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	89	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
104	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs.	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c.	97	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902	85 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	86
102	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101	102
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885	94xd	94
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886	94 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	94
96	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895	93	94
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	100xd	100
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	94	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	103	104
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold	98	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	103	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A	56	55
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B	46	46
44 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External	43	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	107	107
107	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c.	105	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref.	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c.	89	89
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Greek, 1884	50 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan	52 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentas	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. Funding	50 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	97xd	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c.	104xd	104
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c.	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. New	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	87 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 6 p.c.	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	103xd	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	67 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	87 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	Servian 4 p.c.	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	89 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	90
103	100	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
73	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	70
94	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c.	92 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	93
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, 1881	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$

The ease with which the account was arranged on Tuesday and the prospects of a continuance of easy money encouraged dealers in the Home Railway market to look for a revival of public interest, and as stocks were scarce only a very moderate amount of support was required to lift prices. A few investment orders which dribbled in gave further confidence to the market, but with the exception of one or two particular favourites, business has not been of a really substantial character. South-Eastern and Chatham issues were bought from the provinces—from Glasgow according to some, and from Liverpool according to others—and the demand was said to be due to a repetition of the story that the Ounard Steamship Company intends to leave Liverpool for Dover. Another theory put forward to account for the inquiry for these securities was that a syndicate was endeavouring to secure control of the lines, and whatever may have been the reason, South-Eastern deferred and Chatham both closed with substantial gains. Scotch stocks, and especially North British deferred, were strongly supported from Glasgow, and Great Northern deferred, Great Eastern and Great Western also came in for

some attention, while Midland issues, after being lower, recovered and finished fractionally better on the week. Amongst Undergrounds District rallied a little, but Metropolitan fell back sharply, and Central London ordinary gave way $\frac{1}{4}$. With the close of the half-year the market is now beginning to estimate the dividends, and the Brighton Company's announcement is expected on Monday at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than for the corresponding half of 1904. The Metropolitan

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	137	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	139	139
165	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	160	160
131 $\frac{1}{2}$	119 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	121 $\frac{1}{2}$	121 $\frac{1}{2}$
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (3 p.c.) ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	91
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
17 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	40	40
62	51	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	52	52
34 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	31	31
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	17	17
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102	102
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	35	Do. Def. (1) ..	35	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
145 $\frac{1}{2}$	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	139 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	46	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
112 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108
100	92	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	38	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
71	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	68	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
70	63	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	64
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Eastern (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	137
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	149	North-Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	149 $\frac{1}{2}$	149 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	88	88
134	123	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	124	124
58 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	163 $\frac{1}{2}$	163 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	56	56

distribution is looked for on Wednesday, when it is estimated that $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. will be paid out of revenue with another $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the reserve. Bear operations, apparently induced by the general unrest during the past account, caused a scarcity of stock for delivery at the settlement, and contangos were

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	105 xd	105
118 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	100
61 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	55	55 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	173 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chic. Mill. & St. Paul (7) ..	184	185
38	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	89
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie Shares ..	48	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
75	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	74
174 $\frac{1}{2}$	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	171 $\frac{1}{2}$	174
158 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	153 $\frac{1}{2}$
34 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
169 $\frac{1}{2}$	153 $\frac{1}{2}$	New York Central (5) ..	153	152 xd
88	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
96	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	95	96
65 $\frac{1}{2}$	54	Ontario Shares ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
76 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (6) ..	73	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reading Shares ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
48	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47	48
74	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (3) ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	48
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
140 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (4) ..	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	133 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	Wabash ..	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. ..	42	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Debs. ..	76	75
139 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	156	156 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
111	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109
23 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Suk. ..	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
114 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	110 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$

lighter than on the previous occasion. On things like Midland, North-Western, and Great Western, the charge was still fairly heavy, but on the whole there was much less talk of $5\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 per cent., and in Brighton deferred, South-Eastern deferred and Great Northern deferred, the rate ran off to little or nothing before the end of the day. Making-up prices were mostly lower on the fortnight, thanks to the above-mentioned realisations, the heaviest losses being in

South-Eastern, which were from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 down. Chatham preferences fell 1 and 2, Great Northern preferred and Brighton ordinary 1 each, Great Eastern and South-Western deferred $\frac{1}{2}$, and North-Western, Great Central preferred, Midland deferred, and North-Eastern dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$. Caledonian deferred receded $\frac{1}{8}$ and North British deferred $\frac{1}{8}$. Hull and Barnsley and Lancashire and Yorkshire, on the other hand, both rose $\frac{1}{2}$, District put on 1, and Brighton preferred, Central London deferred gained $\frac{1}{2}$.

The unsatisfactory return of the Associated Banks prevented the Yankee market from doing very much on Monday morning, but New York paid no attention to the figures, and was soon busy hoisting prices all round under the lead of Steel issues. Professionals, however, still have the play entirely to themselves, and although the big operators are said to favour a further hoisting of prices, their optimism is not generally shared. The cotton crop report scandal caused doubts to be thrown on the Government grain crop report in some quarters, and talk of further disclosures in the Equitable mess caused a good deal of nervousness, and any bidding up of a stock seemed to be merely a cloak for unloading in other directions. Baltimore were taken in hand, in anticipation of an increase in the dividend, and were pushed up so smartly that the extra $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. declared on Wednesday failed to add anything to the rise. Reading and Union Pacific were likewise bid up early in the week, but the latter, at any rate, was soon thrown over again, in spite of prophecies of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dividend at the end of the current month. Atchison, Denver, Milwaukee, Illinois Central, and Southern all had their turn in a greater or less degree, and in most of them the gains were retained to the end, but Southern Pacific, Ontario, and Missouri and Kansas finished lower. On the fortnight Northern Pacific improved $5\frac{1}{2}$, Erie issues were from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ up, Reading common rose $4\frac{1}{2}$, and the two preferences $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 3. New York Central advanced 5, Milwaukee and Norfolk common 3, and Atchison, Chesapeake, and Louisville were from $1\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ better. Denver common also put on 2, but the preferred fell that amount, and Atchison preference lost $1\frac{3}{4}$. Carrying-over charges were again round about 4 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
195	128	190	Antofagasta (10)	188	195
260	144 ¹ / ₂	—	Do. Def. (15)	240	260
114 ¹ / ₂	105	111	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	111	112 ¹ / ₂
125	113 ¹ / ₂	120	Do. Prfd. (5)	120	120
84 ¹ / ₂	77	84	Bahia Blanca Prfd.	84	84
148 ¹ / ₂	134 ¹ / ₂	138	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137 ¹ / ₂	140 ¹ / ₂
130 ¹ / ₂	127	129	Do. Pref. (5)	129	129
127 ¹ / ₂	117	122 ¹ / ₂	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	123	125
118 ¹ / ₂	108 ¹ / ₂	118	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118	118
109 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	107	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	107	107
111 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂	105	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	105	107
108	93	93 ¹ / ₂	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	93	96
168 ¹ / ₂	161	164 ¹ / ₂	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	165
108 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	107	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	107
135 ¹ / ₂	126 ¹ / ₂	129 ¹ / ₂	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	129 ¹ / ₂	131
90	79	80 ¹ / ₂	Central Uruguay (3)	81	81
206	201	202	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	101	101
94	88	91 ¹ / ₂	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	91 ¹ / ₂	91 ¹ / ₂
20	60 ¹ / ₂	60 ¹ / ₂	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 ¹ / ₂) ..	60 ¹ / ₂	64
38 ¹ / ₂	2 ¹ / ₂	2 ¹ / ₂	Costa Rica (1)	2 ¹ / ₂	2 ¹ / ₂
7 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	6 ¹ / ₂	Cuban Central	6 ¹ / ₂	6 ¹ / ₂
11 ¹ / ₂	10 ¹ / ₂	11 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (5 ¹ / ₂)	11 ¹ / ₂	11 ¹ / ₂
107 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂	—	Do. Deb. (4 ¹ / ₂)	106	106
90 ¹ / ₂	72	81 ¹ / ₂	East Argentine (4 ¹ / ₂)	82	81
6 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	5 ¹ / ₂	5 ¹ / ₂
69	50 ¹ / ₂	68 ¹ / ₂	Leopoldina (3)	68	69
96 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	93 ¹ / ₂	Do. Deb. (4)	94xd	94
110 ¹ / ₂	108 ¹ / ₂	—	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	108xd	108
108	104 ¹ / ₂	—	Do. "B" (6)	105xd	105
29 ¹ / ₂	19 ¹ / ₂	22 ¹ / ₂	Mexican Ord. Stk.	21 ¹ / ₂	24
221 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	111 ¹ / ₂	Do. 1st Pref. (5 ¹ / ₂)	109	114
57	36 ¹ / ₂	43	Do. 2nd Pref.	41	46
69 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	—	Mexican Southern (2 ¹ / ₂)	50	50
14 ¹ / ₂	10 ¹ / ₂	13 ¹ / ₂	Nitrate Ord. (5 ¹ / ₂)	13 ¹ / ₂	13 ¹ / ₂
198	178	195	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	18 ¹ / ₂
160	122	155	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	194	195
			United of Havana Pref. ..	154xf	160

Canadian Pacific shares at first met with a good deal of support, and the quotation advanced until it touched 156 $\frac{1}{8}$, but the weekly traffic returns did not come up to expectations, and most of this improvement disappeared. The decrease of £3,400 in the Grand Trunk figures, however, proved less than had been estimated, and prices improved sharply, the third pre-

ference gaining most. On the account, the ordinary stock of the last-named company rose $1\frac{1}{2}$, the first preference 1, the seconds $1\frac{1}{4}$, and the thirds $1\frac{3}{8}$, but Canadian Pacific shares were only $\frac{1}{2}$ higher. Carrying-over charges on Grand Trunk stocks were, if anything, a shade harder, but were still below 5 per cent. as a general thing.

Argentine Railway stocks are again coming into prominence, and a considerable business was done this week in Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary, Cordoba Central income debentures, and one or two others, with the result that prices have gone up several pounds. Antofagasta stocks, too, retain their popularity, the undivided ordinary in particular receiving very sub-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week]	
27	19	102	Allsopp Ordinary	21	19
71	47	—	City of London Ord.	53	47
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	530	540
27	23	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	24	23
2	2	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	22	24
3	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3	3
68	52	54	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	55	54
35	19	20	Do. Def. Ord. Stock (2) ..	20	20
105	100	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	101	100
78	58	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3)	58	61
6	5	5	Aerated Bread (30)	5	5
6	6	6	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6	6
6	5	1	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5)	1	6
1	1	24	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	1	1
3	2	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2
6	5	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5	5
11	9	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12)	10	10
5	4	—	Calico Printers Ordinary (24)	5	5
5	4	5	Coats Ordinary (20)	5	5
50	48	495	Do. Preference (20)	495	495
1	1	12	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (11)	1	1
1	1	22	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1	1
13	10	5	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	5	5
4	3	—	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	12	12
1	1	4	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4	4
111	106	26	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5)	14	13
12	10	108	Do. Debentures (42)	108	108
6	5	20	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1	1
1	1	5	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5	5
1	1	22	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1	1
7	5	—	Russian Petroleum (5)	1	1
15	13	8	Savoy Hotel (5)	6	6
104	102	103	Sweetmeat Automatic	1	1
77	49	69	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	14	14
48	38	43	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	1	1
100	99	103	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	1	1
9	8	—	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	10	10
11	10	—	Hudson's Bay Co. (58) ..	68	68
8	7	—	Peruvian Ord. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (12)	43	43
11	10	—	Do. Debentures (6)	103	103
13	10	6	National Discount (10)	9	9
104	95	102	Union Discount (11)	11	11
34	12	—	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	7	7
13	10	10	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11	10
104	95	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4)	98	99
134	126	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5) ..	129	129
37	3	3	Armstrong, Whitworth (5) ..	3	3
59	3	3	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	3	3
17	16	12	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (7)	1	1
1	1	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7)	1	1
12	9	9	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	9	9
39	26	35	United States Steel Ordinary ..	33	35
108	93	105	Do. Preference (7)	103	105
23	2	2	Vickers Ordinary (12)	2	2
14	11	—	Conard Steam	12	12
231	21	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	22	23
32	28	—	Royal Mail	30	30
8	8	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	8	8
109	101	106	Ordinary (5)	8	8
17	10	14	Anglo-American Telegraph ..	107	100
147	134	143	Do. Pref. Ord. (2)	107	100
14	13	14	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	143	142
173	100	103	Eastern Extension (7)	14	14
14	13	13	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	103	109
10	9	9	Western Telegraph (7)	13	14
129	110	—	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	9	9
10	9	—	Anglo-Argentine Trans. Ord. (8)	8	8
129	110	—	London General Omnibus (8)	125	125
10	9	—	London United Trans. Pref. (5)	9	9

stantial support, and United Railways of the Havana issues were likewise bid up vigorously. The most striking revival of interest, however, was in the stocks of the old Mexican Railway, which were again bought very freely by speculators on the excellent traffic return, and finished from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 higher. Less was heard of Leopoldina stock, and the inquiry for San Paulo ordinary was also smaller, but the upward movement in both continued. The largest change in the fortnight was again in Antofagasta stock, which showed a gain of 15 at 190, but United Railways of the Havana preference stock was 7 up, and Mexican preference put on 5 and $4\frac{1}{2}$, while the ordinary rose $2\frac{1}{2}$. Amongst Argentine things, Buenos Ayres Great Southern

ordinary improved $2\frac{1}{2}$, Entre Rios Preference $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the ordinary stocks of the Buenos Ayres and Rosario and Buenos Ayres Western and Argentine North-Eastern debenture stock were 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ higher. Cordoba Central income debenture stock put on 2, but the second preference fell $1\frac{1}{2}$. Cordoba and Rosario 6 per cent. debenture stock also dropped that amount, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern debenture stock lost 3. Colombian National debenture stock declined 4, Leopoldina and Uruguay Northern debenture stocks and Nitrate mortgage bonds 2 each, and Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds $3\frac{1}{2}$.

There is no sign yet of improving business in the Miscellaneous markets, but a few of the movements this week have been rather more interesting than usual. National Telephone deferred was particularly good on the report and rose several points, and Easterns were higher amongst Telegraph issues, Anglo-American alone being rather dull. London Docks deferred experienced a sharp recovery, Hudson's Bays were firm, and Chinese Land and Exploration shares were once more disposed to improve. Iron and Steel things, after being dull, picked up, but Coats alone recovered from early depression in the textile group. Aerated Breads were dull, Gordon Hotels lost a small fraction on the dividend announced at 3 per cent. against 6 per cent., and Sweetmeat Automatics fell away when the poor June statement of receipts was published. Breweries continue conspicuously flat, particularly City of London ordinary, Guinness being the shining exception. Nitrates were rather dull along with Russian Oil shares, and so were Associated Cements, but Calcutta Tramways continue on the up grade.

Stock markets were good to-day in spite of the fact that Paris is closed. Absence of support from that quarter seemed to have no influence whatever, and although there was no appreciable further improvement in the Kaffir Circus most home stocks inclined to go up, and Japanese were buoyant with the scrip of the first $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan at $3\frac{1}{2}$ premium, and that of the newer issue at $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ premium. Metropolitan Railway stock was flat on a revived tale of friction between that company and the District. London Docks deferred was also sold, so that the advance in the early part of the week has all disappeared.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

A vigorous effort had to be made to pull the Kaffir Circus together, in view of this week's carry over, and the controlling shops bravely took the task in hand. A start was made on Saturday last, a further deluge of selling orders from all parts of the country having threatened a real collapse, and before the close of business on that day a slight rally had been brought about. Of course, we were instantly told it was due to "bear" covering, those wicked persons having been responsible for all the trouble, you know, but as a matter of fact the amount of "short" selling during the fortnight had been comparatively light considering the character of the slump. It was real stuff that was thrown over, as the leading houses are only too painfully aware, holders wearied to death of the whole business and determined to get shot of shares hung on to perhaps for years in the vain and never-to-be-fulfilled hopes that one day they would yield a good return. However, the turn in the tide having at last come about, it proved a comparatively easy matter to keep prices moving forward, and with the aid of some German and Cape support a moderate recovery was soon accomplished, making-up prices on Monday having a rather better appearance than at one time seemed likely. The initial outburst was followed by some Continental realisation, but the offerings were "well taken," as jobbers put it, and Paris coming firm later in the week the recovery was pretty well maintained. Treasury shares proved an exception, the profit for June being only half that of the previous month owing to a subsidence in the western portion of the mine which precluded the working of the full 60 stamps. Despite the sharp pull up in prices, it was not to be expected that the settlement would be concluded without a certain amount of trouble coming to the surface, and although nothing serious was allowed to happen—assistance was rendered to at least one big operator—one of the smaller men had to go to the wall. Amid all the excitement of bidding up shattered prices, the output and labour returns for June were

quite overlooked, albeit there was nothing very startling about them. The gold yield was 412,317 ozs. compared with 416,395 ozs. in May, a very fair display considering the shortage of one working day, but the native labour figures were disappointing, there being a net loss of "boys" on the month of 2,238. But why worry when 4,019 Chinkees arrived during the same period, and there are crowds of others on the way? They do not mean increased dividends, seem, indeed, to be swallowing up a lot of the former profits, but as a set-off there is always to console us the glorious victory over those who, on all grounds but most on the economic one, opposed their importation.

Rhodesian shares naturally followed the same course as Kaffirs, although displaying less energy, and Diamond shares moved steadily forward until near the end, when Premiers relapsed on the news that the tailings dam had burst, flooding the Pretoria Districts and Bynestpoort mines, the damage being very considerable. Happily there was no loss of life.

West Australian mines did not develop very much activity, but Boulder Proprietary were sought after on statements regarding satisfactory developments at the 1,900 ft. level, the market at the same time grumbling at the delay in publishing the latest information, and strength was shown by Associates, Fingalls, Ivanhoes, and Kalgurli. Nile Valleys were distinctly shaky in the Egyptian division, the latest return being disappointing, but they were not allowed to close at the worst; and it is highly probable that if anyone had mentioned jungle shares they would have gone down. For the rest Broken Hill Proprietary shares were moved forward a little more on a story that the company is about to start an iron smelting industry. Indians kept steady to firm, Esperanzas spurted on the continued satisfactory development of the new lode, Strattons rose to over 10s., and Briseis Tin again went up owing to the firmness of the metal. Rio Tinto were good amongst Copper shares, but San MIGUELS lost ground. At the carry over on Monday lenders began by asking about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more for money, but they were not very successful in their efforts, and as a rule contangos were much about the same as on the previous occasion. On Gold Fields as much as $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was asked at first, but the rate ran off rapidly, and later in the day the shares were taken in at 2 per cent. This, however, was an exceptional case, but there was much less 6 per cent. money than lenders had hoped for, and the general charge may be called $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent. On Rand Mines, East Rands and one or two others the rates obtained were about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. higher, but on Gold Trust and Randfontein charges were much the same, and on Johnnies and Barnatos they were fully 1 per cent. lighter than last time. Chartered cost rather more, but other Rhodesian things were carried over at previous rates, and of Diamond issues De Beers cost 3-4 per cent. against $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. On Jungle shares the rate was again about 6 per cent., on Egyptians and Australasians it ranged from 6 to 8 per cent., and on Miscellaneous things 6 to 7 per cent.

Matters looked very gloomy for the "bulls" on Saturday morning, and there were such ominous rumours flying about that the "shops" were driven to come in and do their best to hoist prices. To a small extent they achieved their object, and making-up prices were by no means the lowest touched during the fortnight, but nevertheless declines again outnumbered the gains, and although the losses are in no case sensational, they are serious, because a continuation of the steady depreciation which has gone on for some considerable time past. The largest fall was $\frac{3}{8}$ in Apex, and the next largest $\frac{7}{8}$ in Gold Fields and Gold Trusts, while declines of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ were recorded in Comets, Durban Roodepoorts, Driefonteins, East Rand Proprietary, East Rand Mining, Rand Mines and a number of Deep Levels. Johnnies went back $\frac{3}{8}$ and Barnato Consols 11-32 on the amalgamation scheme, and amongst Rhodesian things Chartered were $\frac{1}{8}$ lower, Rhodesia Exploration dropped $\frac{7}{8}$ and Tanganyikas and Northern Coppers $\frac{1}{8}$ each. In Diamond shares De Beers preferred and deferred recovered $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ respectively, but Premiers declined $\frac{1}{4}$ and the deferred $1\frac{1}{4}$. Jungles were largely unaltered, and even where any changes were recorded they consisted of tiny fractions, except in out of the way things like Nigeria and West Africa Development Syndicate, Nigeria Properties and Wa Syndicate which receded $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$. Australasians, too, hardly moved, but No. 2 South Great Eastern Gold dropped $\frac{1}{8}$, Oroya-Brownhills were 9-32 lower and Kalgurli and a few others shed 2s. 6d., while in the Miscellaneous the solitary change worth even passing mention was a loss of 11-32 in Tyee Coppers.

TRANSVAAL GOLD AND LABOUR RETURNS.—The usual return from the Chamber of Mines shows that the June gold output from the Witwatersrand mines was 396,188 ozs., and from the outside districts 16,129 ozs., in all 412,317 ozs. valued at £1,751,412, being a decrease of 4,078 ozs. and £17,322 compared with the previous month. This, however, is more than accounted for by the loss of a working day in June compared with May, and if the daily average is taken it will be found that the latest return still marks progress. The native labour figures, however, show that against 6,406 boys distributed by the Labour Association, the loss by time expiration and other wastage was 8,642, meaning a net decline of 2,238, the number employed at the end of the month being 93,988.

TRANSVAAL GOLD MINING ESTATES, LIMITED.—The report of this company for the twelve months ended March 31 will not help to create a South African boom. Bullion produced was worth £153,469, but the mining expenses swallowed up £140,871, and £6,431 went in head office charges, so that after shortening the lives of the mines by one year the company can produce a profit of £6,167 only. To that is added revenue from old

slimes £11,312, interest £2,070, general income £3,363 and other smaller items of £757, making £23,670 in all, but, on the other hand, £18,428 must be written off for depreciation, prospecting and claim licences, leaving the net balance at £5,242 only. It is added to the credit of £76,208 brought in, making £81,451, which will again be carried forward, no dividend being possible because one was not earned. To pay even 10 per cent. on the share capital would require over £60,000, and the prospect of earning that sum annually is not particularly brilliant. The company possesses a large number of farms, claims, and concessions, but prospecting operations on the outlying farms have been suspended owing to the prevailing unfavourable conditions under which the work had to be carried on. On Peach Tree Creek, near the Beta mine, a reef has been disclosed, and a very considerable amount of development work carried on. This will, it is anticipated, prove a valuable asset to the company, and the directors also hope to derive benefit from the lease to tributors of sundry farms and the 54 claims near the Jubilee mine. Ore reserves of producing mines are estimated at 178,354 tons, and of the Peach Tree (prospecting mine) 9,923 tons, or 188,277 in all, as compared with 169,626 tons at March 31, 1904, an increase on the year of 18,651 tons, of which 8,728 was on the producing mines. The chief contributor to these ore reserves is the Clewer mine with 99,091 tons, and it is therefore disappointing to find that notwithstanding a large amount of driving and sinking to prove the reef in several directions in Dukes Hill Channel of this mine, the ground passed through has disclosed nothing. Moreover, we find that the development expenditure on all the mines was £20,653, which was charged to working expenses under mining account, thus helping to swallow up last year's revenue, and as the excess development of 8,728 tons, as already mentioned, could only be considered worth £1,954, it will be seen that the property is being exhausted without bringing any benefit to the shareholders.

BARRETT GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.—Scarcity of native labour prevented this company from carrying out its plans with regard to prospecting, and during the year ended February 28 work was confined to the old deposits, which continued to yield good quantities of low grade ore, and a total of 30,564 tons were mined and delivered from the three reefs. At the reduction works 27,918 tons of ore and 1,579 tons of slimes were treated, but the average extraction fell to 2 dwts. 20.4 grs. per ton compared with 3 dwts. 8 grs. in the previous twelve months, and the output dropped to 5,477 ozs., worth £17,854. A further reduction from 9s. 1d. to 8s. 10.6d. per ton was effected in working costs, but the net profits nevertheless dropped from £5,403 to £2,861, and there is still a debit balance of £7,296 outstanding. With regard to future operations, the directors state that they have engaged a mining engineer to make a thorough and complete study of the formation and various workings, and to advise not only upon the best plan for carrying on mining and prospecting work, but also upon the possibility of effecting an improvement in the present methods of treating the ores.

TYEE COPPER CO., LIMITED.—The directors and officials of this company would like very much to make it appear that they are optimistic and even enthusiastic in their views as to the future of the mine, but unfortunately they are forced by circumstances to allow a note of uncertainty to creep into their report for the year ended April 30. Net proceeds of matte sales were £18,268 higher at £146,263, and although miscellaneous receipts were a trifle smaller at £481, the total revenue came to £146,744 compared with £128,631. With £5,350 from the previous account and £836 from interest, the amount available was £86,795, and after meeting administration charges and writing off £4,662 for mine development, £6,400 on account of commissions to subscribers on the second issue of shares, £6,760 from properties and concessions and £9,937 from plant, buildings, &c., being the sum spent during the twelve months, the net profits were £37,306 or an increase of £11,916. Developments at the mine, however, have so far proved unsatisfactory that they have failed to open up any new ore bodies, and in spite of an attempt to minimise the significance of this by a statement that the formation in which they are now working is is of a nature in which ore may at any time be found, the directors are evidently extremely nervous as to the outlook. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. was paid in December last, and pending the finding and proving of this ore body shareholders are asked to be content with this distribution. Still the financial position is very favourable, as liabilities to sundry debtors come to no more than £6,810 against £2,508 to come in from sundry debtors and £41,658 in cash, while the reserve fund investments now stand at £33,187.

ARIZONA COPPER.—Profits of this well-managed property for the half-year ended March 31 were £165,187, including £10,826 brought forward, and after debiting a sum of £19,000 expended during the six months on repairing damage caused by floods. Preference dividends having been provided with £12,266, the directors propose to pay at the end of the current month interim dividends of 1s. 6d. per share on the preferred and deferred ordinary shares, being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum. Balance still in hand will be £38,929, from which certain deductions must be made for redemption of debt and contingencies.

TALISMAN CONSOLIDATED.—This New Zealand mining company issues its first annual report since the reconstruction in the early part of 1904, the period covered being just about twelve months to February 28 last. During that time 43,933 tons were crushed for a recovery of £85,601 or £1 18s. 11½d. per ton,

against which the actual working costs were £1 10s. 1¼d. per ton. Including £10 for interest, the outgo was £54,678, leaving £30,922, including transfer fees, but ordinary mine development took a further sum of £8,690, and the directors have decided to write off £5,003 for special development, £4,397 for depreciation of plant and machinery, £816 for preliminary expenses and £149 for legal charges, so that only £11,937 remains as actual net profit. It will be carried forward. Not a very brilliant start perhaps, but Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co., the mining engineers, say that the discovery of a new ore body in the Bonanza section has greatly increased the value of the mine, and if it should prove to continue in depth below the No. 10 level the prospects will be still further enhanced. The future, indeed, is now considered very hopeful, and the next six months' development should settle the position beyond a doubt, especially as there is still a chance of finding a payable reef on the newly acquired Woodstock property. The purchase of this it seems has proved of great advantage, as it obviated the laying down of a steam-driven air compressing plant, which would have cost nearly as much as was paid for the whole of the Woodstock assets, and entailed a heavy cost for fuel and labour. The company is practically clear of debt, and has a moderate quantity of bullion and cash, besides £30,000 uncalled capital to come in, so that the resources should be sufficient to carry through the work in contemplation. Moreover, the net profits for the last four months have been, March £5,082, April £3,878, May £4,132 and June £4,981, and, regarded speculatively, the future does not look unpromising.

DAY DAWN BLOCK AND WYNDHAM GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.—A decrease in the output during the latter part of 1904 caused the mill to be "hung up" one week in four, and the total tons crushed were 11,526 down at 26,274 tons. Tailings treated were also smaller at 41,706 tons compared with 52,822 tons, but the ounces recovered were only 2,320 less at 39,045 ozs. The average price realised for the gold from the battery was £3 9s. 9d., and from the cyanide works £1 8s. 1d. per oz. against £3 9s. and £1 10s. in the previous year, and most of the output appears to have been of the latter description, as the revenue from sales dropped by £32,159 to £63,941. Including miscellaneous receipts, the total income came to £68,589 compared with £96,869, and although expenses were £12,712 lower at £62,585, the net profits after providing £4,072 for depreciation against £4,287 written off with £18,746 for mines purchase account were no more than £208. To this was added £5,306 brought in, but the interim dividend paid in November last took £13,083, and there is consequently a debit balance of £7,569 to be carried forward. Liabilities to sundry creditors have increased by £953 to £3,995, against which bullion at bank and in transit is £8,629 down at £8,515, while cash is a trifle higher at £27,925.

BRILLIANT CENTRAL GOLD.—A reduction in the size of the reef led to a smaller output during the half-year ended March 31 and only 13,767 tons were crushed compared with 19,194 tons in the corresponding half of 1904. The number of ounces, too, fell off to 11,062 valued at £38,622 against 18,573 and £65,430, and with 115 tons of concentrates and 14,200 tons of residues sold the total income came to £45,896 against £76,993 or £3 6s. 8d. per ton against £4. Including £5,462 brought in the total revenue was £51,550, but expenses took £30,090, and as dividends paid with £1,125 for tax absorbed £23,625 the credit balance brought forward gave place to a debit of £2,164.

ESPERANZA.—The directors of this company have much pleasure in reporting that the progress on the west sulphide veins on the Esperanza Mining Company's property continues to be of a most satisfactory character. The steady development on these veins has added so materially to the value of the ore reserves that Mr. H. A. Titcomb has been out to estimate the additional values, and finds that the ore in reserve on the new veins is about 40,700 tons of 2,000 lbs., from which a net profit of \$1,881,000 may reasonably be expected. Not only that, but Mr. Titcomb thinks "there ought to be a considerable addition to present reserves before the limits of the chute are reached." No wonder the shares jumped 5s.

BRITISH TRANSVAAL MINES.—This company's shares have been slumping away lately, tumbling say from 25s. to 10s.—we wonder who pushed them up—and, becoming alarmed, some of the shareholders inquired whether anything has occurred to account for the movement. Nothing at all, so far as the position and prospects are concerned, say the directors, careful inquiry having revealed the fact that wicked Stock Exchange "bears" are at the bottom of the trouble. Why, on June 22 the following stimulating cable came along: "Prospecting Schulers claims is now in full swing," and "the directors have the greatest confidence in their engineers, under whose direction the prospecting has been carried on in the past and is now proceeding, and have every reason to believe that the views expressed in their reports will be realised." The shares did not recover on the news.

SOUTH AFRICAN LAND AND EXPLORATION.—It is proposed to increase the capital of this venture to £400,000 by the creation of 60,000 shares of £1 each, and a meeting will be held in Johannesburg on the 24th inst. to consider the matter. At the same time shareholders will be asked to authorise the purchase of a 10 per cent. interest in the farms Vlaklaagte and Hartebeestfontein for 25,000 fully-paid shares, and should they do so the capital will be further raised to this extent. Of the 60,000 new shares 34,000 will be offered to shareholders registered on August 7 at 55s. per share in the proportion of one new for every

to then held. The issue has been underwritten at the mentioned price, the guarantors receiving an option on the remaining 26,000 shares for six months at 70s. per share. The company is little known on this side at present, but these facts may be a useful record one day.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOLD EXPORT AND MINT RETURNS.—The Agent-General for Western Australia has received notification that during the month of June last 48,851 ozs. of gold were entered for export, while 106,299 ozs. were received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint for coinage, giving a total of 155,150 fine ozs. The total export and mint returns for the corresponding month of 1904 amounted to 167,446 fine ozs.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets

* The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Last year's business was good with this company, gross receipts being £624,437 from the railway and £19,002 from the waterworks. The railway was worked at 50.26 per cent. and the waterworks at 17.19 per cent. of the gross receipts, the result being a net revenue for the two together of £326,858, of which £311,124 came from the railway and £15,734 from the waterworks. Adding in sundry small credits and a balance of £24,096 brought forward, the sum available was £353,453, out of which £63,134 was appropriated in various ways, nearly £57,000 of it in reliefs to or adjustments of capital under one form or another, including £20,000 transferred to "bridge renewal account" and £10,000 written off the cost of buying out the Huanchaca Company. Debenture stock interest took £55,000, so that the ultimate balance left for the stockholders was £235,319, and out of this two interim dividends of 3 per cent. each were paid on the ordinary stock, while a final 4 per cent. is now proposed making 10 per cent. for the year on that stock. This means 15 per cent. on the deferred and after paying it £15,319 will be left for the new year. All matters connected with the transfer of the line from the Huanchaca company to the railway company have now been completed and a long career of prosperity appears to be before the undertaking, which is now pushing out in various directions in order to extend its business. It is building a branch line to the port of Mejillones and another into an important nitrate district 110 kilometres in length. Meanwhile, the traffic income continues to grow and for the first five months of this year amounted to £315,072. A rearrangement of the capital account is foreshadowed and shareholders are to be asked to sanction application to Parliament for the purpose. This probably implies not merely a change in the position of some portions of the present capital but powers to raise considerable further sums of money, but Bolivia is a country with a great mineral future, and there is no reason to suppose that prosperity will not continue to mark the progress of this now well-established line. The waterworks are also prospering and being extended.

LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

The net profits of this big bank for the past half-year came to £294,569 or rather over £10,000 more than in the corresponding period of 1904, but the balance brought forward was £8,602 less at £109,718, so that the credit for disposal shows an advance of £1,465 only at £404,287. So the division will be on exactly the same lines as a year ago, the dividend being at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum with £20,000 to bank premises redemption fund and £5,000 to officers' pension fund, the balance forward showing a slight advance to £109,287. Compared with the end of June, 1904, the latest balance-sheet shows an increase in the ordinary public liabilities of £2,521,681 to £46,922,478 and in the acceptances of over £1,000,000 to £2,889,481, but there is a moderate decline to £7,989,091 in the cash in hand and at Bank of England, the corresponding figure having been £8,358,608. Investments, too, show a drop of £587,636 to £6,769,065, and we find that a large part of the additional deposits has been used in the short loan market, the money at call and notice being £1,485,383 up to £7,052,576. Then the advances and loans have been increased £1,400,414 to £26,042,669 and the bills of exchange held are greater by £576,068 at £4,070,582. Bank premises now stand at £1,277,782 or £18,434 more and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £56,191,247 compared with £52,657,551. The reserve and paid-up capital are the same, each £3,000,000.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN BANK, LIMITED.

This bank experienced a small decline in gross profits during the six months to June 30, the total being £253,099 compared with £261,339 in the opening half of last year, a shrinkage of £8,240. Against that current expenses again increased £6,363 to £129,481, but interest accrued and paid was no more than £26,810 compared with £44,269, and rebate took £891 less at £5,776, so that the net balance was really a little larger. After adding £2,500 to the staff retirement and benevolent fund, applying £1,579 to write down the reserve fund Local Loans stock to 95 and bringing in the increased balance of £29,396 from previous account, the sum for disposal is £116,349. From it a dividend will be paid at the usual rate of 16 per cent. per annum, including £15,500 for proportionate dividend on new

shares and £36,849 carried forward. There is a further increase of £411,503 to £13,318,042 in the current and deposit accounts, and in other liabilities of £10,035 to £411,941, but cash in hand and at Bank of England shows a further trifling decline to £1,814,656. Money at call and short notice, however, has further advanced to £1,036,780, the growth of this item having been rather rapid. Investments, £4,089,761, are up again by £433,793, and loans and advances have increased £159,980 to £7,325,861, but bills discounted are back again to £755,688.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.

The gross profit of this excellent bank for the past half-year was £283,367 or about £2,000 more than in the corresponding six months of 1904 and the balance brought in was also rather over a couple of thousands better at £38,363, so that the entire revenue is larger by £4,237 at £321,730. Against that the current expenses rose £1,110 to £118,757 but interest paid was only £69,671 compared with £75,813 and the balance for division is £9,269 to the good at £133,302. Dividend will again be at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, another £5,305 goes to reserve and the officers' pension and gratuity fund receives £5,000 as before, but premises account is reduced by £10,000 or £5,000 more and the carry forward goes up from £36,728 to £40,997. The financial position we know to be a very sound one, the investments standing below market value, as also the premises account, and the provision for bad and doubtful debts largely exceeds the amount estimated to be at present required. Current deposit and other accounts have risen £410,533 to £13,318,321, rather more than £100,000 of which has gone on to the cash at head office, branches and agents, making the total £1,683,184, and an extra £200,000 at £1,000,000 is out at call and short notice. The investments aggregating £4,032,309 have increased £126,844 and the loans, advances, bills discounted, &c., stand at £8,718,599 compared with £8,726,666.

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING CO., LIMITED.

At the end of June last this strong looking Northern bank owed £15,038,954 on current, deposit and other accounts, being an increase compared with the same date in 1904 of £527,985, while the acceptances were £247,768 larger at £564,260. Cash in hand and at the Bank of England, however, was rather less at £1,644,417, and we note that the additional resources appear under call and notice money which has gone up by the large sum of £805,920 to £2,115,280. Investments, £3,300,605, show little change, but are larger, bills of exchange have gone up £181,638 to £2,332,310 and advances on current accounts, &c., are less by £343,563 at £8,829,449. Bank property remains at the old figure of £300,000. Business was evidently quite satisfactory during the half-year, as the gross profit is returned at £228,947 compared with £227,431, but expenses were up £1,166 to £81,936, so that the net balance showed very little change. Sum brought forward was £37,530, and after providing £5,000 for income-tax the sum for disposal amounts to £177,541 compared with £175,702. As before the dividend will be 21s. per share, with another £10,000 to reserve and £36,291 carried forward. Reserve will now be £1,815,000 against a capital of £1,500,000, surely an excellent example to set.

BANK OF LIVERPOOL, LIMITED.

This well-known bank issues a balance-sheet once a year only and announces a gross profit for the twelve months ended June 30 of £283,414 an increase compared with 1904 of not quite £2,000. General charges rose £1,225 to £118,826, and after providing income-tax the directors pay two dividends of 5 per cent. each and a bonus of 4 per cent. making 14 per cent. in all, the same as before, carrying £17,588 to the reserved surplus fund. The latter will now be £693,026 against a paid-up capital of £1,000,000. Including acceptances, larger by £300,000 at £786,835, the public liabilities have increased £855,182 to £12,660,657 and, although a good deal higher at £820,371, the cash in hand and at Bank of England seems rather slender against these deposits. Money at call and short notice with other bankers and bill brokers shows a reduction of £127,029 to £1,377,736, while a new item consists of loans for short terms on stocks and other negotiable securities £877,374. Investments in Consols and other first-class securities stand at £1,791,252 compared with £1,557,839, bills of exchange are less by £222,599 at £2,143,492 while loans and advances to customers are very little larger at £7,120,751. Bank premises have increased from £296,222 to £315,372, although there is no mention of the opening of fresh branches. When the accounts were closed the bank had bills under discount with the Bank of England to the amount of £246,317, a decrease compared with the previous accounts of £29,785.

MANCHESTER AND COUNTY BANK, LIMITED.

A decrease of about £2,000 occurred in the gross profits of this bank for the six months to June 30 compared with the opening half of 1904, the total being £140,754. At the same time the expenses went up £497 to £55,795, so that the net balance is down from £87,440 to £84,959. On the other hand there was an increase of just under £1,000 to £13,863 in the balance brought forward and the sum actually for division is only reduced £1,496 to £98,823. Therefore the dividend will again be £1 5s. 6d. per share or at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, with another £10,000 to reserve, but £1,000 less at £1,500 to superannuation fund and a small decline to £13,147 in the credit carried to next account. Current, deposit and other accounts show a moderately large increase to £8,705,424 and

acceptances have gone up £58,484 to £168,208, but on the assets side cash on hand, at call and short notice shows an advance of £472,009 to £2,558,088. Investments, too, are larger by £72,845 at £1,383,800, so that the bills of exchange, advances and loans are less than £1,000 higher at £6,600,874, notwithstanding the sharp rise in resources. Of the investments the Consols and 2½ per cent. annuities are held at 85, Irish Land stock at 88 and Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per cent. and National War Loan at 90, meaning a good margin for contingencies. Reserve fund now stands at £980,000 and the capital is £928,234.

HALIFAX COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY.

In the year ended June 30 last this old local bank made a net profit of £24,268, and pays a second dividend of 8s. per share, making with the 8s. distributed in January last 8 per cent. for the year. Then £2,000 is written off bank premises account, and after paying £776 as income tax, £5,492 is left to be carried forward, or about £85 more than was brought in. The total of the balance-sheet is only £1,909,327, and the items are not split up in a manner useful for comparative statistics, but we expect the business is sound and conducted on established lines. Cash in hand, at the Bank of England and other banks, and at call comes to £267,492, and investments in Consols, colonial bonds, and other securities stand for £256,523, freehold properties yielding rents for £34,619, and bank premises for £30,071. It follows that the bulk of the assets, or £1,305,974, is heaped together in "bills discounted, advances on current accounts, loans, &c." The total liability on deposits, credit balances, trust and other liabilities is £1,563,274.

MUNSTER AND LEINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

This small bank, which does not issue a profit and loss account, returns the net revenue for the half-year ended June 30 at £20,174 or £898 more than in the same period of last year. Balance brought in was also £499 larger at £6,000, so that altogether the sum to be disposed of is £26,174 against £24,777. Nevertheless the dividend will continue at the old rate of 12 per cent. per annum, £5,500 or £2,000 more going to reserve, but £1,000 less at £2,500 to premises account, the carry forward being once more increased to £6,174. In consequence, we suppose, of a further increase of £91,612 to £4,248,648 in the current, deposit and other accounts the cash on hand and with bankers has been raised £23,740 to £326,742, the money at call and short notice also going up £7,343 to £363,967. Bills receivable, £942,729, are larger by £48,149, advances have been increased a trifle to £1,858,120 and the investments of £1,166,882 show an increase of £20,971.

GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, AND CO.

Although this is a private concern the partners in it issue an annual statement of liabilities and assets duly audited, and the one for the year ended June 30 shows some very important looking movements. Current accounts, for instance, have risen by no less than £1,048,317 to £10,198,738, and deposits are up £161,186 at £3,667,082. The whole of this increase and more went to swell money at call and short notice, which showed an advance of £1,937,358 at £4,953,408, while bills discounted, loans, and other securities are £850,581 down at £5,341,991, investments have been reduced by £123,525 to £2,722,723, and cash in hand and at Bank of England is £3,748 smaller at £1,977,699, or about 14.26 per cent. of the liabilities to the public.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT CO., LIMITED.

The gross profit earned by this old-established discount house during the half-year ended June 30 was £102,564, or £373 more than in the corresponding period of 1904. Rebate of interest on bills not due, however, was £1,845 larger at £47,210 and general expenses and income-tax showed a slight rise to £10,044, so that after providing £2,650 for directors' and auditors' remuneration the net balance of £42,659 shows a moderate reduction. But the balance brought forward of £11,149 was larger by £2,413, making the disposable sum £53,808 compared with £53,168. Therefore the dividend will again be at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum with an improvement in the credit carried out of £640 to £11,475. At the date of the balance-sheet the deposits and sundry balances stood at £10,594,694, being an advance of £1,589,097, and of bills discounted to the amount of £10,403,676 the rediscounts were £3,054,290. Loans at call, short and fixed dates amounted to £2,013,280 compared with £1,476,692, investments have been increased £321,334 to £2,307,085 and the cash at bankers is a trifle lower at £139,410.

UNION DISCOUNT CO. OF LONDON, LIMITED.

The operations of this well-managed discount house were attended with the usual good results during the half-year ended June 30, the gross revenue of £183,898 showing an increase of £14,461 compared with the corresponding six months of 1904. Against that, however, the rebate of interest on bills not due was larger by £14,850 at £115,382, so that allowing the rather larger sum of £19,480 for current expenses the net balance of £49,036 shows a small decline. Including £50,245 brought forward the sum for disposal is £99,281, and after again providing a dividend at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum the directors placed £5,000 to the provident fund against £10,000 added to the general reserve a year ago and raise the carry forward from £47,421 to £53,031. A big increase of £2,163,370 to £14,176,036 is noticeable in the bills discounted current when the accounts were closed, but the quantity of paper rediscounted was only £64,932 larger at £3,329,498, so that the loans and deposits are

a lot heavier at £14,959,303. Loans granted on securities at call and short dates come to £2,030,732 compared with £2,118,137 and cash at bankers is £116,596 less at £500,217, but the investments show an advance of £278,608 to £2,887,334. Freehold and leasehold premises, fittings and furniture are about £1,000 lower at £107,722.

THE NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

Steady progress marks the history of this company and emphasises the wealth of the mercantile community which provides so heavy a revenue. In the half-year ended June 30 last the income was £1,086,507 or £101,233 more than in the first half of 1904. Working expenses went up on the same comparison £67,190 to £630,250. After deducting Post Office royalties amounting to £100,638 the net profit left was £355,618 or £24,147 more than in the June half of 1904. Moreover the rentals carried forward for unexpired terms of running contracts amount to £1,018,882 or £81,585 more. After meeting all working expenses, paying £2,895 to the pension fund, £6,168 for income-tax, £28,322 as interest on the reserve fund of £1,646,732 together with £68,821 as interest on debenture stock there was £286,516 of free revenue left, out of which all the preferential dividends are met together with 5 per cent. on the deferred stock and £110,000 transferred to the reserve fund, leaving £9,699 to be carried forward against £10,141 brought in. This surely is a comfortable display, and there would be nothing to cavil at at any point were it not that the capital expenditure continues heavy and amounted in the past half-year to £477,157. Probably enough in present circumstances this expenditure is necessary, but the result of it is that the capital account is now overdrawn by £2,124,960, the total of the balance-sheet being £11,323,553 against capital issued £9,198,593. Moreover the unexhausted powers of the company come to only £1,301,407, consisting of £500,000 in £5 ordinary shares and £801,407 in 4 per cent. debenture stock. Happily the above-mentioned reserve can be utilised in the capital account, so that there does not seem any immediate urgency to ask for extended capital powers, but none the less should we like to see the expenditure under this head reduced.

ASSAM OIL CO., LIMITED.

This company has altered its method of presenting the accounts, and for the year ended December 31 has omitted the statement of gross sales and expenditure, but enough information is given to show that the period was very far from being a prosperous one. The rate was continued throughout the year, and the price of kerosene fell off still further, with the result that trading profits, including £11 from transfer fees and £8 on exchange account, and deducting administration expenses and interest, came to no more than £15,010, and with £4,526 brought in, the amount available was £5,490 smaller at £19,536. Out of this £5,000 is again transferred to depreciation account, and a dividend of 8d. per share is paid, compared with 1s. per share for the previous twelve months, leaving £4,202 to be carried forward. The auditors' certificate is given subject to the provision for depreciation being sufficient, and it is not to be wondered at that they feel doubtful on this point, as capital expenditure goes on apace. Another £20,902 was added during the twelve months, making a total of £320,163, against which the depreciation account stands at no more than £10,000, a figure which seems totally inadequate considering the wasting nature of the property. Sundry creditors have been reduced by £789 to £4,910, but at the same time the overdraft at the bank has gone up from £3,223 to £14,541, but against these there are increases of £4,151 to £26,958 in stocks and £1,506 to £5,541 in sundry debtors, while cash is only £149 down at £1,825.

WM. HANCOCK AND CO., LIMITED.

The licensing authorities have evidently been kinder to this company's properties during the year to May 31 than they were in the previous 12 months, as the directors do not find it necessary to abuse the powers that be in their latest report. It is either that or the "bung" Endowment Bill has come to the relief of a sorely-stricken trade. After making full provision against expiring leaseholds, bad and doubtful debts, depreciation of plant, &c., the net profit for the past year comes out at £44,442, a drop of £990 compared with 1903-4, but the balance brought forward was larger at £2,511, and the total sum available comes to £46,953 compared with £47,211. Debenture interest absorbs £8,000, and the preference dividend £8,700, and after paying the regular 6 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares the deferred ordinary once more receive 8 per cent., the carry forward being slightly reduced to £2,253. Share capital of the concern is £545,000 and is in a manner watered, the original ordinary shares having been exchanged for new preferred and deferred shares, so that on the assets side we get an intangible item of £131,250 representing the nominal advance in the capital under the conversion. Debenture, mortgage, and loan indebtedness reaches £234,000, a further £7,942 has been left on deposit, and general trade creditors stand at £29,625. On the other side the actual sum owing by debtors is £46,285, but allowance for discounts comes to £997 and the reserve for doubtful debts to the large sum of £11,119, so that the amount appearing is reduced to £35,167. Cash is very poor at £682 in spite of the bankers' loan of £9,000, stock is not excessive at £36,423, and the smaller assets, such as plant, utensils, drays, horses, casks, &c., are valued at £37,205. Brewery buildings and goodwill are entered at £234,209, and the licensed houses, &c., are valued at £465,181, probably above their real worth, but any

depreciation would doubtless be covered by the reserve of £105,000.

LOVELL AND CHRISTMAS, LIMITED.

Since its conversion to a limited liability company this business of general provision merchants and importers has had a most successful career, always paying a substantial ordinary dividend and steadily building up reserves. Lately profits have been somewhat affected by the severity of competition, but they are still substantial and during the year to June 30 last some part of the setback experienced in the previous twelve months was recovered. From all sources the revenue was £51,301 or an increase of £3,072 against the decline in 1903-4 of £8,567, and after providing debenture interest, preference dividend, income-tax and £8,000 for directors' remuneration the balance still in hand is £27,651, which enables the directors to repeat the 10 per cent. ordinary dividend, adding £300 to the benevolent fund and carrying forward £14,489 against £12,488 brought in. The financial position seems sound, as there is a general reserve of £112,000 and a fund for depreciation on leaseholds and machinery of £2,000, nearly all invested apart from the business, against an aggregate capital outlay of little more than £343,000. Book debts, £233,311, appear very heavy, indicating long credit, particularly in comparison with the trifling sundry creditors of £23,505, but cash is very fair at £36,710. Stock-in-trade looks small at £12,629, considering the size of the business.

DUMONT COFFEE CO., LIMITED.

The phenomenally large crop of 1903 was not repeated during the twelve months ended December 31 last, and the total harvested amounted to no more than 79,472 cwts. or 42,732 cwts. less. Some compensation was derived from an advance of 5s. 4d. to 40s. 9d. per cwt. in the gross average price realised which was about 5s. more than the average market price of Santos coffee for the period during which the company's output was sold, but the increase was very far from being clear gain. The exchange rate of the milreis went up from 12.09d. to 12.375d., and the laying-down cost in London rose by 4s. 10d. to 29s. 0½d. per cwt., and the net revenue including £7,403 from the railway, store, and miscellaneous receipts showed a shrinkage of £18,758 at £57,136. A very much larger balance of £36,840, however, was brought forward, and after meeting London charges and debenture interest the disposable balance was £15,114 higher at £68,604, so 5¾ per cent. or an additional 2 per cent. was paid on account of arrears of preference dividend, and the balance carried to the current year was raised by £8,764 to £45,604. The directors explain that notwithstanding the larger amount available they consider it prudent to restrict the payment of arrears to this percentage in view of the serious rise to about 16½d. in the exchange value of the milreis, which, if it continues, will involve a greatly increased expenditure on the current year's crop. Sundry creditors have been reduced by £21,560 to £27,106, but, on the other hand, the Fazenda current account is £20,098 smaller at £64,979, cash has risen from £2,030 to £15,609, and the investments in the company's own debentures by the simple expedient of writing their book value up from 85 per cent. to 93 per cent. show an increase of £1,506 to £15,531.

ANGLO-CYLON AND GENERAL ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

In addition to 6,200 acres under tea in Ceylon this company owns cocoa and cocoanut estates in that island and sugar plantations in Mauritius, and during the year ended March 31 earned a total revenue from all sources, including £20,709 brought in, of £191,491. Of this expenditure in Ceylon took £54,205, and in Mauritius £76,647, and after providing for debenture interest and general charges the net profits were £47,338, out of which a dividend of 5 per cent. is paid and £6,000 is set aside for expenses of the conversion of debentures, leaving £28,838 to be carried forward. The crop of tea in Ceylon amounted to 2,501,502 lbs. and 29,146 lbs. from bought leaf against 2,519,186 lbs. and 44,318 lbs. respectively, and realised 7.18d. per lb. compared with 7.60d., but the cocoa output fell from 4,562 cwts. to 3,539 cwts. and brought 4s. 2d. less at 58s. 11d. per cwt., while the sugar cane crops in Mauritius dropped to 8,559 tons of sugar from 82,309 tons of cane against 14,199 tons from 138,069 tons of cane. At present the company has £16,600 4½ per cent. debentures and £150,520 6 per cent. mortgage debentures outstanding, while there are also specific mortgages for another £27,039, but a new issue of £110,000 5 per cent. debentures to take the place of the 6 per cent. debentures will be made early in October when the interest charge will be reduced from £9,778 to £6,157. The Ceylon estates are valued in the balance-sheet at £242,002 and the Mauritius sugar estates at £104,247, while the reserve amounts to £20,000 only, but the company in other ways is in an excellent position. Liabilities, including £4,705 on "suspense realisations account" and £4,889 for accrued debenture interest, come to £28,099, and, on the other hand, stocks or sugar, and tea, cocoa, &c., stand at £11,823 and £13,760 respectively, sundry debtors owe £19,902, and cash on deposit and in hand reaches the respectable figure of £48,662. The company also owns £28,200 in first-class securities and £36,496 in shares of other companies, and has bought in £13,595 and £2,000 of its 6 per cent. and 4½ per cent. debentures.

MOABUND TEA CO., LIMITED.

This company was so exceptionally fortunate as to secure an increase of 0.31d. to 8.25d. in the average price obtained

for the 1904 crop, but unhappily this did not prevent its doing badly from a financial point of view. The season was unfavourable for yield and the outturn was consequently 264,524 lbs. smaller at 1,347,126 lbs., with the result that the gross revenue fell off by £6,938 to £46,355. Expenses were reduced by £5,104 to £40,792, but the surplus was still down, and after meeting debenture interest, preference dividend, and other charges the amount available, including £849 or about the same as a year ago brought forward, was no more than £2,684 compared with £4,349. Nothing, therefore, can be put to reserve against £1,000 last time, while the dividend on the ordinary shares is cut down from 2½ per cent. to 2 per cent. and £684 or £165 less is carried forward. Although this is the ninth year of the company's existence, the reserve, including £250 from premiums on shares, amounts to a paltry £1,250, representing about ¾ per cent. of the outlay on the estates without taking into consideration the permanent buildings and machinery valued at £5,242 or the £668 spent on a tramway, both items which require attention in the matter of depreciation. Liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors have been reduced by £4,201 to £22,008 and £792 of the overdraft at the bankers has been paid off, bringing it down to £1,809; but in order to effect these reductions stocks of tea have dropped by £6,040 to £21,716, sundry debtors are £1,489 lower at £3,728, and cash has shrunk by £1,541 to the almost microscopic sum of £248.

BORELLI TEA CO., LIMITED.

The affairs of this company grow more and more deeply involved each year, until it looks an almost hopeless task to keep it in existence. In the twelve months ended December 31 a decrease of 21,465 lbs. in the output from one estate was partly balanced by an increase of 18,893 lbs. from the other, and the total crop was only 2,572 lbs. smaller at 651,981 lbs., but the average price realised dropped another 0.51d. to 7.38d., and the gross proceeds fell off by £1,486 to £20,275. To secure this result cost £20,221, or £68 less than in 1903, and after giving the managers £4 as their commission the net profits came to £51, compared with £1,362. Adding to this £13 from the 1903 crop underestimated, and deducting debenture interest, the net outcome of the year's trading was an increase in the debit balance from £239 to £744, without taking into account the contingent liability for preference dividend in arrears since July 1, 1901. Nothing has been written off for depreciation of machinery, which, with the permanent buildings, is valued at £7,519, and it is quite unnecessary to point out that the estates still stand at the extravagantly high figure of £85,840, or over £50 per acre, although they do not produce enough to meet the interest on the £10,000 debentures issued. Sundry creditors, including £500 due to Messrs. Williamson and Company, are £379 lower at £1,426, and bills payable have been reduced by £1,200 to £7,850, but drafts in transit are £256 up at £1,151. On the other hand, stocks of tea come to £10,001 or £251 more, and sundry debtors are £369 higher at £534, while cash shows a drop of £112 to £149, but the excess of the floating assets over liabilities is trifling unless we take into account the £1,890 in Tezpor Tramways shares, an investment which at present appears to be unremunerative.

MAJULI TEA COMPANY, LIMITED.

The quality of the tea produced during the year ended December 31 was so good that it brought 7.95d. per lb., or within a very small fraction of the figure realised in the previous season, in spite of the adverse market. This, however, did not prevent a severe set-back in profits, as the crop, owing chiefly to the unfavourable season experienced in the Mijica Jan division, fell by 233,587 lbs. to 1,161,766 lbs., and the returns from sales were consequently £7,901 smaller. Part of this was saved by reduced expenditure, but even so the net profits came to no more than £3,323 compared with £7,140, and with £791 brought in the amount available after making sundry adjustments was £4,474 down at £3,713. A year ago the directors put £1,500 to reserve, besides writing down Indian assets to rs. 4d. per rupee, and then hastened to raise the dividend on the ordinary shares from 4 per cent. to 5 per cent., but on this occasion all they can do is to pay 2½ per cent. and carry forward the rather larger balance of £909. Liabilities on bills payable have been reduced by £4,000 to £10,300 and sundry creditors are down £589 at £3,507, but these changes were rendered possible only by an increase of £1,147 to £1,360 in the overdraft at the bankers and decreases of £5,386 to £16,754 in tea stocks and £1,821 to £1,950 in sundry debtors, while cash shows a trifling improvement of £94 at £216. Factory advances seem unduly heavy at £2,739.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

Competition is evidently telling upon the great companies in the French mercantile marine as well as upon ours. This the leading French company, however, does not make such a bad exhibit for the past year as, say, our Cunard Company. It was able out of the net revenue of 7,997,994 frs. to set aside 4,283,871 frs. in diminution of the book value of the fleet, after meeting the interest upon its debt, which took 2,474,092 frs. A balance of 1,240,031 frs. was left, out of which the directors managed to pay a dividend of 10 frs. per share or 4 per cent. upon the share of 250 frs. This, however, would be equivalent to only 2 per cent. upon the old capital, since, as explained in a note under "Passing Events," the shares have recently been cut down by one-half. None the less is the position better than it was in 1901, for instance, when nothing whatever was set aside for the amortisation of the fleet. The sum now assigned, indeed,

is the highest thus appropriated since 1899, and hopes are expressed that there may be no abatement in thrift in the years to come. From now onwards, however, the company will have to provide a dividend upon 15,000,000 frs. of new preference shares issued in November last, and every year the expense of working the various services of the company tends to increase owing to the demand for larger and swifter boats and for all manner of luxuries in the passenger services. Last year, for instance, the working expenses rose by 1,100,000 frs., notwithstanding a reduction of 800,000 frs. in cost of coal. Compared with two years ago, indeed, the cost of coal was less by exactly the gross amount of the increase in the working expenses, and the directors hope that this will continue, thanks less to a diminution in the initial cost of the fuel than to lower freights charged for transporting it to the company's various depôts. According to the balance-sheet, the position of the company on December 31 last was briefly this: There was a share capital of 30,000,000 frs. and a debt of about 70,773,500 frs. after deducting 738,500 frs., the amount of the bonds withdrawn for redemption during the year. Then the amortisation funds for the ships amounted to 98,179,000 frs. and for the plant and real estate to 3,021,000 frs. The insurance funds also amounted to 7,694,404 frs., and there was a statutory reserve of 4,500,000 frs. The position was thus a strong one, except that the current debts owed by the company amounted to 39,827,768 frs. against only 26,619,634 frs. due to the company. During the year the Messageries Maritimes Company bought the shares of the East Asiatic and National Companies at a cost of 14,361,681 frs., and that appears to have involved a temporary increase in the floating debt, several vessels having been temporarily mortgaged for 8,000,000 frs. Furthermore, the large excess of the amount due to creditors over debtors is, as the report explains, more apparent than real, since the money received on the new preference shares partly paid is treated as a debt due by the company—money advanced to it—until such time as they are fully paid up. Thanks to the various funds and writings down, the net cost of the fleet is only 39 per cent. of the original cost, which seems a strong position. If the other property of the company is taken into account at its various depôts, and the total of the amortisations against all its possessions reckoned up, the present net value of its entire assets is equally 39 per cent. of the initial value.

SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME AGRICOLE ET INDUSTRIELLE D'ÉGYPTÉ AU CAIRE.

In its year ended January 31 last this important Egyptian land mortgage and jobbing company appears to have done on the whole well. Its gross revenue from all sources was Frs. 3,357,170, and after meeting all charges, including Frs. 737,044 for interest on its obligations, there was a balance of Frs. 2,089,864, to which Frs. 109,639 brought from the previous year had to be added, giving a total of Frs. 2,199,503 net. From this sundry amounts were set aside against sales of land and postponed instalment payments, and for other purposes besides the interim 5 per cent. paid upon the shares. Then the director-general and the administrators and concessionnaires of the company got Frs. 327,960 amongst them, and a final dividend of Frs. 20 per share, making up the total payment to Frs. 45, or 9 per cent. for the year, was distributed on the ordinary shares, together with a similar amount upon the 10,000 *parts de dividende*, leaving finally Frs. 274,877 to be carried to the new year. This result is all the more creditable in that the year was not in all respects a good one. The harvest was imperfect through various climatic and other influences, including the cotton weevil, and there was a sharp decline in the price of cotton, so that altogether the income from produce was Frs. 379,183 less than in the previous year at Frs. 666,807. The company, however, did well by its sales of land, and these made up for the loss on what might be called its current agricultural and mercantile business. Altogether 586.74 hectares of land were sold for Frs. 3,257,343, meaning a gross profit of Frs. 2,012,298, of which Frs. 388,853 was set aside as a special reserve. Much of these totals, we take it, represent future benefits, the land being sold upon the instalment system, payments deferred over a series of years, consequently the profits do not actually come into the balance-sheet of the year, and there is doubtless some risk of loss, hence the necessity to set aside some portion of the price as a reserve. The company, however, stands in a perfectly safe position on the whole, because if the purchaser is unable to make good his part of the contract the land reverts to it. Nevertheless, in the past year there was an increase in the arrears of instalments, a proof that the cultivators had had a hard time of it, and the directors say that they consider it prudent to accord delays, save in particular instances where rigorous treatment may be necessary. As long as more money is not paid away in dividends than the company can conveniently afford, delays of this description lead to no serious danger, but we do not gather from the balance-sheet that there is any amount of free resources in hand, and the fact that last year Frs. 2,500,000 had to be obtained from a new issue of shares would seem to point to a rather narrow margin of available assets, that the company was trading ahead of its means, an impression somewhat strengthened by the fact that some of the mortgages held over the land sold have been pawned. Nevertheless, the company had Frs. 9,043,566 of cash in hand and with its bankers at the date of the balance-sheet, and was on the whole in a strong position.

CHILI TELEPHONE CO., LIMITED.

This company's business continues to grow in most gratifying fashion. Gross revenue in Chili during the twelve months to

March 31 was \$978,746, being an increase of \$62,204 over the preceding year, against which the expenditure rose only \$22,731 to \$445,140, leaving the net revenue \$39,473 to the good at \$533,606. These improvements come on top of previous substantial gains, and that the undertaking is building up an important connection is proved by the fact that at the end of the year the aggregate number of subscribers was 460 more than at the beginning, the total being 6,274, leading to an advance in the mileage of wires of 876 to 10,760. Average rate of exchange was a trifle lower at 16.30d., but converted into sterling the net profit was £2,540 larger at £36,227, and with the addition of £643 for interest, discount, and transfer fees the income from all sources was £36,871. Deduct expenses in London £1,890, debenture interest £1,950, and income tax £986, and £32,045 is left, to which is added £2,503 brought forward, making £34,548, compared with £31,207. So after allowing an additional sum of £1,350 at £15,360 for renewal of plant, etc., the dividend is raised another 1 to 8 per cent. for the complete twelve months, and £2,467 is carried forward. Including a trifle of £140 the difference in the value of liquid assets over liabilities at the date of the balance-sheet the reserve is now £79,000, a very good accumulation against a capital expenditure of £299,262, and we are glad to note that the outlay for the year was restricted to the small sum of £1,676. Part of the reserve fund is invested in gilt-edged securities, and as debtors exceed creditors by £2,535, and cash and bills reach £5,919, the position all round is exceedingly comfortable.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA (JAPAN MAIL STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED).

Owing no doubt to the war and its needs the half-year ended March 31 proved a very prosperous one for this company and gross profits reached the substantial figure of 3,870,434 yen. To this was added 974,263 yen from the previous account, making a total of 4,844,698 yen, out of which 755,594 yen was written off for depreciation, 325,657 yen was placed to insurance fund, 453,521 yen to ships' structural repair fund, and 850,000 yen to special repair and renewal fund for steamers in transport service. These allocations left a balance of 2,459,925 yen available, and after paying directors' and auditors' fees and adding 74,283 yen to reserve, a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. and a special dividend of 2 per cent. are paid, and 994,284 yen is carried forward. The fleet now stands in the books at 23,823,366 yen, and launches, barges, etc., are valued at 165,887 yen, or about 100 yen per ton all round, while 930,369 yen has been paid on account of new ships building, of which there are four, together with 38 steam launches and tugs. Against these the insurance fund amounts to 2,771,997 yen, the reserve to 2,059,056 yen, and the repair funds come to 2,909,055 yen, in addition to a special fund of 3,500,000 yen for extension of services and improvement of the fleet, so that the position is excellent. Trading balances are against the company, 4,591,281 yen being due to sundry creditors against 1,825,003 yen owing by sundry debtors, but cash is good at 6,035,707 yen, and 6,848,051 yen is held in loans and public securities.

LYCEUM (1903), LIMITED.

The first report of this reconstructed venture contains very little information, because it is made up to December 31 last, just the date the new theatre was opened as a "two shows a night" music-hall. Why was this particular date chosen? The directors do not say, but we are told that the first five months' trading was not satisfactory, nor the sixth month when only one performance a night was given, and we take it there is an indisposition to disclose the losses incurred. But money went out at a good pace, the reconstruction and equipment of the theatre costing the tidy sum of £47,945, a great deal more, as usual, than the estimate. So much so that the directors have been obliged to create second debentures to the extent of £30,000. They do not appear in the balance. Who took them up, what is the interest payable and at what price was the issue made? These are a few questions for Monday's meeting. Purchase price of the old property was £239,155, reduced to £238,652 by a few sales; add £47,945 for rebuilding and equipment and we get a capital outlay of £286,598. Can a decent return be earned on that heavy sum? We doubt it. General expenses up to the date of opening, £10,422, is a nice little "asset" which must be written off along with preliminary expenses, £1,597, and we wonder if the cash balance of £6,767 has already disappeared in losses. Lucky are those who kept out of the reconstruction.

CAPE ASBESTOS CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking did a little better in the year to December 31 last, but the display was again miserably poor, and much is likely to happen in South Africa before the unhappy shareholders dare look forward to a first dividend. The mines gave a more regular production, we are told, but yet not sufficient to execute all the orders which could have been obtained in blue asbestos articles. A steady increase in the output, however, is expected, and with perseverance the company may one of these fine days finish up a year on the right side. Last twelve months produced an encouraging increase in gross profits from £3,395 to £9,011, but after meeting all expenses and depreciation there is a debt of £1,261. That is a smaller loss by £4,634 than in the preceding year, but it builds the total deficiency to £19,399, and under the best conditions a long time must elapse before the financial position can be set even tolerably straight. Are not the general expenses in London, £4,554, and in Italy, £4,389, each rather high? According to the balance-sheet loans against

security amount to £13,567, a moderate decrease on the year, sundry creditors are £7,141, and bills payable £2,795, or total floating liabilities of £23,503. Against these what may be called the immediately available assets such as debtors, cash, etc., reach only £8,821, and it is to be hoped that those who granted the loans will not take fright and ask for their money. The security given consists of shares in a company which makes no return. Property in South Africa is valued at £22,027, and goodwill of the Turin business at £2,500, while machinery, plant, etc., is put in at £15,813. Stocks of crude and manufactured asbestos stand at £20,222, and sundry stores at £1,857.

LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND.

This excellent old Scottish office added £104,768 to its funds last year, raising the total to £5,486,848. This addition was little more than half the income from interest and dividends, the total of which was £203,375, but the office being old and conservative has naturally heavier pulls upon it than a new, pushing office would have, and besides working expenses last year came to fully 15 per cent. of the premium income owing to the net revenue from premiums having been somewhat less. Nevertheless the Association issued 902 new policies last year insuring £693,110 an increase of £60,705 on the new business of the previous year. Claims by death were only £297,227, exhibiting, the directors say, a very favourable rate of mortality. Over the four years already running of the current quinquennium, they add, the mortality experience among assured lives has been much lighter than in the corresponding period of the previous quinquennium. No less than 75 annuities were cancelled by death last year, relieving the association of £4,249 in annual payments. A dividend at the usual rate of 10 per cent. is declared upon the paid-up capital of £87,500.

CITIZENS' LIFE ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

This New South Wales industrial and general life office does not commend itself to us much more now than it has done in previous years. The directors, however, feel it incumbent upon them to announce, "in the interests of all connected with the company," that the expense ratio of the industrial branch will be again considerably reduced this year, "and that by 1906 it is expected the industrial expense ratio will not exceed 38 per cent.—a world's record. It is then intended to reduce the ordinary branch rate to 10 per cent.—the lowest in Australia." This is beautiful in anticipation, but for the past year the expense ratio of the industrial branch to premium income was 48.52 per cent. and of the ordinary branch 15.95 per cent., so there is decidedly room for a great deal of cutting down. But the company appears to provide handsome incomes for a few people, including Sir John See and Sir W. J. Lyne, gentlemen not unknown in New South Wales politics, each having been at one time or another Premier. The accumulated funds have slowly crept up until the total under all heads on December 31 last was £1,346,606, and the directors appear to have a knack of getting good rates of interest, for the average return on the investments rose to £4 8s. 1d. per cent. last year, an increase of 2s. 10d. per cent. on 1903, and as recently as 1900 the average was only £4 0s. 10d. per cent. Since the company was started it is claimed that £891,590 has been paid to policyholders or their beneficiaries. One would like to know how much the policyholders have contributed in that time. An actuarial valuation of the ordinary branch shows a surplus of £57,110, out of which a reversionary bonus of £2 15s. per cent. of the sum assured is to be distributed on policies in force for 15 or more years, and £1 15s. per cent. on those between 10 and 15 years, with various other benefits for younger policies and endowment assurances, particulars of which we have not space to give. No less than £256,079 of the total assets is invested in freehold property, which seems heavy. Last year's gross premium revenue was about £380,000, and the total payments to policyholders in the ordinary branch come to about £58,000, and in the industrial to £58,169.

ROCK LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The net amount of new life business done by this company in the year ended December 31 was £576,160 on which £23,117 was received in premiums. Claims including bonus additions, totalled £181,833 and management expenses and commission came to £37,112, or 19.3 per cent. of the total premium income, which was £191,580. In addition to the life policies issued £54,369 was received by the accident branch, which paid away £39,419 in claims. Owing to the heavy claims that have arisen on workmen's compensation policies the directors of the company have thought it advisable to strengthen the reserves of the accident branch by transferring £30,000 from the general reserve to the accident account. The accumulated funds of the life department at the close of the year were £2,308,168, including the investment reserve fund of £35,000.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

In the year ended December 31 last this company issued 2,777 policies, insuring £638,798, and got £28,264 in new premiums, of which £675 represented single premiums. It also sold 12 annuity bonds for £9,472. Altogether the premium income was £195,267, and after meeting all charges, paying claims, surrenders, and so on, there was £100,174 added to the investment funds, raising them to £1,868,774. The effective rate of interest realised on investments was £4 9s. per cent., and the total income from interest and rents £79,198. It cost, however, fully £58,000 to carry on the business, or upwards of 20.60 per cent. of the net premium income.

COMPANY MEETING.

TRUSTEES, EXECUTORS, AND SECURITIES INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting was held on Tuesday at Winchester House to confirm as a special resolution the resolution which was passed at the meeting held on the 26th ult. to alter the articles of association in order to bring them into conformity with the new scheme recently adopted by the corporation. Mr. G. A. Touch, the chairman of the company, presided.

Mr. Gilbert Taylor (one of the joint secretaries) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: It will be within your recollection that at the recent meeting of the company the scheme which the directors were able to submit, after overcoming many obstacles, for getting rid of the uncalled liability on the shares and increasing the resources of the company, in correspondence with its improved position in the financial world, while at the same time adding to the paid-up capital of the shareholders without any need for any of them to find a penny of new money, was carried by a large majority. (Applause.) Strictly speaking, we are not met here to-day to consider the adoption of that scheme—it has already been adopted—but we are merely here for the purpose of carrying out certain alterations in the articles of association which are consequent upon its adoption. There are no legal difficulties in the way of carrying this arrangement into effect. On that subject the board have been clearly advised by the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, K.C., M.P., by Mr. A. R. Kirby and by Mr. Whinney, and I do not know where higher authorities than these upon a question of this sort are to be found. The necessity for an Act of Parliament in order to ratify the scheme exists solely and exclusively in the imagination of Mr. Williamson Milne. There has been some opposition to the scheme, but I fear that this must always be expected when financial proposals of an important character are concerned, especially if they are at all of a complicated character. It would be too much to hope that everyone would take the same view. But although there has been opposition to the scheme the vast majority of the shareholders have been in favour of it. (Hear, hear.) I have seldom known a case where the issues were of such importance that has called forth such emphatic support from the shareholders as this scheme has done. I may, however, with advantage to you possibly, use this opportunity for the purpose of replying to one or two inquiries which have been addressed to us with reference to the scheme, or with reference to other matters. In the first place, we have been asked: What is the position of shareholders who do not assent to the scheme? We wish to see practical unanimity on the part of the shareholders, and I think we are in a very fair way of obtaining it; but absolute unanimity is a thing which, of course, it would be idle to expect. There are sure, under the circumstances, to be some dissentients, and therefore I think it is reasonable that we should make it perfectly clear what the position of those dissentients will be. The essence of the scheme is that paid-up capital is to be substituted for the unpaid liability. That means, of course, that capital is to be called up. It can mean nothing else. But equally the scheme means that no shareholder need pay up any capital if he does not wish to do so. The amount to be called up is the liability of £3 a share; £1 10s. will be called up and payable during August, 15s. will be payable during November and 15s. next February. These, at least, are the dates that have been provisionally fixed; they may, of course, be subject to some modification later on; but for all practical purposes I think you may take those as the dates on which the instalments of the call of £3 a share will have to be paid. But what I wish to point out to you is that the whole of that £3 per share has already been provided for. It has been provided for as regards 7s. 6d. by the amount to be set aside out of the exceptional profits of last year, and it has been provided for as regards the balance of £2 12s. 6d. by an issue of preference shares, which has been underwritten or for which we have a guarantee for their underwriting, and those two sums together make up the total liability of £3 per share. But the satisfaction of the liability of £3 a share in this way is subject to the assent of the shareholders—so far, at least, as the £2 12s. 6d. is concerned—to the application of 2s. a share, which has been provided to meet the underwriting expenses. The assent to the application of that amount must be individual and voluntary. It is not a thing which a resolution of other shareholders can make binding upon dissentient shareholders. But it cannot be too clearly understood that shareholders cannot receive, and cannot expect to receive, the benefit of the underwriting contract if they refuse to contribute their quota to the expense of obtaining that contract. (Hear, hear.) In these circumstances the shareholders must pay up the sum of £2 12s. 6d. themselves, receiving, of course, a preference share in exchange. There is no compulsion to assent; but I am glad to be able to inform this meeting to-day that out of our 200,000 shares the holders of upwards of 168,000 have already given their assent. (Applause.) A question has been asked about the effect of the Public Trustee Bill if it passed into law. Some shareholders seemed to think that the change might be prejudicial to private trustee business. They might dismiss from their minds any such idea. The trusteeship business was divided into two parts—public (debenture issues) and private. The former was good and would be helped by the new capital, but the revenue from the latter alone was not sufficient to justify the existence of a company with a capital of £1,000,000, whether called or uncalled. The unremunerative character of the business did not

seem to have received due weight with the promoters of the Bill. He feared that if the department were formed it would either be an expensive luxury to the country or else a dead letter. The arguments in favour of the Bill were, he continued, mainly theoretical; it was difficult to see where the practical need came in. Scandals arose through appointing private trustees, but it was impossible to compel people not to appoint private trustees. The Chairman afterwards dealt at length with statements made in a circular issued by Mr. Williamson Milne.

The Deputy-Chairman (Mr. W. Capel Slaughter) seconded the motion.

In the course of a discussion, Mr. Alfred Mosely stated that he was a supporter of the Bill which the chairman had criticised. He thought that a public trustee would be a distinct advantage to the country. Referring to the scheme before the meeting, he observed that it was a remarkable fact that the underwriters desired their names to be withheld. The scheme was "full of holes," and he was informed that the directors would have to fight many of the points. He was willing to pay his *pro rata* cost of applying for an injunction and for opposing the scheme tooth and nail.

Mr. Chapman, who stated that he held one-twentieth of the shares of the corporation, contended that if the scheme had been thoroughly understood it would not have received anything like the support which had been accorded to it.

Mr. Williamson Milne said he had received many complaints of the way in which the scheme had been forced through. Several eminent lawyers had informed him that there was no security for it except by a special Act of Parliament. They were going to pay £20,000 for the underwriting of the preference shares, and they might yet learn that the scheme was *ultra vires*.

Mr. A. Young supported the scheme, and laid emphasis on the advantage of getting rid of the uncalled liability.

Mr. F. Walker also spoke in favour of the proposal, and referred to the small measure of support given to the opposition.

The Chairman then proceeded to reply to the points raised by the various speakers. He said he thought the matter had been well discussed, and that he might offer a few words in reply to the points raised. Mr. Mosely had asked him to confirm a statement which he (the chairman) had made with regard to the payment for proxies by the directors. He did not think it necessary, however, to confirm the statement he had already made. (Hear, hear.) Then Mr. Mosely had asked a question which he had put on a previous occasion—namely, as to the name of the financial house which was under obligation to guarantee the issue of preference shares. Well, there was a time and place for giving the name of this issuing house; but the board had taken up this position, that they were not going to use the name of one of the foremost financial houses in the City to try to induce people to vote either for or against this scheme. The directors wanted the shareholders to adopt or reject the scheme entirely on its own merits, uninfluenced by any leading City names. He did not think he could refer at length to the statements about the legal opinions that had been obtained, or to the statement made by Mr. Mosely that he had heard rumours that the directors knew they would have to fight various matters connected with this scheme. Those rumours had not come to his (the chairman's) ears, and, so far as the legal advice given to the directors was concerned, it was unanimous to the effect that the scheme was an absolutely legal and watertight one, which was governed and supported by decisions which had already been given in the courts. He was bound to confess his inability to follow exactly the calculations which Mr. Chapman had put forward in his statement. Among other things, that gentleman had said he was going to be coerced into paying £900 under this scheme. He was afraid that statement showed that Mr. Chapman, notwithstanding every effort which the board had made in private correspondence to make the position clear to him, had not yet thoroughly grasped the situation. As the acceptance of the terms of the agreement was voluntary on Mr. Chapman's part, he failed to see how that gentleman could interpret it as coercion. (Hear, hear.) It had been stated that the directors had threatened the shareholders who had not assented. It was true, as he had already stated, that they had been obliged to send some insistent letters to the shareholders pointing out what their position would be, the reason being that so many of the shareholders were confused by Mr. Williamson Milne's circular. At the offices of the company they were overwhelmed by letters inquiring as to the exact position, and it became necessary for the board to put it before the shareholders in the clearest possible way. (Applause.) He absolutely repudiated the suggestion that there had been the slightest threat whatever on the part of the board. The only threat he knew of in connection with the scheme had been the threat by certain shareholders that if it were proceeded with they would endeavour to involve the company in legal proceedings. He scarcely thought it necessary to refer to a great deal that Mr. Williamson Milne had told them about certain vague letters from shareholders. The fact of the support which he had obtained spoke for itself—the fact that, apart from Mr. Chapman, notwithstanding all his efforts, Mr. Milne had been supported by something less than 3 per cent. of the shareholders of the company. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Walker had already dealt so effectively with Mr. Williamson Milne that he thought he would leave him in the hands of that gentleman. Mr. Williamson Milne had told them he proposed to hand in certain assents, and he asked that they should be accepted as assenting to the scheme. He (the chairman) understood those to be the assents of dissentient shareholders. If they were on the form which was issued by Mr. Milne, he (the chairman) was advised by the legal adviser to the company that they

did not amount to actual assents, and that they were not documents on which the board would be authorised to act. If those shareholders, however, would fill up the proper form of assent, the board would endeavour to do everything in their power to see that those shareholders were included in the benefits of the guarantee arrangement. The same remark might be made with regard to a letter which Mr. Mosely had written to the company. So far as the remark about legal responsibility was concerned, he did not think he need take any notice about it, because he was told it did not exist; but he was advised that a shareholder could not legally both approve and reprobate an arrangement in that way—(hear, hear)—and if Mr. Mosely or any other shareholders wished to come into the scheme and receive the benefits of it they must give an unqualified assent to it. (Applause.) Mr. Williamson Milne had said he would move an amendment; but that amendment was not seconded, and it was for him (the chairman) to point out that the business before the meeting was to say either yea or nay to the proposition to confirm the resolutions passed at the last meeting, and no amendment would be in order. Mr. Milburn had referred to what he called the accrued assets, apparently alluding to the much-discussed question of accrued interest; but he (the chairman) did not think he need take up the time of the meeting with any exposition of what, after all, was an exceedingly simple matter.

The resolution was carried by a very large majority, there being only three dissentients, and the Chairman declared it carried by the requisite majority as a special resolution.

Resolutions for dividing the shares in accordance with the scheme and for further altering Clauses 50 and 82 of the articles of association were also passed, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

Letters to the Editor.

SIRS,—In your issue of Saturday last, July 8, page 39, I read:—

The £300,000 5½ per cent. Loch Leven debentures of the British Aluminium Company are offered at 2¼ per cent. discount 25 per cent. paid.

I turned to the prospectus to read the conditions of issue, and read the following paragraph:—

"Agreements have also been entered into between the company and various persons whereby the company has agreed to pay them commissions at the rate of 10 per cent. in consideration of their underwriting or agreeing to subscribe for the shares now offered, the aggregate of the commissions so payable amounting to £19,000, and in addition the company will pay 1s. per share brokerage in respect of 14,000 of the shares. The company has also entered into contracts with various persons for underwriting the debentures offered at a commission of £5 per cent., and in respect of £149,000 of the underwriting the company has agreed to pay a brokerage of 1 per cent. The under-mentioned directors are interested as underwriters of debentures or shares, and each will receive the commission of 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. respectively on the number of debentures or shares underwritten by him as follows:—Mr. J. D. Bonner, 2,000 shares; Mr. H. Wolfenden, £10,000 debentures and 3,000 shares; Mr. R. Heath, £15,000 debentures; Lord Kelvin, £10,000 debentures; and Mr. F. Robinow, 2,000 shares."

It thus appears for underwriting but a small proportion of the debentures and shares the directors propose to pay to themselves a sum of £5,250, thus:—

Mr. Bonner	£1,000
Mr. Wolfenden	2,000
Mr. R. Heath	750
Lord Kelvin	500
Mr. F. Robinow	1,000

£5,250

My advice to the investing public is to kindly allow the various persons and the "under-mentioned directors" to retain the shares and debentures they have underwritten.

I enclose my card,

And remain,

Yours truly,

RESPECTFULLY DECLINED.

July 13, 1905.

PRUDENTIAL MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED.

Out of an authorised capital of £200,000 in £5 shares, £86,290 has been issued and paid up, but the company holds £21,381 in deposits, and has borrowed £87,535 against which advances on mortgage come to £87,639 and investments in freehold and leasehold properties come to £110,975. The operations during the year ended March 31, including £1,346 brought in, yielded an income of £13,146, of which interest took £3,496 and management expenses £1,986, and after writing off £243 for balance of preliminary expenses and providing £465 for sinking fund charge on short leaseholds a balance of £6,956 was left. Out of this a dividend of 4 per cent. has been paid, and it is now proposed to distribute a bonus of 1 per cent. which will leave about £2,800 to be carried forward. It would have been more in accordance with the company's name if, instead of dividing up the profits in this fashion, some attention had been given to the question of reserve, as although the concern has been in existence since 1900 no more than £1,558 has been accumulated under this head.

MINING RETURNS.

Abosso Gold.—2,417 tons, 1,831 ozs.; tailings, 1,856 tons, 597 ozs.; total, 2,428 ozs.

Akrokerri (Ashanti).—Crushed 1,720 tons, 1,998 ozs. by amalgamation; cyanide 750 tons of sands, 122 ozs.; total, 2,120 ozs.

Angelo.—Milled 12,052 tons, 3,766 ozs.; sands, 9,587 tons, 3,090 ozs.; slimes, 1,506 tons, 247 ozs.; by-products, 128 ozs.; total, 7,231 ozs.

Anterior (Matabele).—Gold crushed, 1,200 tons, yield 719 ozs. cyanide, 736 tons, 49 ozs.

Ayrshire.—Crushed 10,077 tons, 2,355 ozs.; cyanide, 6,600 tons, 1,650 ozs.

Bibiani Gold Fields.—Crushed 3,821 tons, 1,691 ozs.; 2,660 tons of tailings, value £2,440.

Brilliant and St. George.—944 tons, 625 ozs.; cyanide, £1,331.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—Treated 11,518 tons, producing 1,773 tons concentrates.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—Treated 11,518 tons, producing 1,773 tons concentrates; concentrates average 64 per cent. lead and 33 ozs. silver per ton.

Buffelsdoorn Estate.—From 3,200 tons of slimes, 672 ozs.

Burbanks Birthday Gold.—Milled 837 tons, 193 ozs.

Burbanks Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 575 tons, 318 ozs.; 660 tons by cyanide, 63 ozs.

Burma Ruby.—138,000 loads washed, producing rubies value Rs.1,05,000; royalties, Rs.12,000.

Cape Copper.—Ookiep: 1,628 tons of 12 per cent., equal to 244 tons fine copper. Nababep: 3,940 tons of 5 per cent., equal to 197 tons fine copper.

Cecil Syndicate.—1,200 tons of tailings; value, £800.

City and Suburban.—Crushed 24,220 tons, 8,807 ozs.

Clitters United.—Ore treated, 2,130 tons; mineral sold and on hand—tin and wolfram, 18 tons; refined arsenic, 20 tons; copper-iron product, 30 tons; value, £1,731.

Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand.—Progress: Crushed 4,250 tons; value, £7,386. Golden Fleece: Crushed 1,200 tons; value, £2,624. Wealth of Nations: Crushed 960 tons; value, £1,669.

Consolidated Main Reef.—Crushed 15,749 tons, 6,218 ozs.

Copiapu.—880 tons copper ore averaging 14 per cent.

Crown Deep.—Crushed 28,936 tons, 6,617 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 20,800 tons, 4,075 ozs.; 7,565 tons slimes, 727 ozs.; total, 11,419 ozs.

Crown Reef.—Crushed 18,769 tons from mill, 6,960 ozs.; from sands and concentrates, 2,971 ozs.; from slimes, 1,322 ozs.; from dump process, 1,155 ozs.; total, 12,408 ozs.

De Lamar.—3,392 tons, yielding \$25,650.

Driefontein Consolidated.—Milled 18,603 tons, 4,778 ozs.; 15,059 tons sands, 3,771 ozs.; 2,629 tons slimes, 370 ozs.; by-products, 150; total, 9,069 ozs.

Duke United.—770 fathoms yielded 464 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Crushed 9,950 tons, 2,820 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 7,600 tons, 1,325 ozs.; slimes, 2,577 tons, 207 ozs.; total, 4,352 ozs.

East Gwanda.—Crushed 2,890 tons, 893 ozs.; Geelong produced 874 ozs.; Eagle-Vulture produced 124 ozs.; total, 1,891 ozs.

Elandslaagte Gold.—Milled 2,000 tons, 319 ozs.; cyanided 1,500 tons, 307 ozs.

Ferreira.—Crushed 19,634 tons, 7,529 ozs.; concentrates, 1,120 tons, 550 ozs.; sand, 12,600 tons, 2,664 ozs.; slime, 6,161 tons, 795 ozs.; yield from dump, 268 ozs.; total, 11,806 ozs.

Ferreira Deep.—Crushed 16,385 tons, 7,158 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 11,400 tons, 3,034 ozs.; slimes, 4,676 tons, 499 ozs.; total, 10,689 ozs.

French Rand.—Crushed 13,500 tons, 3,190 ozs.; 10,398 tons; tailings, 1,905 ozs.; total, 5,095 ozs.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Crushed 23,615 tons, 6,763 ozs.; 15,810 tons sands and concentrates, 3,446 ozs.; 7,612 tons slimes, 568 ozs.; total, 10,777 ozs.

Glen Deep.—Crushed 15,300 tons, 3,698 ozs.; 10,815 tons sands and concentrates, 1,918 ozs.; 4,885 tons slimes, 434 ozs.; total, 6,045 ozs.

Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 6,757 tons, 3,631 ozs.; 4,000 tons cyanide, 562 ozs.; total, 4,194 ozs.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,220 tons, 589 ozs.; 1,470 tons cyanide, 483 ozs.; 750 tons slimes, 178 ozs.; old slimes, 126 ozs.; total, 1,376 ozs.

Golden Horseshoe.—Treated 18,891 tons, 13,161 ozs.

Golden Valley (Mashonaland).—Crushed 714 tons, 396 ozs.; average yields per ton, 11.1 dwts.

Great Boulder Perseverance.—Sulphide plant, 14,380 tons, 7,986 ozs. gold and 736 ozs. silver; tailings and slimes, 10,908 tons, 1,693 ozs. gold and 856 ozs. silver; total, 9,679 ozs. gold, 1,592 ozs. silver.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—10,467 tons, 11,760 ozs.; tailings (old), 3,136 tons, 309 ozs.; total, 12,069 ozs.

Great Fingall.—16,831 tons, 9,801 ozs.; tailings, 16,589 tons, 2,669 ozs.; concentrates, 242 tons, 1,191 ozs.; total, 13,661 ozs.

Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Crushed, 628 tons, 237 ozs.; royalties, £150.

Henry Nourse.—Mill, cyanide, and slimes, 21,380 tons, producing 6,214 ozs.

Ida H.—1,480 tons, 1,039 ozs.

Ivanhoe Gold.—Crushed 16,630 tons, 3,145 ozs.; sands, 8,280 tons, 2,161 ozs.; slimes, 7,610 tons, 3,455 ozs.; concentrates, 740 tons, 1,908 ozs.; totals, 16,630 tons, 10,669 ozs.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—New Primrose: 16,838 tons, 7,372 ozs. Glencairn Main Reef: 14,608 tons, 4,389 ozs.; Ginsberg: 7,995 tons, 3,345 ozs. New Rietfontein: 8,276 tons,

4,223 ozs. Consolidated Langlaagte: 14,420 tons, 4,363 ozs. New Unified: 8,854 tons, 3,260 ozs.

Jubilee.—Crushed 5,674 tons, 1,210 ozs.; cyanide, 4,041 tons, 464 ozs.

Jumpers.—Crushed 11,300 tons; from mill, 1,981 ozs.; from tailings, 1,112 ozs.; from concentrates, 232 ozs.; total, 3,325 ozs.

Jumpers Deep.—Crushed 15,455 tons, 3,000 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 10,335 tons, 1,897 ozs.; slimes 4,373 tons, 299 ozs.; total 5,205 ozs.

Kamfersdam.—Diamonds recovered 3,266 carats.

Killarney Hibernia.—Crushed 3,577 tons, 1,755 ozs.

Knights Deep.—23,200 tons; 8,652 ozs.

Lake View Consols.—9,002 tons, 3,253 ozs.; old tailings 3,380 tons, 450 ozs.; total 3,703 ozs.

Lancaster.—Crushed 13,010 tons, 3,256 ozs.; cyanide 9,711 tons, 1,329 ozs.; total 4,585 ozs.

Lancaster West.—Crushed 6,416 tons, 1,555 ozs.; cyanide 5,218 tons, 774 ozs.; total, 2,329 ozs.

Lancefield.—5,042 tons, 440 ozs.; sands 2,566 tons, 521 ozs.; slimes 2,343 tons, 397 ozs.; accumulated slimes 877 tons, 149 ozs.; total 1,507 ozs.

Langlaagte Deep.—Crushed 19,269 tons, 4,241 ozs.; sands and concentrates 14,514 tons, 2,232 ozs.; slimes 4,673 tons, 279 ozs.; total, 6,752 ozs.

Le Roi.—Shipped 8,788 tons containing 3,430 ozs. gold, 3,200 ozs. silver, 163,600 lbs. copper.

Lisbon-Berlyn.—Milled 2,167 tons; cyanided 1,415 tons; from mill 50 ozs.; by cyanide 436 ozs.; total, 486 ozs.

Maryborough Leviathan.—Crushed 1,060 tons, 204 ozs.

May Consolidated.—Crushed 13,400 tons, 3,839 ozs.; cyanide, 9,580 tons, 1,979 ozs.; slimes, 3,244 tons, 236 ozs.; total, 6,054 ozs.

Mertons Reward.—Crushed 2,759 tons, 646 ozs.; sands cyanided, 1,548 tons, 124 ozs.; slimes, 2,272 tons, 462 ozs.; total, 1,232 ozs.

Meyer and Charlton.—Crushed 10,920 tons, 2,760 ozs.; cyanide, 1,846 ozs.; total, 4,614 ozs.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 740 tons, 321 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons, value £325.

Montana.—Drumlummon: Tailings and fines, 10,690 tons, 770 ozs. gold and 11,800 ozs. silver. Lucky Girl Group: 1,500 tons, 650 ozs. gold and 970 ozs. silver.

Morven (Rhodesia).—Crushed 1,165 tons, 705 ozs.

Mount Morgan (Queensland).—Chlorinated 22,909 tons, 12,075 ozs.

Mount Zeehan.—Silver-lead ore 720 tons, containing 360 tons lead, and 43,000 ozs. silver.

Mungana (Chillagoe).—487 tons ore containing 7½ tons copper, 5,743 ozs. silver, and 51 tons lead shipped to smelting works.

New Chillagoe.—Chillagoe, copper ore 5,938 tons; Mungana, copper ore 62 tons; purchased copper ore 218 tons; total, copper ore 4,218 tons; producing copper matte 227 tons, containing copper 179 tons and silver 19,797 ozs.

New Comet.—Milled 14,152 tons, 3,248 ozs.; sands 10,158 tons, 2,242 ozs.; by-products 124 ozs.; total 5,614 ozs.

New Goch.—Crushed 11,210 tons, 2,296 ozs.; 1,117 ozs. from cyanide; 235 ozs. from concentrates; total 3,648 ozs.

New Heriot.—Crushed 9,000 tons; 3,752 ozs.

New Kleinfontein.—Milled 26,332 tons, 6,791 ozs.; sands 18,171 tons, 2,230 ozs.; total 9,201 ozs.

New Modderfontein.—Crushed 9,155 tons, 3,557 ozs.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 1,610 tons, value £3,371.

Nigel.—Crushed 6,200 tons, 3,651 ounces.

Nile Valley.—Crushed 180 tons, 125 ozs.; 503 lbs. of specimen stone, 655 ozs.; total, 180½ tons for 780 ozs.

Nourse Deep.—Crushed 14,410 tons, 4,680 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 10,376 tons, 1,989 ozs.; slimes 4,093 tons, 407 ozs.; total, 7,076 ozs.

Palmarejo and Mexican Gold Fields.—Crushed 3,545 tons, treated 3,000 tons, producing \$26,880 gold, \$46,950 silver.

Penhalonga Proprietary.—Crushed 6,280 tons; over plates 760 ozs.; concentrates 89 tons 627 ozs.; total, 1,387 ozs.

Princess.—Crushed 5,392 tons, 1,922 ozs.; cyanide 3,874 tons, 742 ozs.; total, 2,664 ozs.

Queensland Menzies.—Crushed 555 tons, 462 ozs.; cyanided 480 tons, 129 ozs.; total, 591 ozs.

Randfontein Group.—South Randfontein 13,700 tons, 5,722 ozs. North Randfontein: 14,765 tons, 5,647 ozs. Robinson Randfontein: 14,092 tons, 5,200 ozs. Langlaagte Estate: 26,327 tons, 8,365 ozs.

Rhodesia.—Crushed 720 tons, 310 ozs.

Robinson.—Crushed 26,500 tons, 12,882 ozs.; from tailings, 3,529 ozs.; own concentrates, 730 ozs.; from slimes, 1,392 ozs.; from purchased concentrates, 52 ozs.; total, 19,485 ozs.

Robinson Central Deep.—Crushed 13,675 tons, 6,208 ozs.; 9,600 tons of sands and concentrates, 1,544 ozs.; 3,507 tons of slimes, 379 ozs.; total, 8,131 ozs.

Robinson Deep.—27,822 tons, 14,611 ozs.

Roodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,282 tons, 2,271 ozs.

cyanide 4,913 tons, 868 ozs.; total, 3,139 ozs.

Roodepoort United.—2,801 ozs. from 9,000 tons crushed; 1,108 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,909 ozs.

Rose Deep.—Crushed 24,884 tons, 4,388 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 18,000 tons, 3,615 ozs.; slimes 7,731 tons, 764 ozs.; total yield 8,767 ozs.

Sao Bento.—550 tons ore, 317 ozs.

Selukwe.—Crushed 6,100 tons, 1,629 ozs.; cyanide 4,220 tons, 616 ozs.; total, 2,245 ozs.

Simmer and Jack.—50,380 tons, 19,302 ozs.

Spassky Copper.—Sale of 193 tons copper for £16,893, or £87 12s. per ton.

Talisman Consolidated.—Tons of ore 3,885, £10,909.

Theta Gold.—Crushed 350 tons Theta ore, 294 ozs.; 700 tons Beta dump ore 175 ozs.; cyanide 1,042 tons, 237 ozs.; total 706 ozs.
 Tomboy Gold.—Crushed 9,200 tons, value \$48,500; concentrates shipped, 318 tons, value \$23,000.
 Transvaal and Delagoa Colliery.—Output 35,250 tons.
 Treasury.—Crushed 6,650 tons, 2,438 ozs.
 Tyee Copper.—Smelted 1,988 tons; customs ore, 294 tons; matte produced, 267 tons; gross value (copper, silver, and gold) \$30,950.
 Tyne Valley.—Output, 8,098 tons.
 Um Rus.—614 tons, 475 ozs.
 Van Ryn.—Crushed 21,260 tons, 5,448 ozs.; cyanide, 13,400 tons tailings, 2,346 ozs.
 Village Deep.—Crushed 14,065 tons, 3,501 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 10,800 tons, 1,466 ozs.; slimes, 3,696 tons, 360 ozs.; total, 5,237 ozs.
 Village Main Reef.—Crushed, 24,000 tons, 6,514 ozs.; cyanide, 18,825 tons, 2,468 ozs.; slimes, 6,372 tons, 404 ozs.; total, 9,386 ozs.
 Vivien Gold.—1,449 tons ore, 408 ozs.; 870 tons tailings, 172 ozs.; 579 tons current slimes, 122 ozs.; 31 tons accumulated slimes, 7 ozs.
 Vogelstruis.—Output, 2,051 ozs.
 Wanderer (Selukwe).—14,136 tons, 2,276 ozs.
 Wemmer.—Crushed, 8,120 tons, 2,501 ozs.; sands, 5,720 tons, 598 ozs.; slimes, 2,220 tons, 125 ozs.; concentrates, 176 tons, average assay value, 60 dwts.; total, 3,752 ozs.
 West Rand Central.—Crushed 2,400 tons, 568 ozs.; 1,960 tons by cyanide.
 Windsor.—Crushed 4,902 tons, 702 ozs.; cyanide 3,622 tons, 789 ozs.; total, 1,491 ozs.
 Witbank Colliery.—Output, 39,500 tons.
 Witwatersrand Deep.—Crushed 20,730 tons, 5,739 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 20,894 tons, 2,890 ozs.; total, 6,629 ozs.
 Witwatersrand Gold.—Treated 26,650 tons, 8,703 ozs.
 Wolhuter.—Treated 16,000 tons, 5,730 ozs.
 Worcester Exploration.—Output, 1,452 ozs.
 Ymir Gold.—Crushed 2,000 tons (2,000 lbs.) ore, 363 ozs.; 205 tons concentrates shipped, value, \$4,400; cyanide, 1,700 tons (2,000 lbs.) tailings; value, \$1,000.
 Zeehan-Montana.—380 tons silver-lead ore, containing 230 tons lead, and 30,400 ozs. silver.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

BANKS.

Birmingham District and Counties.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.
 Crompton and Evans.—6s. per share for the past half-year, with a bonus of 3s. per share, making 18¾ per cent. for the year.
 Isle of Man.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30, at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.
 National Provincial of England.—Interim of 8 per cent.

BREWERIES.

Bristol, Georges and Co.—Interim at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30 on the ordinary shares.
 Bristol United.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the past half-year of 15s. per share, being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.
 Bury Brewery.—£1 per share for the past half-year, being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, adding £1,000 to depreciation and placing £1,000 to reserve.

MINES.

Brilliant and St. George United Gold.—6d. per share, payable 22nd inst.
 Consolidated Mines Selection.—Final of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £50,000 to reserve and carrying forward £16,231.
 Esperanza.—Interim of 6d. per share for the quarter ending the 31st inst., payable Aug. 16.
 Glen Deep.—Interim of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) for the period ending July 31.
 Nourse Deep.—Interim of 15 per cent. (3s. per share) for the period ending July 31.
 Ooregum Gold of India.—Interim of 3d. per share on both preference and ordinary shares, payable Aug. 4.
 Quintera.—Final of 6d. per share (2½ per cent.) for 1904.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Atlantic First Leased Lines Rental Trust.—Interim of 2½ per cent. for the half-year to the 31st inst., payable on that date.
 Barsi Light Railway.—Interim at the rate of 2½ per cent. for the year to June 30.
 Baxter's Leather.—Interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.
 Belgravia Dairy.—Final of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for the year ended May 27.
 British Electric Traction.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year to March 31, making 6 per cent. for the year.
 Cardiff Pure Ice and Cold Storage.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.
 Coffee and Dining Rooms Company.—For the six months ended July 1 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.
 Crowther, Bruce and Co.—Final of 4½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7 per cent. for the year ended June 30.
 Direct United States Cable. Final of 3s. per share, together with a bonus of 1s. per share, payable July 31, making 3¾ per

cent. for the year ended June 30, placing £6,000 to reserve, carrying forward £2,525.

Eastern Telegraph.—Final of £1 5s. per cent. and a bonus of £2 per cent., making 7 per cent. on the ordinary stock for the year ended March 31.

Epsom Grand Stand.—6 per cent. for the past year.

Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust.—Interim for the half-year ended July 10 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both preferred and deferred stocks.

Foster, Porter and Co.—Interim of 5s. per share, payable 24th inst.

Gordon Hotels.—3 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the past year, carrying forward £5,183.

H. E. Randall.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable July 21.

Hannans Land.—Second interim for 1905 of 2½ per cent., payable Aug. 4.

International Sponge Importers.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares in respect of the six months ended June 30.

Liverpool Mortgage Insurance.—Interim of 1s. per share, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Mercantile Investment and General Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock for the half-year ending 31st inst.

Milners' Safe.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the year ended May 31.

Mortgage of the River Plate.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 1.

New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio First Mortgage Trust.—Interim of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock for the half-year to July 3, payable 31st inst.

North Metropolitan Tramways.—For the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward about £200.

Northern Corporation.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30.

Peel River Land and Mineral.—Interim of 3 per cent., payable July 25.

Railway Debenture and General Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year to the 15th inst., payable 26th inst.

Railway Share Trust and Agency.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the "A" shares for the half-year to the 15th inst., payable 26th inst.

River Plate and General Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock for the half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 1.

St. James's and Pall Mall Electric Light.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

South Africa.—Further of 10 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

W. and C. Jones Steamship.—Final of 3d. per share, making 2½ per cent. for the year ended June 30, with £10,000 written off for depreciation.

Welford and Sons.—Interim of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended July 1.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JULY 17,

British Deli and Langkat Tobacco.—Winchester House, noon.
 British Darjeeling Tea.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
 Cooper, Cooper and Johnson.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.
 Edinburgh Evening News.—Edinburgh, noon.
 Gill McDowell Jarrah.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
 Metropolitan District Railway.—Westminster Palace Hotel, 11.45 a.m.
 Talisman Consolidated.—Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, JULY 18.

Burma Ruby Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Cordoba Central Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
 European Gas.—Finsbury House, 2.30 p.m.
 Ingersoll Sergeant Drill.—Winchester House, noon.
 Tyee Copper.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 William Hancock.—Cardiff, 11.30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19.

Bank of Liverpool.—Liverpool, noon.
 Day Dawn Block and Wyndham Gold Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Halifax Commercial Banking.—Halifax, noon.
 National Discount.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 North Brazilian Sugar Factories.—Winchester House, 1.30 p.m.
 Rhymney Iron.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Singlo Tea.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 20.

Distillers.—Edinburgh, 1 p.m.
 Milners' Safe.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
 National Bank of New Zealand.—Winchester House, noon.
 National Telephone.—Hamilton House, noon.
 Union Discount of London.—39, Cornhill, 12.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 21.

Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur.—Winchester House, 2.15 p.m.
 Barcelona Tramways.—Winchester House, noon.
 C. Arthur Pearson.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
 North-Eastern Banking.—Newcastle-on-Tyne, noon.

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The Investors' Review.

Indian Railways.

There is little more to be said concerning the doings of the railways of India during the six months to December 31 last, all the individual statements having been fully analysed on publication, but it will no doubt prove useful if we follow our usual custom and collect the salient facts into a single article. For some time past the principal matter agitating the minds of those financially interested in some of the Indian lines is the purchase question, and, as in one case the buying out rights are to be immediately exercised, it may be well to accord this important subject first consideration. The company we refer to is the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India, which in May last received notice from the Secretary of State of his intention to purchase the company's railway at the close of the present year. Long before this, however, and in view of the buying out contingency, the directors of the company had frequently had the subject under discussion with the object, if possible, of prolonging the company's existence; or, failing that, of obtaining the best possible terms for their shareholders. That was a very natural desire, and from many standpoints we can quite understand the plea put forward that in the event of purchase the consideration paid should take the form of sterling stock in lieu of the hitherto favoured annuities. We do not in the least share the view, rather too forcibly expressed in some quarters, that the Government drove a hard and unfair bargain when the Great Indian Peninsula system was bought up, but there is no disguising the fact that owing to their unpopularity annuities do not command a market value commensurate with that of permanent stocks. Thus it happened that although the mean market value of G.I.P. stock, as the basis of purchase, was fixed at 174 odd, the equivalent annuities, when they were quoted on the Stock Exchange, were found to be worth less than 145. That is a real hardship entailing a very serious loss of capital to the holder at the high old prices compelled to realise. Then there is the question of the sinking fund for the "B" annuities, the kind, that is, which will repay capital at the end of a certain term of years, and for the life of us we cannot imagine what will happen when the time arrives for the enormous accumulation of funds to be divided up. Still keeping to the G.I.P. company as the one most clearly within present memory, we find that the sinking fund investments already reach practically £1,400,000, and they will be added to year by year for another forty-three years, meaning a prodigious mass of securities at the end of that time quite incapable of realisation without entailing enormous depreciation in their value, and thus lessening the return to stockholders. At present the funds are spread over nineteen different stocks, and although this number will doubtless be greatly extended so that too heavy a sum should not go into individual stocks, and also to limit risks, the mere fact that a huge quantity of securities could be flung on the market would be certain to cause a fall in values. It may seem rather fanciful to in this way discuss an event almost a generation ahead, but the question is part of the subject matter of Indian railway finance, and must be taken into consideration. It seems to us that a kind of trust will have to be formed in due course, readily negotiable stock being issued

against the securities held. Either that or all the money should be invested in consols, which could be distributed *pro rata* without coming on the market at all, albeit the low rate of interest earned might entail some loss of capital. Or each stockholder will have to be left to find his own sinking fund.

This has been a long digression, but it clearly shows that those having shareholders' interests to safeguard have good ground for their prayer that payment should take a form other than annuities. But, needless to say, objection can be immediately raised to an alternative course. The Bombay Baroda people would like to be paid in India sterling stock, but that means a permanent addition to the already gravely compromising burden of debt already borne by the Indian people, whereas the annuity system does repay the capital in a specified time, and eventually leaves the finances of the State free. It is a ticklish matter, and the solution will not be easily found. Almost as soon, however, as it is nicely settled the purchase of the Madras system will come up for arrangement, as the three years period during which the valuation will be determined by the mean market value of the stock began to run as from April, 1904. Each half-year the directors draw the attention of all and sundry to the increasing value of the undertaking, as indicated by the steady advance in gross earnings and the improvements that have been made in the company's property, so that they, like the Bombay board, are preparing to make out a good case. The question of this purchase, however, as also that of the South Indian, possible in 1910 on twelve months' notice, will not rest with the present Secretary, as Mr. Brodrick, along with other members of the present Government, will doubtless vacate office in the meantime. The buying out of the smaller lines does not present such difficulties, the Bengal Central, for example, merely having its capital repaid, the Government assuming the debenture liability, while shareholders of the Bengal Doonars are simply told that negotiations are now in progress for handing over the working of the line to the Government of India under the terms of the contract with the Secretary of State. This last, by the way, is not an actual purchase, the company being able to call upon the Government to work the system, receiving for itself 60 per cent. of the gross receipts.

We can now turn to the actual operations of the half-year, and the story, take it altogether, is a pleasant one. With the exception of the Southern Punjab, which records a small decrease, every company announces an increase in its passenger traffic, the South Indian and Great Indian Peninsula being favoured with the largest business ever handled, while with some of the others the gain was important. Better still was the traffic in goods, because every company is able to speak of improvement, and the South Indian, as with its passengers, reached high-water mark, the advance being well distributed over all commodities. The Bengal Nagpur was also favoured with an all-round gain, the Bengal and North-Western reported a good seed crop and a larger export demand for linseed, meaning bigger traffics, and the Bengal Central advance was derived from jute, coal, and oil seeds. The source of the extra business which came to the Bombay Baroda system was not so encouraging, the principal advance being in food grains, due to scarcity in certain districts, but the East Indian did a big and quite legitimate additional traffic in coal, jute, seeds and oil, sugar and wheat. Cotton, wheat, jawara and bajra, linseed, til or jinjili, oil seeds, gram and pulse, hay, straw, and grass, rape and mustard, and sugar all showed up well on the Great Indian Peninsula, and the stockholders will be pleased to note that for the first time since the purchase what is known as the lean half-year produced a surplus. That makes the outlook for the complete twelve months to June 30 decidedly encouraging in view of the further big gain in gross revenue announced for the last part of the financial year. With the exception of coal and coke and gram and pulse the Madras company has no very striking increases,

and on the Rohilkund and Kumaon the goods traffic was only just in front of the corresponding period, but the Southern Punjab did extremely well as did the Southern Mahratta with grain other than wheat, provisions, metals, timber, and cotton. The West of India Portugese, under the control of the last-named, continues to make very gratifying progress, and we note that the proportion of working expenses to gross revenue still shows a tendency to decrease, really important declines taking place on the Bengal Nagpur, Bombay Baroda, Great Indian Peninsula, and Madras, while a sharp advance on the Southern Mahratta was due to an abnormal outlay on maintenance. Without doubt a very encouraging display, especially from the English shareholders' point of view, because dividends were easily maintained and sometimes improved, but we are not at all sure that the great mass of the Indian people is really benefited by the better times which these increased railway earnings would appear to indicate. Word pictures concerning Indian affairs are nearly always painted bright, and would easily lull us into a nice satisfied feeling that all was right until we were suddenly shocked by hearing that more than half-a-million people have been swept away by plague within a period of three months. An increased dividend is a poor set-off to the devastation and suffering which these figures imply, but we doubt if the English people will in time recognise their true responsibility to the Indian Empire. In a manner they try to do it now, but are left untaught, and in their ignorance have become indifferent.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

LONDON TRAMWAYS AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Our masters the peers have thrown out the London County Council Bill to authorise its tramways to run across Westminster and Blackfriars Bridges and along the Embankment. Naturally this step has caused an immense Press hubbub, and the citizens of London appear to be surprised. Why they should be we cannot imagine. The House of Peers always treats London as a place inhabited by its serfs, and acts towards all the interests of its citizens as if the noble and most patriotic peers themselves had built our highways, provided the Embankment, laid down our streets, thrown the bridges across the river, and, by virtue of their great liberality in these and other ways displayed, stood in a position to assert their ownership on every occasion. It is wholly the fault of London citizens that the Peers can take this attitude. We bow always before their lordships as if they were demigods, and must take the consequences. A sort of despairing cry has arisen that the Lords might be induced to reconsider their vote of a few days ago, a vote in which Scotch and new peers were conspicuous in swelling the majority, but that is a mad idea. Why should the House of Lords incommode itself for us? Peers like Lord Goschen, Lord Avebury, the Earl of Erroll, the Earl of Ilchester, the Dukes of Rutland, Portland, Northumberland, and Marlborough, with obscure odd barons galore, are not touched by the discomforts of the tens of thousands of workers on the north side of the river, who pour across the bridges to their offices every morning and stream back again at night to their suburban homes or hovels. What matters it to the sacred ones that London Bridge has to be crossed afoot in all weathers, in the bitterest winter night or morning as in the hottest days of summer, by multitudes of the humble? The Embankment has to be kept sacred for the motor and other carriages of our masters, and the citizens of London will crawl before them on the next occasion just as they have always done, like dogs fawning on the hands that smite. If not, if they stand up as men, the opposition of the House of Lords must vanish like a midsummer night's dew when the sun rises.

THE TRAFFIC OF LONDON.

We have been much interested in the report of the Royal Commission appointed some years ago to study this intricate problem, but interested only in an academic way. There is not the slightest chance of the valuable recommendations made by the Commissioners becoming actual accomplished facts on the present basis of London rating. A splendid scheme of internal tramways over the great metropolis is outlined by the Commissioners. It includes an avenue running east and west and another running north and south, the cost of which, if constructed with a width of 140 ft. and four lines of tramways on the surface with four lines of railway below, is put by them at about £24,000,000. It would probably exceed £30,000,000, and whether or not we have not the resources to cope with one quarter of this expenditure, added to the very heavy burdens already laid upon us and those further burdens embraced in the existing projects of the London County Council. Therefore it is merely a kind of Utopia which the Commissioners set before us. They recommend that tramways should go over Westminster Bridge, along the Victoria Embankment and over Waterloo and Blackfriars Bridges as well as over Southwark Bridge, and the House of Lords has shown what it thinks of any such recommendation. The Lord Chancellor, indeed, went so far as to deny that the recommendations about the bridges and the Embankment had been made by the Commission, but Lord Halsbury is always great as a manufacturer of facts, especially if any popular demand has to be withstood. And really it does not matter what he and his like say. If we are going to have London permeated by a number of efficient internal tramway routes and to have suburban railways radiating out from the centre of this huge aggregation of bricks and mortar the whole system upon which the taxation of the metropolis is now levied must be altered, and to begin with the ground landlords, many of whom are just those peers who flout the citizens, will have to contribute their full share to the civic burdens. We hope therefore the County Council will do nothing whatever to back up the recommendations of this Royal Commission, excellent though these may be in themselves, until some tangible progress has been made in equalising the burdens laid upon the inhabitants, and in compelling the privileged landowners who now take all and give nothing to pay property tax of a magnitude sufficient to cover the greater part, if not the whole, of the cost of the projected improvements.

C. ARTHUR PEARSON, LIMITED.

Is the popularity of *Pearson's Weekly* at last on the wane, or has the strenuous Tariff Reformer been compelled for very shame to pay more for his Christmas extras in order to keep the work in this country? One or other of these events must surely have happened, as the profits on publications during the twelve months ended May 31 dropped from £55,380 to £48,320, and with interest on investments and transfer fees much the same as in the previous year, the total income was £7,062 lower at £49,899. Directors' fees and managing directors' remuneration took £4,633 or £117 less, and as the balance brought forward was £3,461 up at £7,217 the amount available for distribution showed a decrease of but £3,484 at £52,483. The usual dividend, however, of 15 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, but there is no bonus of 1s. per share this time, so £4,016 can be added to the balance carried out raising it to £11,233. Mention is made in the directors' report each year of a transfer from profits of £5,000 to reserve for special advertising, but no such account appears in the balance-sheet, and this sum is apparently used to write down sundry debtors. At any rate, £5,000 was written off that item, both this year and last, to go no further back, and the proceeding raises doubts regarding the solidity of the asset. Purchase of business and copyrights remains at the old figure of £360,000, against which there is a tiny capital reserve of £5,547. Sundry creditors have been reduced by £14,009 to £64,027, but sundry

debtors, after deducting the £5,000 above mentioned, are down £12,683 at £62,601 and cash is £4,322 lower at £56,831. Investments remain at £15,706, so that no appreciable amount of "Standard" securities would seem to have been planted on this company, and the value put upon stocks of literary matter, drawings, blocks, paper, &c., is wonderfully modest at £5,900. The show, in fact, might be very much worse, but we hope it won't be so in time to come. We have doubts.

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY.

A very useful abstract of the accounts of this great agglomerate was issued by the board along with the report, and we cannot do better than append it here. It sets forth the progress of the company during the four years ended March 31 last. Now that the directors have begun to shed off some of their undertakings, to turn them into independent companies, we have much less in the way of criticism to offer, especially as they seem also to have come round to the view so often expressed in these columns that it would be better to work in friendly accord with local authorities than to fight them as the company used to do. Not only would progress be more rapid, but there would be very much less friction. Even as it is, with warring abandoned, the struggle to maintain dividends and appearances is a stiff one. In the past fiscal year ended March 31 the net profit is brought out at £267,175, including £38,148 brought forward, and the directors accordingly declare themselves able to meet all the debenture stock charges, now a very heavy item as the abstract printed below shows, to pay 6 per cent. upon the preference shares, and to complete the dividend on the ordinary for the year at the same rate. This will leave £14,996 to be carried forward as against the above-mentioned £38,148 brought in, which is not a very good outcome. Nothing has been set aside for depreciation on any of the company's properties, at least we can find nothing in the profit and loss account, and we should say that it would have been better to have brought the dividend on the ordinary stock down to at most 5 per cent., better still to 4 per cent., and to keep it down until the wastage upon the properties had been to some extent provided for. There is a reserve, no doubt, which figures now at £597,899, made up almost entirely of premiums upon capital issues, but it is in the business and wholly unavailable should any necessity for much ready money arise, as necessity always arises where a company is committed to large capital expenditure. In the past year, for instance, the company issued considerable amounts of additional capital through a syndicate which had undertaken to provide altogether £550,000 by instalments. It results that the total capital involved is now £4,775,000, an increase of £386,000 on the year, and expenditure will have to go on.

No details are given as to the working of the numerous subsidiary companies in whose creation this company has had such an intimate share, but interesting abstracts are provided illustrating in part the company's commitments therewith and the growth of their traffic. The figures show progress unquestionably, but the company is still very deeply committed to the fortunes of these subsidiaries, as is shown by the fact that they owe it about £1,300,000 exclusive of the £4,007,000 represented by debentures and debenture stock and shares of associated and other companies. In other words the B.E.T. Company creates customers royally, and takes their paper in payment for work done, thus getting loaded up with securities, as the note in the balance-sheet admits, generally wholly unmarketable. This demands an enormous capital on the part of the mother company, and also involves it in incalculable risks. For the most part, it is said in the balance-sheet, there are no published quotations for these investments, "and no valuation has been made of them," but they stand in the books at the sum named, and real debt of the company's own has been created against them. The Consols held were taken into the balance-sheet at a fancy valuation of 98, 2 per cent. over the average cost price, and that also is an unreal element which demands to be provided

for. The nominal amount of the Consols held is £200,337, and it ought not to be in the balance-sheet at more than £170,000, whereas it figures there for £196,759. These figures, however, by no means embrace the whole of the capital commitments of the B.E.T. Company and its creations, and we should like to see a full exhibit of not only the debenture share issues, of which more or less important proportions are held by the parent company, but of the finances of those companies it has shed off. For instance, a company has been registered called the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company, Limited, to take over the tramway and lighting undertakings of that city, and a syndicate has been organised to provide £1,200,000 to enable this enterprise to be carried out. In this syndicate the B.E.T. has retained a substantial interest. So it is all through, and we fear even when undertakings like the County of Durham Electrical Power Distribution Company and others in that part of the country are sold outright, the B.E.T. Company remains deeply committed, cannot get cash from the purchasers. The Durham Distribution Company, together with the County of Durham Electric Power Supply Company, has been sold to the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Company for £256,000, part payment of which is deferred. We notice that the company is interested in Raworth's construction patents for the system of automatic regenerative control of electrically propelled vehicles, and that it has taken 3,000 shares in that company as the price of the surrender of a free licence to use patents. It is also committed to some expenditures along with the Brush Company, whose financial position is certainly one that ought to make dealings with it a matter of considerable risk. However, the award in the case of the Poole and District Electric Traction Company, sold to the Bournemouth Corporation, has given the Poole Company such a price as will allow about £17 per £10 share to be distributed to its proprietors, and if the B.E.T. could shed off most of its other dependencies in this fashion it might still justify its excessive capitalisation. But should the "net profit on sale or realisation of investments £47,983" belong all to one year? Were any of the dividend and interest payments noted as received paid in paper?

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF FOUR YEARS' WORKING.

	March.			
	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.
Passengers carried	97,671,747	170,340,465	219,714,189	242,640,521
Route mileage	294	360	396	432
Passengers carried per route mile	332,217	473,168	554,834	561,668
Traffic receipts	£563,360	£922,635	£1,162,005	£1,264,061
Traffic receipts per route mile	£1,916	£2,563	£2,934	£2,926
Share capital paid up	£2,000,000	£2,758,615	£2,897,366	£2,947,380
Debentures issued, paid up	£810,906	£1,059,572	£1,491,178	£1,827,443
Total	£2,810,906	£3,818,187	£4,388,544	£4,774,823
Total of reserve fund	£459,705	£550,042	£580,085	£597,898
Investments	£2,332,932	£3,569,658	£3,966,187	£4,203,708
Gross profit	£203,270	£238,961	£290,123	£260,611
General and special expenses *	£13,412	£13,973	£9,987	£5,480
Debenture and other interest	£34,008	£45,165	£73,820	£88,604
Preference dividend	£54,747	£74,760	£92,866	£93,766
Ordinary dividend	£71,511	£105,437	£79,980	£79,980
Reserve, amounts written off, &c. ..	£23,510	£3,052	£20,202	£15,931
Carry forward	£27,438	£24,912	£38,148	£14,996

* Being balance of administrative and other expenses, after arriving at gross profit.

GORDON HOTELS, LIMITED.

A year ago, in dealing with this company's report and balance-sheet, the fear was expressed that the next year's exhibit would be worse than the one then dealt with, and that the dividend would be on the down grade as far as the ordinary shares are concerned. So it has turned out. The directors a year ago paid 6 per cent. upon the ordinary shares by help of £15,000 withdrawn from the reserve. This year the ordinary shareholders receive only 3 per cent. per annum, but, commendably, the reserve has not again been touched, and £5,184 is left to carry forward, against only £4,158 brought in. It was a poor year notwithstanding, and the decrease in the gross receipts came to £40,280, the total income from business done being only £829,772, and the aggregate income from all sources £830,384. This decrease in income was

offset to the extent of only £13,000 by a reduction in working expenses, but the directors claim credit, and fairly enough, for setting aside £55,859 out of revenue to meet repairs, maintenance, and depreciation. It is not sufficient, but it is something. Moreover, the reserve fund is separately invested, and a list of the securities is supplied with the balance-sheet. The income these investments yield, and which amounted last year to £3,690, is added to the reserve, and not taken into current accounts, an excellent custom. Furthermore, no addition whatever was made to the capital account last year for properties and businesses owned; it remains at £3,715,753. There are thus favourable points in the accounts which must not be lost sight of. We do not, however, like the increase in the current indebtedness of the company. A year ago moneys owing by it exceeded moneys due to it by £38,539. This year the total net current debit has risen to £41,417, sundry creditors having risen to £81,922 against £40,505 due by sundry debtors. Cash, however, is substantial at £71,554, and if the suspense expenditure were not creeping up we should be less disposed to cavil. That item, however, now amounts to £8,059, an increase of £1,413 on a year ago. Another point that deserves notice is the price at which the investments representing the reserve and other funds are carried in the books. Without going into many details we note that £93,411 of 2½ per cent. Consols, "stock annuities" as they call it, is entered as having cost £98,442. There must consequently be a large depreciation upon this investment, as also upon the £21,240 sunk in the preference and ordinary "A" shares of the Great Northern and City Railway. The Warwick Estates 4 per cent. debenture stock must also, we fear, be depreciated, and likewise Local Loans stock, £18,535 of which is entered as having cost £20,509. So long as the interest received on the investments is systematically added to the funds there may be no urgent necessity to write the original capital cost down, but it would be healthier book-keeping if this step were taken. As a whole we may say that the investments appear to us to be well chosen, not only for the reserve, but for the various leasehold redemption accounts, and on some of the items there may be at the present time a more or less substantial profit. Take it altogether, however, the prospects of the company are not brilliant, and what with competition and with the narrowing resources of a considerable proportion of those classes of the people who patronise these luxurious hotels, the bad times must continue for years yet, and we are not at all sure that any dividend should have been paid on the company's ordinary shares for the past 12 months.

ASSOCIATED GOLD MINES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The very poor results recorded in the report of this leading West Australian company for the financial year to the end of March justify the opinions we have given to various correspondents in the past 12 months or so not to invest in the share, which the document before us proves to be highly speculative. Although the output of 85,645 ozs. is some 8,000 ozs. higher than the yield in the preceding 12 months, the profit shows a substantial decrease and the shareholders have to be content with a much smaller dividend. The net value of bullion sold, less the quantity on hand at the end of March, was £297,695, and as the working expenditure was £163,693 against £137,676, the gross profit fell from £160,019 to £128,659. Dividends added £4,987 and transfer fees £397, and after allowing for office expenses in Adelaide and London, bank interest, West Australian Government duty, income-tax, &c., the credit is reduced to £122,029, compared with £154,579. From this the directors propose to write off the following sums:—£49,329 for depreciation of plant, machinery, buildings, and furniture; £1,775 total expenditure on diamond drilling for the year; £18,139 one-fourth of outlay on development and shaft sinking; and £174 lease fencing. This makes a total of £69,417 against £36,527 and leaves a net profit of £52,611, com-

pared with £118,052, and as £12,574 is brought in the available surplus is £65,185, in contrast with the £127,251 the directors had at their disposal 12 months ago. Accordingly the dividend is reduced from 22½ per cent. to 10 per cent., and a few pounds more at £15,794 is carried forward. In September last one of the directors, Mr. Pierre Ledoux, paid a visit to the property, and as a result of it the directors decided to change the management, Mr. G. M. Roberts being appointed general manager as from March 1 last. In his report he makes the following important pronouncement:—"I wish to state that although this report is not very reassuring to shareholders, owing to the bad condition of the mine and plant at the moment, still, I am honestly convinced that, operated on the right lines, your property can be converted into a substantial commercial success. I think the secret of all failure to date is that the mine has been persistently forced to a higher grade than the ore deposit warranted. Unfortunately, at the present moment we have little choice of what the grade will be, but my policy will be for the present to put the mill and mine in such order that we will treat economically between 9,000 and 10,000 tons of ore per month of an average of as nearly as possible 12 dwts. per ton." Elsewhere, he says, stoping is showing a falling off of values at practically every point, and he thinks sustained prosperity only lies in the direction of treating a large tonnage of a lower value than has been dealt with hitherto. He estimates the ore reserves at 109,071 tons containing 86,797·25 ozs., averaging 15·91 dwts. per ton. The directors have to confess that the 20 stamp mill erected on the advice of the late manager has not been a success. These statements and facts show clearly how uncertain the prospects of the mine are, and how impossible it is to estimate future profits and dividends. For instance, the gross value of the ore reserves is only £262,010, and allowing for working costs should give a net profit of about £93,000, or, say, 3s. 9d. to 4s. per share. It also looks as if the capital expenditure will have to be considerable, for Mr. Roberts says that in the mill alone an expenditure of approximately £35,000 is now necessary before costs can be reduced to a reasonable figure, or a fair percentage of the gold that enters the mill recovered. The general plant, buildings, &c., also call for repairs and alterations to make them efficient; "in fact, a good deal of expenditure is necessary to put your plant into reasonably good running order." As the financial position is very strong, with a fine display of cash and first-class securities, the directors may not raise further capital by the issue of new shares, but £50,000 or so cannot be spent on repairs and alterations without involving an indirect sacrifice on the part of the shareholders. The work may also mean much delay.

It strikes us as a remarkable coincidence that immediately after the publication of the report the manager should send a lengthy cable, in which he says he is fully satisfied he has discovered in the property the Iron Duke Lode, which has been so profitable in the adjoining Oroya-Brownhill mine. We may recall that as far back as May, 1904, a cable stated that this pay chute had then been cut, and after all this length of time, and coincident with the issue of a very poor report, comes this announcement from the new manager that he is satisfied the Associated has this particular lode. Is it a miracle? It may, of course, greatly change the fortunes of the mine, and they need changing, but the possibilities even of this famous lode must be considered speculative. Looking to the small quantity of ore in sight, the price of the share should allow for these unknown possibilities, although on the strength of the cable they have been pushed higher. Mr. Roberts adds that a fine body of ore has been opened up on the Australia East lode and that developments have proved there is a good prospect of improvement in the mine in several places. "From present appearances the future is very encouraging; much dead work will be necessary before. We are making good progress with reorganisation scheme (plant). Within six months from date

I hope to be in a position to treat 10,000 tons, 15 dwt. per ton (total working expenses £1 1s.) or, perhaps, expect to do better a little later. Should suggest that it is very desirable that this should be published as a supplement to annual report." What an amazing change is there here from the tone of his pessimistic report, a change that has occurred in the twinkling of an eye! One day the shareholders are allowed to feel dispirited, the next they are encouraged to be elated, and the price of the shares bobs up and down in response to the sudden and bewildering modification of news. What is one to think of it? Are the directors and the manager playing with the shareholders? The latter have every reason to be thoroughly dissatisfied. They don't know where they are two minutes together. The career of this company has been a sensational one from the very beginning, and it evidently promises to be sensational to the end. Rumours are flying about of squabbling amongst the directors. It would not surprise us to learn that as an outcome of the dissatisfaction amongst the shareholders the latter should agitate for a thorough change in the directorate, for though all blame is placed on the shoulders of the late manager, it is questionable whether the directors have fully acted up to their responsibilities. Were they ignorant that the output of the mine was being forced? Such a question should be asked at the forthcoming meeting.

RHODESIA'S WONDERFUL MINING INDUSTRY.

At the annual general meeting of the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines Mr. George Mitchell, the president, delivered an enthusiastic speech on the alleged wonderful and rapid progress made by the gold mining industry of Rhodesia. Those thousands of unhappy individuals who have invested their savings in this industry will rub their eyes in amazement to learn that it has made progress, and will naturally desire to know how they benefit. We can unhesitatingly assure them that they will individually not benefit one farthing, for the gold that is being produced in tiny quantity costs more to get it than it fetches, consequently the winning of it leaves no margin for such things as dividends, only just sufficient, indeed, to pay directorial fees, thus encouraging directors to keep the various concerns going. Let us have a look at the figures Mr. Mitchell exhibited for the world's admiration. The gold production, he said, in the 12 months to the end of March last showed a marked advance upon all previous records, the yield being 309,516 ozs., of a value of £1,120,528, against 234,720 ozs., worth £851,807, this increase of 74,795 ozs., of a value of £268,721, working out at an advance of 31·80 per cent. The average number of stamps at work was 585, compared with 355 in the previous 12 months, an increase, therefore, of 230 stamps, but it appears that the actual number at work at the end of March last was 714, against 391, or 323 more. The total number of tons crushed was 784,649 in comparison with 515,212, an increase of 269,437 tons. Looked at superficially these figures certainly point to a rapid and substantial progress, making it seem as if companies are dropping stamps all over the place and winning gold. How is this to be reconciled with the past records of individual companies, with the suspension of crushing operations by several of them, and amalgamations and reconstructions almost every month? Such progress is illusive, therefore there is nothing to reconcile with grievous facts. In our mining columns we have had to announce that this and the other company has had to stop crushing, and has been compelled to lease its claims to men called tributors, who would try to get out as much gold as they could with their primitive methods and pay the companies a small royalty on the output. It appears, therefore, that no less than 193 of the extra stamps working are small batteries belonging to these tributors. Then the Ayrshire started with 60 stamps, the Killarney with 30, whilst the Geelong, after a long suspension, re-started crushing with 40 stamps, making a further 130 stamps, thus accounting for the 323 extra stamps at work at the end of March. A far better sign of

progress would be, of course, a decrease in the number of tributors at work, and an increase in the companies running their own batteries, for no dividends can come out of the small royalties paid by these men. Prospects thus become darker and not brighter, for the companies would prefer to work their reefs themselves if they were worth working rather than lease them to those who thus eke out a precarious existence. And as three companies have made up the balance of the extra stamps the improvement is not general, but limited. It is even doubtful if these three companies will ever become dividend payers, and it is practically a certainty that they will never become considerable profit-earners. Several Rhodesian reports have been issued this week, which we analyse in our mining columns. They furnish instructive data and inculcate sobriety of judgment.

ANOTHER MISCELLANEOUS TRUST.

So far as yield is concerned, the undernoted securities come within much the same category as last week's trust, the return on quoted prices working out at £4 3s. per cent., but that is the only point of resemblance. The Agricultural Bank of Egypt does a very successful business in lending money to small farmers in that country, and is able to find employment for so much money that additional capital is now being offered to the shareholders. Its $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. bonds, therefore, should be well secured, and at $94\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. look fairly cheap. The Eastern Telegraph Company's undertaking is too widely known to require any special description of its merits here, but it may be mentioned that the report for the half-year to March 31 just issued shows an available balance of £479,294 against £452,833 a year ago, and that, in addition to the regular quarterly dividends of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., the ordinary stock once more receives a bonus of 2 per cent., making 7 per cent. for the year. Electrification has proved highly successful in the case of the Anglo-Argentine Tramways Company, and its prosperity seems likely to be even greater when the conversion of the City of Buenos Ayres system, which was taken over in the beginning of this year, is completed. The General and Commercial Investment Trust is steadily improving its position, and so long as the present methods of the management continue its securities should be a safe enough investment.

—	Nominal Amount.	Price.	Dividend.
£300 Agricultural Bank of Egypt $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. bonds	£ 300	£ 283 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ s. d. 10 10 0
£300 Eastern Telegraph $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. preference stock	300	271 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 10 0
50 Anglo-Argentine Tramways $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preference shares	250	300	13 15 0
£300 General and Commercial Investment Trust 5 per cent. preference stock	300	345	15 0 0
	1,150	1,200	49 15 0

THE UNITED AFRICAN EXPLORATIONS.

We give prominence to the report of this Egyptian finance company because we have found one or two matters in the report and accounts of much significance, important alike to the shareholders and the public. The accounts cover the financial year to the end of June and the credit items in the profit and loss account total £54,862, made up as follows:—Profits on shares sold, less unspecified amounts written off, £46,086; interest on loans, £3,122; underwriting commission, £5,375; dividends on shares, £202; and transfer fees, £76. The expenditure amounted to £5,393, accordingly a profit of £49,469 is shown. A balance of £8,475 remained after paying the dividend for 1904, and added in brings the available surplus up to

£57,944. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. was paid, and the directors now recommend a final dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., making 20 per cent. all told for the year. The sum of £25,000 is to be placed to reserve and £13,444 will be left to carry forward. These are unquestionably brilliant results well calculated to make a favourable impression on the observer. From some points of view, however, they are results calculated to raise doubts. The directors have disposed of the company's interest in the Nile Valley Company at a considerable profit. Why have they apparently been so eager to realise their shares in an Egyptian concern which the market has looked upon as the pick of the group? We must not be too inquisitive, and, after all, this exploration company is a finance company. Why should it not sell at a profit when it gets the chance? But the chairman must have had a delicate job in managing the deal, seeing that he presides over the destinies of both companies. Did he know the real value of a Nile Valley share? Should other holders follow the example thus set, and, if so, would the great J. B. Robinson be pleased? We ask too much? Yes, always; but never mind, the good Mr. Price, M.P., is sure not to answer either about Nile Valleys or the Nile Cold Storage Company, the Exploration Company's interest in which has also been largely reduced, with the result that at the end of June the Egyptian investments have a book value of only £4,399, whilst "sundries" are valued at £34,130, making a total investment of £38,529, exclusive of loans and advances, £100,326. We infer from this entry that the management is keeping the bulk of the assets well within reach, which is wise in these times. We hope the next experiments in new enterprises will turn out as well as those wound up or reduced last year, and note that the company has taken a share in the Tanganyika Company, which augurs well. But what is this about travelling expenses? The auditors actually warn shareholders that such expenses, "having regard to a recent legal decision," will require to be specifically authorised by them. This opens vistas, for when we turn to the profit and loss account we find such entries as these—directors' fees, "special," £808, or £204 more than the regular fees, and directors' travelling expenses, "special," £200, against £63 of such apparently classed as ordinary. In fact, the board cost the company more than £1,000 last year over and above its regular fees and the managing director's salary. Has all this money been taken without authority? What does so small a company want a board for, whose travelling expenses must be paid? A motor-bus should content them, but perhaps they are Scotch!

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.

We are extremely sorry to find that once more the tale to be told to shareholders by the board of this company is an unpleasant one. Instead of a profit the year 1904 left a debit balance of £51,446. True there was a profit of £20,554 on the mere trading, but the board felt it to be its duty to write off £72,000 for depreciation, and hence this loss which, added to the previously accumulated deficits, brings the total shortage at the end of last year, old style, or January 13 last, new style, up to £168,143. How that loss has accrued we cannot well make out except that expenses in Russia seem to be still on a very high scale. Prices, however, have to some extent been better for the products of the company, and its output of crude oil was large, no less than 26,223,207 poods. In the sixteen months ended December 31, old style, 1903, the total production was only 29,649,469 poods. No losses either worth speaking of have arisen from fires during the year, for the total amount set down to that source of waste is only £276. The expenditure, however, on oil wells account in Russia came to £169,345. Then another £8,962 was spent on water and naphtha pumping installations. Administration expenses in Russia took £11,638 and in London £7,548, the gross expenditure

under all heads having been £253,000, as against a gross income of £274,000. During the year seven wells commenced in previous years came on the producing list and 11 new wells were started, five of which were completed within the year and in operation. It is stated in the report that the agreement with the Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company, Limited, came to an end by mutual consent at the end of the year, and the production since obtained has been disposed of by sales of the crude product only at rates which should prove profitable. We trust it may be so, but for the past year the out-turn is very disappointing and the company cannot go on long piling up losses in the manner thus shown. It owes now £283,000 including £125,000 put down to loans, £85,375 due to sundry creditors, and about £72,997 in bills payable, against which it has only £24,073 to come in from debtors, and rather less than £12,000 of cash.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: VILLAGE MAIN REEF.

The Village Main Reef, which is regarded as a deep level concern, is a member of the Consolidated Gold Fields group. It did not commence to pay dividends until 1898, the year before the war, when 60 per cent. was distributed—20 per cent. on a capital of £250,000 and 40 per cent. on £398,858. Since then the issued capital has stood at £400,000 and the distributions to the end of 1904 have been:—1899, 40 per cent.; 1902, 25 per cent.; 1903, 35 per cent.; and 1904, 40 per cent. Will 40 per cent. be exceeded in future years? Hitherto it has been the custom to mine a larger percentage of the richer South Reef than of the lower grade Main Reef Leader, whilst the unprofitable Main Reef has not been touched. There is now left standing above the 10th level a very much greater area of Main Reef Leader than South Reef, consequently it has been found necessary to adjust the proportions of the reefs mined, and in this adjustment is included a percentage of the Main Reef which has not been mined in the past. It is obvious, therefore, that these altered proportions can only result in a lower grade of milling rock being obtained. Working costs were reduced last year by a little over 2s. per ton, hence there is little scope for further appreciable saving. Again, the general manager guardedly expresses the opinion that the development below the 10th level justifies the hope that the average grade will be maintained. He does not speak, therefore, of a certain or even of a probable improvement, and even doubts whether the present low grade will be kept up. On the other hand, the full battery of 160 stamps was in operation for only a few months last year, but it should be fully employed henceforth. If, however, the grade of the ore does not improve and costs are not substantially reduced, there will be no appreciable advance in profits. It is the intention of the directors, however, to enlarge the mill to 200 stamps by the introduction of tube mills, but whilst these may increase the output and profits the larger tonnage thereby dealt with will exhaust the mine the more quickly. The life of the mine is estimated at about 14 to 15 years. As the yield is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on market prices it will be seen that at the end of the mine's career only a trifle over the principal invested therein would be returned. In order to refund his capital at the end of that period the investor would have to put aside, at 3 per cent., about £5 10s. per cent., hence, after allowing for this, the net yield would be no more than 2 per cent. This demonstrates clearly enough that ruling prices are much too high, yet they are much below the average ruling for some years past.

THE WERNHER-BEIT TRUST.

The directors of the Wernher-Beit Trust, the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, have issued a report for presentation at the statutory meeting on Tuesday next, and though to a certain degree it is an interesting document, it is not more informative than was to be expected. When the Trust was formed it made impecunious punters feel quite cheerful and happy, for it would surely prove to be the hydraulic

lever that would lift prices sky-high with ridiculous ease, and thus save the struggling ones from ruin. Strange to say, however, it has accomplished nothing of the kind. So far from lifting prices they have, since its formation, tumbled to lower depths, and the banquets of riches which gamblers dreamed they would sit at have proved to be dreams, as usual. For the public have been sellers, and not buyers, of Kaffir shares. They wisely took advantage of the existence of the Trust to sell to it the shares that others refused to buy, and all this rubbish has been duly stored in the dustbin the Trust so opportunely provided. It is quite possible that but for the existence of this concern the slump in prices would have been more severe than it has been, that the difficulties at each settlement would have been more serious, and that failures would have multiplied. The report does not enlighten us as to the extent to which the market has actually been helped, for the directors are not the kind of men to give the game away in this fashion. Readers of this REVIEW know that the nominal capital of the Trust is £6,000,000, in 300,000 shares of £20 each, all of which have been allotted for cash, we are told, the total amount so far received in respect of the shares being £3,451,005—viz., £20 per share on 37,748 shares, £754,960; £10 per shares on 261,971 shares, £2,619,710; £5 per share on 281 shares, £1,405; premium of 5s. per share on 299,719 shares, £74,930. Preliminary expenses swallowed up £57,173 of the above sum, and £21,059 is represented by cash. The balance of £3,372,772 has, we are vaguely told, been "applied to the purposes of the Corporation's business, after deducting loans and dividends and interest received." The Corporation's business, besides supporting the tottering market, is to help impecunious concerns, companies hard up for cash and knowing not in what direction to turn to raise the wind. How much of the £3,373,000 has been utilised in the propping up of the market and how much has been lent to such distressed concerns is not stated. Perhaps the directors intend to enlighten the shareholders, give them full particulars, at the statutory meeting, and perhaps they will keep their mouths shut. The latter is more probable. Anyway, there is a balance of over two and a-quarter millions yet to be raised, and if the public can still find a buyer of their long-nursed rubbish they should rejoice.

NEW YORK TRUST COMPANIES.

A new law has come into operation in the State of New York, the object of which is to bring these now powerful and still growing financial corporations into some kind of control. In virtue of this law the trust companies within the States, which hitherto have been "illicit stills" in the credit trade, are henceforth to be compelled to make quarterly returns of their assets and liabilities, not at fixed dates either, but at "surprise" dates to be indicated by the Superintendent of Banking. Whether this will operate in improving the morals and business habits of these trusts or merely open up a new field for bribery and blackmail, it is too early yet to say, but the first of these surprise abstract balance-sheets was called for on June 7, and disclosed a further expansion in the resources of these companies, in spite of the failure of one or two amongst them, including the Merchants' Trust Company, and no appreciable improvement in their solidity. To us they have always been aerial structures of a sinister type, calculated to facilitate the machinations of the unscrupulous world-financier, but of little use to genuine enterprises, and still less to the investor anxious for safe repositories in which to place his savings. From the return as called for, it appears that during the five months ended on June 7 there was an increase in the liabilities of the New York trusts to depositors of no less than \$106,000,000, and that the aggregate of these deposits had risen to nearly \$1,234,000,000. These are their liabilities under all heads, and out of that enormous total the trusts were paying interest upon deposits of a total amounting to nearly \$1,118,000,000. That is to say, the trusts held more

book-entry money or banking credit than the whole of the New York clearing-house banks, whose total liability on deposits on June 10 was barely \$1,124,000,000, of which more than \$100,000,000 represented the moneys of the trust companies themselves, nearly all of which operate in New York City, and against this enormous liability the trusts continue to hold practically no cash at all, for on the date of the return the total cash held by them was less than \$31,000,000, or barely 2½ per cent. of their gross liability on deposits. They had a little more money, as we have often taken occasion to show, in the custody of banks, but such money would be entirely unavailable were a banking crisis to arise. But, taking the two together, the cash in hand and cash with banks, there was actually a decrease compared with the figures of July 1, 1904. At the earlier date the total was \$262,247,000, and on June 7 last it was down to barely \$180,720,000. In other words, the trusts are straining their resources in order to sustain the huge bolstered up stock markets in Wall Street and elsewhere. On June 7, for instance, they had about \$763,000,000 lent out upon the market as against little more than \$500,000,000 on July 1, 1904, and \$328,000,000 on January 1, 1900. Moreover, the loans on personal security have risen from about \$31,101,000 on January 1, 1900, to nearly \$83,000,000 on June 7 last. Figures like these represent an incalculable expansion of mere gaseous credit, and the more stocks are created by all the agencies ever at work to do so, the more may these trusts appear to flourish; but their prosperity cannot be good for the industry of the country, however much it may imply the, let us hope temporary, success of the highway robber class of financial potentate. All goes well until the cash test of solidity is applied, and then—

THE CREATION OF NEW SECURITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

Particulars are given of what is called the "listings" on the New York Stock Exchange for the half-year ended June 30, and prove to be highly suggestive. The figures, in fact, if we leave out those for the same period of 1901, when the Steel Trust and other fancy combinations were launched, prove to be the largest ever seen. As the *New York Chronicle* sums it up, the total of bonds far exceeded the largest aggregate ever before reached in a corresponding six months. There was also an extraordinary revival in the listings of stocks, that is to say, of what we should call shares, the total of which is nearly nine times the relatively trifling sum added during the first half of 1904, and the total of these two classes of stocks aggregated about \$1,000,000,000. Moreover, bonds representing new capital exceeded by 70 per cent. the considerable total for the first half of 1904, and were more than twice the amount shown in the same half of any earlier year. Part of this increase is due to the Japanese, Cuban and Mexican loans aggregating \$135,000,000 and to the New York City bonds for \$25,000,000 all floated within the six months, but it remains none the less the fact that about \$343,000,000 of new bonded capital was issued in the past six months together with about \$67,000,000 of new share capital, and that in addition about \$100,000,000 of old share issues was listed for the first time together with \$20,000,000 of old bonds. Altogether, including the new securities issued to replace old ones falling due, there was \$642,316,000 of new bonds listed on the Wall Street market during the past six months, and in addition \$358,065,000 in shares or stocks. Out of the total of bonds no less than \$266,185,000 represented railway issues, the New York Central having listed \$30,000,000 of new 4 per cent. debentures, the Pennsylvania Company \$15,000,000 of guaranteed trust certificates, and the Wabash system \$47,000,000 of bonds issued by the Wabash, Pittsburgh Terminal Railway. It is in these rapid and excessive creations of new securities that we find the chief secret of the business revival so much trumpeted by newspaper agencies in their reports to this country, and it would be interesting to know to what extent the

investing public has responded to this demand for funds. Does the great increase shown in the deposits of financial trusts and banks merely imply that they have underwritten and now carry the greater proportion of these new issues? It is useless to speculate, no facts are yet attainable, but there must undoubtedly be intimate connection between the swelling out of deposits and the rapid creation of new securities.

Passing Events.

Lightly the House of Commons by a majority of 51 in a swarming of 387 voted away on Wednesday another £5,835,000 for "naval works." This sum includes £2,500,000 to be provided for that wholly unjustifiable and indefensible Rosyth naval base project. As Mr. Gibson Bowles pointed out, the country has already incurred a liability of £41,664,000 for public works, naval, military, and civil, and to this it is now asked to add nearly £6,000,000 more for the navy. The liability, he added, of the nation on March 31 last for naval works alone was £16,000,000, an increase of £5,000,000 over the preceding year, and with the addition now proposed the total would be at least £22,000,000. Well might he doubt the wisdom of this policy of "brick and mortar adventure" on the part of the Admiralty, for if any lesson has been conveyed by the war in the Far East it is that they should not look to docks or arsenals for the means of making repairs, but to the provision of repairing ships to accompany the fleet. What is the use of making any protest of this sort? The spending departments must have money for the comfort of those who control them, who must keep pace in the fashion set by our millionaires who steal to be able to spend. That is the secret of the whole matter. There is no patriotism in it, no real desire to see the country strong, only an insatiable greed for our money.

Disorders appear to multiply in Russia until, if we are to believe the correspondents, many parts of the country are almost in a state of absolute chaos. Hunger, moreover, is appearing in some of the provinces and will be certain to spread during the coming autumn and winter, so that whether the war goes on or not, the autocratic Government of Russia is face to face with the hardest problem it has ever encountered. Meanwhile, the Congress of Zemstvos has met in Moscow, at the palace of Prince Dolgoroukoff, in spite of police prohibitions. What will come out of that we cannot predict. The police made a kind of farcical entry into the place of meeting and dared not turn the delegates out. Their demand was met by a declaration of rights, and the new Home Secretary, as we should call him, M. Shipoff, turned up at the gathering for a few moments. That the meeting should have been held in this defiant attitude towards the executive is wholly the fault of that executive. The Tsar summoned this Congress and then repented in his usual manner, but should the patriots persist in setting General Trepoff at defiance, he, as the new dictator, may think fit to try and cow them by force.

Further reports from Moscow prove that the assembly of delegates are conducting their debates with a self-respect and dignity that augurs well for the future of constitutionalism in Russia. No police interfered with the meeting on the second day, and it read a first time a draft constitution to be submitted to the local representative bodies before being further debated. The opposition was small, only one reactionary, Count Kasatkin Rostovsky, of Kursk, going so far as to denounce the measure. Its purport and scope we do not yet know, but Professor Mouromtseff, of Moscow, one of its authors, outlined its terms, and they also encourage hope, and Prince Dolgoroukoff declared that for the progress of Russia it was "absolutely necessary that the subject nations should receive autonomy," which also promises well. All that transpires implies revolution. "Revolution is inevitable," said M. Ivan Petrumkevitch, and added that "it was their duty to

prevent, if possible, the accompaniment of bloodshed." Ah, if only the army refuses to shoot!

M. Witte has not spoken very hopefully about the prospects of peace, and he is wise in deprecating any kind of enthusiasm. Apparently his position is that of a mere delegate of the Tsar. It was said at first that he had full powers to negotiate a treaty with Japan. He has evidently nothing of the kind, and will merely go to hear what the Japanese propose, and to report the results of a perusal of documents or an exchange of words to his master. The Tsar, moreover, is evidently still in more or less perfect ignorance, not only of the position of his army in the Far East, but of the internal state of the country, and continues to cling to the notion that, time given, his troops can thrash the armies of Japan. Pitiable indeed is the position of this helpless atom of humanity, adrift on the ocean of revolution. We agree, however, that peace does not look near—is not likely to come through any negotiations to take place in the United States. Neither belligerent is yet in the mood to confer in a spirit of amity. The war is therefore likely to go on and to be signalised with the usual bouts of horrible slaughter as soon as the season of torrential rains and tropical heat is over in Manchuria. General Linievitch's force, we are told, has been brought up to nearly 400,000 men, and that commander is "planning a great demonstration" to be made simultaneously with the meeting of the peace plenipotentiaries. Just so; organising another defeat in all probability.

That South-West African struggle which the German troops are carrying on with the natives is proving very costly. Already about 1,100 Germans have lost their lives, exclusive of women and children, and 512 men have been wounded in action, besides 425 members of the expeditionary corps sent home. Since January, 1904, over 14,000 men have been sent out, together with nearly 12,000 horses by way of reinforcements, and the cost to the German people of all this fighting has amounted in money alone to date to £12,500,000. What has Germany got for all this outlay? Nothing, and the people seem to realise that nothing has been obtained, for their newspapers are girding against the British in South Africa and accusing them of sustaining the rebellion. That, at least, is not true.

Lord Curzon and Mr. Brodrick seem to have quarrelled, but the sky is not going to fall in consequence. His lordship, presiding at the viceregal council on Tuesday last, delivered himself of a philippic against the new arrangements of the military authority in India and freely expressed his doubts whether the new system would be any better than the old. We are not much interested in the dispute, for neither side cares a brass farthing what becomes of the taxes wrung from the natives of India, still less what the fate of the natives themselves may be. It is only a fight among privileged and ruling aliens as to whether the Viceroy shall remain nominally at the head of the military organisation—he and the army fragments of his Council—or whether the Commander-in-Chief shall be an independent power dealing only and condescendingly with Whitehall. Whatever side wins the Indian people are certain to lose.

Can it be true that the Bill to secure the fettering of London to an electric power monopoly, which our House of Lords passed so simply, and which the Commons seems ready to pass, emanates from Berlin? We hear on no mean authority that the real promoters are not the Armstrongs, Joiceys, and other mineral and engineering potentates up north, but the Universal Electrical Company, of Berlin, whose motive is that of all great electrical companies—to create work for itself. What a joke this would be, if proved true, for are not some of the leading British backers of this measure of serfage partners with the exploded but no longer explosive King Joseph of Birmingham in his attempts to bring the industries of England and her working population to misery and ruin?

And who knows but what this purchase of a 6,000 acre "coalfield" in South Wales by a German syndicate may not be part and parcel of the same deep game? To have coal, even inferior Welsh coal, at command would be just the thing for a power and light monopoly of electric energy in the metropolis, and the joke would be neatly rounded off were the entire "combine" to be financed with British capital. The coal purchase is to be companyised here, report says, and we may be sure it would be the same with the electric monopoly—all for the profit of enterprising financiers hailing from the Fatherland! What magnificent patriots our tariffites are, to be sure, and so awfully consistent, don't y' know. How many shining lights of liberalism were there who voted for the second reading?

A circular issued to the shareholders in the Guayaquil and Quito Railway Company states that the railway was completed and opened for traffic on the 8th inst., so the company has now 151 miles of railway in operation. The construction of the line from the city of Riobamba to the city of Ambato, a further distance of 36 miles, is nearing completion. Gross traffic receipts from January 1 to December 31, 1904, were £60,000, and from July 1, 1904, to June 30, 1905, £80,000.

After the chairman's optimistic speech at the meeting in April, the announcement just made by Beyer Peacock, and Co., that the dividend due on the cumulative preference shares for the past half-year will not be paid must have come as a shock to many holders. But for that speech, however, the passing of the dividend should not have occasioned any surprise, as the accounts for the year showed that the business was passing through a period of adversity which did not appear to be nearly at an end.

Critical Index To New Investments.

JOHN BARRAN AND SONS, LIMITED.

Formed in 1903 as a limited liability company to take over the business of wholesale clothiers and merchants of the same name, this company has a capital of £260,000, divided into 6 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £10 each and £100,000 in 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock. Of these amounts £129,900 in ordinary shares, £110,000 in preference shares, and £80,000 in debenture stock were issued as fully paid in connection with the acquisition of the business, and the balance of the debenture stock was later subscribed for at par by the original vendors to provide funds for the erection of additional premises. Now, on the plea that certain family arrangements consequent on the death of the late Sir John Barran, Bart., necessitate a sale, subscriptions are invited for £67,000 of the debenture stock and £75,000 in preference shares at par. The freehold property, machinery, plant, fixtures, and goodwill, according to the balance-sheet on October 31, 1904, were valued at £197,130, and as the properties exclusive of goodwill are elsewhere certified to be worth £89,098 as a going concern, this figure gives no less than £108,032 as the valuation placed on the goodwill. Other assets consist of £89,346 for stock and work in progress, £37,262 surplus of assets over current liabilities, and £20,000 in cash from the issue of debenture stock recently made, so that the tangible assets are apparently worth £235,707. This would seem to indicate that the security for both debenture stock and preference shares was sufficient, and but for the sudden drop in profits which occurred in 1904 the issue might have passed muster. For the six years from 1898 to 1903 fairly regular progress was made, and profits rose from £24,084 to £36,538, with only one set-back in 1901, when they dropped back by about £3,500, but last year there was a very serious shrinkage to £20,405, for which the explanation given of trade depression and very high prices for both cotton and wool hardly seems adequate.

"OTTO" ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

This company takes over a patent arc lamp factory which is said to be so overwhelmed with orders as to require additional capital to increase the capacity of its works, but the method adopted of raising the extra funds is not calculated to inspire much confidence. An intermediary having bought the business for £10,000 in cash and £15,000 in shares has promptly formed the present company with a capital of £75,000, to which he resells for £14,500 in cash and £37,000 in shares. Nor is he content with that, but secures an additional profit by underwriting the 28,000 shares offered for subscription for a commission of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and retains the chance of still further gains by reserving the right to take up the remaining 10,000 shares at 25s. per share at any time within the next twelve months. Although the prospectus is filled with the merits of the lamp, the only reference to profits is the following farcical certificate from Mr. Otto Gross, who is to be manager of the new undertaking:—"So soon as the necessary alterations and additions have been made at the works to allow of an output of 100 lamps per week the profit on the sale of such output should, after paying all expenses, including trade discounts, allow of substantial dividends and the creation of a reserve fund." Such a statement is worse than useless, and its insertion should be more than enough to induce investors to give the scheme a wide berth.

BRITISH ASSETS TRUST, LIMITED.

Incorporated in 1898 to carry on the business of an assets, reversionary, and investment company, this Edinburgh undertaking commenced with a modest capital of £50,000 in £1 shares, which was doubled in 1904 by the creation of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preference shares. A further increase to £250,000 was made in March last, when 100,000 preference and 50,000 ordinary shares were created, and 35,000 of the latter were issued in part payment for the Caledonian Assets Trust, Limited, taken over. The remaining 15,000 ordinary shares were offered to existing shareholders at a premium of 5s. per share, and the company now invites subscriptions for the whole of the 150,000 preference shares at par. The prospectus lays stress on the fact that since its incorporation the company has built up a reserve fund of £46,750, but of this no less than £31,750 came from premiums on shares, so that the annual provision has been little more than £2,000. No particulars are given of the investments held beyond the statements that they consist of securities of companies in the United Kingdom, the British colonies, and the United States of America, and that after deducting the debts a valuation made by the directors shows over £175,000 against the £100,000 of issued capital. For the year ended January 15, 1899, a dividend of 4 per cent. was paid, in the two following years the distribution rose to 5 per cent., and a further increase to 6 per cent. was made for the next three years, while for the last twelve months 7 per cent. was paid. The company therefore may be all that is claimed for it, but as the directors have chosen to be reticent on the points above mentioned, they need not be surprised if the public response to their appeal for fresh funds is disappointing.

J. G. WHITE AND CO., LIMITED.

Five years ago this company was formed to take over the private American business of the same name, that of engineers and contractors, and since then £70,871 of net profits have been made, out of which £33,192 has been paid in preference and ordinary share dividends and £25,000 placed to reserve. The capital was to be £200,000 in 15,000 £10 6 per cent. cumulative preference and 50,000 £1 ordinary shares, and 10,000 of the preference shares were offered for subscription. It is now proposed to issue the remaining 5,000 of these shares at par, the whole to be paid up by November 1 next. All the ordinary shares were taken by the vendors, J. G. White and Co., of New

York, in part payment. The prospectus states that £1,779,000 worth of work is now in progress, or more than the company ever had before, and that the company is interested, along with Waring and Gillow, Limited, in the Waring White Building Co., Limited, a company by which the new Ritz Hotel is being built. An element of speculation thus enters into the risks, which the 6 per cent. dividend is doubtless intended to cover. And the balance-sheet shows that the company can do with the extra £50,000 very well indeed.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.—Tenders are invited for a loan of £600 for the Ideford water supply, to be repaid in 30 years by equal half-yearly instalments.

EAST AFRICAN SYNDICATE.—Shareholders are offered 45,807 £1 shares at a premium of 10s. per share in the proportion of one new share for every old share held.

ZAMBESIA EXPLORING.—An issue of 100,000 £1 shares is offered to shareholders in the proportion of one for three at the price of 21s. per share.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND GATESHEAD GAS COMPANY.—Tenders are invited for £60,000 ordinary stock at a minimum of 10s. At the present price charged for gas the authorised dividend is £4 12s. 6d. per cent., and in 1904, after paying all interest and full statutory dividends the surplus profit was £21,530, so that the issue offers a fair investment at anything up to 107 per cent.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. B.—As a speculative investment a few bought at present prices, and on prospects, would involve only a moderate risk. There seems every likelihood of a continuance of present dividends.

Hardware.—All depends upon electricity and the favourable sentiment about that may drive the price up again, but we think you should begin to sell on any recovery as the distant prospect is not at all favourable.

Salterton.—It is a pity you sold so soon, but you should not buy back as at the present price the stock looks rather top-heavy. The fee is 1s.

R. C. G. (Glasgow).—Thanks for your letter. We are dealing with your query in our note on the company in the present issue.

H. B. C. (Cardiff).—(1) There seems little prospect of an advance in price in the near future, though by holding on indefinitely you might reduce your loss slightly; but it would seem better to cut your loss at once and invest the money elsewhere. (2) We cannot advise averaging, as the mine may last only another twelve months. Read our notes on the company in our issues of April 8 and April 22.

OLIVE.—Speculative prospects are fair, but there is no immediate hurry to buy.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—There is an easier feeling in the London market, owing principally to heavy shipments and brilliant weather, and consumption is very slack, no buyers coming forward. Prices, therefore, have given way. The market at Liverpool is in a similar listless condition, where speculative positions are easier. After opening easy the New York market became firmer on better cable news, unfavourable Russian crop accounts, and the reports of rains in the North-Western States. The Chicago market also rallied after a weak opening. "Bradstreet's" estimate of the quantity in sight east of the Rockies is 18,118,000 bushels, against 19,139,000 bushels in the previous week, and 19,200,000 bushels a year ago, whilst, according to Dornbusch, the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom is 2,925,000 qrs., compared with 2,945,000 qrs. a year ago. In New York the visible supply is stated at 12,339,000 bushels, against 13,423,000 bushels in the preceding week.

WOOL.—It looks as if the difficulty about prices is likely to dominate the markets for the rest of the season, no two traders seem able to agree as to their fixedness, and there is a general desire to wait and see what is going to happen. At the very end of the London sales a slight falling off was noticeable among the lower qualities of crossbreds, owing, it was said, to American support being less in evidence, and English wools were affected by the decline. But only for a time, and already there is a hardening tendency, most important firms declaring that another two or three weeks will show prices higher, if anything, than ever. Spinners generally have advanced their lists, but can secure no large contracts, and piece trade is dull except for export.

LINEN.—Rain has fallen in some districts of Russia, and consequently there is a better prospect of a fair crop, but not much, and supplies from these are likely to be small. Any small lots left of last year's crop have advanced £2 per ton. Irish flax should do better, for the present abnormally high temperature is of great benefit to it, and the fibre should prove of superior quality. Yarns and woven goods in most depart-

ments of the home trade continue quiet, but foreign orders are fairly brisk, the United States keeping well to the fore, and everywhere prices are very firm.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—There have been few changes in the cotton piece goods market during the week under review. A quiet feeling in point of turnover has generally prevailed. Buyers for the leading outlets have received no marked encouragement from abroad to give out orders at current rates here. The result is a small trade. The production of the looms has not nearly been sold, and contract lists are lighter to-day than they were seven days ago. It looks as if buyers abroad would not give current cotton rates. In the meantime, Lancashire makers of goods are very busy and are engaged for several months to come, but the outlook is not nearly so bright as a couple of months ago. The monsoon news from India is satisfactory throughout. Shippers to our Dependency are of opinion that if cotton piece goods had not been advanced so quickly there would have been a good trade with Lancashire later on in the year. Home-trade American yarns have been irregular when tested. Users of cop twist and worst as well as beams have operated very sparingly indeed, the aggregate sales of the week being quite unimportant. Order lists here also are lighter than they were. Spinners report, however, a diminishing margin. In shipping yarns there has been very little business of weight put through. Bolton spinnings were dearer on Thursday owing to the rise in Egyptian cotton. Speaking broadly, the production of the spindles and looms in Lancashire have not nearly been sold during the last month. Raw American cotton has fluctuated from day to day. One day quotations have been several points lower and the next day several points higher. The gambling clique in New York are very active, and so far have been successful in keeping up prices, but Lancashire users of the raw material in the meantime are buying very sparingly indeed. They are understood to be covered for the time, and are not very anxious about the immediate future.

In New York futures fell rapidly at the outset; this was followed by a partial recovery, then there was a slow decline on renewed liquidation and "bear" hammering. This was again succeeded by a rapid advance, only to develop into weakness on the issue of Messrs. Giles' report, which was considered disappointing, there being heavy liquidation; the rates were steadied by some covering and manipulation. The undercurrent continues strong.

In Liverpool extreme fluctuations have varied as much as 30 points, but business in spot cotton has been small, buyers continuing to hold aloof. Egyptian cotton keeps dull, but prices are well maintained. Futures close July to September 5.79; September-October, 5.80; October-November, 5.82; December-January, 5.82.

COAL.—The coal market has continued to be exceedingly quiet. Operations are again on a very limited scale, deliveries at the depôts being correspondingly small. In the inland section business is practically at a standstill. Opinion in the markets tends to pessimism, and no improvement is anticipated for some time to come. Steam trade is also dull and inactive, best Admiralty being quoted 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d. f.o.b. Cardiff; Silkstone up to 10s. 6d.; and softs 9s. 6d.

COPPER.—There has been a sharp improvement in the copper market during the week, on a considerable revival of speculative interest and a better demand from consumers. Prices, therefore, have advanced from day to day, but at the close they declined under the influence of free selling, especially for forward delivery. The close is therefore steady at £67 5s. for cash and £67 7s. 6d. three months. Stocks held by manufacturers and consumers are said in some quarters to be very limited.

TIN.—Considerable attention continues to be paid to this market, and the price throughout the week has again been lifted with much rapidity, despite the already high values ruling. Eastern advances have sharply recovered, after an early fall, and, under the influence of an active all-round demand, prices closing £145 10s. for cash and £144 10s. for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—In the Midlands a fairish amount of business has been done in raw and finished iron, with a healthy-looking state of things generally, satisfactory orders coming to hand. There has been a large number of renewals, and though orders from consumers are limited, prompt delivery is required. Stocks of pig-iron are low, and business is for early delivery. A moderate business has been passing in pig-iron warrants in the Glasgow market, with prices showing a tendency to weaken. At Barrow a good volume of trade has been transacted in hematite pig-iron, and those works that were closed down in the previous week are now in full operation.

TEA.—Prices have again advanced this week for all teas above the commonest. Medium and better sorts went for from ½d. to ¾d. per lb. higher in the Indian market, and Messrs. J. and H. Thompson's circular states that buyers seemed particularly anxious to procure Assam Pekoes of desirable cup, which sold at 8½d. to 9d., compared with a quotation of 7d. per lb. last May. Offerings were 22,996 packages, including 4,441 of new tea from Northern India, and for these also prices paid were in nearly all cases above those of last year. In Ceylon also further advances were again made in last week's prices, and demand was active for the rather heavy offerings of 24,016 packages. The average price for the week obtained for Indian tea was 7.53d., and for Ceylon 6.85d. Java had a small sale of 1,325 packages, and a brisk market for all grades, with an advance of ¼d. and over last week's rates.

SUGAR.—After the collapse of the preceding week larger purchases of beet by refiners here, as well as considerable orders sent by Dutch and Baltic refiners, caused "bears" to cover their August commitments. As this came upon a market in which actual sugars are scarce and well held, there was a sharp advance of 1s. 6d. per cwt., August rising from 9s. 9d. to 11s. 3d. Home-trade dealers also bought more freely than for a long time past, but as ready foreign granulated advanced to 13s. 3d. they satisfied their requirements chiefly with home refined, which participated in the rise only to the extent of 3d. to 4¼d. Looking at the great stagnation of the past three months, says Mr. Czarnikow, it is evident that daily buying by refiners and distributors is necessary, which is a factor towards the steadiness so much needed, and with low values consumption should proceed upon an improving scale in this and other countries. In the meantime, more distant sugar attracts no attention, and will probably not do so until some definite information is obtainable as to the yield of the next beet crops. New York remains as apathetic as ever. The landings in the three ports for the week were 38,000 tons and meltings 39,000 tons, leaving stocks at 228,000 tons. Receipts and shipments in the six ports of Cuba in the week ending July 18 were 5,000 tons and 18,000 tons respectively, and stocks are 304,000 tons against 122,000 tons a year ago.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JULY 24.

Bristol Electric Traction.—Winchester House, noon.
D. and J. Fowler.—2, Lime Street Square, 11 a.m.
London and Provincial Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Medway and Thames Canal.—3, Tokenhouse Buildings, 4 p.m.
Smelting and Refining of Australia.—Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, JULY 25.

Australian Agricultural.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.
Baku Russian Petroleum.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Clergy Mutual Association.—Westminster, 2 p.m.
Consolidated Mines Selection.—Winchester House, noon.
Dublin United Tramways (1896).—Dublin, noon.
Direct United States Cable.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Great Southern of Spain Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
United African Exploration.—Winchester House, noon.
Williamsons.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26.

Associated Gold Mines of W. Australia.—Great Eastern Hotel, noon.
Cerro Muriano Mines.—6, Queen Street Place, 11.30 a.m.
Capital and Counties Bank.—39, Threadneedle Street, noon.
Clydesdale Distillery.—Glasgow, 12.15 p.m.
Dooars Tea.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Eastern Telegraph.—Electra House.
Electric Supply Corporation.—Salisbury House, 1 p.m.
London Trading Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway.—London Bridge, noon.
New Eastern Investment.—Winchester House, noon.
Provincial Bank of Ireland.—Dublin, —.
Trustees', Executors', and Securities Insurance Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates.—Salisbury House, noon.
Union of London and Smiths Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Union Bank of Manchester.—Manchester, 11 a.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 27.

Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Bellingham.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Beira Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
Crompton.—Salisbury House, noon.
Gordon Hotels.—Hotel Metropole, noon.
Hepburn Alluvial Mining.—Winchester House, 11.45 a.m.
Metropolitan Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Parr's Bank.—Warrington, noon.
Spratt's Patent (America).—Winchester House, noon.
Tasmanian Copper.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 28.

Caledonian Copper.—Winchester House, noon.
Great Eastern Railway.—Great Eastern Hotel, noon.
Selukwe Gold Mining.—Salisbury House, noon.
San Francisco Breweries.—Winchester House, 3.15 p.m.

THE SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MANAGER.—A name long familiar and much respected in insurance circles disappears from public view through the resignation of Mr. A. H. Turnbull, who for the past 29 years has been connected with the Scottish Widows' Fund, principally as manager and actuary of the society. He has retired, and Mr. Niel Ballingal Gunn, manager and actuary of the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society, has been appointed to succeed him as from September 1 next. Mr. Gunn is also a well-known man, who received his training in the Scottish Widows' Fund which he entered in 1865. From there he went to the Scottish Provident Institution in 1874, and after passing on to the Standard Life Office, one of whose secretaries he became in 1892, he went over to the office he is about to leave to succeed Mr. Turnbull. He has therefore had a varied experience and an honourable record. Mr. Turnbull is 70 years old, and though bearing a Scotch name and managing a Scotch office, was born in London. The directors of the society held a special meeting at which it was resolved to have his portrait painted and hung in the board room, with a replica to be presented to Mrs. Turnbull. He well deserves that tribute of respect.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

DURING last month the output of the producing mines in the Colar goldfield of India amounted to 51,553 ozs., being an increase of 458 ozs. over the preceding month, and of 753 ozs. over the corresponding month of last year. Milling operations at the Coromandel are temporarily suspended. Increases are shown by all the mines, those from the Mysore and Champion Reef being particularly good.

Name of Company.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.
Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.
Balaghat	3,910 3,384	3,920 3,388	4,000 3,401	3,950 3,426
Champion Reef	19,020 18,329	18,900 19,587	19,025 18,104	19,150 18,410
Coromandel	—	—	—	—
Mysore	16,500 17,361	16,200 16,822	16,500 16,976	16,350 17,051
Mysore W. and Wynaad	2,005 1,007	1,972 1,002	2,033 1,010	2,295 1,027
Nundydroog	6,550 6,057	6,520 6,027	6,700 6,121	6,650 6,154
Ooregum	10,088 5,491	10,119 5,498	10,063 5,483	10,011 5,485

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1905 and the previous five years:—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	41,185	42,829	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999
February ..	39,323	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629
March ..	40,678	42,727	41,573	48,327	50,914	51,629
April ..	40,774	42,038	38,329	48,271	49,991	52,324
May ..	40,021	42,110	28,091	48,628	50,445	51,095
June ..	39,872	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,553
July ..	39,355	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	—
August ..	42,763	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	—
September ..	41,765	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	—
October ..	41,834	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,031	—
November ..	41,772	41,669	48,332	51,559	50,442	—
December ..	44,089	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	—
Total ..	493,342	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	307,229

RHODESIAN MINING RETURNS.

FOLLOWING up the large decline in the May output, the yield for June gives us another record for the goldfield in which the English public have lost so much money. The return is cabled at 35,256 ozs., which tops that of May by 3,924 ozs., and is, as already said, a record, the previous best month being March of the present year. This is due principally, however, to an increase in the tributaries' returns and to a goodly increase in the output from the Ayrshire. As it is not a general improvement affecting all mines there is nothing in the "record" to enthuse over.

Name of Company.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.
Antenlor (Matabele) ..	450 344	1,190 853	905 628	1,198 678	1,200 768
Ayrshire	7,750 3,118	8,828 3,439	8,606 5,337	9,096 3,440	10,077 4,005
Beatrice	—	—	—	—	—
Dumbleton ..	750 246	1,000 195	—	—	—
Globe and Phoenix ..	5,749 3,708	6,369 4,037	6,247 4,141	6,696 4,326	6,757 4,194
Golden Valley ..	482 393	650 451	804 583	703 514	714 396
Killarney ..	—	—	—	—	—
Hibernia ..	2,684 1,602	3,473 1,713	2,875 1,625	3,599 1,735	3,577 1,755
Morven ..	1,177 879	1,484 1,008	1,546 915	1,317 921	1,165 705
Penhalonga ..	6,200 1,294*	6,600 1,380*	6,300 1,336*	6,300 1,351*	—
Red & White ..	—	—	—	—	—
Rose	—	—	—	—	—
Revue	904 241	627 279	—	—	—
Rezende ..	2,750 852*	2,850 944*	2,900 1,034	3,025 1,034	3,000 1,167
Rhodesia Consolidated ..	1,873 630	2,148 989	2,212 1,176	1,893 1,113	1,250 1,174
Rhodesia Mines ..	—	—	740 293	650 273	720 310
Selukwe ..	4,850 2,121	5,420 2,447	5,275 2,092	5,850 2,220	6,100 2,245
Surprise ..	2,797 1,514	3,160 1,577	2,779 1,553	2,618 1,490	2,842 1,550
Wanderer ..	10,788 1,604	12,462 1,712	12,783 2,304	13,206 2,405	14,136 2,276
Wareleigh ..	680 350	550 308	752 456	—	—

* Fine Gold.

The following table gives the total monthly return since the commencement of crushing:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	10,787	15,955	16,245	19,359	32,531
February ..	12,237	13,204	17,090	18,673	30,131
March ..	14,289	16,891	19,626	17,756	34,927
April ..	14,998	17,559	20,727	17,862	33,268
May ..	14,486	19,698	22,137	19,424	31,332
June ..	14,863	15,842	22,166	20,402	35,256
July ..	15,651	15,226	23,571	24,339	—
August ..	14,734	15,747	19,187	24,669	—
September ..	13,958	15,164	18,741	26,020	—
October ..	14,503	16,849	17,918	24,919	—
November ..	16,308	15,923	15,714	26,183	—
December ..	15,174	16,210	18,750	28,100	—
Total ..	172,060	194,268	231,872	267,715	197,445

BOOKS RECEIVED.

How to Deal with your Broker. By Henry Warren. (London: Swan, Sonnenschein, and Co., 25, High-street, Bloomsbury, W.C.) Price 3s. 6d.

Municipal Year Book, 1905. Edited by Robert Donald. (London: Edward Lloyd, Limited, Salisbury-square, E.C.) Price 3s. 6d. net.

NEWNES' PUBLICATIONS.—*Wide World's Magazine*, C. B. Fry's *Magazine*, *Captain*.

Bourne's Handy Assurance Manual, 1905. (London: Effingham Wilson.) Price 1s.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and July 15, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to July 15, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to July 16, 1904.
Balances, April 1:	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	6,354,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	9,610,000	10,566,000
Excise	30,200,000	7,845,000	8,073,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	4,102,000	3,268,000
Stamps	8,000,000	2,239,000	1,969,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	390,000	500,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	4,443,000	4,854,000
Post Office	16,500,000	4,150,000	4,050,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,100,000	1,060,000
Crown Lands	470,000	140,000	110,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	674,573	607,244
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	503,762	509,914

* Revenue

Total, including balance

OTHER RECEIPTS

Repayment of Advances for Bullion

Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904

Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902

Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901

Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900

Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..

By Issue of Exchequer Bonds

Temporary Advances, Deficiency

Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..

Total

* Revenue as above

Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—

Customs

Excise

Estate, &c., Duties

Total

Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to July 15, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to July 16, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	28,000,000	11,466,813	11,592,330
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	659,525	658,198
Payments to Local Taxation ..	—	—	—
Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,252,000	28,574,122	31,445,523
Expenditure	142,032,000	40,932,635	43,928,261

OTHER ISSUES.

For Advances for Bullion	220,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	90,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	1,700,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	300,000	855,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903	940,000	800,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901	400,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	105,000	76,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	135,000	—
Deficiency Advances repaid	—	2,100,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—	2,600,000

	1905.	1904.
July 15.	July 16.	
Balances in Exchequer:—	£	£
Bank of England	5,022,723	1,574,060
Bank of Ireland	654,253	622,679
Total	5,676,973	2,196,739
Total	50,522,613	52,781,000

Treasury, July 18, 1905.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.—Liabilities on June 30, consisted of £52,344,889 on simple contracts and £410,670 on notes or bills, against which were held cash in hand and at Bank of England £7,796,828, money at call and short notice £4,129,248, English Government and other securities £14,702,863 and bills of exchange, promissory notes and advances to customers £31,426,620.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended June 21, \$2,852.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 16, \$14,110, decrease \$3,777; aggregate from January 1, \$425,526, increase \$84,821.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 57,732, increase Rs. 8,923; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 13,98,779, increase Rs. 1,84,351.

Bengal Central.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 29,193; increase, Rs. 11,110; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,05,470, increase Rs. 9,482.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 14, \$91,800, increase \$24,200; total from July 1, \$175,500, increase \$47,600.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 26,928, decrease Rs. 2,788; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 7,10,400, decrease Rs. 93,689.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 24, £492, increase £166.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of July, \$18,207, increase \$258; aggregate from January 1, \$398,238, increase \$1,876.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 12,474, increase Rs. 145; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 2,66,528, increase Rs. 12,545.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended July 7 amounted to \$37,470.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending July 15, £1,173, increase £3; aggregate from July 1, £2,511, decrease £171.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for 8 days ending July 15, £1,128, decrease £239; aggregate from July 1, £2,583, decrease £546.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for May, £4,399, decrease £149.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending July 15, £253, decrease £100; aggregate from July 1, £521, decrease £164.

Liverpool Overhead.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 16, £1,606, decrease £116; aggregate from July 1, £3,252; decrease £142.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 14, £1,379, increase £504; aggregate from July 1, £2,772, increase £993.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 16, £20, decrease £7; aggregate from July 1, £48, decrease £18.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 14, £5,366, decrease £279; aggregate from July 1, £10,917, decrease £161.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending July 14, £30,025, increase £1,917; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £709,412, increase £61,354; 430½ miles, against 418½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, £1,286, increase £23; aggregate from July 2, £2,440, increase £153.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 16, £162, decrease £8; aggregate from July 1, £389, decrease £43.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 14, £141, decrease £3; aggregate from July 1, £273, decrease £32.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 14, £5,881, increase £353; aggregate from July 1, £11,347, increase £405.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, £5,797, increase £263; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £133,882, increase £10,751.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 14, £295, decrease £19; aggregate from July 1, £563, decrease £53.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, £1,283, decrease £39; aggregate from October 1, £17,148, decrease £650.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 8, £16,709, increase £2,593; aggregate from April 1, £211,003, increase £41,700. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, £27,471, decrease £682; aggregate from July 2, £55,824, decrease £695.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, £9,269, decrease £77; aggregate from July 1, £20,492, increase £560.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 14, £223, increase £32; aggregate from July 1, £419, increase £34.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, £12,467, increase £175; aggregate from January 1, £371,085, increase £23,223.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, £2,617, increase £127; aggregate from January 1, £59,769, increase £7,845.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, £330, increase £40; aggregate from January 1, £8,431, increase £1,162.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to May 31, \$831,422, increase \$86,027. Net earnings from July 1 to May 31, \$302,842, increase \$39,289.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £15,277.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 17, \$39,504, decrease \$1,211; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$31,162.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, Rs. 43,884, increase Rs. 7,752; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 86,410, increase Rs. 21,458.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of June, £3,177, increase £1,115. Total to June 30, £22,016, increase £2,075.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, \$389,425; aggregate from January 1, \$1,778,941. Net traffic receipts, \$216,920; aggregate from January 1, \$917,267.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	July 16	£ 2,173	+	30	£ 4,168	—	59
Cambrian	" 16	7,447	+	60	15,152	—	580
Central London ..	" 15	6,064	—	168	12,424	—	222
City and South London ..	" 16	2,258	—	14	4,558	—	50
Furness	" 16	10,345	+	214	20,789	+	575
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 16	70,046	+	4,043	136,870	+	6,152
Great Eastern	" 16	112,400	—	5,600	224,200	—	6,800
Great Northern and City ..	" 15	1,463	+	504	2,958	+	1,031
Great Northern	" 15	110,700	—	3,433	231,588	—	7,142
Great Western	" 16	239,500	—	6,200	484,200	—	9,300
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 16	8,842	—	509	16,326	—	3,072
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 16	117,326	+	2,886	231,006	+	4,436
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 15	67,756	—	2,574	137,617	—	4,393
London & North Western ..	" 16	285,000	—	6,000	568,000	—	3,000
London & South Western ..	" 16	99,500	—	2,500	200,300	—	3,700
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 16	11,507	—	1,080	23,146	—	1,412
Metropolitan	" 16	17,487	+	31	35,414	—	98
Metropolitan District ..	" 16	6,603	—	578	13,934	—	694
Midland	" 15	210,881	+	2,709	421,126	+	9,609
North Eastern	" 15	184,589	—	4,991	366,404	—	10,712
North London	" 16	8,880	—	435	17,696	—	1,021
North Staffordshire ..	" 16	15,751	—	648	33,084	—	804
Rhymney	" 16	5,654	+	121	11,423	+	211
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 15	98,247	—	473	215,745	—	3,107
Taff Vale	" 16	16,467	—	2,246	34,040	—	3,859

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	July 16	109,405	—	929	2,018,113	+	14,815
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 15	46,822	—	666	798,988	—	12,981
Great North of Scotland ..	" 15	12,072	—	463	216,289	—	6,622
Highland	" 16	13,674	+	117	222,652	—	5,881
North British	" 16	106,519	+	3,294	2,115,170	+	14,041

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	July 14	5,758	—	188	9,708	—	305
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 14	2,006	+	217	4,184	+	125
Great Northern	" 14	24,041	+	698	45,164	+	654
Midland Great Western ..	" 14	9,606	+	96	20,558	—	2,098

† From July 1 to date.

PELICAN & BRITISH EMPIRE LIFE OFFICE. A.D. 1797.

70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Total Assets exceed - £5,100,000.

INDIA 3½ PER CENT. LOAN FOR 400 LAKHS OF RUPEES.

The Secretary of State for India in Council hereby gives notice that the Government of India has issued a notification dated this day inviting Tenders for a Loan of four hundred lakhs of Rupees (Rs. 4,00,00,000), bearing interest at the rate of Three and a Half per cent. per annum, and not liable to be discharged before the 31st of December, 1920.

Tenders will be received by the Comptroller-General at Calcutta until noon, and by the Accountants-General at Madras, Bombay, Allahabad, and Lahore, until the local time corresponding to noon Calcutta time, of the 2nd of August next.

The minimum rate at which tenders will be accepted will not be declared beforehand. It will be recorded by the Comptroller-General before the tenders are opened, but will not be announced unless any are rejected as being below the minimum.

The instalments will be payable on the 14th of August, 4th of September, and 2nd of October, 1905.

Copies of the Notification published by the Government of India can be obtained on application to the Financial Secretary, India Office, Whitehall, S.W.

India Office, 22nd July 1905.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 2½ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent. on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

To-day the discount houses reduced their allowance on deposits by another ¼ per cent. to 1 per cent. for call and 1½ per cent. for seven days' notice money. In this fact lies a sufficient description of the state of the Money market. Rates have been easy all week, and most days ended with lenders in the possession of more floating credit than they could find employment for. Early in the week the joint-stock banks got 1½ per cent. for seven days' money, but that rate soon fell to 1 per cent., and to-day some of them had to take ¾ per cent., although the market tightened up in the afternoon. Call money has been in excessive supply throughout the week at from ½ to 1 per cent. Most days the India Council was calling in balances, but when it resumed lending yesterday and to-day it was only able to get 1½ per cent. on renewals for a month, and bankers have been obliged to accept 1½ per cent. for money into August.

Why rates should have been easy is not superficially apparent from the figures of the Bank return. These show a slight decline of £110,000 in the other deposits, and a large increase of £1,085,000 in the public deposits or Government balances. Practically, therefore, all the rally in the reserve amounting to £352,000, plus the £650,000 added to other securities, went on to the Government balances, and yet the market has been flush. Where does the increase in other securities come from? people have asked. The market has not been borrowing at all, and probably the origin of the increase is either investments by the Bank of England or advances to some of its municipal or other private customers.

Discount rates have not gone back so perceptibly as the cheapness of money might have led people to expect, and were to-day inclined to harden. Apparently the banks were shy of taking bills from the brokers, and held out for rather better figures than the said brokers were willing to pay; therefore, rates have never dipped below 1½ per cent. for Bank bills of two and three months' usance. The banks were buying in the beginning of the week September and October bills at 1½ per cent., but have not continued the practice, and among the brokers six months' bank paper has never been negotiable under 2½ per cent., often not easily so at that. Fears of French withdrawals of gold,

prompted in part by the unremunerative discount rates now ruling here, and also by the necessity of sustaining Russian credit on the Paris market, helped to make the feeling of bankers conservative, and these last two days exaggerated reports about exports of gold to Argentina have been in circulation to the detriment of those who wish to discount at excessively fine rates. As a matter of fact, £270,000 has gone out to South America, probably all to Buenos Ayres. In the open market Paris took the £500,000 offered on Monday, and will probably take the £300,000 to be dealt with next week, bars remaining at 77s. 9½d. per oz.

The new India rupee loan foretold in the Budget came out to-night in the form of a 3½ per cent. bond for 400 lacs, or 40,000,000 of rupees. Tenders are invited, but the acceptable minimum will not be declared beforehand, that is to say, before noon on August 2, in the various specified Indian cities. The debt thus created cannot be discharged before December 31, 1920. All the money must be paid up by October 2 in three instalments as advertised.

SILVER.

In the early part of the week supplies were slightly in excess of the market's requirements, and prices eased off to 27½d. per oz. for spot and 26½d. per oz. for future delivery. At these points there was some "bear" covering, which, together with a little inquiry from the Continent, was sufficient to bring about a recovery of ½d. per oz., and these higher figures were held until to-day, when business dropped to minute proportions and quotations weakened at 27½d. and 26½d. per oz. Applications for the Rs. 60,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday reached a total of Rs. 4,75,50,000 in bills and Rs. 70,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. The amounts allotted were Rs. 54,92,000 in bills and Rs. 5,08,000 in transfers, tenders at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee respectively receiving about 8 per cent. Next week another Rs. 60,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, July 19, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	54,937,435	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	36,487,435
		Silver Bullion	—
	£54,937,435		£54,937,435

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	16,752,444
Reserve	3,377,487	Other Securities	29,642,689
Public Deposits (including		Notes	24,948,285
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,788,207
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	10,756,678		
Other Deposits	44,338,873		
Seven Day and other Bills	105,587		
	£73,131,625		£73,131,625

Dated July 20, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. July 22.		July 12, 1905.	July 19, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,454,535	Rest	3,354,357	3,377,487	23,130	—
7,238,163	Pub. Deposits ..	9,671,414	10,756,678	1,085,264	—
41,244,279	Other do. ..	44,449,130	44,338,873	—	110,257
132,338	7 Day Bills ..	100,812	105,587	4,775	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,342,840	Gov. Securities ..	16,752,444	16,752,444	—	—
26,016,874	Other do. ..	28,992,334	29,642,689	—	650,355
25,262,601	Total Reserve ..	26,383,935	26,736,492	—	352,557
				1,113,169	1,113,169
				Increase.	Decrease.
29,468,090	Note Circulation	30,260,650	29,989,150	—	280,500
36,555,691	Coin and Bullion	38,203,585	38,275,642	72,057	—
52 p.c.	Proportion ..	48½ p.c.	48½ p.c.	—	—
3 "	Bank Rate ..	2½ "	2½ "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £90,000 out.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended July 15.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs 713,000	National Debt Services .. 200,000
Excise 498,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties .. 231,000	Charges .. 173,116
Stamps 109,000	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax.. 59,000	Supply Services 263,000
Post Office 50,000	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs 160,000	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands 30,000	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds 45,000
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous 55,047	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts 150,000
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings) 10,000
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act 70,000
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin)	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds.. 545,000	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances 1,688,931
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£2,450,047	£2,450,047

* Exclusive of £95,683 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £2,095,251.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 11.	July 13.	July 18.	July 20.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'18	12'18	12'18	12'18
Do. do.	3 months	12'38	12'38	12'38	12'38
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'37	25'37	25'36	25'36
Hamburg	3 months	20'61	20'61	20'60	20'60
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'61	20'61	20'60	20'60
Paris	cheques	25'16	25'16	25'14	25'14
Do.	3 months	25'31	25'31	25'28	25'30
Marseilles	3 months	25'31	25'31	25'30	25'30
Switzerland	3 months	25'41	25'42	25'40	25'41
Austria	3 months	24'28	24'28	24'27	24'27
St. Petersburg	3 months	24'18	24'18	24'18	24'18
Moscow	3 months	24'18	24'18	24'18	24'18
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'42	25'42	25'42	25'41
New York	60 days	47	48	48	48
Madrid and Spanish B.P...	3 months	35	35	35	35
Lisbon	3 months	48	48	48	48
Oporto	3 months	48	48	48	48
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'39	18'39
Christiania	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Stockholm	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Nil.	£
Total Efflux 280,000	Wednesday, Gibraltar .. 10,000
	Friday, S. America .. 220,000
	" Buenos Ayres .. 50,000
TOTAL £280,000	TOTAL £280,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	154,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
Week ending				
May 3	263,265,000	246,483,000	16,782,000	—
" 10	210,041,000	194,626,000	15,415,000	—
" 17	269,214,000	230,772,000	38,442,000	—
" 24	189,198,000	153,970,000	35,228,000	—
" 31	246,087,000	247,297,000	—	1,210,000
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
	6,917,743,000	5,865,629,000	1,052,114,000	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 20, 1905.	July 13, 1905.	July 6, 1905.	July 21, 1904.
Gold in hand	£116,928,760	£116,110,000	£115,584,200	£109,241,280
Silver in hand	44,387,040	44,344,240	44,469,880	45,045,400
Bills discounted	22,403,160	22,226,160	22,958,400	21,513,280
Advances	19,229,280	19,321,560	20,540,240	19,971,120
Note circulation	174,927,040	175,555,640	176,140,520	167,886,200
Public deposits	8,170,000	7,941,160	8,024,440	6,990,280
Private deposits	24,984,640	23,965,680	25,614,608	27,516,120

Proportion between bullion and circulation 92½ per cent., against 91½ per cent. a week ago.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for Treasury bills to the amount of £2,500,000 will be received at the Bank of England on the 24th inst., of which £2,000,000 will be in replacement of the bills falling due on the 30th inst. and £500,000 in further part replacement of bills paid off on May 13. The bills will be dated July 29, and will be payable at six months after date.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	July 30	2 9 6
1,800,000	6 months	Aug. 13	2 6 1
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27	2 2 10
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4½
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
1,200,000	—	1906	—
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
19,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'14	25'14	Antwerp	short	25'21	25'20
Brussels	chqs.	25'20	25'19	Italy	sight	25'14	25'13
Amsterdam	sight	12'07	12'06	Constantinople	3 mths	110 05	110 50
Berlin	chqs.	20'46	20'45	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	168 1/2	168 1/2
Do.	3 mths	20'35	20'34	Valparaiso	90 dys	158 1/2	158 1/2
Hamburg	chqs.	20'45	20'45	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4 1/2
Frankfurt	short	20'45	20'45	Bombay	T.T.	1/4 1/2	1/4 1/2
Vienna	sight	24'03	24'02	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/10 1/2	1/10 1/2
St. Petersburg	3 mths	93'40	94'25	Shanghai	T.T.	2/8	2/7 1/2
New York	60 dys	4'85 1/2	4'84 1/2	Singapore	4 mths	1/11 1/2	1/11 1/2
Lisbon	sight	49 1/2	49 1/2	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0 1/2	2/0 1/2
Madrid	sight	33'22	33'19				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	—	May 25, 1900.	2 1 1/2
Berlin	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2
Hamburg	—	February 25, 1905	2 1/2
Frankfurt	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2
Amsterdam	2 1/2	March, 1905	2 1/2
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2 1/2
Vienna	3 1/2	February 3, 1902	3 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	3 1/2
St. Petersburg	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	3 1/2
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	4 1/2
Stockholm	4 1/2	February, 1905	4
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4
Calcutta	—	July 20, 1905	—
Bombay	4	July 6, 1905	—
New York call money	2	—	—

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	July 15, 1905.	July 7, 1905.	June 30, 1905.	July 15, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£46,971,166	£46,856,208	£46,847,791	£48,113,625
Silver reserve	12,955,958	13,008,208	13,073,125	12,788,541
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,830,583	1,911,375	1,868,125	1,706,250
Note circulation	65,574,333	66,400,666	67,688,166	67,493,250
Bills discounted	12,078,833	13,026,000	13,718,875	10,400,375

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	July 15, 1905.	July 8, 1905.	July 1, 1905.	July 16, 1904.
Specie	£44,032,000	£42,194,000	£42,948,000	£51,060,000
Legal tenders	17,823,200	17,312,600	17,685,000	16,811,400
Loans and discounts ..	221,460,000	223,300,000	224,180,000	217,500,000
Circulation	9,831,400	9,772,000	9,707,400	7,831,200
Net deposits	231,800,000	231,660,000	233,200,000	235,840,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £3,905,200 against an excess last week of £1,591,600.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 15, 1905.	July 7, 1905.	June 30, 1905.	July 15, 1904.
Cash in hand	£48,702,500	£47,304,050	£47,539,550	£46,601,550
Bills discounted	46,047,100	51,065,650	56,770,050	39,274,550
Advances on stocks ..	3,148,900	4,574,960	9,149,360	3,304,600
Note circulation	67,443,950	71,911,650	77,740,100	64,807,350
Public deposits	26,388,850	26,336,300	28,955,050	25,262,100

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	July 13, 1905.	July 6, 1905.	June 29, 1905.	July 14, 1904.
Coin and bullion	£4,762,680	£4,890,520	£4,729,320	£4,530,560
Other securities	22,656,160	23,292,720	23,738,920	21,394,560
Note circulation	26,528,040	26,266,040	26,986,680	26,424,720
Deposits	2,955,440	3,901,960	3,442,040	2,711,360

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 15, 1905.	July 8, 1905.	July 1, 1905.	July 16, 1904.
Gold	£ 14,804,776	£ 14,855,044	£ 14,838,920	£ 14,732,672
Silver	22,304,446	22,233,005	22,481,238	20,330,397
Foreign Bills	1,638,464	1,660,771	1,744,978	1,675,164
Discount and Short Bills	46,420,267	46,613,929	46,283,832	38,655,862
Treasury Account	21,197,128	21,276,693	21,268,303	21,915,668
Notes in circulation	63,245,296	63,145,780	62,447,767	65,593,780
Current Account deposits	23,152,404	23,018,483	26,603,594	26,318,680
Dividends Interest	4,934,823	3,327,984	3,796,499	2,631,230
Government Securities	3,997,306	4,057,304	4,627,114	3,568,877

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 10, 1905.	May 31, 1905.	May 20, 1905.	June 10, 1904.
Reserve	£ 25,956,120	£ 25,980,044	£ 26,083,320	£ 26,102,040
State notes and small change	653,520	617,680	600,040	900,200
Discount and loans	10,953,200	11,156,400	10,427,160	10,026,600
Public stock and State loans	8,376,280	8,109,240	9,072,480	8,395,480
Credits	6,388,320	6,495,600	6,065,360	5,485,080
Note Circulation	34,217,280	34,336,240	33,597,000	31,913,760
Current account	3,804,400	4,254,840	3,820,600	3,956,360
Deposits	2,679,800	2,648,800	3,139,640	3,411,480

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 23, July 6, 1905.	June 16, 29, 1905.	June 1, 14, 1905.	June 23, July 6, 1904.
Gold	£ 91,475,215	£ 91,865,757	£ 94,539,435	£ 83,029,565
Silver and subsidiary coin	6,014,354	6,147,428	6,290,233	8,390,449
Advances and bills discounted	35,704,714	35,452,416	36,262,276	39,058,990
Securities belonging to the Bank	5,705,089	5,639,431	5,894,161	4,114,143
Notes in circulation	92,733,593	91,117,788	90,556,902	65,946,936
Deposits and current account	53,069,527	53,578,346	49,466,091	47,606,923
Treasury account	11,129,361	8,242,101	8,951,316	29,207,966

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	1 1/2
Three months	1 1/2
Four months	1 1/2
Six months	1 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	2 1/2
Four months	2 1/2
Six months	2 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate	2 1/2
" " short loan rates	3
Bankers' rate on deposits	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	1
" 7 and 14 days' notice	1 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	1
" for call loans	2-1

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

No doubt the defeat of the Government on Thursday night, portending, as it does, an early dissolution of Parliament, will accentuate the depression on the Stock Exchange, especially in the Kaffir Circus. A superstition obtains among the victims of that all-absorbing imposture that the advent of the Liberal party to power will have the effect of disorganising the gold mining industry, if by no other means, by stopping the further importation of Chinese coolies. It is a mere superstition; the Chinese have been a costly failure throughout, so much so that the bosses themselves have begun to curse the day they first saw pigtails on the Rand, but when once a wrong impression lays hold of the mind of the multitude, its dislodgment is difficult, often impossible. In reality, however, if this country were fortunate enough to fall upon a Government composed of honest, strong, and enlightened men, we care not of what party colour, a Government capable of understanding the South African problems, mining and political, and of grappling loyally with them, the day of hope might for the first time dawn for shareholders in that whirlpool of incompetence and corruption.

Hitherto, the bosses in South Africa, indescribably revolting human scum, perfectly without conscience, for the most part unendowed with any moral sense, of insatiable greed and perfect unscrupulousness, have had everything their own way. They have been free, not only to exhaust our resources in a ruinous war, but to form all manner of ingenious combinations with the objects of robbing the public, and conveying the

profits of the mines into their own pockets. Nothing approaching fair treatment has ever been accorded by these ravening adventurers either to the miners, the inhabitants of the territories they have settled on like locusts, or the mere shareholders in the companies they have concocted. If these last are ever to see one-tenth part of their money back, the bosses must be taken in hand and compelled to disgorge some of their dishonest gains. Labour at the mines must be regulated by enlightened principles, the plunder represented by illicit commissions stopped, and mining in all its departments brought to scientific, the only sure economic, perfection. A Government which would clear out the whole gang of harpy promoters with their financing companies, their 25 per cent. share of the profits, or shares in lieu thereof, their steals upon purchases and sales of all kinds for the mines, their "eye-picking" in the mines, their brutalising treatment of labour, their truck shops and styes called compounds, their sjamboks and clubs, their substitutions of brute labour for the more economical and trustworthy mechanical appliances, their intrigues and bandit raids upon the share markets, their lies about "finds," "reefs," and "important discoveries," with all the ferment of chicane in which the whole industry is now steeped, would deserve to be hailed as deliverer of the nation from a hellish nightmare. Such a Government we cannot hope to see, but any administration which curbs the insolent tyranny and devouring rapacity of the mine magnates and industrial monopolists now driving all South African interests towards chaos and irretrievable ruin, ought to be welcomed, and we assuredly cannot advise unhappy holders of Kaffir shares to fling their possessions away on the sentimentally induced depression which may follow the dismissal of Mr. Balfour and his horde of "yours obediently" to the gang by whom all our miseries have been created. Much better wait and see, with something of hope.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The cheerfulness noted a week ago did not last, and markets are once more down in the dumps. Politics, both home and foreign, were blamed for the relapse, as on the one hand there were fears that the withdrawal of the Redistribution proposals foreshadowed an early general election with its usual disturbance to business, and on the other peace between Japan and Russia seemed to recede once more into the background. The real cause of the depression, however, may be found in the fact that the public remains apathetic, and with

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 1/2	87 1/2	Consols (2 1/2 p.c. Money) ..	90 1/2	90 1/2
91 1/2	87 1/2	Do. Account (August 3) ..	90 1/2	90 1/2
90 1/2	86 1/2	2 1/2 p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89 1/2	89 1/2
100 1/2	99 1/2	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100 1/2	100 1/2
95 1/2	92 1/2	Irish Land (2 1/2)	92 1/2	92 1/2
101 1/2	96 1/2	Local Loans (3)	100	100
99 1/2	97 1/2	National War Loan (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	99	99
99 1/2	96 1/2	Do. Account (August 3) ..	99	99
101 1/2	97 1/2	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100	99 1/2
308	297	Bk. of England Stock (6 p.c.) ..	301 1/2	301 1/2
109	105	India 3 1/2 p.c. Stock red. 1931 ..	105	105 1/2
99 1/2	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948 ..	97	97 1/2
85 1/2	80 1/2	Do. 2 1/2 p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	81 1/2	81 1/2
66 1/2	65 1/2	Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65 1/2	65 1/2

the end of the month settlement approaching tired bulls amongst the professionals are closing their accounts, while there is also a good deal of realisation by speculators who have been caught in the Kaffir Circus, and are forced to throw out other securities in order to cover their losses. A firm of brokers caused themselves to be "hammered" this week, and although it was said that this step was taken in consequence of one of their bankers refusing to continue a loan, and that their commitments in the House were small, the incident did not tend to improve the condition of affairs. The only really notable exception to the general gloom was the Foreign Railway section, where considerable activity developed in Argentine issues, and prices were bid up until something very like a "boom" set in.

or two Chinese things were also firm, and Russians were steady. Paris has done very little one way or the other all week, but Portuguese, Spanish, and Turkish

Dividend announcements for the past half-year have given the Home Railway market something to talk about, but had very little effect otherwise, as the speculative interest in these stocks nowadays is extremely small. First in the field was the Brighton Company, with a distribution of $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum, or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than for the corresponding half of 1904. This, however, had been expected from the decrease of

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	101 ¹ / ₂
102 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100
106 ¹ / ₂	101	101	Do. 6 p.c. Funding	101 ¹ / ₂
104 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	101	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101 ¹ / ₂
93 ¹ / ₂	93 ¹ / ₂	91	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	92
89 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	89 ¹ / ₂
90 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	89 ¹ / ₂
104	99 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs.	102 ¹ / ₂
89 ¹ / ₂	82 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	86 ¹ / ₂
99 ¹ / ₂	94	97 ¹ / ₂	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c.	97 ¹ / ₂
105 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	104 ¹ / ₂
88 ¹ / ₂	82	85 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902	85 ¹ / ₂
102	93 ¹ / ₂	101	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	99 ¹ / ₂
94 ¹ / ₂	87 ¹ / ₂	—	Chilian 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1885	94
95 ¹ / ₂	80 ¹ / ₂	95	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1886	94
96	88 ¹ / ₂	94	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1895	94
101 ¹ / ₂	96	100	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	100
97 ¹ / ₂	91 ¹ / ₂	94	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	94 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	104 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	104
98 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98 ¹ / ₂
104 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	104	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	104 ¹ / ₂
59 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	56	Costa Rica A	55
51 ¹ / ₂	46	42	Do. B	46
44 ¹ / ₂	46	42 ¹ / ₂	Colombian External	43 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	104	107	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	107
107	104	105 ¹ / ₂	Egypt Unified 4 p.c.	105 ¹ / ₂
103 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂	Do. 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. pref.	102
106 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	103	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. State Domain ..	104
91 ¹ / ₂	88 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	German 3 p.c.	89
47 ¹ / ₂	47	50 ¹ / ₂	Greek, 1884	50 ¹ / ₂
54 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	52 ¹ / ₂	Do. Monopoly Loan	52 ¹ / ₂
42 ¹ / ₂	38 ¹ / ₂	41 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Renties	41 ¹ / ₂
52 ¹ / ₂	47	—	Do. Funding	50 ¹ / ₂
100 ¹ / ₂	97	97 ¹ / ₂	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	97 ¹ / ₂
106	102 ¹ / ₂	104	Italian 5 p.c.	104
101 ¹ / ₂	88 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Japan 5 p.c.	100 ¹ / ₂
101 ¹ / ₂	88 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. New	100 ¹ / ₂
89 ¹ / ₂	76 ¹ / ₂	87 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	87 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	97	103	Do. 6 p.c.	104
104 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	103 ¹ / ₂
70 ¹ / ₂	64 ¹ / ₂	67 ¹ / ₂	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	67 ¹ / ₂
91 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	86 ¹ / ₂
80 ¹ / ₂	76	80	Spanish 4 p.c.	80 ¹ / ₂
95 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	90
103	100	101 ¹ / ₂	Turks 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Tribute	101 ¹ / ₂
105	100 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	103 ¹ / ₂
89 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	87 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Unified	88 ¹ / ₂
73	63 ¹ / ₂	69 ¹ / ₂	Uruguay 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c.	70
94	80 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c.	93
48 ¹ / ₂	42 ¹ / ₂	46 ¹ / ₂	Venezuelan, 1881	47 ¹ / ₂

over £16,000 shown by the weekly traffics, and as the carry forward was up £7,000 the market considered the result as fairly satisfactory. It was quite different with the Metropolitan, which pays only 2½ per cent., against 3 per cent., and carries forward £6,000, against fully £21,000. A year ago, too, £11,500 was put to reserve, but this time that fund has been drawn upon for large sums to meet the cost of electric

traction experiments. The forecast of the City and South London distribution put the figure at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the company gave the market a pleasant surprise by paying $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more, and the stock was lifted 1, a gain which was retained throughout the rest of the week. On Wednesday the Great Eastern declared a dividend of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with about £20,000 carried forward, which was $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. better than had been looked for, as the gross traffics showed a decrease of £74,000, while the reduction in the rate represents £19,200 less. The District distribution is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the Central London and the Tilbury and Southend both maintain last year's rate. Apart from these declarations the market has been heavy, as stocks were persistently offered from all over the country, and nothing seemed able to resist the pressure to sell. Midland Deferred and North-Eastern were amongst the principal sufferers, but Great Western, Brighton ordinary, and South-Eastern ordinary and deferred were all very flat, and with the exception of Central London and Hull and Barnsley, practically all the movements were adverse.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
198	128	190	195	198
280	144	—	260	280
114	105	111	112	113
125	113	120	120	121
84	77	84	84	84
148	134	138	140	142
130	127	129	129	129
127	117	122	125	127
118	108	118	118	118
109	99	107	107	107
111	101	105	107	107
108	93	93	96	99
168	161	164	165	165
108	103	107	107	107
135	126	129	131	133
90	79	80	81	85
106	101	102	101	106
94	88	91	91	92
70	60	60	64	65
35	28	28	28	28
7	5	6	6	6
11	10	11	11	12
107	104	106	106	106
90	72	81	81	84
68	52	58	58	58
60	50	68	69	69
96	86	93	94	94
110	108	—	108	108
108	104	—	105	105
29	19	22	24	23
121	103	111	114	113
57	36	43	46	44
69	48	—	50	54
14	10	13	13	13
198	169	164	182	182
198	178	195	195	196
166	122	155	160	166

Very little space need be devoted to Yankee Rails, as interest in them on this side remains insignificant, and the ups and downs recorded daily are merely the product of manipulation in New York. Wall Street has been incapacitated by the heat wave this week, and has moved prices in a very languid fashion with the result that the net changes consist mainly of fractions. Union Pacific were sent flying up at one time in anticipation of the dividend announcement on Thursday. This was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, or an increase of 1 per cent., but it had been fully discounted and a good deal of profit-taking followed. Southern Pacific and Milwaukee, however, held their improvements to the end, but Baltimore went back. Towards the close Wall Street turned its attention to out-of-the-way things like Great Northern (U.S.) and Northern Pacific but the move did not help the general list at all.

Business in Grand Trunk stocks was stimulated by dividend prospects, and the second preference in particular was in strong demand. The increase of £4,000 in the traffic return went against an increase of £10,000 a year ago, and was said to be as good as had been expected, but profit-taking followed and quotations dropped back a little. A renewal of support from the provinces, however, caused the second preference to harden again, and it finished with a gain of 1, while the first preference was $\frac{1}{2}$ up. The ordinary stock, on the other hand, lost a fraction or two, and Canadian Pacific shares were also weak.

Interest in Argentine Railway stocks has revived

in anticipation of the dividend announcements, and although they could not altogether escape the dulness which afflicted other markets, the leading issues all show very substantial improvements. Antofagasta stocks still continue to attract a good deal of attention, and the deferred has risen to 280, while the ordinary, after touching 200, finishes very little below that figure. United Railways of the Havana preference stock also holds its own well and Brazilian and Uruguayan things were all substantially better. The whole Foreign Railway market, in fact, was good, with the solitary exception of Mexican Railway stocks, which fell back on persistent profit taking.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	17	192	19	17
71	46	—	47	46
566	505	—	540	540
27	23	—	23	23
28	29	—	28	28
3	3	—	3	3
68	52	54	54	54
35	19	20	20	19
105	100	—	100	100
78	58	—	61	58
6	5	5	5	5
7	6	6	6	6
6	5	5	5	5
2	1	24	6	6
3	2	—	1	1
5	5	—	2	2
11	9	—	5	5
5	4	5	10	10
502	483	495	5	5
1	1	12	495	495
1	1	12	1	1
1	1	22	1	1
8	5	5	5	6
13	10	—	12	12
4	3	4	4	4
1	1	26	1	1
111	106	108	108	108
1	1	20	1	1
1	1	52	5	5
1	1	22	1	1
7	5	—	6	6
15	13	8	1	1
1	1	10	14	14
1	1	17	1	1
104	102	103	103	103
77	49	69	68	68
48	38	43	43	43
108	99	103	103	104
11	10	—	9	9
11	10	—	11	11
8	7	6	7	7
13	10	10	10	11
104	95	—	99	100
134	126	—	129	131
3	3	3	3	3
5	3	3	3	3
1	1	1	1	1
12	12	—	1	1
11	9	9	9	9
39	26	35	35	35
106	93	105	105	105
2	2	2	2	2
14	11	—	12	12
231	214	—	223	224
35	28	—	30	35
8	8	—	8	8
109	101	106	106	106
17	10	14	10	10
147	134	143	142	144
14	13	14	14	14
113	100	103	109	108
14	13	13	14	13
10	9	9	9	9
8	7	8	8	8
129	110	—	125	125
10	9	—	9	9

Miscellaneous markets remain in a very neglected and comatose state, and dealings this week have again been confined mainly to special securities. London Docks deferred was sold on the recent rise, and relapsed sharply. National Telephone issues, too, went back in the early part of the week on realisations, but hardened again later. Hudson's Bays have been firm and Peruvians were a shade harder, but Pekin Syndicate went back. Breweries continue weak, with Ind Coope, Watney Combe, and Allsopp issues particularly flat. Gordon Hotels showed a slight recovery, James Nelson were a little more active, but Catering shares as a whole were idle. Eastern Telegraph ordinary stock improved 2 on the fine report issued on Thursday, but other securities in this section were quiet, while amongst Iron, Coal, and Steel, Cammell

Laird shares were about the only ones to show any signs of life, and they went up on buying from the provinces. The report of the B. E. T. Company was not much liked and some rather persistent selling followed its publication. Electric Light things recovered a little from the scare over the Monopoly Powers Bill, and Nitrates were rather better, but Russian Oils weakened on the Baku Company's report and the accounts of the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in that district.

To-morrow is a Stock Exchange holiday, and Monday begins the end of the month settlement with the mining carry over; naturally, therefore, business was as nearly as might be at a standstill. At first Consols slipped back a little on the political outlook, but the decline never went far, and was about wiped out before the close. Kaffir shares even steadied slightly, and Paris absorbed all the Rio Tinto shares offered, fairly mastering the English selling, which appeared to be free enough when the price touched 65. Irish Land stock fell $\frac{1}{2}$ on the failure of the land purchase scheme.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The little spurt in the Kaffir Circus that gamblers witnessed with gladness a week ago and which many declared to be the first herald of the coming boom proved, like so many past spasms in the same spot, to be short but sweet for those who snatched their profits on the sudden rise. For during the past week the South African section has lapsed into its now normal listless condition and prices have moved backwards. No support has come from any direction, except perhaps a little from the "shop," otherwise quotations would probably have fallen more heavily as a result of the continued liquidation. Paris has done little, and the public on this side still show more eagerness to clear out than to load up. The Wernher-Beit Trust has issued its first report, but it tells us very little and leaves us designedly in the dark as to the degree of support it has actually given to the market, though it is obvious that it has swallowed much of the paper which plungers and investors have thrown over. Naturally the market has been upset by the developments in the international and national political situation. The hopes created by the appointment of M. Witte as Russia's principal plenipotentiary at the Peace Conference have been weakened by the various statements in the Press that Russia herself is not hopeful that peace will result, that she fears Japan's terms will be unacceptable, that the invasion of Saghalien has put a fresh difficulty in the way, and so on. Again, fears have been aroused of an approaching dissolution of Parliament, though, according to Mr. Balfour, the Government will hang on as long as it possibly can. Further dividends have been announced, but they are disregarded, and do not help the Circus one bit. The following list brings up the distributions to date:—

	Dividend.	Issued Capitals.	Amounts.
	%	£	£
Glen Deep	10	600,000	60,000
Nourse Deep	15	450,000	67,500
Jumpers	20	100,000	20,000
			147,500

The Rhodesian section has been in a like condition to the Transvaal one—business at a standstill and prices weakened all round. Several companies have issued their reports during the past week, but they are not of a character to stimulate the slightest interest in the moribund gold mining industry of the country. Each company, as we show in our analyses of their reports, is in a very distressful position and even the best—the Surprise Gold Mining Company—can only show a big loss after a long period of crushing. Claims are still being abandoned everywhere as worthless, so that in time every inch of the country will have been looked at and found valueless.

Nor is there anything pleasing to say of the West African and Egyptian markets, in neither of which is there a genuine customer to be seen. As we show elsewhere, even Egyptian finance companies are getting rid of their holdings in allied mining concerns as quickly as they can, and if they will sacrifice such assets in a depressed market it speaks eloquently of their opinion of such shares as unremunerative assets.

The West Australian market has attracted but slight attention. The principal event of the week affecting this section has been the publication of the annual report of the Associated Gold Mines, which has naturally caused much disappointment. Shareholders will certainly be dissatisfied with the year's results, and with the disclosures made by the new manager, who plainly

says that the best output of the mine has been forced in the past. We deal elsewhere with the report and accounts, also with Mr. Roberts' recent cable, at some length. Candidly, we do not like the look of things, and the bewildering changes from day to day. They are too remarkable and wonderful to be dismissed with the mere ejaculation, "What an extraordinary coincidence, to be sure!" We cannot help suspicions that there is some design in it all. Mr. Roberts' cable is as optimistic and hopeful as his report was pessimistic and discouraging—and why his anxiety to have it issued as a supplement to the annual report? Not only does he tumble on the Iron Duke lode and actually recognise its features, but at the same moment he sees gold glittering all around him, improvements everywhere. Yes, yes. Western Australia is a land of wonders, but we cannot forget its evil reputation for scandals. Surely it isn't possible for a man with Mr. Roberts' power of vision to cry later on: "By Jove! it isn't the Iron Duke lode, after all! It looked amazingly like it when I first clapped my eyes on it, but more minute inspection proves it to be an alien chute. I'm sorry, but I'm not to blame, for any man would have been deceived at a first look, the similarity was so wonderful." For we remember it was declared to be cut in May, 1904; therefore, with all due respect to the new manager, we cannot but feel sceptical. Experts have been deceived ere now, and Western Australia is a tricky goldfield. If we wait patiently enough we shall see more wonders yet.

The rise in the price of the metal has sent up the quotations of Rio Tintos and other copper shares, but Tyee coppers have slumped on the pessimistic statements made at the meeting. Mount Lyells have improved on the good results reported at the lowest level. Esperanzas have been in demand and Broken Hill Proprietary shares have been strong.

CROWN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY.—As readers are well aware, this is one of the great outcrops of the Wernher-Beit group of companies, and it has for many years past been one of the largest dividend payers on the Rand. It still continues to earn substantial profits, but, unfortunately, its life will be short, and shareholders will not have a much longer run for their money. In the financial year to the end of March last 224,838 tons were crushed by the 120 stamp battery, and the output was as follows:—From the mill, 80,505 ozs.; from concentrates, 12,806 ozs.; from sands, 28,396 ozs.; slimes current, 7,613 ozs.; making a total of 129,320 ozs., averaging 11.50 dwts. per ton. In addition the treatment of accumulated slimes yielded 7,545 ozs. and 7,901 ozs. came from the dump, thus increasing the output to 144,675 ozs. Compared with the results of the preceding year, there was a decrease in the recovery of .837 dwt. per ton milled, but this was more than balanced by the increased recovery from the accumulated slimes and the residue dump treatment, amounting to .976 dwt. per ton, so there was really a net increase of .139 dwt. per ton. The revenue from the gold won was £614,539, equal to nearly £2 14s. 8d. per ton, or an increase of slightly over 7d. per ton. Total working costs amounted to £340,564, or a little over £1 10s. 3d. per ton, leaving a gross profit of £273,975, averaging £1 4s. 4d. per ton. The balance brought in was £76,580, £1,719 was received from interest and £20 from share warrant fees, making a total of £352,294. Two dividends of 90 per cent. and 100 per cent. respectively, a total of 190 per cent., were declared, taking £228,000; £27,086 is put to reserve, the Government tax on profits takes £27,518, and there is left a credit of £69,890 to take to the next accounts. As usual, a strong balance-sheet is issued. A correspondent writes to us to say he cannot follow the calculations we made of the value of a Crown Reef share in our issue of June 10. Giving the mine a life of six years, we estimated that the aggregate return on an outlay of £100, at 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. yield, would be £81. This we increased to £93 by valuing the assets at a break-up price of £12 per share, which was obviously a slip of the pen for £12 per cent., thus explaining the origin of our correspondent's doubts. But a life of six years was evidently too favourable an estimate, for at the annual meeting of the company, held last month, the chairman said:—"It is clear that we have a life of more than four years, possibly more than five." Therefore, the actual return on an investment of £100 would be between £60 and £70, but even if we valued the assets at £50 per cent. it would not be a remunerative investment, looking at all the risks involved. For we merely put a fancy price on the company's deep level and bewaar-plaatsen claims, for as no man knows their value only a fancy price is possible. They may be worth much more than £12 per cent. or much less; that can only be determined when, if ever, they are developed and worked. In his speech at the recent meeting the chairman said, in reference to these matters:—"We have what your board considers a strong claim to the minerals under, at any rate, a portion of our bewaar-plaatsen. . . . It appears to me that we shall be suffering a grave injustice if our rights to the minerals under these bewaar-plaatsen are completely ignored." So it would be prudent not to take such risky assets as these into an investor's computation.

NEW AFRICAN COMPANY.—In past years we have severely criticised the financial methods of the directors of this company for crediting the profit and loss account with share appreciations, thus showing fictitious profits. We are glad to learn that they have now reformed their practices, though there is still room for improvement here and there. The report and accounts cover a period of eighteen months, the directors bringing them up to June 30 in order that the accounts may coincide with those of the other concerns with which the company is working in association. The profit on realisations amounted to £42,675 compared with £8,515, and as interest and

dividends yielded £10,303 and sundries £242 the total income was £53,221. As the outgoings were moderate the net profit was £41,469, which compares with a loss of £31,936, the directors in the previous year having to debit the profit and loss account with £32,362 for depreciation on shares, debentures, and participations. A dividend is recommended at the rate of 1s. 6d. per share against nothing in 1903. When we look at the balance-sheet we find a premium account of £129,403, from which is deducted £29,411, "dealt with at December 31 under depreciation, now written off in consequence of alteration of valuation of assets to basis of cost price in respect of old ventures abandoned and shares considered to have permanently depreciated in value." Also further amount written off in respect of the above, £11,164, making a total of £40,576 and reducing the premiums to £88,827. In this wise losses are met practically out of capital, hence the convenience of premiums when you can get the public to pay them. But why write down old abandoned ventures to cost price when they have no value? Why carry such lumber in the balance-sheet? Though bills payable and creditors have been substantially reduced to £2,002 and £4,337 respectively, there is a new liability of £55,250, consisting of loans. The net profit and the credit brought from 1903 total £60,484, but from this is deducted £28,443 stated to be appreciation in excess of depreciation on shares included in the account up to December 31, 1903, now written back. In other words, the above credit is now debited with profits previously taken credit for, but never realised, leaving a balance of £32,041 out of which to pay the dividend, which will absorb over £29,000. Cash has dropped from £51,638 to £26,245, but contango and other loans are £85,743 against £24,363, whilst debtors owe £111,989. Debentures, bank, railway, and other shares are given a book value of £127,834, and mining, land, copper, and other assortments are put at £306,315. Quoted shares are declared to show on balance a market price in excess of the above.

FAMATINA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.—This company was registered in January, 1903, and the directors issue their report and accounts from its incorporation up to December 31. Operations have consisted chiefly in clearing out old workings, improving the condition of the mines, "which had never been worked in a systematic and miner-like manner," and preparing for the proper development of the various lodes. Considerable money has also been spent, the report says, in consolidating the properties, the acquisition of further options, and generally for the purpose of the company. In addition to the properties taken over from the Famatina Copper and Gold Syndicate, a further large group of properties has been acquired. The total amount received in cash for shares in the company was £54,268, but it soon became evident that further capital on a larger scale would be required. Accordingly the directors created £100,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures, of which £21,900 was subscribed. Later, they created income bonds for £50,000, and £30,000 was applied for and allotted, hence the total funds available for all purposes have amounted to £106,168. In November last Captain McTaggart was approached with a view to his accepting the position of director and chairman of the company. To this he assented provisionally, but seeing that further capital would be needed he considered that the value of the mines should be ascertained beyond the possibility of doubt, and required that the firm of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons should make a thorough inspection of them, his definite acceptance of office to be contingent on a satisfactory report from them. The report has since been received, is considered highly satisfactory by the directors, and development work is now proceeding on the lines laid down therein. Messrs. John Taylor and Sons advise that a sum of £30,000 should be provided at once, to be devoted exclusively to development and opening up the mines in depth, and that provision should be made for finding an additional £70,000 for the purpose of erecting a smelter and for still further exploring, developing, and equipping the mines. So the directors propose to give immediate effect to this recommendation.

RHODESIA GOLDFIELDS.—The directors lament the depression in the Rhodesian market throughout 1904, and the consequent depreciation in the value of the company's investments—£396,502 against £385,651 in 1903. Revenue from agency fees, dividends, interest, rents, transfer fees, etc., amounted to £20,000, and after deducting outgoings there was a loss of £27,078 on the year's operations. It is interesting to note that the profit and loss account is debited with £21,086 loss on securities realised, and with £3,659 outlay on options abandoned. The above debit has been written off by transferring £19,887 from reserve and deducting the credit balance at the end of 1903, whilst the rest of the reserve fund—£85,069—has been utilised in writing down the book value of the "investments" from £540,898 to £455,829, their market value at the end of the year being £144,396. Creditors for loans are owed £32,867, and other liabilities amount to £2,342. On the other side debtors appear for £21,357, and cash stands at £5,343, thus showing a weak financial position, for there is also a debenture debt of £84,400. Out of an authorised capital of £1,000,000 a little over half was issued at the end of the year. Contingent liabilities totalled £60,561, but a note states that certain shares upon which £41,700 was unpaid capital have since been sold.

PEKIN SYNDICATE.—A circular to the shareholders intimates that the accounts of this syndicate, made up to the end of last year, are now being audited, and will be submitted to a general meeting to be held in the autumn. Meanwhile, the directors consider the news received from the mines as satisfactory, the

manager being confident that he will reach coal by the end of October next.

BONSOR GOLD MINING COMPANY.—As we stated a year ago the directors of this company had let the mine on tribute, the date when it was taken over by the lessees, the Rhodesia Reduction Company, being May, 1904, for a period of two years, on payment of a royalty of 10 per cent. on the gross output. In December last the agreement was modified, the period of the lease being extended to three years, from May, 1904, and the lessees agreeing to pay a royalty on a sliding scale varying from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent., according to the value of the ore crushed. The profit and loss account covers the period from May 10, 1904, to the end of December last. Royalties on proceeds of gold realisations amounted only to £519, and a royalty of 2s. 6d. per ton on 24,972 tons of North Bonsor ore crushed by the lessees yielded £3,121, making a total of £3,641, whilst transfer fees brought in £12. Expenditure, including £7,483 for depreciation, £5,112 for interest, and £1,325 for development redemption, totalled £15,926, hence there was a loss of £12,273 to add to the previous debit of £93,111, increasing the accumulation to £105,384. The expenditure incurred by the company during the period when the mill was not working has been capitalised, and as this amounts to £63,087 there is an aggregate of £168,472 to be wiped off before dividends can be thought of. But long before then it will be swollen by further losses. Meanwhile liabilities are also growing. Creditors are owed £18,329, there is a bank overdraft of £12,205, and £109,444 has been borrowed from Willoughby's Consolidated. How is the company to get rid of these heavy burdens and find capital to develop the mine in future years? Only by reconstruction if the shareholders will consent to pay up. Read and mark this sentence written by the consulting engineer:—"The success so far met with by the tributors is not such as to make it certain that they will carry on work for the full period of their lease, and unless ore of higher value is found by them it is improbable that they will continue working beyond the middle of the year." What prospects are there for a mine which even the tributors may not find profitable?

NORTH BONSOR GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This company's mine has also been leased to tributors for three years from May, 1904. It is admitted, however, that the results of leasing the mine up to the beginning of December last were disappointing owing to the average yield per ton being a dwts. below what was expected to be recovered. In the middle of that month the tributors encountered a rich shoot of gold which brought the yield to 13.4 dwts. per ton. This is at present being worked, but as the engineer is of opinion that the shoot is of limited extent, the increased revenue, it is pointed out, received by the company in the past two months cannot be counted on as certain to continue. Development work has not been resumed since the mine was closed down in May, 1903. No profit and loss account is issued. Net expenditure, less £4 received from transfer fees, was £4,945, making the total £8,899. The tribute revenue, £1,571, has been utilised in writing down development and general mine expenses. Current liabilities are £2,522, against cash £204, debtors £27, and bullion in transit £1,266. Prospects must be considered gloomy.

SURPRISE GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The report and accounts of this Rhodesian company cover a period of two years to the end of 1904. After a long suspension, crushing was restarted in May, 1903, and up to December 31 last the 20-stamp mill dealt with 59,372 tons, yielding 20,136 ozs. of gold, equal to only 6.78 dwts. per ton. There were tailings on hand at the end of the year estimated at 56,271 tons of an average value of 3.6 dwts. per ton. Sales of gold realised £77,171, the customs ore revenue was £469, and transfer fees gave £49, but as expenses and depreciation absorbed £85,081, there was a loss of £7,395 to take to the balance-sheet. The reserve account of £27,328, consisting of premiums, has all been utilised in the reduction of development and general outlay account. Liabilities to creditors amount to £9,492, and the company has £2,715 in cash and some bullion in transit worth £3,169. As regards the future it is to the credit of the management that the working costs last year were reduced from 17s. 10d. per ton to 16s. 8d. Boring operations were carried out with the object of intersecting the reef below the faulted area, and the directors announce that the reef was recovered last February at a vertical depth of 652 ft. from the surface. The engineer considers that the main shaft may have to be sunk a further 300 ft. Recent developments above the second level are also declared to be most encouraging, large bodies of payable ore having been opened up at both the north and south ends of the line of reef. So we shall see what the company will be capable of doing in future years, though dividends, if ever earned, look some distance off.

DUNRAVEN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This Rhodesian company issues no profit and loss account, the report and balance-sheet covering the two years 1903 and 1904. In April, 1904, an agreement was made under which 30 of the company's 75 claims were leased for 2½ years at a royalty to the company of 12½ per cent. on the gross output. The tributing syndicate's lease does not expire until October, 1906, during which period, it is pointed out, there is the possibility that the mill will be kept running on low grade ore, and it is calculated that the company's royalty, together with the profits from the treatment of the tailings, will bring in an annual revenue of from £2,000 to £2,500. As the expenditure in the two years amounted to £18,592, such a tiny revenue will be far short of enabling it to pay its way. Cash at present exceeds the current liabilities, but it cannot do so for long. The directors are merely waiting

for the tributors to turn something up in the shape of a reef, but they are hardly likely to be so lucky.

CONSOLIDATED MINES SELECTION COMPANY.—This company's principal income in the twelve months to June 30 came from the sale of shares, the profit realised on this amounting to £71,502. Interest and dividends gave £8,479, and the accounts are also credited with £981 to be received from dividends. With the addition of £168 from transfer fees the total revenue was £81,132. Administration expenses took £14,733 and income tax £1,407, leaving a profit of £64,991, increased to £71,231 by the addition of the sum of £6,240 from the previous year. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on the old capital, and a similar dividend is recommended to be paid on the increased capital, the latter having been raised during the year to £600,000 by the issue of 100,000 shares at a premium of 10s. per share. This issue was guaranteed by the Bank für Handel und Industrie, Berlin, for a consideration of 37,500 shares. The balance of 62,500 shares was offered to the shareholders, and all were taken up with the exception of 6,454 shares, which were taken by the above bank, the premium, amounting to £50,000, being added to the reserve. After paying the final dividend a balance of £16,231 will be left to take to the next accounts, subject to the additional remuneration due to the directors. The reserve fund now amounts to £110,000, and is invested in the business of the company. It is explained in the report that during the year the company directed its attention almost exclusively to South African business and in particular to the Far Eastern district of the Rand. Interests are now held in the Transvaal Coal Trust, the Brakpan Mines, and the Eastern Exploration Syndicate, whilst the management of the Geduld Deep has been taken over. These assets, however, are in such an early stage of development that they will have to be nursed for an indefinite period. Until they actually become remunerative it is impossible to compute their potential value to the company. The same may be said of the holdings in such concerns as the Angelo Deep, Driefontein Deep, City Deep, New Era, and the Wolhuter Deep. In the balance-sheet the shares in South African companies are given a book value of £478,205; those in Australian companies, £6,058; American and British Columbian companies, £27,819; and New Zealand companies, £769. Sundry debtors and advances amount to £155,917 and cash totals £182,650, against current liabilities of £137,148. It is intimated that there is a contingent liability on certain of the shareholdings in respect of uncalled capital.

ROAD BLOCK GOLD MINES OF INDIA.—A most disappointing report is issued by the directors of this Indian company for the twelve months to the end of March. Mining operations were restricted to the exploration of the "Champion" lode, but the latter proved to be of very low grade. As the results of the exploration work were so disappointing it was thought desirable to consult Mr. Thomas Richards and Mr. E. R. George in order to obtain their opinions as to whether or not the prospects justified further expenditure. After examining the mine these engineers advised that they were unable to recommend the continuance of explorations, so mining operations were stopped last October. Instead of liquidating the company the directors thought the interests of the shareholders would be best served if a favourable option could be secured over another mining area in Southern India. Negotiations were entered upon, and proposals have been submitted in respect to a property called "Jelishirur," in the Dharwar district, Bombay Presidency. The draft of an agreement between the Sangli Gold Mines and the Road Block Company with regard to this property is to be explained, at the forthcoming meeting, whilst a resolution is to be submitted approving of the agreement. The option is to be for a period of two years, for which the company is to pay £50 and expend in prospecting and testing not less than £5,000. Costs incurred from the date of incorporation of the company to the end of March amounted to £13,763, against which £720 was received from rents, interest, and transfer fees. Out of an authorised capital of £180,000 122,349 shares have been issued, on which 16s. 6d. per share has been credited as paid and 2s. 6d. per share called up, leaving a liability of 1s. per share.

NEW KEMPINKOTE GOLD FIELD.—The report and accounts of this Indian company cover eighteen months to the end of 1904. Expenditure in India and England in that period amounted to £2,820, against which £194 was received from transfer fees, interest, rents, &c., leaving a balance of expenditure of £2,626. Cash resources and debtors total £11,415 against £1,523 owing to sundry creditors. As the scheme for the systematic opening up of the main lode would have involved an outlay which the directors did not see their way to undertake, especially in the sinking of a shaft, an arrangement has been made with the Mysore Company to continue, at the expense of the Kempinkote, the drive south at the 1,330 ft. level, to enable the company to determine whether or not to exercise the option of purchase granted by the Gold Fields of Mysore on an area of 283 acres, into which the extension of the level would enter. According to the agreement between the New Kempinkote and the Gold Fields of Mysore the option is to hold for two years; the Kempinkote is to spend not less than £5,000 in development work, and in the event of the option being exercised the Gold Fields of Mysore is to receive £5,000 in cash and 20 per cent. of the capital in fully-paid shares of a new company to be formed by the New Kempinkote. Thus the exercise of the option would necessitate the formation of a new company to provide the necessary capital for shaft-sinking and opening up the reef in depth.

WAIHI GRAND JUNCTION GOLD COMPANY.—As this New Zealand company receives no income from gold mining, and as its revenue from other sources is minute it continues to make losses. During 1904 discount, rent, and transfer fees brought in £94, interest £62, and transfer fees £107, but the expenditure amounted to £14,524, accordingly the debit was £14,261, thus increasing the balance-sheet deficit to £89,915. Cash totals £2,608 and there are loans of £8,589 to set against a sum of £1,768 owing to creditors in New Zealand and London. Development work is being carried out, and preparations are being made for the erection of the battery, so it will be some time yet before crushing can begin. But as funds will be required to complete the equipment and bring the mine to the producing stage the directors have decided to issue 20,000 of the reserve shares at a premium of £2.

NEW OPTIONS.—A circular from the directors announces that the latter have entered into negotiations for the acquisition of a one-half interest in an option over about 1,000 square miles of territory in the Sudan, upon which ancient gold mining sites have been discovered and through which territory the Sudan Government railway runs. It is intended to carry on prospecting operations in conjunction with the Mysore Reefs and General Exploration Company, which holds the other half interest. The option has been granted by the Sudan Gold Field, Limited, and gives the sole right until July, 1907, to search for and develop mines and to form a new company. An extraordinary meeting is to be held on the 24th inst. to consider resolutions for reconstructing the company.

NEW SOUTH WALES MINERAL RETURNS.—The value of the minerals exported in the half-year to the end of June from New South Wales was:—Silver, £23,746; silver-lead, £1,179, 981; copper, £234,147; tin, £138,387; coal, £667,615; total, £2,243,876, compared with £2,038,772 in the corresponding period of 1904.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets

* The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

In the past half-year this company's gross receipts were down £47,250 at £2,686,435, and working expenses diminished £26,778 to £1,754,399, the ratio being 65.3 per cent., against 65.15 per cent. in the corresponding half of 1904. Stagnant business is thus indicated, and the directors say that it is due in the main to the general depression of trade in the country. Season tickets and parcels alone showed any increase, and the aggregate of such growth was barely £7,400. Passenger receipts fell off about £22,000, merchandise about £26,000, cattle nearly £3,000, and coal £8,000. Out of the diminished net revenue of £135,650 the directors, after meeting all preferential charges, are able to pay a dividend only at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum or ¼ per cent. per annum less than for the corresponding half-year, leaving £20,429 to be carried forward against £16,380. Continental traffic showed an increase of £656 in receipts and a decrease of £2,815 in expenses, but, nevertheless, the net profit was under £12,000 on a gross overturn of nearly £124,000. No items of the working expenditure show important changes, but maintenance of way cost about £10,000 less and locomotive power about £9,500 less. Traffic receipts were nearly £2,000 up, and general charges rose £3,500. Rates and taxes went up, too, by almost £4,000. The best thing about the accounts is the smallness of the new capital expenditure, which was only £80,786 in the half-year, and the capital account is now overdrawn by only £966,520, which represents a comfortable position, since the total of trust funds, reserves, and so on in the hands of the company is £1,753,000. There is thus £786,000 left and another issue of fresh capital ought not to be imminent, for the projected capital expenditure in the current half-year is only £150,000 all told. Dividends on all preference stocks will be paid on August 1 and on the ordinary stock on August 15.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY COMPANY.

In the June half-year this company's gross income was £1,560,833, a decrease of £6,989 on the corresponding half-year. Working expenses came to £967,862 or £1,446 more, so that the percentage of expenses to gross receipts was 62.01 per cent., compared with 61.64 per cent. The directors say that the coaching traffic was injuriously affected by the tramways competition in suburban areas, and by the inclement weather during Easter and Whitsuntide. Goods traffic was hurt by the stagnation in the building trade and the smaller quantity of coal carried. Expenses went up because repairs and renewals of rolling stock were pressed forward, and because rates and taxes were higher. During the half-year £145,133 was spent on capital account, no less than £73,689 of it on the enlargement of Victoria Station and the widening of the line between Victoria and Battersea. In the current half-year the expenditure is put at £293,459, of which £100,000 is roughly set down to Victoria Station and approaches. No important changes occurred in the details of the working expenditure, but locomotive power was up about £3,000 and traffic expenses down nearly £4,500. Rates and taxes rose fully £4,760 to a total of

£106,884, which seems heavy. All classes of passengers fell off in yield during the half-year, and to some extent deservedly so, for the company is not liberal in its treatment of the travelling public, and obstinately maintains high charges to its own hurt. Slowly the preference charges increase, to the detriment of the ordinary stock, but in the past half-year the amount available for dividend was £12,000 down, partly because the net revenue fell off some £8,000. As the instalments on the second preference and new ordinary stocks are paid up the burden of capital calling for dividends is certain to increase, and there is nothing in the figures before us to inspire confidence of better times in the future for the ordinary stockholder. The balance-sheet shows an overdraft on capital account of £1,224,105, which is £12,000 more than the entire amount of the reserve funds, provident and pension funds, and savings bank funds in the custody of the board. As only £1,000,000 of new stock altogether was created in February, half in 5 per cent. preference, half in ordinary, it follows that before long the company must have more money. It has only £328,000 of borrowing powers left available, and with that added in there will still be shortage, inasmuch as £282,000 has already been received on account of the new stocks just created. The dividend as already announced is at the rate of 3½ per cent. upon the ordinary undivided stock for the half-year, as against 3½ per cent. twelve months back. This means a full dividend on the 6 per cent. preferred ordinary stock, with 5s. per cent. set aside for the deferred stock at the end of the year. The dividend on the ordinary and preferred stocks will be paid on and after August 9.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Last year was a bad one for this company. Its gross receipts were £3,129 down at £440,330, while expenses rose by £8,844 to £216,886, after charging £9,500 to reserve fund, the proportion of expenses to receipts being thus 49.32 per cent., against 46.95 per cent. in the corresponding half-year. Out of the smaller net revenue of £180,031 left after meeting debenture stock interest and other fixed charges, the preference dividends were all met, and enough is left to pay a dividend at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, leaving £6,090 to be carried forward. A year ago the dividend was at the rate of 3 per cent., with £21,236 left to carry forward. Imperfect electrification is blamed for the increase in the working expenses, and we fear the ratio must continue high until such a time as both segments of the inner circle are working harmoniously together. At present steam and electric trains are mixed on that route to the serious duplication of current expenditure. The locomotive and generating expenses were actually £66,682 in the half-year, but £8,500 was charged off this item to reserve fund as already mentioned, not an encouraging fact. Maintenance of way took nearly £4,000 more, and there was an increase of fully £2,000 in the general charges, as also in rates and taxes. Capital expenditure, too, was rather heavy in the past half-year, amounting to no less than £374,367, of which £132,000 was caused by the provision of electric motor and trailer cars and £158,000 by electric traction installation, plus a loss of £3,960 written off for old carriages sold. In the current half-year, however, capital expenditure is put at £93,000 only, and the capital account is £362,263 in credit, so that the company should be quite comfortably off for money, and as it has now come to an accord with the Great Central it only remains for the District and Metropolitan to come together in order to bring about, let us hope, a new period of prosperity and growing dividends. The electric trains between Baker Street and Harrow, and Harrow and Uxbridge, have worked satisfactorily for the past half-year. Dividends will be payable on August 5.

LONDON AND GREENWICH RAILWAY COMPANY.

This company's principal source of revenue is the rent of £22,500 per half-year paid by the South-Eastern Company, so that the variations in income can never be very pronounced. During the six months ended June the receipts from interest and transfer fees fell off by £6 to £58, while general charges increased by the same amount to £386, and as the balance of £144 brought forward was £30 smaller the net revenue showed a decrease of £42 at £22,316. Interest on mortgages and debenture stock and preference dividend having been met the ordinary stock receives its customary dividend of £1 8s. 3d. per cent., and £168 is carried to the new account compared with £210 a year ago.

THE UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK.

As already intimated, in the past half-year the gross profits of this bank were £7,567 less than in the first half of 1904 at £208,808. Adding in £74,474 brought forward, the amount available for distribution was £283,282, out of which the directors paid the usual 10 per cent. dividend, or 15s. 6d. per share, together with a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share, equal to about another 1 per cent. per annum, as against 3s. per share, equal to about 2 per cent., twelve months back. There will then be left £88,342 to be carried forward, and it is worth noting that a progressive increase has occurred in this balance left over, which is now about £36,600 more than it was two years ago. The directors intimate that as the bank has now obtained powers to undertake and execute any trusts which it may seem desirable to it to assume, as also power to act as executor or treasurer, and to undertake any duties in relation thereto or consequent thereon,

it is now open to do this kind of business. Several large changes are revealed in the balance-sheet figures, which are, as usual, divided up in an admirably distinct manner. Cash in hand, for instance, is £17,000 down at £3,208,175, but money in the Bank of England is up £780,000 to £3,736,000, and a still more striking increase has occurred in money lent at call and short notice, which, at £6,264,000, is £1,606,000 higher than on June 30, 1904, the bank in this respect following the same fashion disclosed in other bank balance-sheets. Amongst investments, British Government securities show an increase of £463,000 at £3,196,000, and there is also an increase of £41,500 in the stocks of India held, but the largest increase is £521,000 in English Corporation stocks, &c., which now stand for £1,527,000. Miscellaneous investments, however, are down £93,000 to £52,000. Bills discounted, carefully subdivided into "three months and under" and "exceeding three months," show a decline of £335,000 at £4,422,000, and advances are also less by £718,000 at £14,649,000, but liabilities on acceptances have risen by £727,000 to £2,500,000. Bank premises also show an increase of over £36,000 at £1,233,000. The aggregate of the balance-sheet, a very full, clear, and satisfactory one, is now £42,458,000. The gross profit, it may be added, came to £586,670, and working expenses to £201,590. Interest to customers took £156,410.

THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED.

In its year ended June 30 last—the directors only issue the accounts once a year—this old-established bank's gross profits came to £683,255, or £44,592 more than in the preceding year, current expenses of all descriptions went up only about £20,000 to £385,648, and the net profit of £297,607 was brought up to £347,345 by the balance of £49,738 brought forward. As usual, the directors paid an interim dividend at the rate of 18 per cent. in January last, and now declare a completing dividend at the same rate out of the profits of the year. This second dividend, by the way, takes £1,750 more than the same distribution at the beginning of the year, doubtless by reason of the extra capital paid upon, through the issues of shares to pay for country banks bought up. After paying this dividend and setting aside £15,000 in reduction of the cost of premises and £10,000 to the officers' superannuation fund, a balance of £50,095 is left to be carried to the new year. Again, it is impossible to make much comparison between the figures of the year just closed and those of previous years, since the business of Messrs. Bacon, Cobbold, and Co., bankers, of Ipswich, established in 1786, has been acquired during the year, partly by payment in cash, and partly by the issue of 2,500 shares. The paid-up capital is £1,525,000, and the reserve still remains at £900,000. Deposits have risen to £30,467,000, an increase of £2,216,000 on the year. Cash in hand and at the Bank of England is £273,000 up at £4,832,000, and money lent on call and short notice is larger by £1,020,000 at £4,077,000. Investments are about £47,000 lower at £5,231,000, but there is an increase of £937,000 in the money absorbed by bills discounted, loans, and other accounts. Bank premises stand for £932,051, or considerably more than the total amount of the reserve.

PARR'S BANK.

In the year ended June 30 the net profits of this bank, including £75,648 brought forward, amounted to £270,288 or about £15,000 more than in the corresponding half of 1904. The directors are, therefore, easily able to pay the usual dividend at the rate of 19 per cent. per annum, to add another £15,000, the same as a year ago, to the bank premises account, and £5,000 more to the officers' pension and provident fund, still leaving £87,980 more, or just £15,000 extra profit, to be carried forward. The balance-sheet does not exhibit any important changes compared with this time twelve months. Deposits are up £526,000 to £27,746,000, the note circulation in the Isle of Man is about £1,300 higher at £10,000, drafts current, customers' acceptances advised, &c., are £59,000 higher at £357,000, but the bank's acceptances for customers are £730,000 down at £1,981,000. Cash on hand and at the Bank of England is £326,000 more at £4,828,000, investments are much about the same at £3,183,000, the £1,000,000 in Consols being taken into the balance-sheet at £850,000, and loans and advances to customers are up over £1,000,000 to £15,498,000. The bills discounted stand at £2,252,000, and it is always a commendable incident in the balance-sheets issued by this bank that bills are stated separately therein. Bank premises are about £8,000 up at £840,000. Gross profits, it may be added, came to £380,719, exclusive of the above-mentioned sum brought forward, and current expenses took about £171,000, which does not seem to be in any way excessive.

LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK.

A year ago, in dealing with the report and balance-sheet of this old and important London bank, it was remarked that "unless the uncertainties of the money market are less pronounced in the current half-year shareholders presently may be called upon to face a reduction in their dividend." This reduction has come within the year, the directors having announced a distribution at the rate of only 11 per cent. per annum, compared with 12 per cent. a year ago and for a long time back. Why, however, this reduction should have taken place does not appear from anything in the balance-sheet. The remark quoted was made because the resources of the bank then seemed to be dwindling. Its liabilities on current and deposit accounts, for instance, were down on June 30, 1904, to less than £17,000,000, and it was a decrease upon a decrease.

In the half-year just closed, however, the total of these deposits is £21,057,284, which is about £4,284,000 more than the total of twelve months back, and items on the assets side of the accounts show a corresponding expansion. Investments do not differ much, but cash in hand and at the Bank of England is £1,104,000 up at £3,192,500. Money lent at call and short notice is, however, up by £2,100,000 to a total of £6,624,275, and bills discounted, loans, and other securities, all taken in one item, show an increase of £875,000 at £10,137,518. There is even an increase of £39,000 in the cost of the freehold and leasehold premises of the bank, the total of which is now about £457,000, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is the handsome sum of £25,207,253. Probably, however, the earnings of the larger sums lent at call and short notice were precarious and unremunerative during the last half-year, while the very fact that the bank was putting so much of its money out in this particular direction seems to indicate a difficulty of doing good business in other directions. Whatever may be the explanation, the bank has had to reduce its dividend and nothing whatever is added to the reserve, the only assignment being £5,000 to the credit of the superannuation fund. After paying the dividend, which takes £99,000, £20,222 will be left to carry forward, compared with £20,012 brought in on December 31 last. A year ago, however, when the dividend was at the usual rate of 12 per cent., the carry-forward was £22,746, and even that was £15,377 less than the sum kept on hand the year before. We should like it if the joint-stock banks issued a balance-sheet of their superannuation funds from time to time. Some of them must be important, but they are not shown at all in the accounts.

NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.

Better profits were made by this bank in the past half-year than in the first half of 1904, for the free balance was £118,603, including £22,907 brought forward. The directors are, therefore, able to pay the usual dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. with the usual bonus at the rate of 1 per cent., being 11s. per share all told, and to add £10,000, against nothing a year ago, to the reserve, raising it to £520,000, besides the customary £5,000 to bank premises account, and still had £21,103 left to carry forward. Nothing remarkable happened to the balance-sheet but other deposits are up about £368,000 to £11,510,000, and notes in circulation are down about £60,000 to £1,073,000. Amongst the assets cash in hand and at the Bank of England is about £3,000 better at £1,421,000, and call and notice money is £182,000 up at £1,853,000. Investments are much the same as a year ago at £1,563,000, advances have risen about £107,000 to £5,792,000, and bills discounted £61,000 to £3,784,000. A nice compact return.

BARCLAY AND COMPANY.

Considerable changes are visible in the accounts of this great bank for the year ended June 30 last, but the gross profits are within £4,121 of those brought out on June 30, 1904, the total being £991,361. Of this £483,462 remained as net gain, and adding in £70,820 brought forward the entire free revenue was £554,282. Out of this the usual interim dividend of 12s. per share was paid on February 1 last and a like amount is to be distributed now, making 15 per cent. for the year, tax free. Then £30,000 is written off bank purchase account and £20,000 off bank premises account leaving £84,791 to be carried forward, or nearly £14,000 more than was brought in. Deposit and other current liabilities including the balance of profit and loss have increased by £1,900,000 to £37,292,718, and cash in hand, at the Bank of England and with other banks has gone up £260,000 to £5,112,000, while money lent at call and short notice has risen by £1,940,000 to £5,280,000. We should like to know what this increase in the floating balances lent upon the market means, other London banks having utilised additional resources in the same direction. Investments are also up £342,000 at £8,661,000, but advances to customers, including bills discounted, brokers' bills, interest accrued on investments, &c., an item which surely might be split up without danger to the bank, show a decrease of £615,000 at £20,965,000. By having so much of the money afloat in the market it is obvious that profits were last year somewhat interfered with. The bank, however, continues to spread its wings, and, as was announced the other week, its board has decided to buy up the business of Messrs. Bolitho and Co., Limited, the owners of the Consolidated Bank of Cornwall. In order to do this the shareholders are to be asked to add £1,000,000 to the nominal capital, now standing at £7,000,000, by creating 50,000 new shares of £20 each, of which 36,000 are to be allotted to the shareholders in Bolitho and Company and the balance to be left for issue hereafter as the directors shall think fit. At present the paid up capital is £2,796,608 and the reserve fund £1,250,000. Both paid up capital and presumably reserve will be increased by this important absorption.

BANK OF IRELAND.

After providing for interest on deposits and other charges and writing down bank premises by £2,000, or £1,000 less, the gross profits for the six months to June 30 were £3,125 higher at £247,186. Expenses, however, took £1,910 more at £87,679, and as the balance of £12,920 brought in was £813 smaller the net profits were only increased by £402 to £172,427, and the dividend is again at the rate of 5½ per cent. for the half-year, which leaves £13,196 to be carried forward. Notes and post bills in circulation show a decrease of £70,511 at £2,363,335, and deposit, current, and other accounts are £182,657 lower at

£9,712,055, but Government and other public accounts have risen by £408,437 to £3,031,990. On the assets side there are increases of £111,000 to £1,154,258 in cash in hand and at Bank of England, £254,984 to £990,406 in money at call and short notice, and £597,090 to £8,516,556 in bills discounted, advances to customers, &c., but investments, including £1,034,000 on account of "rest" and £2,630,769 of Government debt have been reduced by £807,339 to £8,315,271.

CROMPTON AND EVANS' UNION BANK, LIMITED.

Net profits for the year ended June 30 fell off by £2,503 to £49,207, and with a smaller balance of £714 from the previous account the total available was £3,018 down at £49,921. On this occasion, however, there has been no need to write anything off Consols compared with £3,350 taken from revenue for that purpose a year ago, so after making the same provision of £1,000 for depreciation of premises and furniture, and placing another £1,000 to reserve, the dividend and bonus are maintained at 18½ per cent. and the balance carried forward is raised by £332 to £1,046. Current, deposit, and other accounts are £182,665 higher at £4,587,685 against which cash in hand, at London agents, and at short notice has been increased by £307,203 to £912,472, and investments are £102,492 up at £1,038,336, while bills receivable have dropped another £8,605 to £35,103 and loans and overdrafts show a decrease of £222,703 at £3,033,801.

CRAVEN BANK, LIMITED.

The net profits for the half-year to June 30 after paying all current expenses and making an addition to the provident fund, &c., came to £16,796 or within £8 of those for the corresponding period of 1904. A rather larger balance of £5,941, however, was brought in, so that after writing the usual £1,000 off bank premises account and declaring a distribution at the same rate of 15 per cent. per annum, £5,987 or £185 more was carried to the new account. Once more the reserve fund is left untouched at £90,000, and even this sum does not appear to be specifically invested. Deposits, current account balances, &c., have increased by £273,460 to £3,023,382, against which cash on hand, at bankers, and at short notice is £76,765 higher at £420,490, investments have risen by £301,130 to £1,126,437, and bills of exchange are £9,921 up at £60,734. Loans on railway and other stocks, which a year ago appeared as a separate entry for £15,365, have apparently been merged in advances to customers and loans on securities, and allowing for this change this item has been reduced by £119,265 to £1,702,755.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

The year ended February 28 did not prove so profitable to this institution as the previous twelve months, and with £27,135 or £2,069 more brought forward, the net profits were £8,797 lower at £131,508. Out of this the usual £4,000 is placed to the guarantee and provident funds and £10,000 is written off bank premises in the colonies, but the allocation to reserve is reduced from £25,000 to £15,000, in order to keep the dividend at the old figure of 10 per cent. and allow the board to carry forward much about the same amount as brought in at £27,508. The smaller sum put to reserve, however, is not a matter of very much consequence, as this fund now stands at £1,055,000, or within £445,000 of the paid-up capital. Liabilities on deposits, including inscribed stock deposits, have gone up by £879,947 to £16,869,958, but the note circulation shows a further slight drop of £6,026 at £458,740, and bills payable and other liabilities are £278,583 smaller at £1,851,562. On the other side of the balance-sheet specie and cash on hand is £156,647 higher at £2,798,464, bullion and advances on bullion have risen £30,424 to £270,971, and money at call and short notice in London has increased by no less than £1,115,000 to £1,365,000, but bills discounted, loans, and other securities at the branches and in London are down another £1,214,291 at £11,957,220. Investments, apart from the £1,000,000 earmarked for the reserve fund, have been reduced by £905,658 to £584,023, but remittances and drafts in transit and bills receivable at London office come to £466,230 more at £3,186,195. Bank premises and property in the colonies, after deducting the amount written off out of revenue, are down £21,181 at £552,538, and London leaseholds, less reserve and accrued interest, are valued at £123,356, or a decrease of £629.

EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

The results obtained during the six months ended March 31 were again excellent, and a further substantial increase of £40,371 to £676,256 was recorded in the total revenue. At the same time, ordinary working costs only rose by £4,170 to £179,330, and although maintenance of cables was £13,678 heavier the net balance, after providing for depreciation on spare cable and income-tax paid abroad was £23,697 up at £443,662. Income-tax in England took £14,294 or £3,182 more, but as £250,000 of the £450,000 borrowed from the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company was repaid in the half-year, interest charges were reduced by £3,635 to £43,855, and preference dividend having been paid, the amount available for distribution, including £35,632 or £2,764 more brought in, was £386,148, compared with £359,234. Maintenance ships reserve fund consequently receives an extra £2,000 at £10,000, and the amount transferred to general reserve is raised by £25,000 to £195,000, after which the ordinary stock receives its usual dividends and bonus, making 7 per cent. for the year, and £1,148 or £86 less than a year ago is carried forward. The general reserve was debited with £195,291 towards cost of new cable, £7,658 on

account of partial renewal of Aden-Bombay No. 1 cable and £239 for installation of electric light at stations, &c., but with the transfer from revenue and £2,612 received from premiums on issue of debenture stock the fund is only £5,576 lower, and the total of the various reserves still stands £19,029 above the figures of a year ago at £1,542,308. The company has £447,164 to come in on account of traffic balances against £260,141 due by it, and cash amounts to £228,972, so that the position is extremely sound. It is stated in the report that the Indian traffic receipts for the three years to June 30 having reached the average "standard revenue" stipulated for under the guarantee agreement with the Indian Government, it has been decided to reduce the rate between Europe and India from 2s. 6d. to 2s. per word from August 1. A similar reduction will be made in the tariff between Great Britain and Aden, and the rate between Europe and Egypt (first region) is also to be brought down from 1s. 5d. to 1s. per word.

DIRECT UNITED STATES CABLE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The revenue for the six months ended June 30 showed the substantial recovery of £6,349 at £49,470, and as expenses were only £1,387 heavier at £22,572, the net revenue was £4,962 higher at £26,898. A larger balance of £2,876 too was brought forward, so that although no adventitious aid was received on this occasion to correspond with the compensation received for surrender of a lease in New York a year ago, the amount available for distribution was still £3,393 up at £23,774. Accordingly the shareholders are made happy with the bonus of 1s. per share, which had to be foregone a year ago, and the return for the year is once more brought up to 3½ per cent., leaving £2,526 or £350 less to be carried forward. Cable maintenance cost £3,946, and this sum has been debited to reserve, but on the other hand interest on investments and profit on sale of securities were credited, and the fund now stands at £482,948, or £18,995 more.

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

The various works of this company were kept fully employed during the year ended March 31, but foreign competition in the carbon trade appears to have been exceptionally severe, and net trading profits fell by no less than £10,042 to £73,823. Debenture interest and preference dividend having been met, £17,920 or £312 more is written off for depreciation, leaving £35,403 available, compared with £45,757, of which the bonus to managing directors and employees took £3,540, against £4,576. A public issue of 1,570 ordinary shares was made during the year to directors and members of the staff, and this with the smaller profits has necessitated the dividend being reduced by 2 per cent. to 5 per cent., while the balance transferred to reserve is £4,067 smaller at £15,988. Additions to the property in the twelve months cost £21,609, so that after deducting the above-mentioned allowance for depreciation this item is £3,690 up at £339,178, while goodwill remains at the old figure of £92,105. Liabilities to sundry creditors have risen by £56,192 to £226,234, but on the other hand sundry debtors are £44,147 higher at £293,117, stocks are £20,748 up at £295,259, and cash is only £2,266 less at £18,736. The reserve fund now stands at £96,253, of which £71,088 is seemingly represented by the investments, although this is not specifically stated.

ENGLISH SEWING COTTON COMPANY.

Preliminary figures only have been sent out for the year ended March 31 last but they are enough to demonstrate the flush of the previous year to have been but a passing glow. Where the decline in profits arises we cannot yet tell, but probably the American Thread Company has failed to pay another 16 per cent. dividend. Anyway, the profits for the past year after providing £30,000 for depreciation and £40,000 for debenture interest fell off £71,400 to £99,428. Yet this, with the balance brought forward, £31,052, is enough to enable the directors to clear off the remaining arrears of preference dividend and to meet the charge for the past year. Two years' preference dividend will be paid, in short, absorbing £100,000, and the balance left to carry forward will be reduced by £7,385 to £23,667. Two years ago the net profits of £33,966 were £65,462 smaller than last year's, so perhaps solid progress is being made. We shall be better able to estimate when the full report comes to hand.

NIGER COMPANY, LIMITED.

For some reason not made very apparent in the report this company paid £99,928 or £30,139 more for Customs duties during the year ended December 31, and after deducting this and providing £3,623 less at £16,359 for depreciation, the net profits showed a shrinkage of £23,361 at £67,895. To this was added £5,882 from the previous account, making a total of £73,777, and in order to maintain the dividend at 10 per cent. only £10,000 is placed to debenture redemption fund, against £25,000. After transferring another £20,000 to general reserve, the balance forward is increased to £8,778. Expenditure on mining concessions during the year amounted to £5,999, bringing the outlay to date up to £11,182, but the chief mining engineer has now presented his report, based on fifteen months' work on the prospecting concessions in Northern Nigeria, and definitive mining licences have been applied for over two selected areas in the province of Bauchi. The erection of a transport store on the main pier for ocean steamers and an increase in the floating storage, with one or two minor works at Burutu, accounted for £21,306 spent on property account, and this item, after deducting depreciation, stands at £169,577, against which

there are the general reserve of £140,000 and the debenture redemption fund of £75,000, partly represented by £39,187 in Consols at 88 and £14,498 in other securities at cost. Liabilities, including £28,000 borrowed from the bankers, have risen by £63,469 to £141,497, but on the other hand we find stock of goods, stores, &c., in Africa and afloat, cash and bills in Africa and in transit, and produce in England up by £71,389 at £587,944, while sundry debtors owe £56,777, and cash and bills come to £10,896, so that the position is comfortable enough.

WOOLLEY, SANDERS, AND CO., LIMITED.

Profits for the year ended June 30 were £1,334 smaller at £10,219, and as this reduction follows a decline in the preceding twelve months it might have been thought that the directors would put forward some kind of an explanation. They do nothing of the kind, however, but merely state that after providing for directors' and auditors' fees the available balance including £4,809 brought in was £14,360, out of which the preference dividend is met and the ordinary shares receive 10 per cent., as usual. For the second time the reserve is ignored, and so apparently is the question of depreciation, so that little comfort can be obtained from the increase to £6,860 in the carry forward. Freeholds, leaseholds, fixtures and goodwill have gone up by £2,386 to £70,451, and there is nothing in the accounts to show how much of this is represented by tangible assets or what proportion is goodwill, so that the matter of a reserve fund is one of some urgency. Trading accounts are well in favour of the company, only £10,545 being due to sundry creditors against £36,328 to come in from sundry debtors and £10,207 in stocks, while cash and bills receivable stand at £4,303 and £2,646 respectively.

THE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

Signs of the improved position of the Australian pastoral industry are furnished in the report of this old company for 1904. The total available net revenue was £71,298, and the directors pay a final dividend of 30s. per share, making £3 per share, £21 10s. paid, for the year. The only part of the business which was disappointing was the colliery and its profits were less by £4,717, there being a reduction of £20,260 in the total receipts and of £15,543 in the charges, so that the total net income was only £26,637. The stock department, however, gave £12,543 more at £32,219, and there was also an increase of nearly £4,200 in the net income from the company's lands. Altogether stock and wool gave £19,110 more, but drought expenses went up £6,566. The company spent £46,728 last year on capital account, and of this £25,000 was furnished by the sale of debentures, the balance being provided by £14,541 further instalments received on account of the sale of the Gloucester estate, and £10,000 written off as usual for wear and tear of colliery plant. Take it altogether, the position of the company is sound enough, and the entire net revenue of the past year exceeded that for 1903 by £11,659, in spite of the fact that the balance of the debit on drought suspense account was completely written off. The promise for the current year is also excellent, pasture being abundant, thanks to copious rain, the stock free from disease and in high condition, and the wool sales profitable. Net proceeds of the wool clip, which will appear in the current year's accounts, have been £37,004, against £30,636 realised the year before. Owing to the above-mentioned sale of debentures, the total obligations of the company on that account now amount to £97,700. The reserve fund remains at £40,000. Cash is rather poor at £5,153.

D. AND J. FOWLER, LIMITED.

In the year ended March 31 last this Australian grocery and sweetmeat company made a gross profit of £29,979, and after meeting all charges besides paying preference dividend, enough is left to enable the directors to give 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, leaving £3,647 to be carried forward against £2,460 brought in. The report states that there was a marked improvement in the business during the second half of the year, and they think the improvement likely to be maintained as the prospects for the coming wheat crop, owing to abundant rains, are most satisfactory, so a further increase in profits may be expected, that for the past year amounting to £7,669 more than for the previous twelve months. Nevertheless, the balance-sheet is not a particularly strong one, and goodwill, trade marks, &c., continue to figure for £111,723. Nothing appears to be written off either against properties owned, which stand at £96,945. The stock-in-trade is pretty heavy at £132,973, and cash at bankers and in hand comes to only £2,303. The debts due to the company, however, including £21,512 due on bills receivable, amount to about £146,000 against £121,000 due by the company on current account. Its total paid up capital is £350,000 and it has a 4½ per cent. mortgage debenture debt of £100,000. The preference reserve fund now amounts to £8,525, £1,243 having been carried to it out of the profits of the past year.

SAN FRANCISCO BREWERIES, LIMITED.

"The directors are pleased to be able to congratulate the shareholders on the satisfactory position of the company's business," and they are easily pleased, for the increase in the sale of beer during the twelve months ended April 30 last was only 289 barrels, the total being 231,431 barrels. In the previous year the increase was 11,316 barrels, and the results of the year's trading are not particularly brilliant, for the net profits were only £27,516, exclusive of £4,302 brought forward. Nevertheless, the directors propose to pay the entire dividend on the 8 per cent. preference shares, together with the balance of arrears

equal to 3s. 2 4-rod. per share, but in order to do so propose to find £15,120 of the total amount required by the issue of debenture bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest and redeemable by five annual instalments. A year ago they attempted to liquidate the arrears of preference dividend by the issue of fully paid ordinary shares, but that project failed, so now a special general meeting of the shareholders is to be held to pass an alteration in the articles of association in virtue of which the directors will be permitted to issue bonds for the arrears. They could pay them up in full, and still have £1,580 left to carry forward, but working capital is required, and accordingly this new scheme is hit upon. The money will be borrowed, in other words, from the preference shareholders, and we hope it may be sufficient to stimulate the business into a more profitable position, but we have no very great faith, nor do we like the project. The board, however, is to be commended for one change it proposes to make, which is that, before any distribution on the ordinary shares is made, 10 to 15 per cent. of the total annual profits be set aside for the purchase and cancellation of debentures so as to provide for the extinction of £100,000 of the £500,000 outstanding by the time the total falls due. Last year, it may be added, £2,249 less was reserved for bad and doubtful debts, bills, agency properties, &c., and nothing at all seems to have been reserved towards the malthouse reconstruction or the Wieland brewhouse expenditure, against £9,240 a year ago. Depreciation, however, has been credited with £7,757, although that is not enough to cover the additions to the capital cost of the properties, which came to £11,112. Altogether rather a depressing show.

THE COLONIAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

In the year ended December 31 last this colonial office issued 3,804 new policies insuring about £877,000 and yielding £34,660 in annual premiums. The total premium income came to £338,142 and the entire income from all sources to about £455,000. Out of this claims of all sorts took some £196,000 and £105,415 was added to the funds, bringing the total up to £2,920,210. The rate of interest yielded by the funds after deducting the amount credited to investment fluctuation fund was £4 5s. 3d. per cent. Expenses and commissions took nearly 27 per cent. of the total premium income without counting £5,855 written off investment fluctuation fund and £798 written off office property or licence and duty stamps £3,058. It is not surprising therefore that the amount added to the life funds for the year was fully £11,000 less than the income from interest.

DOOARS TEA CO., LIMITED.

The total yield of tea for the year ended December 31 amounted to 4,558,869 lbs. or 810,322 lbs. more than for the previous season, and was the largest ever obtained by the company, but owing, the directors say, to the forcing weather experienced and the shortness of labour, it was not possible to improve the quality. As market conditions were also unsatisfactory, the average price dropped from 6.75d. to 5.88d. or a small fraction under the average for the district, and although a reduction from 4.43d. to 3.85d. per lb. was effected in the cost of production the net profits, after providing for commissions, were £1,935 less at £24,592. With, however, £5,602 more at £12,811 of undivided profits brought forward, the amount available was actually £3,667 up at £37,403, and the usual dividend of 10 per cent. is paid, leaving £17,153, out of which the directors receive £450 for additional remuneration and £16,703 is carried to the new year. No allowance has been made for depreciation, nor has anything been added to reserve, which stands at £50,000 against an outlay on property of £286,573 or nearly £36 per cultivated acre, and is all sunk in the business. The loans from bankers and brokers have been reduced by £1,249 and £13,253 respectively to £4,363 and £19,640, but the amount due to other creditors is about £2,000 up, leaving a net decrease of £12,471 in the liabilities; but, on the other hand, more of the crop appears to have been sold during the year, as stocks are down £10,356 to £44,491. Sundry debtors show very little change at £3,302, and cash is £1,121 lower at £4,433. Advances at gardens, which last year were stated separately at £6,061, appear on this occasion to have been wrapped up in "expenditure in advance," as that item shows an increase of £5,618 to £6,573.

SINGLO TEA COMPANY, LIMITED.

Although the crop from the Assam gardens in 1904 was 225,931 lbs. up at 1,492,801 lbs., and that from the Dooars Estates rose by 162,251 lbs. to 654,710 lbs., the average prices dropped from 8.19d. and 6.56d. to 7.42d. and 5.42d. Expenditure at the same time was heavier, partly because of the larger output, and the net result was decidedly discouraging. A year ago the actual working of the gardens showed a moderate profit of £3,944, which was converted into a loss of £788 by the payment of the debenture interest, but even that was better than the outcome of last year's business, as the garden revenue account shows a loss of £2,772. Debenture interest and trustees' fees required £3,105 in addition, and after writing off £1,609 for expenses of debenture issue, the debit balance to date comes to £18,709. No wonder then that the directors characterise the results as highly unsatisfactory, nor that they have decided to put the gardens under the immediate control of the Calcutta agents, Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Co. Bills payable have gone up by £2,570 to £27,874, and other creditors are £1,578 up at £9,325, but £1,281 for advances from brokers in the 1903 balance-sheet has seemingly been paid off,

and the net increase in floating liabilities comes to £2,863 at £37,298. On the other hand advances at gardens and expenditure in advance are £3,140 down at £4,592, sundry debtors owe £7,099 more at £7,936, stocks of tea on hand are valued at £30,771, or an increase of £7,433, and cash is £441 higher at £3,266. The position, therefore, is by no means desperate, and should the directors' hopes be fulfilled it may not be long before the company returns to prosperity, and when that happens one of the first matters requiring attention will be the question of depreciation. Capital account stands at £239,165, or nearly £45 per cultivated acre, and the company has not a penny piece in the shape of reserve or debenture redemption fund, although the £50,000 debentures are repayable at 102 per cent. in 1911.

NEDEEM TEA CO., LIMITED.

In spite of a loss of leaf from a severe hailstorm at Kumai in April and from slugs and caterpillars in the Delgaon division the crop gathered during 1904 was not only 364,196 lbs. larger than for the previous season but exceeded the estimate by 281,000 lbs. at 4,977,208 lbs., while the quality was about the same. Market conditions, however, intervened to prevent the company from deriving any benefit from this big output, the 3,984,093 lbs. sent to London realising no more than 5.93d. per lb. and the 993,115 lbs. disposed of in Calcutta fetching 5.26 annas or an average on the total sales of 5.97d. compared with 6.62d. per lb. In consequence of this drop profits were £9,139 lower at £18,005, and even with £1,144 brought forward the total available came to no more than £19,149 against £27,144, so that the reserve fund, to which £6,500 was added a year ago, has to be left out of account and the ordinary shareholders receive $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., leaving £2,274 to be carried forward subject to managers' commission. Advances against tea have been reduced by £16,730 to £18,870, bills payable are £3,039 down at £37,922 and other liabilities are £1,985 smaller at £14,754, but loans in Calcutta and London have gone up by £13,311 to £42,891 and the company is still very much overburdened with debt. Stocks of tea, on the other hand, are £10,902 lower at £60,964 and an increase of £479 to £594 in cash is more than offset by a decrease of £603 to £373 in sundry debtors and it is difficult to see where the money is to come from to provide even the small dividend just declared. Depreciation is, of course, a thing unknown to the directors, and of the reserve of £25,000 all but £2,000 is sunk in the property.

LANKAPARA TEA COMPANY, LIMITED.

The outturn of tea during 1904 exceeded the previous crop by 138,472 lbs. at 1,105,011 lbs., but the quality was not so good and the average price dropped from 6.43d. to 5.66d., so that the company did not derive much benefit from the larger quantity. Gross receipts rose by no more than £123 to £26,128 and as at the same time expenses went up by £2,113 to £20,596, the net profits were £1,991 down at £5,531. A much larger balance of £1,402, however, was brought in, and with £100 from interest on deposit, &c., the total revenue came to £6,847 compared with £7,687. After meeting debenture interest, transferring £1,000 to debenture redemption fund in accordance with the trust deed, and making sundry adjustments, the balance available came to £5,538 or £864 less, but the directors again pay a dividend of 10 per cent and carry forward £538. Apart from the debenture redemption fund, the reserve amounts to £1,750, which does not seem particularly good seeing that the estates are valued at £50,253, or about £34 10s. per cultivated acre, and that so far from any provision being made for depreciation of machinery and permanent buildings, this item has gone up £346 to £1,496 during the twelve months. Sundry creditors are slightly lower at £3,378 and bills payable have been reduced by £400 to £6,950, but an overdraft at the bankers of £1,644 appears in the present balance-sheet. On the other hand, sundry debtors are £1,073 higher at £1,969, and cash on deposit is £1,844 up at £6,000, while the tea in hand is valued at £13,921 or £1,825 less.

DUBLIN UNITED TRAMWAYS CO. (1896), LIMITED.

The combined revenues of the Dublin United Tramways Company and the Dublin Southern District Company for the six months ended June 30 amounted to £125,379 or an increase of £2,369, of which £1,727 was due to the Southern District line. At the same time expenses rose by £1,393 only and the net income, including parcel delivery, advertisement, and miscellaneous receipts, less sundry outgoings, showed an improvement of £1,217 at £58,532. Mortgage bond interest of the old company, wayleaves, &c., took rather more at £9,890, but a larger balance of £6,848 was brought forward, and with £39 from interest on investments the amount available was £1,211 up at £55,528. Debenture charges and preference dividend having been met, the ordinary shares again receive a distribution at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and £5,000 is put to reserve against £2,000 transferred to the fund, and £3,000 applied towards cost of electric welding of the Dalkey line a year ago, leaving £5,255 to be carried forward.

LISBON ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.

The company's business continues to grow, the number of passengers carried in 1904 being 34,067,573, against 30,945,317, an increase of 3,122,256, the earnings advancing from Rs.1,115,723 to Rs.1,191,026. The working profit was Rs.434,561, equal at exchange of 43½d. to £79,330, increased to £79,560 by £171 from interest and £59 from transfer fees. After deducting interest and amortisation due on the debentures of the "Campanhia Carris de Ferro de Lisbon" and the interest on

the company's debentures, together with London office expenses reserve for depreciation, insurance reserve account and exchange reserve account, the net profit is £35,418, which, added to the £7,312 brought forward gives an available balance of £42,730. The usual preference dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. is met, requiring £25,533, leaving £17,197 to carry to the next accounts. A sum of £39,446 was spent on construction, providing cables for conveying additional current demanded by the system. Creditors and bills payable at Lisbon and London amount to £31,282, and the company has £25,155 in cash and debts amounting to £6,759. The various reserves are invested in the business. No preference shares, it is stated, were issued during the year, but as the accrued debenture interest amounts to £11,875 and the interest on the preference shares is £12,128, it looks as if a further issue of capital will be inevitable in the current year.

COLONIST'S LAND AND LOAN CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Another 15 acres of land, which included the last section held in Feilding, were disposed of during the twelve months ended March 31, leaving only 32 acres in hand, valued at the trifling figure of £35. The price realised would seem to have been highly satisfactory, as after deducting £112 for cost and development charges the net proceeds were £5,562 compared with £4,780 from 28½ acres and the Strathendrie Farm sold in the preceding year. Including interest, rents, &c., the total revenue was £1,701 higher at £13,743, of which London expenses absorbed £2,459 and New Zealand expenses £1,242 against £2,187 and £1,350, and the net revenue was consequently £1,537 higher at £10,042. To this was added £9,745 brought in, making the available total £5,171 larger at £19,787, and after paying the two regular dividends of 2½ per cent. each the directors are able to increase the bonus from 1 per cent. to 2½ per cent. and raise the carry-forward to £13,649. Although the directors stated a year ago that they had resumed lending in New Zealand, the mortgages in that country show a further reduction of £11,845 at £83,206, but the commitments in Natal have risen by £27,000 to £36,000 at what is said to be a satisfactory rate of interest. It has apparently not been found necessary to raise funds by the issue of debentures suggested a year ago, but, on the contrary, another £2,000 of the amount outstanding has been paid off by means of a loan of £3,000 from the bankers. Sundry debtors owe £13,041 for deferred payments on land, with interest thereon; but apart from £12,238 in foreign and colonial securities, apparently representing a portion of the reserve fund of £33,334, the other assets are small.

MINING RETURNS.

Alaska Mexican.—Crushed 20,630 tons, value, \$30,488; saved 391 tons sulphurets, value \$26,912.

Alaska United.—Crushed 19,480 tons, value \$21,804; saved 331 tons sulphurets, value \$12,789.

Camp Bird.—Crushed 6,133 tons, 9,329 ozs., 446 tons of concentrates.

Chinese Engineering.—Output 19,000 tons; sales 18,500 tons; consumption 1,200 tons.

Cobar Gold.—Mill 900 tons, 150 ozs.; tailings 754 tons, 240 ozs.; slimes 888 tons, 651 ozs.; total, 1,041 ozs.

Golden Blocks (Taitapu).—Crushed 150 tons, 136 ozs.

El Oro.—Crushed 18,818 tons, producing U.S.\$186,407; from old cyanide plant, U.S.\$1,767; annual clean-up, U.S.\$10,359; total, U.S.\$198,533.

Esperanza.—Crushed 13,779 tons; shipped to smelter, 1,455 tons; value of bullion produced, \$152,850; concentrates, \$26,255; ore shipped to smelter, \$124,415; other sources, \$431; total, \$303,951.

Mills' Day Dawn.—Crushed, 1,037 tons; value, £3,300.

Mitchell's Creek.—Crushed 750 tons, 312 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons, value £325.

Ouro Preto.—6,185 tons, 1,656 ozs.

Queensland Copper.—Crushed 1,037 tons, produced 211 tons matte, containing 127 tons fine copper.

Peña Copper.—Output 15,722 tons; shipments of ore, 13,863 tons; precipitate containing about 58 tons fine copper produced.

Spassky Copper.—Production, 5,480 pounds (88·3 tons).

Sulphide Corporation.—30,696 tons milled, producing 8,607 tons of leady concentrates, also 4,533 tons of middlings and 3,715 tons of tailings treated, producing respectively 1,791 and 1,378 tons of zinc concentrates. 5,196 tons of leady concentrates, 633 tons of residues, and 4,756 tons of purchased ores smelted, yielding 3,447 tons of lead, containing 279,207 ozs. silver and 8,617 ozs. gold.

Westralia Mount Morgans.—Crushed 7,430 tons, 789 ozs.; cyanided 4,200 tons, 680 ozs.; slimes, 2,160 tons, 259 ozs.; guests, 98 ozs.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £2,650.

City and South London.—On consolidated ordinary stock for half-year at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £1,041. Corresponding period last year at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £701.

Central London.—For half-year ended June 30 of 4 per cent. on ordinary and preferred stocks. Four per cent. was earned on the deferred stock, but carried forward, together with a balance of £34,800.

Great Eastern.—On ordinary stock at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £20,000. Corresponding period last

year at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £16,000.

London, Brighton, and South Coast.—For half-year £1 12s. 6d. per cent. on undivided ordinary stock, and £3 per cent. on preferred ordinary stock, carrying forward £30,240. For first half of 1904 dividend was at the rate of 3½ per cent., carrying forward £23,300.

London, Tilbury, and Southend.—On the ordinary stock for past half-year of £4 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £1,134. A year ago it was at the same rate, with £5,223 forward.

Metropolitan.—On the ordinary stock for past half-year at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £6,000, and charging a portion of the cost of experiments in electrical working to the reserve fund. Corresponding period last year at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, with £11,500 added to reserve, and £21,000 carried forward. Dividend on the surplus land stock will be at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, against 2½ per cent.

Metropolitan District.—On the 4 per cent. guaranteed stock at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum.

BANKS.

Bank of Victoria.—On ordinary shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £13,944.

Commercial of Sydney.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, placing £15,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £21,593.

York City and County Bank.—Interim of 5s. per share.

London and County Banking.—Dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year ending June 30, carrying forward £80,456.

MINES.

Broken Hill South.—1s. 6d. per share.

Butters Salvador Mines.—(No. 16) 5 per cent.

Champion Reef.—Interim of 1s. 4d. per share, making 2s. 7d. per share for the eight months to May 31.

Golden Pole.—9d. per share.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—9d. per share.

"Jumpers" Gold.—20 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anglo-American Telegraph.—Interim dividend for the quarter ended June 30 of 14s. per cent. on the ordinary stock and £1 8s. per cent. on the preferred stock, less tax, payable on August 5, carrying forward £1,250.

Associated Omnibus.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. for the half-year.

British Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, for the half-year ended July 1.

Birlington Hotels.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares to June 30.

Castle-Douglas Gas.—7 per cent., and a bonus of 2 per cent.

Crowther Bruce.—Final 4½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

Gas Light Coke.—£4 8s. per cent. per annum, carrying forward £217,408.

Price's Patent Candle.—Dividend of 15s. per share for the half-year ended June 30.

Illustrated London News and Sketch.—Interim at the rate of 4 cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30.

Imperial Tobacco.—For the half-year ended April 30 interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary shares.

London and India Docks Company.—Subject to audit, the accounts for the half-year ended the 30th ult. show that, after providing for the interest on the debenture stocks, the dividends on the preference stocks, and the preferred ordinary stock, there is a balance of £61,792 15s. 10 to be carried forward.

London Road-Car.—For the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 6 2-3 per cent. per annum, carrying forward about £6,600.

Madame Val Smith.—6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30.

Nelson Brothers.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Newcastle and Gateshead Gas.—Interim on the ordinary stock for half-year at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

United States Debenture Corporation.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for half-year ended July 31.

Standard Tea of Ceylon.—Interim of 5 per cent. for six months ended June 30.

Shanghai Water Works.—Interim of 15s. per share.

Walker and Wallsend Union Gas.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 on the 3½ per cent. stock at the rate of £4 17s. 6d. per cent. per annum, and on the 5 per cent. stock at the rate of £6 7s. 6d. per cent. per annum.

Wilkinson and Riddell.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital	£4,233,325
Paid Up	846,665
Reserve Fund	400,000

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATES OF INTEREST allowed for money on Deposit are REDUCED as follows:—To ONE per cent. per annum at call; to ONE AND A QUARTER per cent. at seven and fourteen days' notice.

PHILIP HAROLD WADE, Manager.

WATKIN W. WILLIAMS, Sub-Manager.

Approved mercantile bills discounted. Loans granted upon negotiable securities. Money received on deposit at call and short notice at the current market rates, and for longer periods upon specially agreed terms.

No. 35, Cornhill, E.C.

21st July, 1905.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of this company was held on Thursday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, under the presidency of Mr. Adolph Tuck.

The secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said that he had again the pleasure of placing before the shareholders what he hoped they would consider a satisfactory statement of the work accomplished during the past twelve months. The net profit was £51,661, or more than in the previous year, which, as he told them at the last meeting, had up till then been the most profitable period in the history of the business. During the past year the volume of trade had shown its due quota of increase, and, what was a specially satisfactory feature, it had been well distributed over all parts of the world. With regard to the company's Christmas and New Year card department, he stated that the collection which they had put forward for the coming season comprised about 1,700 sets—100 sets more than they had issued in any previous season, and by far the most original and beautiful that had as yet emanated from Raphael House. Among the many novelties which they were introducing was an entirely new shaped card, duly patented, which was meeting with a most gratifying reception by the trade. In the kindred calendar department they were also said to have surpassed themselves in their productions for 1906. The book and toy book department showed, in its turn, continued popularity and a steady demand, and the art novelty department was holding its own against all comers. Referring to their postcard department, he remarked that pictorial postcards were introduced by them within the British Empire seven years ago, and this branch had now developed into a sound, regular, every-day trade, and he was justified in stating that they were on the high road to emulating the marvellous postcard demand on the Continent, where to-day, in the 20th year of their existence, picture postcards had attained a position second to no other branch of the art and fancy stationery trade. At the two Trade Postcard Exhibitions held during the last twelve months in London, not only were the highest awards secured by the company's general postcards, but a separate special gold medal and first-class certificate were created and awarded for their "Oilette" postcards. Arrangements had been made which secured to them the exclusive postcard rights of all designs appearing in *Punch*, which would be produced by them as little "Oilettes" in full colours, and, further, of such valuable publications as were embodied in the guinea volumes—of which the beautiful coloured illustrations were the essential feature—issued by Messrs. A. and C. Black. All these postcards would be sold at the popular price of one penny. The company's photogravure, engraving, studies, and general picture departments would be enriched in the coming season by reproductions of beautiful works selected from this year's Royal Academy, the Paris Salon, the Berlin Kunstausstellung, and other important galleries and art centres. The Prince of Wales had accepted the dedication of the souvenir picture which the company were preparing in connection with the impending visit of the Prince and Princess to India, and of which a large distribution was confidently anticipated. The turnover at their Berlin branch had shown a gratifying increase since it was opened about 12 months ago. English art and English taste, like English clothes, were being appreciated more and more throughout the German Empire and the Continent generally. Dealing with the accounts, he said that it was proposed to pay a final dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent., making, with the interim dividend, 8 per cent. for the year. There would be transferred to the special dividend reserve and to the general reserve £5,000 and £10,000 respectively, leaving £3,470 to be carried forward. Their various reserve accounts would now stand at the total of £52,142. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Sir A. Conan Doyle, in seconding the motion, said he thought that any shareholder who found much amiss in the report must be of a very captious train of mind. The figures relating to the trading of the past two months showed that continual increase which had been characteristic of the business since it was turned into a limited liability company.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors and auditors were then re-elected, and the meeting closed with the usual compliments to the chairman and directors.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

The thirty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the National Telephone Co., Limited, was held on Thursday, at Hamilton House, Victoria Embankment, E.C., Sir Henry Fowler, M.P. (the president), occupying the chair.

The Secretary (Mr. Albert Anns) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The President said: The half-year, gentlemen, has been a satisfactory one to the directors, and I hope it has been a satisfactory one to the shareholders. The income accrued during the half-year under review amounts to £1,086,507, and the figure for the corresponding half-year of 1904 was £985,274, which shows an increase in the half-year of £101,233 in the gross income of the company. The first deduction we have to make from that income is one to which I have constantly called your attention, viz., the Post Office royalty. The Post Office

royalty for the first six months of 1904 was £90,742, and this half-year it has increased by about another £10,000. That is in addition to the income-tax which you pay, or in addition to the charges which are made to the consumer. When the public are told what very high charges are made by the company with reference to telephone rates in London and the provinces, they should be asked to deduct 10 per cent. from that charge, the balance representing what the company receives. The working expenses during the half-year were £630,251, as against £563,060 twelve months ago. That shows an increase of £67,191. Well, of course, if we increase our business we must increase our working expenses, and we have had some considerable increases during this half-year. The result, which is the amount we are most interested in, is that the profit of this half-year has been £355,618, as against £331,472, showing a net increase of £24,146 in the half-year. We brought forward from last half-year £10,141; twelve months ago we brought forward £10,505, which shows a decrease of £364. The result of adding that sum brought forward from the previous year to the actual earned income of the past half-year shows that the available sum is £365,759. Our debenture and other interests amount to £97,143. We propose, if you approve of it, to pay the same dividends as before on the preference shares and preferred and deferred stocks, which will absorb £148,917. We propose to carry to reserve £110,000, which is £10,000 more than we carried to the reserve twelve months ago; but I think the shareholders will see the wisdom of that course when they consider the very large expenditure made during the year, and, of course, the large additional capital which has to be protected by the reserve fund. We propose, if the shareholders sanction the whole of these payments, to carry forward £9,699. Our capital expenditure during the half-year has, I am happy to say, been increased. We have spent on construction of exchange and private stations and upon other capital expenditure during the half-year £477,156. We have spent on land and buildings about £6,000, which brings the total up to £534,320. The ordinary expenses of the company, which I have already mentioned, have steadily increased, and will always increase. Our rents of premises, taxes, and insurance have increased; our rates have enormously increased during the half-year, and maintenance of the Post Office underground wires last half-year cost us upwards of £17,000. In our balance-sheet our stock of materials has been considerably reduced and our machinery has also been reduced. I shall be happy to answer any questions if any shareholder wants further information with regard to the accounts. These are the general summaries of our figures, and are practically what we may call the normal figures of the company's business, which are very much in the same position as they were twelve months ago. Gentlemen, you are aware, and I am sure Mr. Lea Smith is aware, that there has been a committee sitting, to which he has devoted a good deal of time and attention—a Committee to whom the House of Commons has referred the question of the approval or the disapproval of the agreement which we entered into with the Government last February. My mouth is sealed; the jury are now considering their verdict, and whether we are guilty or whether we are innocent, or whether the Government are guilty or innocent, is a matter now under the consideration of the Committee.

Mr. George Franklin (vice-president) seconded the motion for the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously without discussion.

The retiring directors and auditors were then unanimously re-elected.

FAMATINA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The first ordinary general meeting of the members of the Famatina Development Corporation, Limited, was held on Wednesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of Captain W. B. McTaggart, D.L., J.P. (chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. A. Dangerfield) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: The shareholders have been duly informed from time to time of the progress of the operations, which have chiefly consisted in clearing out old workings, improving the condition of the mines, which had never been worked in a systematic and miner-like manner, and preparing for proper development of the various lodes. Considerable money had also to be expended in consolidating the properties, the acquisition of further options, and generally for the purposes of the company. The board are glad to report that the progress of the construction of the aerial ropeway, of which you have heard so much, and which will be such an important feature in connection with the company's affairs, has continued satisfactorily. The situation of the terminal station has, moreover, been the subject of favourable negotiation with the Argentine Government, and it has now been definitely arranged that this terminal station will be situated on the site recommended by the company's engineers, so that the working of the mines will be greatly facilitated. This has been a very important matter. It occupied a considerable time in negotiations, and cost the Government a good deal of money, and it was agreed that the company should contribute to the expense of moving the station so as to suit our special purposes. Your company have contributed the sum of £3,000. Everything has been arranged and agreed, and the selection of this site will be of great use to us in the future. A tariff has been provisionally arranged with the Government on a sliding scale in proportion to the quantity carried, the charge being gradually diminished to \$2 Argentine national

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Lists will open on Tuesday, 25th July, 1905, and will be closed on or before Thursday, 27th July, 1905.

The full Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

J. G. WHITE & CO., LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1898.)

CAPITAL - £200,000

Divided into 15,000 6 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each - £150,000
50,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each - 50,000
£200,000

Issue at par of 5,000 6 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each, ranking *pari passu* with the 10,000 Preference Shares previously issued, payable as follows:—

£2 10s. on application. £2 10s. on September 1, 1905.
£2 10s. on allotment. £2 10s. on November 1, 1905.

Abridged Prospectus.

The Company was incorporated in July 1900, with a capital of £100,000, divided into 5,000 Cumulative Preference Shares of £10 each, and 50,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each. 5,000 Preference Shares were offered for subscription at periods from July 14, 1900, to February 20, 1902, and fully allotted, and the whole amount was paid thereon in cash. This capital was subsequently increased to £150,000 by the creation of a further 5,000 Preference Shares of £10 each, which were issued between February 20, 1902, and February 23, 1903, and fully allotted and paid for in cash. A further increase was authorised in 1904 by the creation of 5,000 Preference Shares of £10 each, bringing the total capital to £200,000, and these Shares are now offered for subscription.

The Ordinary Shares were issued to the Vendors, J. G. White and Company, Incorporated, of New York, as fully paid up, the consideration being the purchase of its entire business outside North America, including all work then in hand and in prospect.

OBJECTS OF THE COMPANY.—The Company is prepared to undertake in any part of the world, civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering construction work, and is especially well equipped for designing, building, equipping, and operating tramways and light railways, electric lighting plants and power installations. It is also prepared to contract for steam railroads, gas works, water supply and sewage systems, piers, docks, &c.

RESULTS.—The success of the Company was immediate. The published accounts show the following results to February 28, 1905:—

PERIOD.	PROFITS.	DIVIDENDS.		RESERVE.
		RATE.	AMOUNT.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To August 31, 1901	4,327 8 6	6 per cent. Pref.	677 11 7	
To August 31, 1902	25,768 16 4	8 per cent. Pref.	3,948 14 9	10,000 0 0
		8 per cent. Ord.	4,000 0 0	
To Feb. 28, 1903..	14,628 10 5	10 per cent. Pref.	4,073 6 8	5,000 0 0
(Half-year)		10 per cent. Ord.	2,500 0 0	
To Feb. 29, 1904..	11,123 2 10	6 per cent. Pref.	5,992 5 9	5,000 0 0
		6 per cent. Ord.	3,000 0 0	
To Feb. 28, 1905..	15,023 3 8	6 per cent. Pref.	6,000 0 0	5,000 0 0
		6 per cent. Ord.	3,000 0 0	
	£70,871 1 9		£33,191 18 9	£25,000 0 0

The amount carried forward at February 28, 1905, was £12,679 3s., making, with the amounts carried to Reserve, an earned surplus of £37,679 3s., after paying dividends as shown above.

CONTRACTS SECURED AND IN PROGRESS.—A statement of the works which have been actually completed by the Company to date shows that the completed work amounts to over two million pounds, and that the work now in hand amounts to over one and three-quarter million pounds. The Company is,

currency (3s. 6d.) per ton when 400 tons per day are sent down. This will compare with a cost of \$13 (22s. 8d.) for transport on mule back. I think you will agree with me that that is a very important reduction. In addition to the properties which were taken over from the Famatina Copper and Gold Syndicate, Limited, a further extensive group of properties has been acquired, and the company has thus practically obtained the control of the Mejicana mining district, for which the ropeway has been constructed. This, when we come to work in the Argentine, is found to be absolutely necessary. There was an enormous number of claims and options and a great many people running after them. It was found that to consolidate your properties and get them under proper control it would be absolutely necessary that these further options should be purchased.

Having dealt *serialim* with the accounts, the chairman said he had been approached with a view to his accepting the position of chairman of the company, but he required first that the mines should be examined by Messrs. John Taylor and Sons. The report of the latter was considered by himself and the directors as highly satisfactory; therefore he accepted the presidency of the company. He remarked that the report of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons was probably the most important event in the history of the company and added: It has been drawn with the utmost care, time, and labour. Nearly 400 samples were taken carefully from all available parts of the different lodes and mines. These were brought to England and distributed among leading assayers, and although they were broken up into parcels in that way, it took a long time to get them all in. After receiving these assays the whole significance of them had to be studied, because, these assays being taken at intervals of 10 ft. along the lodes, you can tell by them where the lodes hold in value, where they become poor, and where there is the best prospect of success in further research. The report, then, was drawn in the way in which Messrs. Taylor and Sons' reports are always drawn—that is to say, in the most conservative and careful manner. There is no rhetoric in them, and nothing but a bare record of facts. The Chairman then dealt with the report at considerable length. Lastly, said he, I am happy to tell you that we have made arrangements with the firm of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons to act as our consulting engineers—(applause)—so that you have an additional guarantee that not only will your mining be scientifically and properly carried on, but that the funds which are now available,

Or payments may be made in full on allotment, the Preference Dividend accruing from the date of payment.

The Preference Shares are preferential as to capital and dividend of 6 per cent., and participate further in the profits after 6 per cent. has been paid on the Ordinary Shares up to a total distribution of 12 per cent. in any one year on both classes of Shares.

Directors—J. G. WHITE (Chairman), LORD ARTHUR BUTLER, A. N. CONNETT, W. C. BURTON, J. B. WHITE. **Bankers**—GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO. **Solicitors**—ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP & CO. **Auditors**—MONKHOUSE, STONEHAM & CO., of Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C. **Secretary and Offices**—A. H. BEATTY, 22a, College Hill, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

therefore, in a better position as regards Contracts in hand than at any time in its history.

WARING WHITE BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.—The Company has recently turned its attention to Building Construction, and a combination of interests has been effected with Waring & Gillow, Limited, the well-known furnishing house, resulting in the formation of a Company known as the "Waring White Building Company, Limited," in which this Company has subscribed for a half interest. The building organisation of J. G. White and Company, Limited, has been transferred to this new Company, which is now carrying out, amongst others, the following Contracts:—In London—The new Ritz Hotel, on the site of the Walsingham House and Bath Hotels, Piccadilly. The new offices for the International Mercantile Marine, Limited, in Cookspur Street (just completed). In Liverpool—The new Cotton Exchange, for the Liverpool Cotton Association, Limited. These Contracts, and others secured, are being carried out on a basis which insures substantial profits, none of which have been taken into account in the last Balance-sheet of this Company. The methods of organisation which have led to the success of J. G. White and Company, Limited, have been applied to the Building Company, and there is every reason to anticipate that the enterprise will prove successful from the points of view of both profit and reputation.

PRESENT ISSUE.—The proceeds of the present issue of £50,000 will be used for the following purposes:—As regards £12,500, in completing the payment of the subscription of the 6 per cent. Preferred Ordinary Shares of the Waring White Building Company, Limited, of 25, Dover Street, London, W.C. As to the balance, for the purposes of the business and with a view of extending the scope of the operations in General and Railway Contracting and Engineering.

Reference to the table of profits will show that the Company, with its past business only, could easily have paid the Preference dividend on the new issue, and with the increased business in hand and this additional capital there is very little doubt but that the average of the dividends earned in the past will be more than maintained.

Applications for the Shares should be made on the form accompanying the full Prospectus, of which this notice is an abridgment (and upon the terms of which application can alone be received), and sent to the Company's Bankers with a remittance for the amount of the deposit. Subscriptions may be made in full, the Preferred dividend accruing from the date of payment.

The Shares of the present issue have been underwritten for a Commission of 5 per cent. payable in cash out of undivided profits, with an overriding commission of 1 per cent. Mr. J. G. White and Lord Arthur Butler, Directors of this Company, are interested in such underwriting. A Brokerage of 1s. per Share allotted will also be paid on all applications bearing a broker's stamp, excepting Shares allotted to underwriters. An application will be made to the Stock Exchange for a quotation in due course. Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers or Solicitors, or at the Offices of the Company.

and amply available, will be employed to the best advantage in speedily securing that successful result for which we all are wishing. That is the position as it obtains to-day, and I venture to think it is one upon which I may fairly congratulate you, and under these circumstances it gives me great pleasure to move the adoption of the report and accounts. (Applause.)

Mr. E. N. Cesares seconded the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Chairman: There is one small matter which I omitted to mention in my speech—namely, that although we were not able, owing to pressure of time, to come to you and ask you to find money for the further issue of income bonds and debentures, we did not forget your interests altogether. We have made an arrangement with the International Copper Company, by which a call on 5,000 shares is given, which we can offer to you at par.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. J. Punch moved and Mr. Alexander seconded the re-election of the directors, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Buck proposed the re-election of Messrs. Mellors, Basden, and Co. as auditors of the company, which was seconded by Mr. E. Dangerfield and unanimously agreed to.

THE UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED.

39, Cornhill.

Capital Subscribed £1,500,000
Paid up 750,000
Reserve Fund 420,000

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the RATES OF INTEREST allowed on money on Deposit are this day REDUCED as follows:—At call, to ONE per cent.; at seven and 14 days' or longer notice, to ONE-AND-A-QUARTER per cent. The Company discounts approved Bank and mercantile acceptances, receives money on deposit at rates advertised from time to time in the London Daily Papers and grants loans on approved negotiable securities.

CHRISTOPHER R. NUGENT, Manager

21st July, 1905.

The Investors' Review

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

The Investors' Review is a Subscription Journal, and will be delivered to subscribers in London by the first post, or sent to the country and abroad by the first mail, on Saturday Mornings on the following terms:—

One Year - £1 1s. Six Months - 11s. Three Months - 5s. 9d.

Short of Three months the Price is 6d. per Copy *Inland*, and 6½d. *Abroad*, Post Free.

Subscribers can change their address as often as they please, but notice of change must reach the Publishing Office not later than the First Post on Friday Morning.

For a fortnight before a subscription expires the **Investors' Review** will be forwarded in a different coloured wrapper.

Cloth cases for binding the Half-Yearly Volumes price 2s. 6d., postage 6d. extra. Bound Volumes 16s. 6d., or 17s. 3d. post free.

Cheques and P. O. Drafts should be made Payable to
CLEMENT WILSON,
"Investors' Review" Office,
Norfolk House, Norfolk Street,
London, W.C.

Investment Queries.

Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new lists of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—**10s.** for the First Three, and **2s. 6d.** for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than **One Pound**.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the **Investors' Review** will also be **2s. 6d.**, plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of **Company Meetings**, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

An Anarchist Ministry.

It has always seemed to us that the dominant note, so to speak, of the present Government has been in its anarchic tendencies, the anarchy of class selfishness. Old allegiance to constitutionalism has certainly disappeared, and in its place we have had a slavish adhesion to class interests and a complete subservience to the more unsavoury forms of plutocratic insolence and the unbridled rapacity of rich groups guiding the legislation of Parliament and the administrative policy of the executive. A Government of this description could not be expected to dissolve Parliament on an adverse vote, however carefully brought about, provided sufficient alarm could be generated amongst its followers to induce them to come up and reverse the verdict. And we at least are not sorry that Mr. Balfour has acceded to the request of his alarmed supporters, whose dread of facing their constituents equals Panurge's fear of the sea and prompted them to zealous manifestations of what is called "loyalty" over Thursday night's vote. Were this strictly a party organ it might join in the outcry raised against Mr. Balfour and his back-benches team of hack colleagues because of this decision; but, whatever our sympathies may be with the party of progress and economy, there is no self-interest coming in to sway the judgment, because we have nothing to expect. It might be that, were a son of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain no longer Chancellor of the Exchequer, the now enforced Treasury boycott would be removed from **THE INVESTORS' REVIEW**, but that matters little one way or the other, and we therefore stand free to express the opinion that it is on the whole better for the nation to be kept a little longer in the clutches of this wonderful Government of muddlers than to be set free to elect—probably a better Parliament, but still a Parliament only partially inspired by that zeal for wise measures of economy and domestic reform, which must be at a white heat if any real progress is to be made.

The achievements of the Cecil-Balfour Government have indeed been marvellous during the ten years of power enjoyed by it. In that time about £550,000,000 more money has been spent on national account or pretexts alone than in the ten years immediately preceding, and there is nothing to show for this expenditure in the way of permanent good to anybody, not even to the De Beers gang as a whole. No doubt we have annexed great stretches of more or less barren but enticingly mineralised territory in South Africa, but we draw no revenue therefrom; nothing at all comes in to relieve the burden of our taxation, now some 50 per cent. higher than it was ten years ago. At home we are decidedly worse off than we were before the boundless stream of administrative extravagance was let loose upon us like a flood. Sundry special industries have prospered, great firms of iron and steel manufacturers, of shipbuilders, of cloth makers, tanners, provision dealers, horse copers, army contractors of all degrees of honour or its opposite, have become rich, extended their businesses, blossomed into magnificence in the modern plutocratic sense; but the nation is not better off, the cry of the unemployed grows louder in the land, and hunger tends to creep upward among the masses, giving prospect of one more dreary winter and life for the million hardly worth living.

We have no army, Lord Roberts tells us, capable of going into a war any more than we had before this lavish spending began, and Lord Roberts must surely know, because he gets £5,000 a year for doing nothing. The navy is equally imperfect, and lately about 160 ships were struck off the list as useless. But the greater the number of vessels thus treated the greater the incentive, or manifest necessity, to spend more and yet more millions so that the navy may cost by and by four times as much as it did ten or a dozen years ago. It already costs three times as much, what with the naval works extravagance added on and other little items like the purchase of these Chilean warships now rusting away, and still the cry is "Give us more." The army costs more than double what it did, and all the outlay is useless, but contractors are fat and officialdom can keep step with the footpad millionaires of the Rand and finance. The cost of the navy no man can measure nor the extent of the thieving, but the Government is great.

Equally magnificent are the results of this Ministry's labours or lazings in other directions. Its motto throughout has been "Wherever you see a vested interest rivet it upon the necks of the people." Therefore we have had the State Church relieved of its tithe burdens and all its educational machinery transferred to the rates while yet its privileges remain so completely untouched as to cause a continual schism and friction throughout the social life of England. The brewers held their tenure as publicans, owners of tied houses, by the easily snapable thread of an annually renewed licence; therefore the Government of Mr. Balfour intervened and gave them a freehold vested interest, just as it is now intervening to place property over which it has no power in the hands of segments of sects in Scotland. Wherever we try to examine the career of this Ministry diligent in sowing the dragon's teeth of anarchism we find it clinging to privilege with such fanaticism as must inevitably stir up an opposition not only dangerous to vested interests, good and bad, but, time given, furious enough to threaten the foundations of society, the stability of all your investments, good reader.

One cannot help thinking what might have been done with those £550,000,000 odd flung away over and above the tolerably heavy expenditure of the decade which preceded that ended March 31 last. London might have had all those broad arteries of traffic which the Royal Commission has just sketched out for us, surely in a spirit of mockery. Its highways and byways might have been so intersected with a network of intercommunication as to make real citizenship possible even to those who dwell within the monstrously overgrown metropolitan area, and never a penny need have been added to the rates. England might have been filled with improved and perfected waterways, the whole of which could have been free to the bargemen and other carriers of heavy goods from one part of the country to the other, and in connection with these there might have been irrigation projects carried out, a splendid supply of water for London instituted, and still there would have been hundreds of millions over available for whatever purpose an enlightened democracy might have settled on, for housing the workers in towns so that they might be able to live as decently as cattle in a modern byre, to begin the reclamation of the land for the people, to establish real old-age pensions. Those who rave about this country being fettered by foreign competition and clamour for protection lest their ill-managed or over-capitalised enterprises should be defeated in the contest might have had great lines of ocean-carrying steamships created and maintained free of all cost out of the money that has gone in the South African war and in filling the pockets of army and navy contractors, of officials and corrupt hangers-on of all ranks and degrees, and the nation would not have felt the burden as it does to-day.

As a nation we have not yet realised what we have lost, what we are losing, and therefore it is that the present writer can look with serenity and a complete absence of passion on the spectacle of a number of dis-

credited Ministers clinging to office like drowning men to the rotten planks of a "coffin ship" which has foundered with all hands. Their power to do mischief grows less with every week that passes, while the fruits of mischief done in the past go on ripening. We have not yet reaped the harvest of ten years of wanton waste, or not reaped it after a fashion which brings the loss home to the community, which enables every man to measure for himself what Imperialism means, what the boundarism of the jingo and the corruption of the modern masters of Ministries, those financiers of whom King and Cabinet are so ostentatiously fond. We have not yet had brought home to us, perhaps never will have, what the stealing in South Africa has amounted to, and who have shared the swag, nor do we know in any degree what state of chaos we have created and left in those Republics which we annexed. The full meaning of the Chinese ordinance is only half understood by the electorate, and as for the multitude of unhappy shareholders in South African mines, they still cling in despairing faith to the men by whom all the mischief has been done. A little more time is therefore wanted to bring us the full harvest and these people to their senses. We have to be made to comprehend that we cannot found and maintain a flourishing and profitable industry upon methods which even the Carthaginians and Romans did not always succeed in making profitable; that the art of good government is not the art of setting class against class, of plundering the poor in the interests of the rich, of spending furiously regardless of cost and consequences, of loading debt upon the backs of the taxpayers, and that goodwill and prosperity between nations is not nurtured upon or insured by a diligent preaching of the gospel of jealousy and hatred, that the Imperialism which multiplies slums at home is not a consolidating force, however it may dazzle the eye with its diamonds and gold.

Mexican Progress.

Our Consul in Mexico City, Mr. L. J. Jerome, grows almost fervently eloquent upon the remarkable strides made by Mexico towards a high grade of material civilisation of the true modern type. He has considerable justification, for Mexico has unquestionably developed in various ways to a quite startling extent within the past thirty years or less. The long absolute rule of President Diaz has certainly stamped itself upon the country in a material progress such as there seemed no prospect of whatever thirty years ago. The greatest difficulty, says Mr. Jerome, is to curb the enthusiasm which one naturally feels, and the borrowed figures he proceeds to lay before readers explain this difficulty. Let us contrast a few of them:—In 1876 there were only 567 miles of railway in operation within the Republic, and at the end of last year there were 16,387 miles. Passengers carried numbered little more than 4,281,000 at the earlier date, and in 1903 the total was 50,344,000. Merchandise carried weighed only 133,000 tons in 1876, and in 1903 upwards of 6,668,000 tons. In 1876 there were no electric tramways in the country, in 1903 there were 265 miles of them, and the tramways worked by animal traction have within the same dates risen from 470 miles to 2,855. Gross railway receipts were only \$2,565,000 in 1876, and were \$70,203,000 in 1903. These figures, after all, convey but a faint image of what has been going on, but they do show material development of a remarkable kind, and imports and exports tell the same tale, as far as their volume can be indicated. The totals in this case, however, must really be about doubled for 1903 to give something like an accurate measure of the progress since the Mexican dollar has fallen in the interval of years by quite 50 per cent. in value. In 1876, the earliest figure which Mr. Jerome quotes, the Mexican peso, or dollar, was fully equivalent in value to the United States gold dollar, whereas in 1903 it was barely half that value. Consequently, the 1903 imports of Mexico, brought out in sterling, would, on the old valuation, have been worth over £30,000,000, in-

stead of £15,181,000, and the value of the exports would be upwards of £41,000,000, instead of less than £21,000,000. As they stand, however, the progress these figures reveal is striking enough, for in 1876 imports were valued at £3,759,000 and exports at £5,464,000, a great contrast with the figures for the later date just set down.

Mexico, however, is not merely progressing in material wealth, and in facilities for communication as well as in the development of mines, and of numbers of local industries formerly unknown within the country, it is adding brilliantly, if somewhat intermittently, to its national debt. In 1876, quoting the statistics of Mr. Mallen, whose figures, indeed, are those given throughout by our Consul, the national debt of Mexico was \$71,112,000 in gold and \$43,428,000 in silver, whereas at the end of 1903 the gold debt was \$138,839,000 and the silver debt \$143,117,000. The revenue, however, has gone up quite in proportion, for it was little more than \$19,000,000 in 1876, as against upwards of \$81,000,000 in 1903. More reassuring, perhaps, than these statistics of trade progress and other development are the figures about the education of the people. It is still backward enough, but the contrast between 1876 and 1903 is at least encouraging, for the number of pupils in primary schools has in that time risen by nearly 500,000, the greatest increase being in the girls. If private schools are included the total number of children of both sexes attending school, two years ago we infer, was 764,355, and there were 11,590 schools of sorts within the Republic. It is a beginning.

In all this progress the trade of England has had a certain share, but not very much. We have lent her money and built railways for her, but we do not obtain such a proportion of the foreign commerce of the country as our risks therein would seem to justify us in looking for. Naturally, however, the United States of North America, being a next-door neighbour, gets the largest share, not only in the current trade but in the development of the country, and by and by, when the people of that great Republic come to their senses and out down their present ruin-generating Customs tariff, we shall have to look to it lest we be left behind altogether in Mexican trade. As it is there is a marked falling off, Mr. Jerome says, in the value of imports into Mexico from the United Kingdom, but he thinks that this is partly due to the bad compilation of statistics. "I am convinced," he adds, "that if we could trace the origin of the imported commodities the result would show that there was not any real falling off in amount or value of our manufactured goods, although there is a great decrease in the direct trade." In 1903-4, for instance, the United States is credited with £8,522,000 worth of goods sent into Mexico against little more than £2,000,000 from the United Kingdom, £1,908,000 from Germany and £1,494,000 from France. Our figures are practically the same for each of the past five years with the exception of 1901-2, when the total dipped to £1,653,000, but Germany has come up with great steadiness, until imports from that quarter in the second half of 1904 exceeded those from the United Kingdom; yet we are still great purchasers from Mexico, and must continue to be so unless the foolish currency legislation, as we must consider it, should put a stop to the shipment of Mexican dollars and Mexican raw silver to India and the Far East.

As far as we can make out, the idea underlying the determination of the Government of Mexico to fix the exchange value of the silver dollar is borrowed from the example afforded by our Simla Government. No matter what the market price of silver may be when coined into dollars of a given weight and fineness, these dollars are to be exchangeable against gold at a fixed ratio always, and, in order to protect the currency against fluctuations in the exchange, a gold reserve is to be accumulated and to be held in New York. Money, no doubt, will be borrowed for the purpose of creating this reserve, the amount of which is to be £8,000,000, or \$40,000,000. The Government itself sells no exchange, Mr. Jerome explains, that business

being entrusted to the National Bank. Whenever the Government requires \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 the National Bank will furnish it, and will leisurely sell exchange at the current rates under 205. Whenever by any speculative manipulation the attempt may be made to raise the rate over 205 the Government has merely to instruct the bank to sell at, say, 200 until the rate drops to those figures. Thus in a perfectly legitimate manner the Government can control the foreign exchange market for the benefit of the public generally through the National Bank. That is the official explanation given by Mr. Limantour, the very able Finance Minister of President Diaz. It is plausible and all very well, but supposing Mexico—which has not only a very large foreign debt as well as a railway debt, on which interest and amortisation must be paid, but also the use of an enormous amount of foreign capital invested in the country, all of which, or most of which, demands shipment of Mexican produce for dividend and interest purposes—should have a succession of bad harvests and be unable, through circumstances thus or otherwise beyond human control to find an outlet for produce in sufficient quantity or sufficient value to enable it to meet all its engagements, how is this exchange device going to work? The Government would, in the event of short supplies of commodities, have to sell exchange for whatever it might fetch in the open market, and the whole artificial structure might disappear within a week, leading to the most formidable embarrassment for Government and merchants alike. For the present, however, all goes well, trade abroad is stimulated, at least Mexican import trade, and if the country utilises its incalculable natural wealth in a prudent and rational manner, it may be able to establish a real gold currency by and by, and to find its own capital in future.

Our Consul conveys the usual warning to our home traders to be up and doing, and it is evidently deserved if it be true that the export departments of British houses of business are conducted by a junior clerk. That, we fear, is sarcasm, and sarcasm is sometimes used against the innocent to conceal the guilty.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

PREACHING HATRED OF GERMANY.

It was quite time that some of the leading German newspapers should expose the malign campaign now being diligently fomented in this country by the Tariff Reform League, as that band of fiscal swashbucklers and economic starvelings dubs itself, to stir up strife between England and Germany. The Berlin correspondent of the *Morning Leader* quotes some statements made by the *Vossische Zeitung* to this effect. It has received within the last few days several letters from England in which insults are poured on Germany, together with gross abuse on the Kaiser. The writers of the letters declare that nine-tenths of the British people can hardly await the outbreak of a war which shall crush the German Empire, and hope and wish that the Moroccan question may yet lead to war between France and Germany in which, of course, England would support the former with her entire naval force. And the paper goes on to say "monstrous though it sounds, there are people in England who consider war with Germany inevitable because, for instance, German glass works produce better and cheaper goods than English, or because impartial experts, after travelling through England and Germany to study industrial questions, observe that British manufacturers are behindhand in technical matters, work with antiquated machinery, and in factories inferior in every respect to those in Germany." This statement is perfectly true. There is a party in this country fatuously anxious for a quarrel with Germany, inflamed by insane ideas about the effectiveness and victoriousness of German competition, and the Brummagem and other jingo classes of patriots excite this passion because they

know that unless we have a war with some country soon it will be impossible to maintain the present scale of naval and military expenditure. It is the duty of every right-minded citizen to denounce this despicable fomentation of hatred against a pacifically inclined people, whose industrial progress is infinitely creditable and to be admired, whose expanding trade has been of most excellent service to us as a source of augmented British trade.

THE AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Most of the summaries of figures dealt with in Major Craigie's always able and suggestive report are already familiar to those in this country who condescend to take an interest in its greatest domestic industry, and we need not occupy space in going into details about them. One point, however, deserves notice now as always—the steady tendency of the soil of the United Kingdom to go out of cultivation. Comparing 1902 with 1904, we find an increase of 284,000 acres in the area under permanent pasture, and a decrease of 366,000 acres in the arable land. The lead is taken amongst cereals by wheat in this decrease, but it appears to go on all round, compensated only to a slight degree by the augmented areas devoted to market gardens and orchards. Comparing last year with the year immediately before, there was a decrease of 13 per cent. in the acreage under wheat reducing it to 1,375,284 acres, the smallest ever recorded, smaller even than 1895, which was the previous lowest point. A decrease also occurred in the area under barley, but it was more than compensated for by an increase of nearly 113,000 acres in the ground cropped with oats. Rye, however, fell off, while beans rose but not peas. The cultivation of potatoes expanded last year by nearly 6,000 acres on 1903, to a total of 570,209 acres, the increase having taken place almost entirely in Scotland; but these variations in the sowings or plantings of particular crops do not alter the fact that the permanent tendency in this country is for land to go out of cultivation, and surely it is a lamentable fact, especially when we consider that, measured by available tests such as those supplied by the average yield per acre of certain crops, the soil of the United Kingdom, badly cultivated though much of it may be, is about the most prolific in the world.

Among the interesting tables contained in the annual report before us is one setting forth the yield of various cereals per acre in the United Kingdom, some of our colonies, and the principal foreign countries. This table shows that although last year the wheat yield was poor in this country, the mean average return is over 31 bushels per acre, as against little more than 10 bushels per acre in Argentina, less than 20 bushels per acre in France, 28 bushels in Germany, less than 30 bushels in Holland, and less than 13 bushels in Spain. New Zealand alone shows a larger average yield per acre than the United Kingdom. This country also stands in the first group as a producer of barley measured by the yield per acre, although Belgium, Germany, Holland, New Zealand, and Norway all take rank before her. In oats again we were beaten only by the Netherlands amongst all the countries whose statistics are given, the yield per acre in the United Kingdom being over 41 bushels, against rather less than 53 bushels for Holland. New Zealand, amongst British possessions, slightly exceeds the United Kingdom in the return from this crop, but all divisions of Canada stand well below, and in fact Canada would need an onerous preference in the Chamberlain system of protection, if it is to be put in a position to compete with the home farmer in the production of any cereal. Its yield of wheat averages from 16½ to less than 20 bushels per acre. In barley it comes nearer to us, but is still two and a-half bushels per acre below, even in Ontario. The facts being thus it is surely lamentable that owing to the imperfect tenure, or complete absence of tenure, in this country the home agriculturist is handicapped and driven to abandon the cultivation of his fields when these fields are capable on the average of producing greater crops than those of any

foreign or colonial competitor. If we devoted half the energy to this vital interest we spend upon "sport," or what we are pleased to call "foreign policy," it might be "Merrie England" with us once again.

THAT SOUTH AFRICAN DARKNESS.

All the news from South Africa points to the failure of the Chinese labour experiment, and even our Government officials are now beginning to have some dim glimmerings of that fact. Shareholders in South African mines let out at us now and again with more or less effusiveness of wrath for having preached the doctrine that slave labour can never be profitable, even in gold mining, and that the waste of money in importing these Chinese—leaving all moral considerations on one side—was bound to exercise an injurious effect upon the net revenues of the mines. They also are now beginning to find out that THE INVESTORS' REVIEW has told them the truth as usual, having no interest to do otherwise. Even Mr. Alfred Lyttelton and his deputy Duke in the House of Lords have both had to begin to admit that a system of brutal flogging has been rendered necessary in the compounds by reason of the determination of the Chinese not to be imposed upon. It has also been admitted, though not yet officially, that they are cheated in their wages, and still their labour does not pay, though it is seven days a week labour. When is his Grace of Canterbury going to issue a special prayer for the use of those Transvaal mine hands who never have a Sunday off? Now comes a Blue-book containing particulars of the "sentences" inflicted upon the slaves, and showing a steady increase in what is called crime on the part of these poor slaves. There were 106 convictions in February, 347 in March, and 405 in April. Of this last number 110 were for serious assaults. It is a loathsome tale. Equally shameful has been the fate of the story that the presence of Chinese would, more than proportionately, increase the numbers of the white men employed on the mines. There has been some increase in gross, but nothing whatever in proportion to the expansion in the number of Kaffir and Chinese labourers. Including 1,106 white men temporarily engaged in building compounds for the Chinese, the total increase in whites employed since the Chinaman made his appearance has been 2,819, but in the same period 33,224 more Kaffirs have come to the mines, while 35,575 Chinamen had been imported at the date of the report. There will never be any real progress made with profitable gold mining in South Africa until this Chinese infamy has been put an end to. Of that mine shareholders may be perfectly assured.

PUBLIC REVENUE.

For what on earth does the Chancellor of the Exchequer want to go on borrowing at the rate he does? At the beginning of this week he renewed £500,000 of Treasury bills which we thought had been finally paid off and done with in May last, thus reducing the current fiscal year's net repayment of floating debt in this form to a mere £1,200,000, and yet up to the end of last week no less than £7,395,000 has been received on account of that issue of Exchequer bonds made early in April in order to be ready to pay off a like amount of expiring Exchequer bonds in December next. Where is the money going? We cannot answer the question; the weekly return does not indicate much. Apparently about £3,400,000 net has been poured out, including £1,700,000 in Treasury bills paid off and now renewed to the extent of nearly one-third. Already £940,000 has gone in naval works and £400,000 in military works, besides £405,000 under telegraph acts and public building expenses, and £135,000 handed over to the Cunard Company, but even so the whole of the additional borrowings are not accounted for. Presumably, the interest on the National Debt was paid at the beginning of this month out of the Exchequer bond money, costing thereby more than it would have done if advanced temporarily by the Bank of England, but still the Exchequer balances are up by £2,615,000 compared with this time last year, and we should like to know why this

money is held and kept from the market. Is there any concealed South African or other overdue obligation to be sprung upon the country after Parliament has gone off to its grouse shooting? We should not be surprised. Either that or some wasteful plunge on account of public works hangs over the Treasury, requiring to be provided for. What makes the puzzle all the greater is the actual position of the revenue. It is really coming in very well, all things considered, £2,504,000 having been received last week exclusive of £450,000 on that Exchequer bond issue. As the week's expenditure was only £1,937,000, it follows that the balances of the Exchequer in the banks were increased by £1,017,000. We do not understand the hoarding.

A PUBLIC ESTIMATES COMMITTEE.

Unquestionably the most valuable suggestion made during Wednesday's debate in the Commons upon the Public Accounts Committee was Mr. Goddard's, that there should be an Estimates Committee to deal with the demands made by our voracious spending departments before they are tabled in the House of Commons. We believe the country owes it to Mr. Gibson Bowles that this debate took place at all, for such a thing is said never to have occurred in the House of Commons before. We trust it will never fail to take place in future years, for the highest credit is due to the Comptroller and Auditor-General in the first instance, and to the M.P.'s who worked with him in order to trace out some at least of the channels through which public money is habitually wasted in millions upon millions. It is entirely due to the Comptroller and Auditor-General that we know anything whatever about the scandalous waste and thieving which went on during the South African war unchecked by the permanent officials, many of whom, as the proceedings before the Royal Commission proves, are simple, innocent-minded creatures as incapable of following an ordinary business transaction as any other human being, unfortunately for his mental health, clothed in uniform. Mr. Goddard pointed out that an official history of the South African war is being written at a cost to the nation of £18,000, or £6,000 a year for three years, an entirely unwarranted and unwarrantable misuse of public funds. He also said that no less than £31,224,231 was voted last year without any examination of the estimates, but that is entirely Mr. Balfour's way. Keep the estimates back and then throw them in lumps at the heads of a tired or indifferent House so that they may be muddled through; and forms of constitutionalism observed, but the spirit of the constitution set at defiance. In this is the whole secret of successful oligarchic rule. Economy, vigilance, the public good—nice phrases these at election time.

A STATE PARSON AND WORKING MEN.

The Dean of Durham, Dr. Kitchin, has written a letter to the Labour Party which is published at 3d. net by Mr. Arthur C. Fyfield, of 44, Fleet Street. Labouring men of all grades mostly nourish feelings of considerable repugnance towards any gentleman in black who ventures to address them about their morals, but they should overcome that prejudice in this instance for Dean Kitchin is no ordinary man and this no ordinary letter. It is to men of his stamp more than to all the troops of archbishops, bishops, and singing or parochial clergy that the Church owes its position as still to some extent a fountain of light and leading for the people, and this letter frankly looks at the problem raised by the growth of the Labour party as a political force in the country, frankly discusses it. Perhaps in its style, most lucid and well-balanced though it be, it soars a little above the comprehension of the average working man, but it is just because of their present uneducated state that Dean Kitchin has been prompted to address them, and his counsel is well worth their earnest attention. We wish we could quote, and have marked for quotation, long passages from the essay, but must rest satisfied with drawing attention to

the Dean's tentative sketch of a course of citizen's study with which the pamphlet closes. It is a sketch full of sound sense, although the lines laid down are widely divergent from the usual curriculum imposed upon students, humble or exalted, by our educational machinery. He would insist on the study of two languages, English and French or German, with some acquaintance with the literature of both lands; on the practice of essay writing and composition, with a debating society, and criticism of speech making. He would also introduce the student to the laws of thought, instruct him in ethics and general and practical morals, on economics, on geography and commerce, not forgetting English history, both narrative and political. Perhaps Dean Kitchin makes too much of the inspiring and teaching power of the Universities, or rests too great hopes upon what they can and may do. It is a debatable point. Our experience of the English Universities is altogether against any belief in their capacity to educate in the true sense of the word, to produce average men, fit for any work in life open to their condition; but it may be possible to revivify their systems and to bring them into closer relationship with the actualities of life. This is not said in a spirit of criticism, nor in any way to depreciate the value of this admirable letter.

A MIXED TRUST.

Mixed but not necessarily weak, and the yield is about £4 13s. 9d. per cent., which leaves a fair margin for contingencies, when thrift is exercised. Anglo-Chilian Nitrate Railway 4½ per cent. debentures.—These are subject to a mortgage on the railway property. The company is gradually redeeming this issue by annual drawings or purchase. Regular dividends have been paid on the preference capital and a dividend on the ordinary since 1901. Mortgage Company of the River Plate £10 5 per cent. preference shares.—This is a well-managed company, and the ordinary shares stand at a high premium. There is a large amount of uncalled capital, which is, of course further cover for this security. Mexican Railway first preference stock.—For the past year 5½ per cent. was paid on this preference stock. It is entitled to a dividend up to 8 per cent. when earned. At present the traffics are good, and should the country be able to maintain its dollar on a fixed basis there is a reasonable chance of an increase in dividend on this security. At the same time it is quite speculative. Cleveland and Durham Electric Power Distribution 5 per cent. Debentures.—This concern is in good hands, but is not yet in full working order. It should do very well when it is able to supply consumers with electric power, for which there must be a large demand in the big district over which it has powers.

		£	£ s. d.
£300 Anglo-Chilian Nitrate Railway			
4½ per cent. debentures.....	at 99	297	13 10 0
20 Mortgage Company of the River			
Plate £10 5 per cent. preference			
shares	at 11½	225	10 0 0
£300 Mexican Railway first preference			
stock.....	at 115	545	16 10 0
£300 Cleveland and Durham County			
Electric Power Distribution			
Company 5 per cent. debentures	at 101	303	15 0 0
		£1,170	£55 0 0

ARGENTINE TRADE AND FINANCE.

No country in the world is at the present time making such progress as this South American Republic. It is the greatest agricultural region in the world, and is steadily coming forward to take the place of the United States and, it is to be feared, of our Australian colonies, as a source of supply for cereals, wheat and maize principally, and for dead meat as well as for wool. As our Consul in San Francisco points out, all the South-Western States of the North American Union have fallen out of the running as wheat suppliers, and their disappearance has never been missed, principally because the Argentine country is fully capable of filling the gap. It was estimated by the Argentine

Consul-General in London that the United Kingdom altogether took £19,000,000 worth of Argentine produce in 1903, but official figures published in Argentina do not indicate any such total. It, however, is explained that a large portion of the grain ships dispatched from Argentine ports go to St. Vincent and Las Palmas "for orders," and from there they generally reach the United Kingdom. We stand first, not only as importers from the Argentine Republic, but as exporters thereto, coming far ahead of Germany, the United States, and France, and this in spite of the fact that both German and French manufacturers pay more anxious attention to the wishes of their customers than we are in the habit of doing. English people, however, still retain control of the sources of wealth in the Argentine Republic to an extent no other nation can approach. Nearly all the railway system is in English hands, and in 1904 there was a total length of 12,000 miles of these iron roads, while at the end of the year 1,529 miles more were under construction, especially in the province of Buenos Ayres. We should have liked if Mr. Frederick Harford, the First Secretary to His Majesty's Legation at Buenos Ayres, whose report we are dealing with, had included some comparative tables in his story, but he brings his figures down to the end of the first quarter in 1905, and includes some facts relative to the national finance, which must suffice. His conclusion is that the improvement in the financial and commercial conditions of the Argentine Republic, which has been so marked since the end of 1902, still continues, and he regards it as certain that Argentina will play an even more important part in the future as an exporter of cereals and meat. The area of cultivation is extending rapidly, while the population grows more slowly than elsewhere. This is just the reverse of what is taking place in the United States, whose population bounds upward and is rapidly overtaking the agricultural and pastoral capacities of the soil as now cultivated. What is the financial position of this highly favoured State? On the whole favourable. We do not quite like a sub-division of the budget for 1905 into ordinary and extraordinary, fearing that the system may become a means of disguising the speed at which the expenditure is going up, but at present the gross outlay does not seem excessive compared with the country's resources. The budget for 1905 provides for an ordinary expenditure of nearly £14,270,000 against an estimated revenue of £14,450,000, the paper portion of the revenue being converted into sterling at \$11.45 per £. In addition there is an extraordinary outlay or budget for the current fiscal year amounting to £3,354,580, and this is to be provided for by the issue of bonds in accordance with loans previously sanctioned, at least all but £562,000 of it, which is to be met from cash. However the Government of President Quintana, a well known citizen who has for many years occupied the position of leading counsel to the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway, is going to do something to lighten the burden of taxation. Already the percentages put on to the Customs duties when war with Chili seemed about to break out, have been knocked off, and the 2 per cent. surtax is now to disappear, while it is also proposed to reduce the duties on articles of consumption, also certain stamp duties and licences, while next year the President in his message expressed a hope that it might be possible to suppress the whole of the duties on exports. Such reduction as has already taken place vindicated itself in an increase in the yield of the duties still levied, and an experience like that may encourage the Government to rely for abundant revenue more upon the spread of wealth and consequent increase of consumption than upon higher duties. There is certainly room to reduce Customs taxation, and the proposed reduction of the duties upon clothing, trunks, boots and so on from 50 per cent. to 40 per cent. is not going very far towards relieving the community. Every step, however, towards greater freedom of trade is a gain, and if the country abstains from adding to its public debt or succeeds in reducing the burden of that debt by converting high interest bearing bonds into those carrying

lower rates, while at the same time no new outburst of warlike insanity comes across the popular mind, there seems nothing to keep back the Republic in its career of prosperity. We note, however, that the paper money in circulation has recently increased rather fast. It was equal to £35,073,000 on December 31 last, and on May 1 last it had risen by £4,703,000 to £39,776,000. This seems a rather loose-reined expansion, and as it is accompanied by an enormous activity in land speculation, in gambling of various kinds throughout the Republic it might be expedient on the part of the Government to try and check the over-production of this false instrument of wealth, an instrument which really devours wealth in the long run.

ENGLISH SEWING COTTON COMPANY.

It cannot be said that this excessively capitalised business made much progress last year ended March 31, 1905, except the wrong way about. After providing £30,699 for depreciation and £40,000 for debenture interest, the net profit is brought out at £99,428, compared with £182,479 in the preceding year. The decrease is thus £83,051, of which £17,654 is attributable to diminished manufacturing profits in this country, and £67,723 to the smaller dividends returned by the American Thread Company and other subsidiaries in which this English sewing combine is interested. As the directors, however, have no debit balance on revenue account to write off this year, compared with £64,777 of such a year ago, and as £4,837 has been saved on law charges, auditors' fees, and special payments—with, however, £250 more added to directors' fees—the balance of net profit is enough, together with the balance of £31,052 brought forward, to allow the preference dividend in arrear for the year ended March 31, 1904, to be paid, together with the one due for the past year. These two absorb £100,000, leaving £23,666 to be carried forward, or £7,386 less than was brought in. In some senses, therefore, progress may be said to be shown, at least compared with two years ago, and we are glad to see that the directors spent only £5,380 on capital account within the year. This was £114,632 less than the amount so spent in the previous year, and the capital valuation of the assets has been further written down by £43,993 received for properties sold, so that the total is now £2,353,720, but in this closed works is included to the amount of £34,540, and the depreciation mentioned above applies only to the English plant in the possession of the company, and does not cover the plant of R. F. and J. Alexander and Co., Limited, or of Ermen and Roby (Armentières), Limited, these being dealt with in their separate accounts. At the date of the balance-sheet the profit from the investment in the American Thread Company had not been received, but it is doubtless all right, although we note that the debt of the Thread Company on current account has risen during the year by £52,110 to a total of £115,012. On the other hand, the loan raised on security of the common stock of the American Thread Company and interest has been reduced by £67,576 to £33,435. No doubt the money appropriated to wipe out the debit balance of a year ago has been utilised in this direction. Stocks-in-trade are down £73,102, to £366,479, and cash at bankers and on hand has risen by £53,784 to £141,913. Sundry creditors are owed £538, less at £48,908, at the same time that sundry debtors, less provision for discount and bad debts, is an item up £9,645, to £233,969. Altogether the amount to be received as profits from subsidiary companies was £79,195 or £4,267 less than the balance due a year back, and of the dividends from the American Thread Company and others above-mentioned only £5,488 was due by the said other companies. From this we should infer that the subsidiary investments of the English Sewing Cotton Company continue to be the reverse of profitable. No indication is given by the business in any direction that the ordinary share capital will ever come into the dividend yielding status, and it seems a pity that the vendors of the company have proved so obdurate for the most part in refusing

to concede any abatement in the price paid to them. The total of the balance-sheet is £3,328,611, including £3,000,000 of capital, of which £1,000,000 is 4 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, and the business is really, as far as can be judged, worth only about half the actual capitalisation. Depreciation in the home trade is blamed for the comparatively poor results for the past year, and the sales abroad are said to have been well maintained, but whether they are maintained at a reasonable profit we are inclined to doubt.

CROMPTON AND CO., LIMITED.

The board of this company again had a hard struggle of it last year, and show a diminution in the net profits, which were only £9,128 against £14,584 the year before. The decrease is therefore £5,456, or about £256 more than the shrinkage in the preceding year. As they have insufficient revenue out of which to pay a dividend, the directors have decided to withdraw £4,000 from the reserve in order to give 2½ per cent. on the share capital for the past year. This will leave £656 to be carried forward against £1,222 brought in, so that the £4,000 taken from reserve was not enough to make good even this mean dividend; surely a poor enough result, and the reserve fund is only £12,917 all told. The directors, however, say that as this reserve was accumulated out of profits they are justified in taking the step they have done. A poor show is also made by the balance-sheet, and we are not sanguine at all about the future in spite of the announcement that important contracts for constructing and equipping electric lighting and tramway undertakings both in the United Kingdom and abroad have been secured on terms which should undoubtedly result in satisfactory profits for the current year. We hope it may be so, but must note an increase of £21,612 in the sundry creditors of the company, now owed £85,702, at the same time that the stock-in-trade and work in progress have fallen off in value by £25,798 to £125,242. Nothing appreciable, moreover, is written off for depreciation at any point; on the contrary, freeholds are up £1,259 to £62,506, and there is only a slight decrease of about £600 in the item plant, tools, furniture, and fixtures, now standing at £80,284. Trade debtors, though, are up nearly £32,000 at £116,944, so that we may trust that sound and improving business is being done. As was stated a year ago the company is interested in the Electric Supply Corporation, through whom it has financed off the debt due to it by the Chelmsford Electric Lighting Company and financed on much new business often of a poor-looking kind. It took debentures and shares in exchange for its Chelmsford debt and the cost of realising the debentures, as well as a small discount on the shares held in the new company have been charged to the contingency fund, the balance of which, £2,059, has been added to the provision for bad and doubtful debts. The company, however, still holds £2,000 £5 shares, £2 paid, in the Electric Supply Corporation valued at £3,500 in the balance-sheet, and on which there is a contingent liability of £6,000 besides £33,250 nominal in fully-paid shares. It is in a better position, however, as to cash at bankers and in the office, the amount of which on March 31 last was £6,844, or £5,152 more than the year before, but goodwill stands rigid at £10,000, and the balance-sheet as a whole must be considered rather a weak one, and much of the business entered upon artificially induced business.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: NEW PRIMROSE.

The New Primrose Gold Mining Company is one of the principal members of the Barnato Group, and ever since 1891 has been a fairish dividend payer. Dividends, however, have been largely paid indirectly out of premiums, for it has been the practice of the directors to treat premiums as revenue, so it would not be unreasonable or illogical to argue that when there are no premiums the distributions should be less, to say nothing of the fact that new issues of shares increase the capital and marshal a larger number of shares upon which to divide profits. In the two past years the dividends have averaged 30 per cent., and are more likely to be less than

more in the future, without the assistance of premiums, for in the mine's best days this has been the maximum achievement on a much smaller capital. In the past ten years the capital has gradually risen from £280,000 to £325,000. At the present comparatively low market price the yield is about 12 per cent. At the meeting of the company in April, 1902, the chairman said:—"We have no exact calculation of the tonnage remaining in the mine, but can be confident that we have at least five to six years before us in which we shall maintain our present output. I should not like to limit the life of the Primrose, however, to six years, but as I am only stating what we can confidently rely on, it will, no doubt, be some years after that date when we have to consider that we have earned the balance of profits." A year later he said he had reason to believe there would be a much longer life than the above estimate. That was three and two years ago, which would give the mine a life from the present date of only three to four years. But let us say everything we can in the mine's favour, and assume that it will not be exhausted for another eight years, and that present dividends will be maintained during that period. Even so, the aggregate return on an investment of £100 would be only £96, without allowing for commission, stamp fees, &c. Thus there would be a loss of £4 of the principal at the end of the mine's life, with the great probability that the loss would be much larger. To redeem the above principal in eight years the investor would have to put aside at 3 per cent. about £11 every year, which even then would give him a net yield of barely 1 per cent. The reader may easily calculate what his loss would be if the mine lasted only six years, in which case the sum to be set aside annually would be £15, or £3 above the yield on the market price of the shares on the basis of the last paid dividend. The assets that would remain to be divided would be of little more value than machinery lumber. And the price has not been so low as it is at present for twelve years, which means that those who have bought at higher prices will be sure losers in the long run, for it is practically certain that past figures will never again be reached to enable them to sell out to "mugs" at a profit.

MR. SEDDON'S DISSOLUTION BUDGET.

It is of the usual glowing description. The year ended with a tremendous surplus, the largest in the whole history of the Seddon administration, no less than £761,036 after £600,000 had been paid over to the public works fund in fomentation of "progress" from the previous year's surplus. The estimated expenditure for the current year is put at £6,960,000, and the estimated revenue at £7,467,000, showing another surplus of £507,000. Oddly enough, however, the public debt was increased during the past year by £2,339,000, and the Government is again asking for a loan of £1,000,000. It did that a year ago, but, as the increase in the debt just mentioned shows, these much-paraded "small" public loans do not at all represent the full extent of the credit transactions involving deeper plunges into debt continually carried out by this Government. It juggles with the "land for close settlement" trick and borrows on land debentures in all directions, after a fashion not always easily traced. Thus we are told in the official Reuter's telegram published here by the High Commissioner for New Zealand that land had been acquired for closer settlement during the year to the amount of £446,130, and that as provision for future purposes £716,697 was available. What this array of figures really means we may discover when the full text of the Budget reaches us. Meanwhile it is advisable to record some of Mr. Seddon's boasts. He bragged of the relief to industry given by the reduced Customs taxation, by the remission of railways charges, and about the "aid" given to public works by the transfer of £4,355,000 from surpluses to the Public Works Department. In the last 14 years, he says, these savings had amounted to £7,760,666. Yes, and in the last 14 years the public debt of the colony has been augmented by more than £21,000,000. We are told that its progress

has been wonderful, and can believe it, but have the experiments of the Liberal party, whose leader Mr. Seddon proclaims himself to be, really proved successful and been "largely imitated by other countries"?

THE MINING INDUSTRY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

There was manifestly a considerable amount of activity in some of the branches of the mining industry of New South Wales in 1904, for the total value of the minerals produced in that period has only twice previously been exceeded, viz., in the years 1891 and 1900, and then by merely £31,000 and £64,000 respectively. This improvement is the result mainly of the increased returns from the silver-lead mines, and, secondly, of the larger production of gold and tin. On the other hand, the output of coal has greatly diminished, owing chiefly to the loss of the export trade to America, and there seems, in the opinion of the Minister for Mines and Agriculture, little probability of an improvement in this respect in the near future. The gross output of the twelve months is valued at £6,402,558, and exceeds that of the previous year by £286,303. From the silver-lead mines of the State the increase in the production amounted to £622,906, which furnishes much evidence of the wealth and possibilities of the mines on the Broken Hill field. Readers have doubtless noticed that in the past few weeks the shares of one or two of the principal members of the Broken Hill group, notably those of the Proprietary company, have attracted a considerable amount of attention, recent reports to hand showing an improvement in their individual prospects. The gold yield shows an advance in value of £66,080, and the reports from the various fields indicate that this industry is making some headway. As regards tin, an increase of £34,577 is recorded, the sustained price of the metal and the favourable seasons offering inducements to a large number of men to engage in the search for stream tin. Total decreases aggregate £453,929, the principal deficiencies coming under the headings of coal, copper, and opal. The value of the coal raised was £324,708 less than in 1904, and the data available indicate that no immediate betterment is to be looked for. There was a decline of £42,253 in the value of the copper produced, due to the suspension of work by one of the largest companies for five months of the year. Operations, however, have since been resumed, and this, together with some promising developments in the Cobar and Nymagee divisions, should increase the output during the current twelve months. The value of the output of the mineral fields from early times to the end of 1904 is estimated at £157,315,659. With the object of assisting as far as possible in the prospecting of the gold and mineral deposits of the colony, and at the same time providing relief for the unemployed, a pamphlet is being prepared by the Department of Mines giving a list of the localities where it is considered that prospectors would have the best chance of obtaining a return for their labour. The inspectors of mines and geological surveyors are collecting data from all the mining districts in order to make the information as complete as possible. A Mining Record Office is also being established to give reliable facts as to the past histories of mines which have been temporarily abandoned, but which it may be desirable to reopen.

UNITED STATES TREASURY DEFICITS.

A sort of fatality appears to decree that nations which engage in aggressive wars shall pay therefor in permanent deadly augmentations of their budgets. The United States drove Spain out of the West Indies, and obtained an easy triumph there, which should have left but a passing effect upon the expenditure of the Washington Government. Unhappily, that Government was not content with merely sweeping the Spaniards out of Cuba and Porto Rico, but also drove them out of the Philippines, where a state of war has existed more or less openly ever since. Neither the Cuban nor the Philippine conquests, however, would have necessitated

such large increases in the Treasury appropriations as we now see. One might almost say that a curse falls upon populations which indulge in wars of conquest, and that they punish themselves by falling into habits of profligacy in expenditure, from which there is no escape, or seldom a chance of escape, short of national impotence, if not absolute decay. Assuredly the figures of the United States Treasury for the fiscal year ended on June 30 last must suggest many gloomy reflections to those who believe in the dawn of an era of universal peace, and in the development of humanitarian civilisations through the progressive enlightenment of the governing instruments and institutions. Not only did the year close with a deficit of \$23,988,000, but there is no prospect of an immediate return to surpluses. The madness of waste has laid hold of the spending departments in Washington just as it has seized upon ours, and the budget appropriations create new wants year by year faster than the revenue increases to meet them. In the year just closed the total expenditure came to \$567,412,000, or nearly £114,000,000, and no wonder, for compared with 1896-7, the year before the United States set forth to conquer Cuba and bring peace and happiness to the oppressed populations of Spain's dependencies in the Atlantic and the Pacific, the total expenditure was rather less than \$367,000,000. It has consequently risen in the interval by nearly \$202,000,000, or upwards of 55 per cent., and still the item "pensions" figures for nearly \$142,000,000, or more than £28,000,000, in the up-surging aggregate. The pensions waste is larger now than it was in 1896-7, although not quite so large as in 1902-3. No other group of outgoings reaches this total, except civil and miscellaneous charges, which came last year to nearly \$147,000,000, or 62 per cent. more than in 1896-7. The most startling increases, however, are in those branches of the revenue which provide for wholesale slaughter and nourish windy "patriotism," the army and the navy. The army last year took \$122,498,000, or 150 per cent. more than in the last pre-war year, while the outlay upon the navy has risen from \$34,562,000 in 1896-7 to \$117,334,000, an increase of upwards of 230 per cent.

It is hardly possible to convey to the minds of readers what such an expansion implies, but one thing we may be sure of, no abatement will be allowed, no return to common sense in the ordering of the budget as long as a huge expenditure is necessary to bolster up the iniquitous protective tariff. No matter whether the revenue would be more elastic and profitable to the country were that tariff reduced, the excessive expenditure will be maintained and used as a pretext for retaining Customs duties at an excessive height in the interests of the trusts and capitalist groups by whom the whole industrial energies of the Union have been throttled. Last year the Customs revenue was \$262,000,000, an increase of merely \$750,000 on the previous year. It was, therefore, an inelastic revenue, and the same is true of the receipts from internal taxation, which hardly rose by as much as \$500,000 to \$233,000,000. In fact, the entire revenue, leaving out of account \$5,600,000 paid back by the organisers of the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition, was only \$538,000,000 against \$540,000,000 the year before. Protectionists will, therefore, say duties must be increased, that new sources of revenue will have to be found, and the vast army of pensioners, most of whom must be participants in fraud at this date, will back them up. It is, we always maintain, in the abominably dishonest system of pensions, worked in the interests of a political party, and totally without reference to equity, that the true strength of the Protectionist hold upon the nation is to be found, and one of the most useful consequences of the war with Spain to the protectionist party was the pretext it gave for augmenting this pensions expenditure. The total was threatening before the war to fall off because of the impossibility of finding pretexts for granting doles to survivors of the Civil War, and the descendants of such, but now, with fighting still going on in the Philippines and a larger army and navy to keep up, it is possible to continue to waste money in this direction,

to bribe the electorate all over the Union, and so to oil with effect the Protectionist Republican machine. In spite of the enormous wealth of the American Union and of the fierce energy with which its material resources are being developed and utilised, a day of reckoning must come for unscrupulous finance of this description. The nation which indulges itself in the gratification of military lusts is a nation on the way to decay, for that reason alone, but when militarism and protection go hand in hand to strip the people of their earnings, to aid the over-rich in becoming richer still at the expense of the poor, the decay is certain to be hastened.

THE FORCE BEHIND THE LONDON ELECTRIC POWER TRUST.

It was to be expected that the people connected with the Allgemeine Electricische Gesellschaft of Berlin would deny that they, as the real promoters, stand behind the syndicate now endeavouring to plant itself as a monopolist of electricity in London. What we stated last week none the less remains true. Technically, the Berlin company is not the promoter of the Bill now before Parliament; that position is occupied by the syndicate, whose names and shareholdings are published in this week's *Truth*. An examination of the list, however, reveals the fact that the controllers of the Richardson-Westgarth Company are prominent among these shareholders. But Richardsons are the licensees in this country of the Swiss firm of Brown Boveri for its improvements in the Parson's turbine, and their understanding with the Swiss company is that it is to supply Richardson, Westgarth and Co., with all the generators for the turbines which they (Richardsons) build to B. B.'s drawings. Now the Swiss firm was some time ago bought up by the Allgemeine Electricische Gesellschaft of Berlin, and is, therefore in its complete control—part of its property. Inasmuch as Richardsons are not yet in a position to build the big turbines required, we are told that arrangements have been made to have them built by Brown, Boveri and Co., should the Bill pass, and that Mr. Brown has been over here already to arrange about the orders. Furthermore, the switchboards, cables, &c., are to be provided by the aforesaid Allgemeine company, which really stands behind the whole project, the truth being that the manufacture of electrical plant and machinery has been pushed ahead too fast and too far in Germany. There is no domestic work now available within the Empire to keep its works going, and enterprising managers are therefore eager to "dump" their goods abroad wherever they can find an opening, or create one, no matter what the cost. This being so, it is a delightful recreation to study *Truth's* list of the promoting syndicate's shareholders—tariffites among them by the dozen, Liberals, even the chief Liberal whip, nondescripts, and Tories, all cordially united to further German enterprise, and place the citizens of London in bondage to a trust of alien creation.

WATNEY, COMBE, REID, AND CO., LIMITED.

When the prospectus of this brewery monster first appeared in the beginning of July, 1898, we let it down far too gently. Still it was observed then that "a day must come when holders of brewery securities will receive an awakening, and the greater the inflation the greater the collapse." Great, indeed, has been the collapse of Watney, Combe, Reid, and Co., and what the end is going to be we dare not attempt to forecast. The thing has been a thoroughly corrupt bubble of latter-day finance from its inception and it is being borne steadily down towards bankruptcy by, first of all, the excessive weight of capital imposed upon it—nearly £15,000,000—and next, by the decay of its business. In the year ended June 30 last the net profits came to only £469,614, a decrease of £69,134 on the year immediately preceding. After providing the debenture interest, the dividend on the preference stocks, and the interim dividends paid February 4 last on the preferred and deferred ordinary stocks, there remained only £76,529 including £13,550

brought forward. This is a decrease of £58,584 on the preceding year, and consequently it is impossible for the directors to give another dividend on the deferred ordinary stock, the amount of which is £3,185,410. They are only able to make up the full 4 per cent. dividend on the preferred ordinary stock, leaving £12,821 to be carried forward, against £13,550 brought in. A year ago the deferred stock got 2 per cent., this year it gets $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and in future, we should judge, it will get nothing at all. No adequate explanation is offered for this collapse, but the directors are making some efforts, futile it is to be feared, against the excessive capitalisation to provide for the inevitable wind up, and proclaim their virtue in having reserved £722,366 altogether against estimated losses on loans, this amount being more than 12 per cent. of the total of such. A year ago, however, they added £20,000 out of profits to the reserve, besides £6,000 to the investment reserve, and this year neither of these accumulations gets anything. The reserve is therefore still only £110,000. But there have been writings up as well as writings down and the capital cost of brewery buildings, freeholds, leaseholds, copyholds, goodwill, and utensils was increased last year by £84,696 to a total of £8,999,509. The balance-sheet in other respects perplexes us by curious little changes; loans and interest, customers' accounts, and rents owing, for instance, are down about £129,000 to £5,682,000. Provision for discount and collection is also fully £2,627 less at £28,841, but the amount reserved against contingent losses is the same in both years, £28,130. Fully £4,000 more, however, at £53,110 has been reserved to bring the investments of £525,000 down to present value. There is an increase of £45,478 in the cash at bankers, at call, and in hand, which now amounts to £206,594, but the stock of beer is down £40,000 to £311,951. Weary shareholders must make what they can of these changes, as also of the decline of about £46,000 in the value of trade investments at cost now entered at £253,587. Coming to the profit and loss account we find that only £11,382 has this year been written off for bad debts in excess of the previous provision, but the amount reserved in the previous year was £100,496, so that the real amount lost on bad business done in the twelve months would appear to be about £112,000, and with all their struggle to get a revenue the directors still take good care of themselves, devoting £16,500 as fees amongst the ten of them, or only £1,000 less than a year ago, although, as a disgusted deferred shareholder reminds us, £18,000 was paid some time ago to three directors to induce them to retire. Trade, office, and miscellaneous expenses have risen £2,042, to £68,210, and there is an increase of £2,308 in the cooperage expenses which came to £22,835 for the past year, while repairs and depreciation of freeholds and leaseholds are at £81,334, £17,631 less than in the preceding year. Apparently bad debts continue to oppress the management, for the amount reserved this year for doubtful debts is £105,288. Against the decrease in the depreciation allowance, however, we must place an increase of £3,900 in the allowance for repairs, maintenance and depreciation of brewery premises and plant entered at £47,831. This is something but not nearly enough. The profit and loss account, in fact, explains to a considerable extent the serious diminution in the net profits, for the gross profit on trading account entered at £629,078 is only £23,424 less than it was in the preceding year. £19,325 less, however, has been received as interest on loans, now figuring for £179,107, but rents receivable in net amount are nearly £5,000 up at £125,298. Thus even allowing for the decrease in interest, the income might have been husbanded with greater care, and the accounts show that a spirit of extravagance continues to animate the board. It might be possible, were economy exercised and expenses carefully revised with a view to their reduction, to increase the net revenue to some extent. The whole tendency, however, of the business is to dwindle, and nothing can save it from a drastic reorganisation involving the disappearance of perhaps £5,000,000 of water from the excessive capital. In a few years even that might not be enough.

ANGLO-ARGENTINE TRAMWAYS COMPANY.

This is now a very powerful undertaking; indeed, bidding fair to become one of the most profitable enterprises in Buenos Ayres, and its progress during the last few years is a striking example of what can be accomplished by energetic management and a readiness to move with the times. For a long time the career of the old Anglo-Argentine Tramways Company was of a particularly unexciting character, a 4 per cent. dividend being the best thing accomplished for a good many years; but when the decision was come to alter the motive power from horses to electricity a great change for the better was brought about. The advantages of the conversion were so potent that it proved a quite easy matter to get the work done for a payment in shares, and in 1899 a company was formed to perform the contract for £1,000,000, payable in ordinary shares, the then existing shares being converted into 5 per cent. preference, subsequently raised to 5½ per cent. The price was later reduced to £850,000, as it was found unnecessary to build a power house, an arrangement having been made to purchase current at a smaller cost than that at which the company could generate it, and so great was the success of the change that even before the conversion was complete profits had grown to such an extent that the dividend could be paid on the new preference shares and 6 per cent. distributed on the new ordinary. In October, 1904, 120,000 of the last were offered for public subscription at £5 10s. each, and we hope our readers picked up a few, as advised in these columns, as the present price is about £8 10s. We should not like to say the shares are over-valued at such figure, because the last dividend paid was at the rate of 8 per cent., and the company has made its position practically unassailable by absorbing the City of Buenos Ayres system which might have proved an important competitor. That company was already possessed of a good and profitable business under the old horse traction, and now that electrification is being taken in hand there is every reason to suppose that improvement will set in as great as with the Anglo-Argentine itself. The company should be worth watching, and meanwhile it may be interesting to take a glance at a few of the principal share holdings. Many well-known names are there, but it will be noted with a little curiosity that some immense transfers took place during the past year. These, however, may have been, and probably were, connected with some of the various financial arrangements recently carried through.

ORDINARY SHARE HOLDINGS, APRIL 25, 1905.

		Transferred.
Lazarus, Ernest Arthur, and Con-		
cannon, Jas. Blake	—	170,000
Concannon, Jas. Blake, and Wat-		
son, Horace James	—	170,000
Proctor, Geo., and Lyne, Philip		
Henry	—	110,000
National Discount	1,300	500
Gallaher, G.R., and Gurrey, Frank	2,100	540
Prynn, Gordon	15	1,050
Concannon, Jas. Blake	1,000	3,000
Whelen, John Seman, and Higgin-		
son, Chas. Fredc.	4,462	5,868
Sanford, Chas. Hy.	3,000	60
Cripps, Francis Henry	—	1,000
Kindersley, Robert M.	—	1,373
Cunliffe, Leonard Daneham	—	1,078
Savill, Walter	1,500	—
Kitchen, Geo.	150	1,867
Leon, Herbert Samuel	2,000	—
Harvey, Sir Robert	—	455
Fradgley, John Allen, and Gordon,		
Andrew (Union Bank of Scotland)	—	624
Leyland, Fredk. Dawson	—	735
Harris, Fredk. Wm.	—	715
Cassel, Leon, and Van Gelder, Gus-		
tave	1,517	1,600
Campbell, Hugh	188	907
London Trust	—	530
Morrison, Chas.	500	9,500
Newbery, Geo. James	800	—
Dodgson, Wm. Henley; Henley		
Fredk.; and Campbell	1,000	—
Gow, Chas., and Clodd, Edward ...	235	1,270

Whitlie, Andrew, and Coutts, Geo.		
Sutherland	818	1,327
Stevens, Edward, and Richardson,		
Wm.	—	1,758
Duncan, John Hy. Hill, and Proctor,		
Geo.	—	2,145
Clapham, Edwin	550	—
Wills, Hy. Overton	2,000	—
International Financial	500	430
Wall, Thomas	2,000	—
Cecil, Evelyn, M.P.	500	—
Hodgson, Heathfield Butler	900	—
Wheeler, Bennett John Wheeler ...	1,000	—
Brown, Hy. Darell	700	—
Williams, Oliver	690	—
London and County Banking	155	955
Municipal Trust	500	—
Oliverson, Cecil Hy.	1,400	—
Cockburn, John Stirling, and Fergu-		
son, John	1,710	370
Ashton, Rt.-Hon. Jas. Baron	1,600	—
Au Roslan, Louis Goury	696	800
Gesellschaft für Elektrische Un-		
tersuchungen	7,822	25,583
Briscoe, Arthur	500	200
Metropolitan Trust	—	715
Woolston, Wm. Graveley	—	1,074
Anglo-American Debenture Corpora-		
tion	—	2,045
Touch, Geo. Alexander, and Poole,		
Wm. Sandford	300	—
London Scottish American Trust ...	—	500
Meyer, Elias	700	—
Mercantile Investment and General		
Trust	1,500	—
Skinner, Thos.	—	420
Bowen, Albert Edward, and Ander-		
son, James	—	1,430
Holman, John, and Destrube, Ernest	9,751	13,009
Cassel, Leon, and Kann, Max	—	4,362
Davies, John Robert	740	—
Karbe, Erich, and Wabrendorf,		
Gustav	1,571	—
Jeans, Richard Walter, and Sand,		
John	1,050	—
London and River Plate Bank	720	—
American Trust	500	—
Wills, Sir Fredc., Bart., M.P.	400	—
Robey, Walter Divalley	800	2,000
Société Financière de Transports et		
d'Enterprises Industrielles	4,362	—
Naylor, Alfred, and Harrison, Wm.		
Thomas	790	210
Raphael, Herbert Hy.	1,000	—
Sligo, Marchioness of	500	—
Urban, Ernest	1,820	—

Passing Events.

The Kaiser must be immensely proud of the attention his meeting with the Tsar has excited on the Continent and to some extent here. The French have been put in quite a tremor of apprehension about a new Russo-German compact, and all over Europe, as well as in the United States, politicians have wagged their heads and talked about the mysterious designs of his Imperial Majesty. Can it be a Teuton-Russo-Japanese alliance to the injury of France? Did the Kaiser counsel his august cousin to make peace with Japan and convert it into a friendship designed to promote Russian and German interests in the Far East at the expense of French and British? What did this meeting imply? We really know nothing about it, but feel quite sure that the Kaiser did not advise the Tsar to continue the war, for, after all, whatever his oddities and outbursts may be, William of Germany is a man of peace. We could even believe him capable of advising storm-tossed Nicolas to give his subjects a safety valve in the shape of a more or less sham "representative assembly."

The army is terribly short of officers it seems, wants another 4,395 of them, and yet the expenditure on said army is about twice what it was when the present Cecil-Balfour Government came into power or office. Where is the money going? The African contractors cannot be still having it all. Perhaps the increase in expenditure is due to the deficiency of officers in some degree, since officers, we suppose, provide their own "keep," and save the nation many outlays. "No! They don't?" Well, we don't care, their occupation, or idleness, is costly enough to give colour to this in-

terpretation, but if it hardly fits the case what matter, our money goes all the same. Where, though, is it going, and why must we wait for another generation to grow up before the complement of officers can be complete? "Not enough plunder in the biz?" Perhaps not; bridge is so beastly expensive.

A Laffan telegram printed in Wednesday's *Daily Chronicle* states that the Food Commissioner of the State of Pennsylvania, Dr. H. B. Warien, has commenced a prosecution against the Beef Trust on the grounds that it has been poisoning the meat it supplies to the long-suffering community by embalming it. It is coloured by a poisonous coal-tar dye, is dipped in a solution of formaldehyde, dusted with a powder containing sulphites, and washed in boracic acid solutions. The telegram goes on to say that the State chemists declare the stuff used to be the same as that employed in embalming dead bodies, and that the sulphites found are all stomach irritants. This surely opens up a horrible prospect, no less than a wholesale poisoning of the people of the United States. Is any of that meat imported here, because, if so, it is about time we had a preferential tariff or something to keep it out. Perhaps the tariffites of Birmingham will inquire and let us know.

The heroic self-denial of the directors of the United States Steel Corporation or Trust becomes more manifest as time speeds on. In the past, or June, quarter the net earnings are put down at \$30,305,116, or \$7,279,220 more than in the March quarter, and actually \$10,814,391 more than in the corresponding quarter of last year. And of this fattening total the brave men devote \$5,010,000 to reserves, after, as before, paying the usual quarterly dividend on the preferred shares at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum. It is stunning—reserves built up at the rate of less than 1½ per cent. per annum on the capital valuation of the fast wasting properties. And there is a real surplus of \$3,071,000 after performing all these feats, which, nevertheless, disappointed the market. Did it look to see Andrew Carnegie buying the "show" back again at 50 per cent. premium on the issued stock—he is still alive, is he not? the good Andrew, alive and disgustingly rich? Perhaps the market did not like the falling away in orders—4,829,655 tons unexecuted on June 30 against 5,597,560 tons on March 31. But there were orders on hand for only 3,192,277 tons on June 30, 1904, so the progress is surely real, and the public has no doubt taken up all the paper issued to provide means to pay for the goods.

Will no kind subscriber or reader in the United States take pity on our ungratified curiosity and send us a copy of the recently-issued report of the Morgan shipping combine just issued for the past year? It is "very bad," the newspaper agencies say; but none of them seem to have seen it, and there was neither special insight nor originality in the vague information conveyed. We want to analyse that report just to cheer the hearts of our forlorn tariffites at home, poor fellows. Since the war ended they are much down on their luck, and have taken to keeping loose company.

No wonder that American bills are multiplying on our money market. Last week the loans of the Associated Banks of New York went up by more than \$19,000,000, a clear proof in this dull time of the year that banking money is being manufactured at express speed in order to cope with the necessities of that cataclysmic Wall Street market. We shall have to begin to scrutinise the paper coming to us from across the Atlantic to see how much of it is pure finance, documents created in anticipation of the grain and cotton harvests, in order to sustain Wall Street in its daft career.

Not content with borrowing steadily for railway, irrigation, and other purposes, the Government of India is now going to launch out on the improvement of Calcutta, and has submitted proposals involving an outlay of 8½ crores of rupees, or by the conventional computation, £5,500,000. Most, if not the whole, of that will have to be borrowed in this country.

Is it really true that the "Hon." Robert P. Porter has been appointed editor of the Engineering Supplement of

the *Times*? The information has been conveyed to us as an absolute and undeniable fact, and it interested us very much for various reasons. We shall have to try to read this supplement, which has hitherto been for the most part thrown aside as an encumbrance. Speaking of the *Times*, by the way, when is that lending library scheme its Yankee advertising agents threw out as a bait to subscribers more than a month ago going to materialise? We are hearing some very curious things about the way the paper, or its said alien advertising agents, is putting the screw on the publishers.

The directors announce that an extraordinary general meeting of Price's Patent Candle Company will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on September 8 to declare a dividend for the half-year to June 30. Subject to audit, and without making any deduction for depreciation, the accounts show a profit of about £34,500, to which has to be added £9,385 brought forward. The directors recommend a distribution of 15s. per share, which will absorb £28,125 and leave £15,800 to be carried forward.

An excellent and timely letter on "The Defence of India," from the pen of Colonel Hanna, appeared in last Monday's *Times*, and should be filed by publicists as a touchstone by which to test the strange lunacies now afflicting the Indian official mind and Lord Kitchener. By no means the least apposite part of the letter is the quotation of Lord Roberts's opinion upon the best policy to be pursued in providing for the defence of the North-West frontier against that nightmare Russian invasion. In his memorandum dated May 29, 1880, Lord Roberts said:—

We are now also fully aware of the extraordinary difficulties which Russia would have to encounter were she at any time to advance upon India *via* Kabul, and to how great an extent we could injure and harass her by raising the tribes along the line of communications. . . . The longer and more difficult the line of communication is, the more numerous and greater the obstacles which Russia would have to overcome, and, so far from shortening one mile of the road, I would let the web of difficulties extend to the very mouth of the Khaibar Pass.

That is surely a wise deliverance, and it accords with the view of Lord Lawrence, also quoted by Colonel Hanna, but the military faction in India has gone demented about a Russian army of "some 200,000 men" fully equipped and ready to pour over the mountains and through the barren passes upon us, nonsense which Colonel Hanna has no difficulty whatever in exposing. "As a matter of fact," he says, "Russia's garrison in Central Asia (the normal strength of which has been for many years, and still is, between 40,000 and 50,000 men) has undergone no material change since the war began." But because of our fatuous prepossession the people of India are ground in the dust.

Critical Index To New Investments.

WEST SUBURBAN GAS LIGHT AND COKE CO., LIMITED.

Although this company has a share capital of no more than £30,000, divided equally into 6 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £5 each, it ranges itself alongside several fair-sized undertakings, and has even delved into *Daily Telegraph* statistics of the consumption of gas in the United Kingdom in order to find facts for the encouragement of investors. The company takes over a freehold gas works at Colnbrook, for which it pays £11,750, presumably all in cash, and proposes to extend the benefits of gas to adjoining districts. When the contemplated developments have been carried out a sale of over 30,000,000 cubic feet per annum is looked for, and at 5s. 10d. per 1,000 cubic feet, or 1s. less than is now charged, a net profit of £5,560 is brought out, which would enable the directors to pay the preference dividend and 12 per cent. on the ordinary twice over. The enterprise is, no doubt, legitimate enough and may prove profitable, but it should be kept for home consumption.

NATAL 3½ PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED STOCK.

The London and Westminster Bank, as agents for the Government of Natal, will receive subscriptions

for £1,000,000 of this stock, which is offered at the price of 97½ per cent. Of the loan £275,000 is to be applied to railways and their equipment under an act passed in 1903, and the other £725,000 is to provide for the purchase of the Zululand Railway. The stock will rank *pari passu* with the existing £4,000,000 of 3½ per cent. stock, and the money must all be paid up by October 18 next, three instalments of £25 each falling due on that date in each of the next three months. With this loan added the total debt of this colony, as such, will be raised almost to £19,000,000, and there is besides £1,250,000 due by Durban and £877,000 by Pietermaritzburg. The white population of the colony numbers less than 100,000, and while boss rule exists in South Africa the railways cannot be much of a security. Including £1,150,000 added to the debt of Durban and about £670,000 added to that of Maritzburg, the borrowings of Natal have added about £12,000,000 to its public debts since 1899. The total population, mostly Kaffirs, is not much more than a million.

DECCAN GOLD FIELDS DEVELOPMENT CO., LIMITED.

This is yet another offshoot of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company, and has been formed to acquire the exclusive rights for ten years from December 31, 1905, of prospecting for gold and precious minerals except coal in respect of about 240 square miles of the Raichore Doab Gold Field, and options of acquiring for the residue of the parent company's lease the mining rights, except as to coal, over such blocks as may be selected. The capital of the company is £125,000 in £1 shares, of which 91,667 are offered for subscription, and as the Hyderabad Company receives no cash or other consideration, the whole of the funds subscribed will be available for this company's own purposes. When the company forms a subsidiary company to work a mining location the Hyderabad Company will take in cash or shares a sum equivalent either to the original capital of the new concern or to two-fifths of the purchase price paid with a royalty of 2½ per cent. on all gold and other minerals extracted, and in the event of this company working any of the locations itself the Hyderabad Company will be entitled to one-third of the net profits. The prospectus states that according to numerous reports in the possession of the Hyderabad Company the area acquired was the site in former times of a large gold-mining industry, and should the hopes raised be realised the parent will stand to make a good thing out of the deal. In the meantime shareholders in the Hyderabad Company have the privilege of subscribing for two shares for every five held, which may or may not give them a chance of a market profit.

GREAT DOWGAS TIN MINES, LIMITED.

Out of a total capital of £60,000 in £1 shares 25,000 are at present offered for subscription, and 10,000 are taken by the vendor together with £2,000 in cash as payment for certain mining licences and tack note under which this property is held at a minimum rental of £175 per annum, merging into a royalty of one-thirtieth of the gross sales. It is estimated that there are about 1½ million tons of ore containing about 15,625 tons of tin valued at £1,250,000, and on the basis of a daily output of 100 tons of ore a pleasing calculation is made showing annual receipts of £31,200, of which, after deducting 10s. per ton of ore for working expenses, £15,600, or about 43 per cent. on the issued capital, is regarded as net profit. The reports of the mining engineers who have examined the property speak of the ore as easy to work, and, in fact, are so enthusiastic that we wonder at the modesty of the vendor in asking so little.

MOTOR PNEUMATIC TYRE CO., LIMITED.

The British Motor Tyre Syndicate, Limited, does not seem to have been in existence very long, and no mention is made as to its capital. Its assets, however, appear to be sundry patents for motor tyres, for which

it paid £40,000 in shares and £5,000 in cash, and these are now acquired by the present company with a capital of £150,000 in £1 shares. An intermediary has in the usual way been employed in the transaction, who took over the business for £26,500 in cash and £73,500 in cash or shares, and resells for £26,500 in cash and £83,500 in shares or cash. The syndicate did not manufacture the tyres itself, nor apparently is the company to do so, as the arrangement with Messrs. David Moseley and Sons, Limited, of Manchester, is to continue in force, but it is estimated that after deducting expenses of management, advertising, etc., a net profit of £27,500 per annum should be earned. In addition, arrangements have been made for the sale of the American patents for £50,000 in shares of a company to be formed, and of the French and Belgian patents for a minimum sum of £50,000, payable as to two-thirds in cash and one-third in shares, and the benefit of these contracts will accrue to this company, so that on paper the future looks rosy enough. Why, then, has it been necessary to pay £6,000 in cash and £4,000 in shares for the underwriting of 50,000 shares?

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS CORPORATION, LIMITED.

A short time ago we predicted that this jungle company would have to appeal to the shareholders and the public for further capital, and the directors now make the appeal, not at the most propitious moment, we fear. They have decided to attempt to get the cash by the issue of debentures, and offer out of an authorised £100,000 £80,000 of £50 each, carrying interest at 7 per cent., thus recognising that they could not hope to get the money at a cheaper price. The debentures are to be a specific charge upon the lands held by the corporation, also a floating charge on the remainder of its assets, subject to a provision that the company shall not create any charge in priority to, or *pari passu* with, them, except with the sanction of an extraordinary resolution of the debenture holders or with the previous consent in writing of three-fourths of their value. The company will have the right to pay off any part of them on six months' notice, subject to a premium of £5 (£10 per cent.) on each bond paid off before July 1, 1907, and a premium of £2 10s. (£5 per cent.) on each debenture paid off after that date. We are not impressed with the security, looking to the past history of the mine and the company. Big dividends have been paid in past years, but largely indirectly out of premiums, whilst in 1901 £192,500 was profit on the sale of the Sansu Mine to the Ashanti Sansu, which cannot be repeated. Distributions, however, came to a sudden stop in 1904 because the mine could not earn a profit, and as the fountain flow of premiums has also dried up we are not in the least hopeful that the future of the company will be a prosperous or profitable one. It may succeed in earning the debenture interest, however, but we would not care to be dogmatic even on that, though Mr. Feldtmann holds out fair hopes of profit-earning.

BUENOS AYRES LACROZE TRAMWAYS, LIMITED.

This company has been formed to acquire from Messrs. Lacroze Brothers and Company, of Buenos Ayres, a system of tramways extending from that city in the direction of Chacarita, San Martin, Belgrano and Palermo, at present worked by horse traction. Apparently the whole of the share capital of \$10,000,000 or £875,000 remains in the vendors' hands as consideration for the tramways and concessions, and in order to raise funds for the electrification of the line £400,000 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock has been created, of which £300,000 has been bought by the Anglo-American Debenture Corporation and others, and is offered for subscription at par. The system taken over covers 21½ miles of route, the total length of single line being 37½ miles, but of this the company is sole owner of 25 miles and joint owner of another four, the remainder being worked under running powers over lines of other companies. Gross earnings

from 25 miles of single line during the three years to December 31, 1904, are certified to have been £89,025, £94,319 and £98,838 respectively and the profit for the third year is given as £29,073, but this was before providing anything for depreciation. On these figures a margin of £11,073 over the amount required for debenture interest and sinking fund is shown, but J. G. White and Co., Limited, the contractors for the conversion, calculate that with electric traction this surplus should be increased to £45,000 without taking into account any profits to be derived from the supply of electricity to other industries. The company may do well enough, but it must not be forgotten that of the large amount taken by the vendors a good proportion is for property which must be promptly consigned to the scrap-heap when the change is made. Whether there will be enough left to provide ample security for the debenture stock is a matter of uncertainty, as the prospectus gives no details of a kind to permit of an opinion.

WEST DRAYTON MILLBOARD CO., LIMITED.

The language used to describe the business acquired by this company would not be out of place in describing an undertaking of considerable magnitude, yet it is only a tiny affair with property valued at £24,100, including £4,000 for goodwill. Even so, however, it would appear to be grossly overcapitalised, as, in addition to a share capital of £20,000 in £5 shares, there is an issue of £15,000 7 per cent. first mortgage debentures. The directors aim at a production of 40 tons of board per week from the two mills, and on this output look for an annual net profit of £4,680 per annum, but the vendor evidently does not share this hope, as he stipulates that of the £25,000 paid £15,000 shall be in cash and the balance in cash or debentures.

TRUSTEES, EXECUTORS AND SECURITIES INSURANCE CORPORATION PREFERENCE SHARES.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Company have bought 144,264 cumulative £2 12s. 6d. preference shares of this company, bearing $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest and with £1 2s. 6d. paid up on each, and they now offer for sale this large parcel, subject to the payment of the 30s. per share necessary to make them fully paid up. When the whole £2 12s. 6d. has been paid the shares, which form part of an issue of 200,000, will be converted into £525,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cumulative preference stock. All the money must be paid up by February 28 next, but allottees may complete the transaction under 2 per cent. discount on allotment or on November 30, when the first 15s. of the unpaid portion falls due. Particulars given in the prospectus indicate a margin of profit amounting to about £40,000 after the debenture stock interest and the dividend on this preference capital has been met, but of this margin £27,000 is estimated gain from the £600,000 of extra capital to be provided under arrangements recently sanctioned. We see no reason why this estimate should be considered excessive.

HULL CORPORATION $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. REDEEMABLE STOCK.

An issue of £400,000 of this stock is now made by the Corporation, and offered through the Governor and Company of the Bank of England to the public at 101 per cent. The stock is redeemable on July 31, 1955, or 50 years hence, but the Corporation retains the option to do so at par 20 years hence on three months' notice given. It is stated in the prospectus that the rateable value of the city exceeds £1,152,000, and that the capital value of the revenue-producing property is £3,238,000, which property includes real estate, water, gas, electricity, tramways, markets, baths, and public parks. All the money has to be paid up by October 17 in the manner duly set forth in the prospectus. With this loan added, the net debt of Hull will amount to £2,252,555.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

MADRAS RAILWAY COMPANY.—Tenders were received at the Chief Cashier's office at the Bank of England on Thursday for £300,000 3 per cent. debentures of this company guaranteed both as to principal and interest by the Secretary of State for India

in Council. The debentures will be dated August 1, 1905, and will be redeemable at par on August 1, 1910.

LINEN THREAD COMPANY.—Holders of preferred ordinary and ordinary shares are offered 11,691 preferred ordinary shares each at £12 10s. per share in the proportion of about one new share for every $7\frac{1}{2}$ held, fractions being excluded.

WAIHI GRAND JUNCTION GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Shareholders are offered 20,000 of the reserve shares of £1 each in the proportion of one for every twelve held. The shares are issued at £2, and the whole amount has been underwritten in consideration of a call upon 10,000 reserve shares at £3 per share until July 31, 1906.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and July 22, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to July 22, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to July 23, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	10,335,000	11,227,000
Excise	30,200,000	8,834,000	9,083,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	4,380,000	3,513,000
Stamps	8,000,000	2,387,000	2,249,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,700,000	390,000	510,000
Property and Income Tax	31,000,000	4,533,000	4,913,000
Post Office	16,500,000	4,260,000	4,150,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,270,000	1,420,000
Crown Lands	470,000	140,000	110,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans	1,034,000	674,573	607,241
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	503,762	510,300
*Revenue	142,454,000	37,701,335	38,058,570
Total, including balance.		45,131,613	42,316,412
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	200,000	150,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902	—	191,592	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901	—	410,408	630,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900	—	13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds	—	7,395,000	—
Temporary Advances, Deficiency	—	—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..	—	—	11,500,000
Total		53,476,613	57,766,412
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	37,701,335	38,058,570
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	48,555	54,304
Excise	5,291,000	1,080,851	1,068,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	1,386,839	1,488,242
Total	9,756,000	2,516,245	2,611,219
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	40,217,580	40,669,789
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to July 22, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to July 23, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	28,000,000	11,466,813	11,028,579
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	659,545	658,198
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,252,000	30,511,122	33,312,523
Expenditure	142,032,000	42,869,635	45,831,510
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	220,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	90,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	1,700,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	300,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903	—	940,000	855,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901	—	400,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	105,000	76,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	135,000	—
Deficiency Advances repaid	—	—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—	—	3,100,000
		46,782,635	53,687,510
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 6,028,723	£ 3,437,223	£ —
Bank of Ireland	665,255	641,670	—
Total		6,693,973	4,078,902
Total		53,476,613	57,766,412

Treasury, July 25, 1905.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—Cargoes remain unchanged with holders firm and buyers indifferent, and indifference is the feature everywhere on this side. Occasionally Liverpool fluttered up a little, and speculative positions improved; but the market failed to maintain any strength, and showed little disposition to operate. The estimated quantities of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom are rather less this week than last—2,835,000 qrs. against 2,925,000. American markets have fluctuated considerably under conflicting crop reports, and early in the week the tone was depressed with heavy bear pressure and liberal offerings of spot. It revived under unfavourable reports from Russia and firmer foreign buying, but the "Prices Current" report was better than was expected, and caused another reaction. Bradstreet estimates the quantity in sight east of the Rockies at 17,825,000 bushels against 18,118,000 last week.

WOOL.—Values seem to have steadied a little on a slightly lower basis, and for the time being, at any rate, no further drop is anticipated. On the contrary, any change that takes place is likely to be against the buyer of raw wools, for supplies are short, and demand gradually increasing as the autumn trade comes in. Yarns are easier to deal in, and when favourable terms can be negotiated consumers are more readily giving larger contracts. A little more briskness appears, too, in piece goods, though in unions manufacturers are handicapped by the high price of cotton.

LINEN.—Accounts of the continental flax crops continue more or less unfavourable. In Holland and Belgium, where pulling has begun, the yield of straw is likely to be smaller than last year, while Russian advices vary. In some of the Sianetz districts the yield is said to be equal to that of last year, in others to show a deficiency of from 10 to 25 per cent.; but much depends on the rotting process, and reliable estimates cannot well be given for another couple of months. Yarns are having a busy time. All descriptions have advanced, chiefly tow and line wefts, and the commonest range lines are now held for 4s. a bundle and upwards. Belgian spinners advance their prices still higher, but over here they are looked upon as prohibitive, and not such good value as Irish yarns. No special change has taken place in manufactured goods. Actual business is better than usual for the season, and the outlook is fairly satisfactory.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Since Thursday, the 20th inst., raw American cotton in Liverpool has fluctuated a good deal, but to-day, the 27th inst., a considerable fall has occurred of 16 points, bringing the official quotation to 5.93d., or six points below Thursday of last week. At the moment a "bear" feeling prevails amongst spinners. They are not in the mood to freely anticipate their requirements. The market is looked upon as in a most unsettled state, not only in regard to the raw material, but also in respect to cop yarn and piece goods. This has been a very small month in point of turnover. The production of the looms has not been sold, and orders lists are lighter even than seven days ago. Makers, however, are fortunately well provided with contracts, and at the moment are in no humour to press sales. Buyers in our dependency are open to give out contracts owing partly to the good Monsoon rains, but bids to-day are on a low level of values, and at present cannot be arranged in Manchester. China is not doing much trade at the moment. There is a healthy inquiry from South America and the Levant, as well as Egypt. The total shipments of goods this month of July will be large. Home trade American yarns seem to be at the moment over supplied, owing partly to the starting of new mills and partly through annual weaving holidays in different parts of Lancashire. Spinners also have not sold the output of their mills, and order lists in Oldham and South Lancashire are getting lower week by week. The "margin," it need hardly be said, is slipping away. Shipping yarns have been for the most part dull of sale, and few transactions of any kind have occurred. Bolton spinnings are firmer, the business passing being rather more extensive than a little while ago. The wages question, so far as the operative spinners is concerned and the card-room hands, will not come to a head for a fortnight or so yet. Employers at the moment are rather disposed to allow a strike to take place, but many things may happen between now and August 19, when the notices of the workpeople will expire.

An easier tendency in futures in New York was followed by an advance, then by a reaction, to be succeeded by a stronger and more active market, as the result, principally, of better advices from Liverpool than had been expected, also reported heavy rains in Texas and bullish crop reports. Profit-taking later sent prices downwards, assisted by weak cables and a favourable weather report, selling becoming general. The Department of Agriculture in its revised estimate on cotton acreage shows a decrease of 14.9 compared with last year.

In Liverpool the market has shown an irregular tendency. At first futures opened at a sharp advance, though buying orders were scarce. Quietness supervened, and prices fell away, to recover later on New York cables. Then, in response to weaker cables, there was a decline. Futures are quoted at the close:—July-August, 5.89; August-September, 5.88; September-October, 5.90; October-November and November-December, 5.92; December-January, 5.93; January-February and February-March, 5.94; March-April and April-May, 5.95; May-June and June-July, 5.96.

COAL.—There is little or no improvement to note anywhere in the coal markets, business being still stagnant. In some quarters,

however, it is said that orders, though small, are coming forward steadily, and an improvement is expected with the turn of the month. There is a very dull market for seaborne. In the inland section buyers are very scarce, so sellers complain of the lack of orders all round, even when special prices would be accepted. Steams are also inactive, and the Welsh market shows no animation. Best Admiralty is quoted 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d. f.o.b., Cardiff; Durham unscreened bunkers, 7s. 6d. to 8s. f.o.b.; Silkestone, 10s.; soft, 9s.; Tupton, 7s. 3d.

COPPER.—The past week has witnessed continued strength in the copper market, and a further advance in prices, and the outlook is considerably hopeful for an indefinite maintenance of the activity and demand. American reports have also been good throughout. Now and then "bear" sales caused a weakening of prices, and gave an appearance of unsteadiness; nevertheless a fairly good business is reported to be passing, and the close is steady at £68 2s. 6d. cash and £68 6s. 3d. three months.

TIN.—There was another sharp upward movement in the price of tin on the official announcement that, with the new year, there will be a reduction of nearly 350 tons per sale—over 2,000 tons for the year—in the quantity of Banca sold bi-monthly. Very heavy buying has been noticeable, and prices at one time reached the highest figures for many years. These were not maintained, however, the market becoming easier, and values receding. Closing quotations are £149 15s. cash, and £148 three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business in the Midlands is reported to be steady, and manufacturers in several branches say there is an increase in the orders received, being the outcome of protracted inquiries, which consumers are now showing a more ready disposition to close. Working stocks are low and specifications are generally for prompt delivery. Shipping merchants are placing orders which they have had in hand for some time, and manufacturers are likewise very firm. Good lines are being booked by steel makers. Pig-iron contracts are reported satisfactory, and forge-iron is occasionally firmer. In London and Glasgow the market for pig-iron has also been more active, Cleveland being sold at from 46s. 9d. to 46s. 10½d. cash, and 47s. 1½d. month. In the North of England there has also been an unexpected advance in Cleveland warrants, as the result of a more active inquiry. Hematite quotations are sympathetically firmer.

TEA.—Markets continue strong, and for all grades above common there is an increasing demand. Indian offerings were 17,564 packages, including 4,038 packages of new seasons from Northern India. Where quality was poor prices showed no change, but better sorts, particularly between 8d. and 1s. per lb., were well supported, and marked a distinct advance in prices. The 1904 Indian crop, to quote Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton's circular, must now be practically all sold. It has established a record average price—by far the lowest ever known. Ceylon auctions were comparatively heavy, 33,138 packages, but prices for all desirable teas again advanced, and common sorts remained firm. Java rates followed the same lines, lower grades firm and better sorts again rather dearer, the average advancing to 6½d. per lb.

SUGAR.—The market has been a little steadier, fluctuations being less severe than they have recently been, and though prices have not been maintained at the high level they have reached from the low points to which August delivery was forced by "bear" sales, still it is satisfactory that some of the advance has been retained. New crop deliveries have suffered a little in price, in consequence of the satisfactory weather reports to hand from all parts, but fabricants are not free sellers at ruling quotations. Home refiners have again experienced a good demand, but they have not entered the raw sugar market freely, their purchases being confined to a few lots of old French *cuite* at about 3d. below the price at which other sugar was obtainable at the time. On the whole, as Mr. Czarnikow points out, great caution is still shown by refiners and distributors, owing principally to the uncertainty as to when the levelling of values between the old and new crop will take place, and at what price they will meet. In America refiners have continued to abstain from purchasing non-preferential sugars until Wednesday, being apparently still supplied with Cuban and other favoured sugars. The landings in the three ports were 30,000 tons, meltings 38,000 tons, stocks being reduced to 220,000 tons. Receipts and shipments in the six ports of Cuba in the week ending July 26 were 5,000 tons and 9,000 tons respectively, and stocks stand at 300,000 tons, against 106,500 tons a year ago.

LONDON AND MILLWALL DOCKS FUSION.—The directors of the London and India Docks Company announce that they have provisionally agreed to buy up the Millwall Docks on the terms of an exchange of stocks thus:—(1) Millwall Dock debenture stock holders to receive 3 per cent. "B" debenture stock of the London company to an amount which will yield them the same income as they now receive. (2) Holders of Millwall 5 per cent. first preference stock to receive £108 in London Docks 4 per cent. preferred ordinary stock for each £100 of Millwall stock. (3) Holders of 4½ per cent. Millwall preference stock to receive £66 in London Docks preferred ordinary stock for each £100 of Millwall stock. (4) The new 5 per cent. preference stock of the Millwall Company is to get £50 in this preferred stock for each £100 surrendered, and the ordinary stockholder in the Millwall Company 45½ per cent. of London Docks deferred ordinary stock for every £100 of Millwall stock. An Act of Parliament is to be applied for next session to legalise this amalgamation, which, it is proposed, shall take effect on January 1, 1907.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

Seeing that June was a day less than May it is not surprising to learn that in the aggregate there was a falling off in the gold output for the past month, though taking the daily average there was an improvement, the figures being 13,743 ozs. for June against 13,432 ozs. for May. The total yield was 412,317 ozs. compared with 416,395 ozs. the mines on the Rand proper contributing 396,188 ozs. and those in the outside districts 16,129 ozs., the value of the whole being £1,751,412 against £1,768,734. Hence there was a decrease of 4,078 ozs. and £17,322 respectively. The labour figures were not so good as they have recently been, there being a net loss in natives of 2,238, though this is counterbalanced by the steady flow of Chinkees into the compounds. At the end of the month the number of

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February	1,457,684	—	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508
March	—	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371
April	—	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340
May	—	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550
June	—	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734
July	—	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412
August	—	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	—
September ..	—	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	—
October	—	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	—
November ..	—	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	—
December ..	—	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	—
	—	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	—
Total ..	1,457,684	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	10,027,915

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

blacks employed was 93,988 against 96,226 for May. There is nothing striking to call attention to in the individual returns, with the exception of that of the Treasury, the profit for June being less than half that earned in May. This is officially explained as being due to a subsidence in the western portion of the mine, which made it impossible to keep all the stamps running.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The Agent-General for Western Australia has received a cable to the effect that during the month of June 48,851 ozs. of gold were entered for export, and 106,299 ozs. were received at the Perth Branch of the Royal Mint for coinage, giving a total of 155,150 fine ozs. In June 1904, the total export and Mint returns were 167,446 fine ozs., hence there has been a considerable decline in the last months.

Name of Company.	April.		May.		June.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
Associated G. M. of W. A. ..	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Associated Northern Blocks	8,180	19,884	7,825	19,991	7,188	19,444
Bayley's Mines.	3,324	15,730	3,366	15,769	3,200	15,580
Bellevue Proprietary ..	1,180	157	225	281	—	—
Cosmopolitan Proprietary ..	3,246	1,150	3,657	1,816	4,053	2,146
Golden Horseshoe ..	6,673	3,830	8,319	3,183	6,730	2,367
Great Boulder Perseverance.	17,639	13,265*	18,298	13,211*	18,891	13,161*
Great Boulder Proprietary ..	13,760	8,920*	13,147	8,907*	14,350	9,679*
Great Fingall ..	10,976	13,160	10,819	12,697	10,467	12,066
Hainault ..	15,602	13,659*	16,768	13,664*	16,831	13,661*
Hannan's Reward ..	4,128	1,594*	4,255	1,673*	4,241	1,742*
Hannan's Star ..	660	329	630	315	628	237
Ida H.	2,198	690*	2,243	612*	2,118	830*
Ivanhoe ..	1,273	945	1,380	1,010	1,480	1,039
Kalgurli ..	16,766	16,760*	17,030	10,645*	16,630	10,668
Lake View Consols ..	5,380	3,791*	5,443	3,893*	6,170	4,469
Menzies Consolidated ..	10,010	4,038*	9,978	3,782*	9,002	3,703*
Merton's Reward ..	1,272	1,552	—	—	1,515	1,226
North Kalgurli ..	2,589	1,099	2,651	1,162	2,759	1,232
North White Feather ..	1,579	779	1,310	504	1,568	536
Oroya-Brownhill ..	1,390	1,156*	1,450	1,171*	1,550	1,188*
Peak Hill Goldfield ..	8,760	12,724*	9,027	12,870*	9,065	12,918*
Perseverance Gold ..	4,727	1,290*	5,050	1,248*	5,292	1,040
Queensland Menzies ..	368	141	—	—	—	—
Red Hill ..	670	789	665	543	—	—
Sons of Gwalla ..	1,165	724	1,159	729	1,173	731
Vivian ..	9,887	5,308*	9,895	5,318*	9,794	5,315*
Westralia and East Extension	1,318	670*	1,483	798*	1,449	709*
Westralia Mount Morgans ..	2,416	1,178	—	—	4,022	1,245
White Feather Main Reefs ..	2,280	899	3,430	1,359	—	—
	1,212	936	879	6,807	852	620

* Fine Gold.

Answers to Correspondents.

Tay.—Recent reports speak of improved results at the lowest level in the mine, and this accounts for the rise in price. If you hold on a little longer you may be able to sell out at a better figure later, but there is little present likelihood that the price will ever go within measurable distance of your average.

Rispa.—Intrinsically the stock is high enough, but it is quite possible that an advance in price may be engineered.

Ascot.—Company is a respectable concern. Business is good, but dependent to a great extent on patents. Shares are not always readily marketable owing to smallness of issue. Should think it wiser not to increase risk.

H. E. B.—According to prospectus bonds are guaranteed by the Government of the country. The article you refer to is most vague; more than one similar has appeared. Probably your surmise is correct, and you should leave well alone.

The magazine of outdoor life, *C. B. Fry's*, the magazine of schoolboy life, *The Captain*, and the magazine of all sorts of life, *The Wide World*, are in their August numbers as lively as ever. *C. B. Fry's*, devoted as it chiefly is to the development of muscle, does not altogether disdain the culture of mind and heart—humour. *The Captain* is full of good things from its "Wild Tales of the Far West, and Thrilling Adventures O.H.M.S." to tamer tales of "Wrykyn" and "Hicksons," and the learnedness of the Naturalist Quarter. *The Wide World* has a perhaps unavoidable amateurish tone about some of its articles, but they are generally well told, and in one or two cases instructive as well as "moving."

MINE.	April.			May.			June.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	Tons.	Ozs.	£	Tons.	Ozs.	£	Tons.	Ozs.	£
Barrett	11,048	6,566	11,986	13,656	6,731	9,556	12,052	7,231	..
Bonanza	337	260	..	373	250	..	423	..	..
City and Suburban	8,620	4,678	9,157	8,700	4,590	9,194	8,600	4,327	9,057
Comet, New	21,600	9,061	16,007	23,901	8,330	13,514	24,200	8,307	15,083
Cons. Langlaagte ..	14,597	5,305	3,272	15,840	5,332	1,428	14,152	5,614	..
Cons. Main Reef ..	..	2,984	..	15,130	4,745	3,058	14,420	4,363	2,646
Crown Deep	15,019	6,053	7,302	15,661	6,241	7,855	15,749	6,218	8,322
Crown Reef	27,891	11,341	19,050	29,199	11,442	19,000	28,936	11,419	19,950
Driefontein	18,921	12,432	25,286	19,715	12,335	25,033	18,769	12,408	25,128
Durban Roodepoort	19,065	9,294	15,781	19,600	9,555	15,129	18,603	9,069	..
Do. Deep	10,650	5,035	8,700	10,840	5,147	8,000	11,350	5,217	..
Ferreira	9,365	4,349	4,300	10,005	4,491	4,500	9,950	4,352	4,200
French Rand	18,900	11,001	24,318	19,670	11,266	24,280	19,634	11,806	25,416
Goldenhuis Deep ..	15,500	10,585	27,200	16,200	11,084	27,000	16,385	10,689	27,150
Goldenhuis Estate ..	13,850	5,054	3,024	13,750	5,134	2,212	13,500	5,095	1,621
Ginsberg	24,060	10,401	1,800	25,040	11,068	18,000	23,615	10,777	18,150
Glencairn	16,150	6,994	15,175	16,750	7,198	15,935	16,825	7,222	16,095
Glen Deep .....	..	3,385	5,161	8,400	3,484	5,204	7,995	3,345	4,778
Glyn's Lydenberg ..	..	4,082	5,429	14,831	4,242	4,504	14,608	4,389	4,953
Goch New	15,500	6,459	9,300	10,280	6,729	8,850	15,300	6,045	7,000
Henry Nourse	2,231	1,266	..	2,325	1,453	..	2,220	1,376	..
Heriot	9,088	3,275	2,029	9,916	3,411	2,023	11,210	3,648	3,112
Jubilee	10,731	5,987	12,201	10,656	6,249	12,097	..	6,214	12,125
Jumpers	9,030	3,763	2,387	9,300	3,864	2,672	9,000	3,752	3,106
Jumpers Deep	5,507	1,634	..	5,803	1,783	..	5,674	1,674	..
Knight's	10,700	5,707	3,967	8,555	11,576	4,042	3,553	11,300	3,325
Knight's Deep	15,414	5,282	1,030	16,227	5,190	700	15,455	5,205	350
Lancaster .....	..	6,751	..	24,200	7,540	4,802	26,650	8,703	8,197
Lancaster West	21,900	8,503	8,498	24,700	9,191	11,496	23,200	8,652	8,249
Langlaagte Deep ..	11,790	3,935	443	13,000	4,567	226	13,010	3,526	1,562
Do. Estate	6,262	2,330	2,605	6,645	2,365	2,344	4,416	2,329	2,493
May Consolidated ..	18,833	6,789	6,950	24,640	6,975	6,950	26,752	6,850	..
Meyer and Charlton	25,780	8,532	..	26,775	8,607	..	26,327	8,365	..
Modderfontein	13,550	6,016	11,662	13,730	6,145	11,606	13,402	6,054	11,542
New Kleinfontein ..	10,200	4,409	8,550	11,500	4,717	8,614	10,920	4,614	8,318
New Unifed	9,293	3,702	4,166	9,554	3,739	3,960	9,155	3,572	3,433
Niekerk	25,365	8,841	..	28,001	9,457	9,254	20,332	9,201	..
North Randfontein ..	..	3,242	2,111	9,015	3,375	2,007	8,854	3,260	2,436
Nourse Deep	909	294	..	785	243	2,007	686	309	..
Princess Estate	6,120	3,640	4,841	6,465	3,593	5,202	6,210	3,651	4,977
Rietfontein New	14,418	5,400	..	15,246	5,442	..	14,765	5,647	..
Robinson	13,960	6,877	9,250	14,460	7,105	8,150	14,410	7,076	9,000
Robinson Cent. Deep	..	6,933	12,489	17,475	7,224	13,184	16,838	7,372	13,865
Robinson Deep .....	..	2,645	2,020	5,850	2,730	1,148	5,392	2,664	1,406
Robinson's R'nd'ntein	..	3,542	6,120	7,987	4,013	7,157	8,276	4,223	7,645
Roodepoort Central	26,000	18,922	44,756	26,500	20,001	45,501	26,500	19,485	46,527
Do. Deep	9,570	6,254	15,853	12,650	7,607	19,139	13,675	8,131	20,636
Rose Deep	26,356	13,845	29,373	28,077	14,720	31,274	14,611	31,174	..
Salisbury	15,025	6,010	..	14,812	5,506	..	14,092	5,200	..
Sheba	7,140	3,052	2,484	7,493	3,284	2,776	7,282	3,139	2,517
Simmer and Jack ..	8,902	4,939	5,358	9,300	4,028	5,026	9,000	3,999	5,084
South Randfontein ..	24,340	8,638	12,350	28,846	9,226	12,110	24,884	8,767	9,950
Transvaal Gold	3,650	1,830	1,705	5,650	1,870	2,050	5,400	1,710	1,455
Treasury .....	..	1,980	..	2,085	..	..	2,350	..	..
Van Ryn	15,810	18,777	25,806	32,700	20,011	28,251	5,038	19,302	26,696
Village Deep	12,994	5,667	..	14,478	5,374	..	13,700	5,722	..
Village Main Reef ..	10,432	3,924	..	11,307	4,239	..	10,864	4,218	..
Vogelstruis Estates	8,160	3,435	5,643	8,800	5,622	6,650	2,438	2,733	..
Wemmer	22,660	8,072	11,851	22,320	8,113	12,011	21,260	7,794	10,870
W. Rand Central ..	12,331	4,494	4,528	14,600	5,498	6,586	14,005	5,327	5,697
Windsor	23,540	9,698	14,632	23,780	9,721	14,389	24,000	9,386	14,402
Wolbutter	5,010	2,015	..	2,046	..	..	2,051	..	..
Worcester	8,170	4,107	..	8,404	3,565	8,120	3,752	..	..
	2,525	549	..	2,625	571	..	2,400	568	..
	4,900	1,503	638	5,020	1,539	628	4,902	1,491	646
	16,360	6,923	6,098	17,630	7,332	5,735	20,730	8,629	10,457
	16,000	5,405	4,842	16,575	5,773	5,375	16,000	5,730	5,681
	..	..	..	..	1,184	..	..	..	..

* Loss.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended July 21, \$3,094.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 23, \$17,993, increase \$4,745; aggregate from January 1, \$443,520, increase \$89,567.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 57,732, increase Rs. 8,923; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 13,98,719, increase Rs. 1,84,351.

Bengal Central.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 29,193; increase, Rs. 11,110; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,05,470, increase Rs. 9,482.

British Columbia Electric Railway.—Net earnings for June, \$25,838, increase \$4,349.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 21, \$92,900, increase \$25,200; total from July 1, \$268,400, increase \$72,800.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 26,928, decrease Rs. 2,788; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 7,10,400, decrease Rs. 93,689.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 8, £446, decrease £77.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of July, \$17,648, decrease \$1,068; aggregate from January 1, \$415,886, increase \$808.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 12,474, increase Rs. 145; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 2,66,528, increase Rs. 12,545.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended July 7 amounted to \$37,470.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending July 22, £1,181, increase £4; aggregate from July 1, £3,692, decrease £167.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for 8 days ending July 22, £1,006, decrease £209; aggregate from July 1, £3,045, decrease £755.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for May, £4,399, decrease £149.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending July 22, £300, decrease £215; aggregate from July 1, £821, decrease £151.

Liverpool Overhead.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 23, £1,684, decrease £210; aggregate from July 1, £4,936; decrease £352.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 21, £1,397, increase £500; aggregate from July 1, £4,170, increase £1,493.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 23, £24, decrease £4; aggregate from July 1, £72, decrease £21.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 21, £5,471, increase £41; aggregate from July 1, £16,388, decrease £120.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending July 21, £31,548, increase £2,576; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £740,960 increase £63,930; 430½ miles, against 418½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, £1,127, increase £24; aggregate from July 2, £3,567, increase £177.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 23, £165, increase £12; aggregate from July 1, £555, decrease £31.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 21, £167, increase £14; aggregate from July 1, £440, decrease £18.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 21, £5,626, decrease £126; aggregate from July 1, £16,973, increase £311.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, £6,569, increase £503; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £140,451, increase £11,254.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 21, £290, decrease £18; aggregate from July 1, £853, decrease £71.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, £1,314, decrease £126; aggregate from October 1, £18,462, decrease £776.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 15, £16,408, increase £1,699; aggregate from April 1, £227,411, increase £43,398. Miles 52½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, £26,749, decrease £226; aggregate from July 2, £82,573, decrease £921.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, £8,932, increase £32; aggregate from July 1, £29,424, increase £490.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 21, £211, increase £18; aggregate from July 1, £630, increase £52.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, £12,553, increase £449; aggregate from January 1, £383,638, increase £23,672.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, £2,639, increase £134; aggregate from January 1, £62,408, increase £7,979.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, £325, increase £40; aggregate from January 1, £8,756, increase £1,202.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to June 30, \$903,014, increase \$91,687. Net earnings from July 1 to June 30, \$328,680, increase \$43,638.

Buenos Ayres and Belgiano.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £15,277.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 17, \$39,504, decrease \$1,211; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$31,162.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, Rs. 43,012, increase Rs. 6,742; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 1,29,422, increase Rs. 28,200.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of June, £3,177, increase £1,115. Total to June 30, £22,016, increase £2,075.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, \$389,425; aggregate from January 1, \$1,778,941. Net traffic receipts, \$216,920; aggregate from January 1, \$917,267.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.			Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	July 23	£ 2,224	+	22	3	£ 6,392	—	3
Cambrian	" 23	7,808	—	1,180	3	22,960	—	1,760
Central London ..	" 22	5,932	—	155	3	18,356	—	377
City and South London ..	" 23	2,228	—	111	3	6,786	—	138
Furness	" 23	10,708	—	359	11	31,497	+	216
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 23	69,960	+	3,018	3	206,830	+	9,17
Great Eastern	" 23	113,100	—	5,500	3	337,300	—	2,300
Great Northern and City ..	" 22	1,450	+	485	3	4,408	+	1,516
Great Northern	" 22	116,200	—	7,162	3	347,788	—	15,110
Great Western	" 23	247,400	—	7,200	3	731,600	—	16,500
Hull and Barnsley	" 23	10,479	+	186	3	26,805	—	2,886
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 23	118,038	—	4,152	3	349,044	+	284
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 22	67,834	—	3,579	3	205,451	—	7,972
London & North Western ..	" 23	298,000	—	3,000	3	866,000	—	—
London & South Western ..	" 23	104,800	—	2,800	3	305,100	—	6,500
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 23	12,137	+	14	3	35,283	—	1,398
Metropolitan	" 23	17,367	—	113	3	52,781	+	15
Metropolitan District ..	" 23	6,368	—	641	3	20,302	—	1,335
Midland	" 22	215,543	+	1,740	3	636,669	+	11,349
North Eastern	" 22	189,195	—	3,959	3	555,599	—	14,671
North London	" 23	8,696	—	234	3	26,392	—	1,255
North Staffordshire ..	" 23	16,106	—	529	3	49,190	—	1,333
Rhymney	" 23	5,738	+	311	3	17,161	+	522
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 22	96,783	—	3,754	3	312,528	—	6,861
Taff Vale	" 23	17,501	—	414	3	51,541	—	4,273

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	July 23	77,723	—	267	25	2,095,836	+	14,548
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 22	49,784	+	55	25	839,772	—	12,926
Great North of Scotland ..	" 22	11,458	—	212	25	227,747	—	6,834
Highland	" 23	14,253	—	489	25	236,905	—	6,370
North British	" 23	95,291	+	2,110	25	2,210,461	+	16,151

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	July 21	4,271	+	93	3	13,979	—	212
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 21	1,918	+	114	3	6,102	+	238
Great Northern	" 21	22,891	+	447	3	68,055	+	1,100
Midland Great Western ..	" 21	9,312	—	318	3	30,370	—	2,416

+ From July 1 to date.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.					
Angelo	58 1/2	58 1/2	May Consolidated	3 1/2	3 1/2
Anglo-French Ex.	58 1/2	58 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	5	5
Apex	58 1/2	58 1/2	Modderfontein	8 1/2	9 1/2
Aurora West	58 1/2	58 1/2	Do. B.	2 1/2	2 1/2
Bantjes	2 1/2	2 1/2	New Goch	2 1/2	2 1/2
Barnato Consolidated ..	2	1 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
City and Suburban, £.	58 1/2	58 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cimet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cons. Goldfields	6 1/2	6 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Pref.	23 1/2	23 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	9 1/2	9 1/2
Crown Reef	13 1/2	13 1/2	Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
Driefontein	4	4	Robinson Gold, £4	9 1/2	9 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
East Rand	7 1/2	7 1/2	Rodepoort United	3 1/2	3 1/2
East Rand Extension ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Salsbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
Ferreira	19 1/2	20	Sheba (New)	10 1/2	12 1/2
French Rand	2 1/2	2 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Gerul	6 1/2	6 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	4 1/2	4 1/2
Goldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2	Steyn Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Glencairn	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Harmony Proprietary ..	10 1/2	10 1/2	Treasury	3 1/2	3 1/2
Henderson's Transvaal ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
Henry Nourse	7 1/2	7 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Heriot	4 1/2	4 1/2	Vogelstruis	1	1
Johannesburg Con. In. ..	2 1/2	1 1/2	Welgedacht	5 1/2	5 1/2
Jubilee	3 1/2	3 1/2	Wemmer	6 1/2	6 1/2
Jumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
Kleinfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
Knight's	4 1/2	4 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2
Lancaster	1 1/2	1 1/2			
Langlaagte Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nourse Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Bonanza	1	1	Rand Mines Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2
Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	Rand Victoria	2 1/2	2 1/2
Crown Deep	15	14 1/2	Robinson Deep (new) ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	2 1/2	2 1/2	Rodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	Rose Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2
Goldenhuis Deep	9 1/2	9 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
Knight's Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	Village Main Reef	5 1/2	5 1/2
Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2

RHODESIANS.

Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia, Ltd.	11 1/2	10 1/2
Charter Trust and Agency	15 1/2	14 1/2	Do. Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
Lomagunda Developm. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Selukwe	1 1/2	1 1/2
Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	3 1/2	4 1/2
Mayo (Rhodesia)	1	1	Wankie Coal	10 1/2	10 1/2
			Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
			Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

De Beers Deferred	16 1/2	16 1/2	Koffyfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
Eland's Drift Diamond ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
Frank Smith Diamond ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
Jagersfontein Deferred ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	Premier Diamond Def. ..	13 1/2	13 1/2
Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
Kamlersdam					

WEST AFRICAN.

Abbotiakoon	17 1/2	16 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new ..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2
Akinasi (New)	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau) ..		
Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
Ashanti Consols, 2/1 paid ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	Goldfields East'n Akim ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Do. Goldfields	10 1/2	10 1/2	Himan Concessions	8 1/2	8 1/2
Ashanti Sansu	5 1/2	5 1/2	Obuassu Syndicate	8 1/2	8 1/2
Bibiani, fully paid	8 1/2	8 1/2	Prestea	6 1/2	6 1/2
British Gold Coast	14 1/2	14 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bromassie	14 1/2	14 1/2	Taqaah and Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2
Effuente (Wassau)	4 1/2	4 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
Fanti Consolidated	10 1/2	10 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	2 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

Anglo-Aus. Exploration ..	25 1/2	25 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	7 1/2	7 1/2
Do. Nrn. Blocks	21 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	7 1/2	7 1/2
Bellevue Proprietary	3 1/2	2 1/2	Kalgurli	7 1/2	7 1/2
Boulder Deep Levels	6 1/2	8 1/2	Lake View Cons.	7 1/2	7 1/2
Brownhill Extended	8 1/2	8 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	London & W.A. Explor. ..	9 1/2	8 1/2
Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	5 1/2	6 1/2	Mount Boppy	3 1/2	3 1/2
Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	7 1/2	7 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	2 1/2
Golden Links	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	3 1/2	3 1/2
Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	4 1/2	4 1/2
Great Boulder, 2/1	25 1/2	25 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Perseverance	12 1/2	12 1/2	Sons of Gwalla	2 1/2	2 1/2
Great Fingall	7 1/2	7 1/2	W.A. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 1/2
Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	W'str lia Mt. Morgans ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Hampton Plains	2 1/2	2 1/2	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Hannan's Star	3 1/2	4 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anaconda, 25 dols.	58 1/2	58 1/2	Mount Lyell	21 1/2	21 1/2
Elalaghat, full paid	28 1/2	28 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
Brilliant and St. George ..	11 1/2	10 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Broken Hill, Prop.	52 1/2	53 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6 ..	3 1/2	4 1/2
Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. West, 19/1	13 1/2	12 1/2
Cape Copper, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 19/1	12 1/2	12 1/2
Champion Reef, 10s.	33 1/2	33 1/2	Namaqua, £2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	1 1/2	1 1/2
Copapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/ shares ..	32 1/2	32 1/2
Comandel 19/6 pd.	2 1/2	2 1/2	O'egum	17 1/2	17 1/2
Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Frontline and Bolivia	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	4 1/2	6 1/2
Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	St. John del Rey	10 1/2	10 1/2
Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	Walibi	5 1/2	5 1/2
Linares, £3	4	4	Ymir	8	8
Mason & Barry, £1	2 1/2	3			

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	
Alcoy and Gandia	July 22	Ps. 10,500	+ £ 500	Ps. 435,000	- P. 41,500	
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	M. of June	\$868,000	+ \$241,000	\$5,538,000	+ \$134,5000	
Argentine Gt. Western ..	July 21	14,709	+ 3,778	40,190	+ 5,453	
Algebras (Gibraltar)	" 8	Ps. 27,890	- Ps. 4,491	Ps. 31,772	- Ps. 10,522	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific ..	" 22	24,230	+ 5,781	174,958	+ 17,043	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine ..	" 22	79,945	+ 2,580	2,213,866	+ 29,907	
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn. ..	" 23	59,778	+ 16,160	198,295	+ 49,456	
Do. Western	" 23	23,812	+ 4,413	81,270	+ 13,481	
Do. Ensenada	" 23	219	+ 49	21	+ 18	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid. ..	" 22	6,781	+ 1,704	21,317	+ 4,657	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 22	1,333	+ 186	4,005	+ 528	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 22	1,024	+ 278	3,350	+ 928	
Do. Western Ex.	" 22	883	+ 301	3,005	+ 1,291	
Cordoba Central	" 23	3,930	+ 230	80,525	+ 5,125	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 23	8,210	+ 1,120	105,660	+ 2,790	
Do. N. W. Argtn. Ex.	" 23	3,320	+ 280	42,175	+ 570	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 23	5,675	+ 660	15,995	+ 145	
Costa Rica	" 8	4,548	+ 710	139,407	+ 9,864	
Cuban Central	" 22	4,642	+ 264	15,034	+ 1,856	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 22	6,239	+ 3,113	223,385	+ 82,144	
Entre Rios	" 22	2,829	+ 795	9,993	+ 3,012	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico ..	" 21	\$113,000	+ \$9,090	\$332,400	+ \$21,270	
Leopoldina	" 22	23,608	+ 5,458	442,284	+ 74,001	
Mexican	M. of May	\$554,300	+ \$42,000	\$2,623,650	+ \$44,650	
Mexican	July 22	\$133,500	+ \$20,600	\$80,800	+ \$42,200	
Do. Southern	" 21	\$20,941	+ \$1,373	\$685,859	+ \$15,314	
Do. Central	M. of May	\$2,433,651	+ \$97,580	\$23,851,888	+ \$46,649	
Do. Do.	M. of May	\$946,369	+ \$323,033	\$7,814,354	+ \$194,254	
Manila	July 22	32,005	+ 18,959	1,113,836	+ 241,775	
Nitrate	" 15	26,533	+ 7,232	290,092	+ 57,496	
Ottoman	" 22	5,297	+ 330	14,081	+ 648	
Peruvian Corporation	M. of June	\$558,750	+ \$73,950	\$6,578,400	+ \$716,118	
San Paulo	July 16	25,406	+ 904	54,846	+ 7,680	
Salvador	" 22	\$18,750	+ \$6,250	\$47,356	+ \$2,612	
United of Havana	" 22	8,773	+ 1,546	27,452	+ 2,989	
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 22	929	+ 65	34,106	+ 4,193	
Western of Havana	" 22	4,790	+ 350	15,387	+ 1,524	

* For months. † Fortnight ending.

‡ Net.

** From January 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	
Bengal Nagpur	June 30*	Rs. 9,14,128	+ Rs. 3,45,941	R. 1,32,76,082	+ R. 31,61,924	
Bengal & N. W.	" 17	Rs. 2,68,430	+ Rs. 16,702	Rs. 62,49,992	+ R. 4,21,916	
Bombay & Baroda	July 22	Rs. 2,71,000	+ Rs. 27,000	R. 9,66,000	+ R. 1,70,000	
Do. State Lines	" 22	Rs. 4,27,000	+ Rs. 82,000	R. 14,57,000	+ R. 40,000	
Burma	" 24	Rs. 2,71,374	+ Rs. 60,142	R. 1,53,85,924	+ R. 1,59,000	
Delhi Umballa	" 15	Rs. 33,400	+ Rs. 6,724	Rs. 84,200	+ R. 19,168	
East Indian	" 22	Rs. 13,20,000	+ Rs. 16,000	R. 42,60,000	+ R. 1,05,000	
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 8	Rs. 6,85,300	+ Rs. 54,499	R. 6,85,300	+ R. 54,499	
Indian Midland	" 8	Rs. 1,78,000	+ Rs. 11,128	Rs. 1,78,000	+ R. 11,128	
Madras	" 15	Rs. 23,192	+ Rs. 766	Rs. 50,050	+ Rs. 5,522	
South Indian	June 24	Rs. 2,61,437	+ Rs. 1,98,393	Rs. 62,34,664	+ R. 64,172	
South Behar	" 30	Rs. 21,505	+ Rs. 7,476	Rs. 2,70,588	+ Rs. 14,547	
S'thern. Mahratta	" 30	Rs. 1,83,689	+ Rs. 35,440	Rs. 58,71,538	+ R. 1,280	
Southern Punjab	July 15	Rs. 60,350	+ Rs. 5,104	Rs. 1,30,050	+ R. 1,166	

* 17th days.

‡ From January 1, 1905.

† From July 1, 1905.

UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Period ending.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	
		dols.	dols.	dols.	dols.	
Canadian Pacific ..	July 21	1,015,000 +	56,000	\$ 3,042,000 +	94,000	
Chicago Gt. Western ..	" 14	130,803 +	18,181	\$ 403,610 +	59,333	
Denver & Rio Grande	" 21	336,900 +	41,000	\$ 9,954 +	125,000	
G. Trk., Main Line ..	" 21	\$ 116,676 +	\$ 999	\$ 352,530 +	\$ 146	
G. Trk., Western ..	" 21	\$ 17,066 +	\$ 1,139	\$ 55,389 +	\$ 2,626	
Do. Det., G.H. & Mil.	" 21	\$ 6,785 +	\$ 429	\$ 19,819 +	\$ 174	
Louisville & Nashv'le.	" 21	758,000 +	79,000	2,226,000 +	273,000	
Miss., K., & Texas ..	" 21	370,757 +	62,832	1,009,752 +	120,771	
Southern ..	" 21	921,000 +	56,000	2,667,000 +	155,000	
Wabash ..	" 21	473,000 +	3,000	\$ 1,292,000 -	102,000	

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary and Secretary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED **£5,500,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will CLOSE on or before MONDAY the 31st
instant

THE TRUSTEES EXECUTORS AND SECURITIES INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

(Incorporated with limited liability under the Companies Acts.)

OFFER of 144,264 $\frac{4}{5}$ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of
£2 12s. 6d. each at PAR, forming part of an issue of 200,000
Shares, which, when fully paid, will be converted into £325,000
 $\frac{4}{5}$ per Cent. Cumulative Preference Stock.These Shares are now paid up to the extent of £1 2s. 6d. per Share, but are
sold subject to an existing call of £1 10s. per share, payable by the instalments
mentioned below.A Table is appended to the Form of Application showing the number of
shares which should be applied for to secure corresponding amounts of Stock.The Preference Shares rank in priority to the Ordinary Shares, both for
Dividend and Capital, but have no further participation.Messrs. J. Henry Schröder & Co., having contracted for the above-mentioned
Preference Shares of the Corporation £1 2s. 6d. paid, offer the same at par,
payable as follows:—

£0 2 6	on Application	representing the purchase price.
1 0 0	on Allotment	
0 15 0	on 30th November, 1905	representing instalments of Call pay-
0 15 0	on 28th February, 1906	able to the Corporation.

£2 12 6

The £1 2s. 6d., representing the purchase-money for the Shares, carries
Dividend at the rate of $\frac{4}{5}$ per cent. per annum from 1st June, 1905, and the
subsequent instalments carry Dividend at the like rate from their due dates.Allottees will have the option of paying the full amount of the Call either on
Allotment, or on the 30th November, 1905, under discount at the rate of 2 per
cent. per annum.The failure to pay any instalment when due renders previous payments
liable to forfeiture.Where the amount allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus will be
applied towards the amount payable on Allotment. If no Allotment is made,
the deposit will be returned without deduction.Subject to due payment of the Allotment moneys, the Allottees will be
entitled to receive Scrip to Bearer, and so soon as the Preference Shares are
fully paid up and converted into Stock, the persons surrendering such Scrip
will be entitled to have a transfer, free of cost, of the Stock representing such
Shares.The Corporation was formed in December, 1887, to undertake the duties of
Trustees and Executors and the business of an Investment Trust.The following is a summary of the Assets and Liabilities of the Corporation
as shown by the Balance-sheet as on 31st May, 1905, viz.:—

Investments:—	£	s.	d.
Bonds, Debentures and Guaranteed Stocks standing in the books at	472,513	12	0
Preference, Ordinary and Deferred Stocks and Shares standing in the books at	259,153	6	6
	£731,466	18	6
Winchester House property held direct from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for a term of 999 years from 24th June, 1891..	242,497	18	11
Liverpool Safe Deposit	22,000	0	0
Advances against security, Sundry Debtors and Debit Balances,			
Rents Accrued, and sundry other Assets	69,195	12	2
Cash at Bankers and in hand	56,017	9	5
Total Assets	£1,121,177	19	0
Add: Proceeds of Capital now being called up	£500,000		
Less: Proportion of Bonus intended to be retained in payment	75,000		
	525,000	0	0
	£1,646,177	19	0
Deduct: Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances and Accrued Interest on Debenture Stock, and Balance of Profits appropriated for distribution	71,061	9	5
Surplus in excess of all liabilities other than the Issue of £400,000 Irredeemable Debenture Stock	£1,575,116	9	7

The net Revenue for the last six years, before payment of Interest on
Debenture Stock, according to the published and audited Accounts of the
Corporation, has been as follows:—

For the year to 31st May, 1900	£50,097	12	4
" " " 1901	48,731	12	6
" " " 1902	55,952	3	3
" " " 1903	55,482	17	9
" " " 1904	57,853	19	5
" " " 1905	157,868	8	10

The Accounts for the year to 31st May, 1905, included exceptionally large
profits from realisations, and any average based upon the inclusion of that
year would be unfair.On the average of the previous 5 years, viz., to 31st May, 1904, the profits,
before paying Interest on the Debenture Stock, amount to **£53,623.**The profit on realisation of Securities included in the above sum
averaged £9,361 per annum.Pursuant to the recent rearrangement of the Capital of the Corpora-
tion, additional Capital is being provided to the extent of £500,000
in excess of that which was available during the years for which
the five years' average is taken. Assuming that $\frac{4}{5}$ per cent. is
earned by this new money there would be an addition to the
Revenue of 27,000

Total £80,623

The amount required to pay $\frac{4}{5}$ per cent. on the Debenture Stock is 17,000

Leaving a surplus of £63,623

The amount required for the Dividend on the $\frac{4}{5}$ per cent. Preference Capital
is only £23,625.By a Contract dated 5th July, 1905, made between the Corporation, acting on
behalf of Shareholders of the one part, and of Messrs. J. Henry Schröder & Co.
of the other part, Messrs. J. Henry Schröder & Co. agreed to purchase at par
the Preference Shares of the Corporation, and to pay the transfer stamp duty
therein mentioned, in consideration of receiving the sum of 2s. per Share in
respect of the Shares of those holders who authorised such application thereof
by the Corporation. Messrs. J. Henry Schröder & Co. bear all the expenses
connected with the present offer.A copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and
of the foregoing Contract can be seen at the offices of Messrs. Markby, Stewart
& Co., 57, Coleman Street, London, E.C.Forms of Application may be obtained from Messrs. J. Henry Schröder & Co.,
145, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C., and from Messrs. W. Greenwell & Co.,
2, Finch Lane, London, E.C.

London, 26th July, 1905.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $2\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent.
on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

There would have been nothing at all to discourse about in the history of the Money market this week if it had not been that some of the banks called in balances for their monthly window-dressing show on Thursday. This upset the equilibrium to the extent of driving credit jobbers to the Bank of England for a modest sum on seven-day loan, for which they paid 3 per cent. As until yesterday banks had difficulty in getting 1 per cent. for call money and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for seven-day money this was a sudden change, but it meant little and did not last long. The Bank, in fact, did no loan business at all to-day, although this was Stock Exchange settlement pay-day, when in ordinary course there should have been a more or less keen competition for available balances; but then the monthly exhibit had been made up by the banks which yesterday called money in, and the market again had the use not only of this money but of the seven-day money raised at the Bank of England yesterday. There was still plenty of use for all the credits available, but day to day loans never cost more than 2 per cent. after midday, rarely more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at any time, and fell off to $1\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in the afternoon, while seven-day notice money was also in adequate supply at $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Some borrowers claim even to have got it at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Discount rates were by some people called steady and by others easy. As a matter of fact, however, six months remitted bills were firmer to-day at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the rate for three months paper was fairly rigid at $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., which has been the figure pretty well throughout the week, varied occasionally by $1\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. or in the middle of the week by $1\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Large quantities of American bills are coming over to give employment to our discount houses and banks; otherwise the flow of strictly mercantile paper is perhaps barely up to the average. In the early part of the week it was said that another 500,000 sovereigns were to be shipped this week from Bombay, and that helped to weaken the discount market, but now the story is that the shipment has been postponed. It will

not make much difference so long as no serious drafts are made upon the Bank's stock of gold. For the moment these are not probable, but the £300,000 or so of raw gold sold last Monday was snapped up for the Continent at 77s. 9½d. per oz. Since then nothing has been done until to-day, when a small parcel of between £20,000 and £30,000 was disposed of at 77s. 9½d. Probably, however, the price dropped merely to be ready for Monday's arrival, which will amount to about £700,000.

The Bank return does not call for any remark beyond to point out that other deposits fell off £740,000, but are still £43,598,000, and that public deposits continue at what looks like the excessive total of £10,730,000. The market or some debtor or other paid off £534,000 on other securities, but the total thereof is still £29,109,000 or between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000 above the lowest figure of the current year. The banking reserve receded £251,000 to £26,485,000.

SILVER.

American sellers held off the market for one day early in the week, with the result that the spot price for bars showed a temporary improvement of 1½d. per oz. As a rule, however, the supply of the metal was just sufficient to meet the very moderate demand from the Continent, and quotations have remained steady at 27½d. per oz. for cash and 26½d. per oz. for forward delivery, until to-day, when a very slight increase in the amount offered caused a relapse of 1½d. per oz. Tenders for the Rs.60,00,000 of Council drafts in India offered this week reached a total of Rs.5,32,50,000 in bills and Rs.13,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs.54,80,000 were allotted in bills, and Rs.5,20,000 in transfers, applications at Rs. 4 1-32d. and Rs. 4 1-8d. per rupee respectively receiving about 40 per cent. Next Wednesday the amount to be offered is raised to Rs.70,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, July 26, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 54,685,655	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	36,235,655
		Silver Bullion	—
	£54,685,655		£54,685,655

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 16,752,444
Rest	3,383,249	Other Securities	29,108,648
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	10,730	Notes	24,699,830
Other Deposits	43,598,277	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,785,755
Seven Day and other Bills ..	81,560		
	£72,346,677		£72,346,677

Dated July 27, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. July 29.		July 19, 1905.	July 26, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£ 3,452,460	Liabilities.	£ 3,377,487	£ 3,383,249	£ 5,762	—
6,936,738	Rest	10,756,678	10,730,591	—	26,087
42,320,773	Pub. Deposits ..	44,338,873	43,598,277	—	740,596
93,910	7 Day Bills ..	105,587	81,560	—	24,027
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,342,840	Gov. Securities ..	16,752,444	16,752,444	—	—
27,608,085	Other do. ..	29,642,689	29,108,648	534,041	—
24,405,956	Total Reserve ..	26,736,492	26,485,585	250,907	—
				790,710	790,710
				Increase.	Decrease.
£ 29,827,315	Note Circulation	29,989,150	24,699,830	£ —	£ 248,455
36,058,271	Coin and Bullion	38,275,642	38,021,410	—	254,232
49½ p.c.	Proportion ..	48½ p.c.	48½ p.c.	½ p.c.	—
3 "	Bank Rate ..	2½ "	2½ "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £270,000 out.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended July 22.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£		£
Customs	725,000	National Debt Services ..	—
Excise	989,000	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Estate, &c., Duties ..	278,000	Charges	—
Stamps	142,000	Payments to Local Taxa-	—
Land Tax and House Duty.	—	tion	—
Property and Income Tax..	90,000	Supply Services	1,937,000
Post Office	110,000	Bullion Advances	—
Telegraphs	170,000	Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Crown Lands	—	Advances for Interest on	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—	Exchequer Bonds	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	Exchequer Bonds	—
Miscellaneous	—	Uganda Railway	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	Military Works	—
Uganda Railway	—	Naval Works	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—	Telegraph Acts	—
count	—	Land Registry (New Build-	—
Telegraph Acts	—	ings)	—
Naval Works Acts	—	Public Buildings Expenses	—
Military Works Acts ..	—	Act	—
Land Registry Acts	—	Public Offices Site (Dublin)	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—	Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—	Suez Canal drawn Shares	—
Ways and Means	—	in reduction of debt ..	—
Deficiency	—	Cunard Agreement	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—	Deficiency Advances re-	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	450,000	paid	—
Transvaal and Orange River	—	Ways and Means Advances	—
Colony. Repayment of	—	repaid	—
Temporary Advance	—	Increase in Exchequer	—
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—	balances	1,017,000
tion payments	—		
Decrease in Exchequer	—		
balances	—		
	£2,954,000		£2,954,000

* Exclusive of £421,245 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £2,516,496.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 18.	July 20	July 25	July 27.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'18	12'18	12'18	12'18
Do. do.	3 months	12'38	12'38	12'38	12'38
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'36	25'36	25'36	25'36
Hamburg	3 months	20'60	20'60	20'60	20'60
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'60	20'60	20'60	20'60
Paris	cheques	25'14	25'14	25'14	25'14
Do. do.	3 months	25'28	25'30	25'30	25'30
Marseilles	3 months	25'30	25'30	25'30	25'30
Switzerland	3 months	25'40	25'41	25'41	25'41
Austria	3 months	24'27	24'27	24'27	24'27
St. Petersburg	3 months	24'18	24'18	24'18	24'18
Moscow	3 months	24'18	24'18	24'18	24'18
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'42	25'41	25'41	25'41
New York	60 days	48	48	48	48
Madrid and Spanish B.P...	3 months	35	35	35	35
Lisbon	3 months	48	48	48	48
Oporto	3 months	48	48	48	48
Copenhagen	3 months	18'39	18'39	18'39	18'39
Christiania	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Stockholm	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
Week ending				
May 3	263,265,000	246,483,000	16,782,000	—
" 10	210,041,000	194,626,000	15,415,000	—
" 17	269,214,000	230,772,000	38,442,000	—
" 24	189,198,000	153,970,000	35,228,000	—
June 31	246,087,000	247,297,000	—	1,210,000
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,559,000	11,439,000	—
	7,101,741,000	6,038,488,000	1,063,253,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £2,500,000 in six months' Treasury bills were opened at the Bank of England on Monday, when the total amount applied for was £6,764,000. Applicants at £98 19s. 11d. receive about 63 per cent., and those above in full, the average rate obtained being £1 18s. 6.93d. per cent.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	July 30	2 9 6
1,800,000	6 months	Aug. 13	2 6 1
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27	2 2 10
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4½
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
1,200,000	—	1906	—
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
19,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.			WITHDRAWALS.		
Nil.			Nil.		

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'14	25'13	Antwerp	short	25'20	25'18
Brussels	chqs.	25'19	25'18	Italy	sight	25'13	25'13
Amsterdam	sight	12'06	12'07	Constantinople	3 mths	110'50	110'50
Berlin	chqs.	20'45	20'47	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	167'1d.	174'1d.
Do.	3 mths	20'34	20'36	Valparaiso	90 dys	157'1d.	158'1d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'45	20'45	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Frankfort	short	20'45	20'46	Bombay	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Vienna	sight	24'02	24'02	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/10	1/10
St. Petersburg	3 mths	94'25	94'30	Shanghai	T.T.	2/7	2/7
New York	60 dys	4'84	4'84	Singapore	4 mths	1/11	2/0
Lisbon	sight	49'6	49'6	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0	2/0
Madrid	sight	33'19	33'23				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Berlin ..	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2	2 1/2
Hamburg ..	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2	2 1/2
Frankfort ..	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2	2 1/2
Amsterdam ..	2 1/2	March, 1905	2 1/2	2 1/2
Brussels ..	3	December 28, 1903	2 1/2	2 1/2
Vienna ..	3 1/2	February 3, 1902	3 1/2	3 1/2
Hankow ..	5	September, 1904	3 1/2	3 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	4 1/2	February, 1904	3 1/2	3 1/2
Madrid ..	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	3 1/2	3 1/2
Lisbon ..	4 1/2	January 11, 1899	4 1/2	4 1/2
Stockholm ..	4 1/2	February, 1905	4 1/2	4 1/2
Copenhagen ..	4 1/2	January, 1905	4 1/2	4 1/2
Calcutta ..	3	July 20, 1905	—	—
Bombay ..	3	July 27, 1905	—	—
New York call money ..	2	—	—	—

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	July 22, 1905.	July 15, 1905.	July 7, 1905.	July 23, 1904.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 47,237,125	£ 46,971,166	£ 46,856,208	£ 48,285,875
Silver reserve ..	12,971,041	12,955,958	13,008,208	12,757,416
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,730,958	1,830,583	1,911,375	1,663,208
Note circulation ..	64,328,208	65,574,333	66,400,666	66,558,250
Bills discounted ..	11,549,041	12,078,833	13,026,000	10,093,333

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	July 22, 1905.	July 15, 1905.	July 8, 1905.	July 23, 1904.
Specie ..	£ 44,038,000	£ 44,032,000	£ 42,194,000	£ 53,519,000
Legal tenders ..	17,821,800	17,823,200	17,312,600	17,003,000
Loans and discounts ..	225,280,000	221,460,000	223,300,000	219,060,000
Circulation ..	9,782,600	9,831,400	9,772,000	7,826,600
Net deposits ..	£ 235,480,000	£ 231,800,000	£ 231,660,000	£ 240,280,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,989,800 against an excess last week of £3,905,200.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 22, 1905.	July 15, 1905.	July 7, 1905.	July 23, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£ 50,268,250	£ 48,702,500	£ 47,304,050	£ 47,933,600
Bills discounted ..	44,059,900	46,047,700	51,065,650	37,794,050
Advances on stocks ..	2,723,550	3,148,900	4,574,900	2,679,250
Note circulation ..	64,903,400	67,443,950	71,911,650	62,774,650
Public deposits ..	28,588,100	26,388,850	26,336,300	26,953,800

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	July 20, 1905.	July 13, 1905.	July 6, 1905.	July 21, 1904.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 4,787,640	£ 4,762,680	£ 4,890,520	£ 4,576,120
Other securities ..	22,506,360	22,656,160	23,292,720	21,412,520
Note circulation ..	26,417,760	26,528,040	26,266,040	24,992,640
Deposits ..	£ 2,874,520	£ 2,955,440	£ 3,901,960	£ 3,082,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 27, 1905.	July 20, 1905.	July 13, 1905.	July 28, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£ 117,334,400	£ 116,928,760	£ 115,110,000	£ 108,775,440
Silver in hand ..	44,404,720	44,387,040	44,344,240	45,085,840
Bills discounted ..	23,715,520	22,403,160	22,226,160	26,593,200
Advances ..	18,863,320	19,229,280	19,321,560	20,092,400
Note circulation ..	172,442,560	174,927,040	175,755,640	167,635,840
Public deposits ..	9,945,240	8,110,000	7,941,160	8,332,240
Private deposits ..	27,711,020	24,984,640	23,965,680	30,354,960

Proportion between bullion and circulation 92 1/2 per cent., against 92 1/2 per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 22, 1905.	July 15, 1905.	July 8, 1905.	July 23, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 14,872,665	£ 14,864,776	£ 14,855,044	£ 14,326,036
Silver ..	22,394,925	22,304,446	22,233,005	20,416,046
Foreign Bills ..	1,744,115	1,658,464	1,666,771	1,621,813
Discount and Short Bills ..	62,379,127	46,420,267	46,613,929	38,534,770
Treasury Account ..	21,193,500	21,197,128	21,276,693	21,911,065
Notes in circulation ..	63,085,999	63,245,296	63,145,780	65,611,961
Current Account deposits ..	23,094,820	23,152,404	23,018,483	26,304,300
Dividends Interest ..	2,895,699	2,934,823	3,327,984	2,484,205
Government Securities ..	4,356,289	3,997,308	4,057,364	3,726,044

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 30, 1905.	June 20, 1905.	June 10, 1905.	June 30, 1904.
Reserve ..	£ 27,435,520	£ 26,263,240	£ 25,956,120	£ 26,106,880
State notes and small change ..	623,800	742,640	653,520	695,160
Discount and loans ..	13,828,960	11,492,720	10,953,200	11,391,000
Public stock and State loans ..	8,420,260	8,348,840	8,376,280	8,449,000
Credits ..	7,151,400	6,800,920	6,388,320	6,813,960
Note Circulation ..	37,640,320	34,955,080	34,217,280	34,106,360
Current account ..	4,569,760	4,312,600	3,804,400	4,159,560
Deposits ..	2,408,160	2,729,240	2,679,800	2,938,760

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 1/14 1905.	June 23, July 6, 1905.	June 16/29, 1905.	July 1/14, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 91,895,618	£ 91,475,215	£ 91,865,757	£ 83,882,179
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	5,908,860	6,014,354	6,147,428	8,484,387
Advances and bills discounted ..	35,577,019	35,704,714	35,454,416	38,910,923
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	5,696,976	5,705,089	5,639,431	4,223,595
Notes in circulation ..	92,396,549	92,733,593	91,117,788	63,929,941
Deposits and current account ..	53,665,925	53,069,527	53,578,346	47,367,451
Treasury account ..	9,993,458	11,129,361	8,242,101	29,982,648

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	1 1/2
Three months ..	1 1/2
Four months ..	1 1/2
Six months ..	2 1/2
Three months fine inland bills ..	2 1/2
Four months ..	2 1/2
Six months ..	2 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	2 1/2
" short loan rates ..	3
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	1
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	1 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	1 1/2
" for call loans ..	1 1/2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

We are now in the holiday season, and it will be a pity to spoil prospects by croaking about stock markets or anything else. For the time being we believe there is no occasion to be particularly gloomy about the course of markets because it promises to be favourable to the holders of securities, given encouraging progress in peace negotiations and due obliviousness on the part of the professional operators to signs and portents. Money promises to be very cheap on all European markets for some weeks to come and the manufacture of credit money of all kinds has been brought to such perfection both in Europe and in the United States that, what with the steadily increasing supply furnished by bankers and the underlying support of a larger output of gold from the mines, we ought to have an undisturbed autumn. The astonishing thing, when one comes to think of it, is that prices should be so slow to advance for high-class stocks in view of the cheapness of floating balances. Why should Consols stay down in the neighbourhood of 90 when call money has been less than 1 per cent. for days at a time and when the India Council has been lending at 1 1/2 per cent. for a month? We do not profess to be able to answer the conundrum, but feel sure that, given a continuance of cheapness without disturbing political rumours or actual complications, the "bull" is more likely to win than the "bear" in the autumn campaign. This general opinion should encourage people to hold their Kaffir shares, should it not? Perhaps, if they had made up their minds to escape on the rise. There is no other policy to be followed, we regret to say, if peace of

Dealings in both Russian and Japanese loans were stimulated by the peace rumours mentioned above, and

the Foreign bond market gathered still more confidence when it was reported that Germans were keen buyers of Japanese things. The scrip of the latest issue was carried up to 2 premium, and the fully paid $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. reached a premium of 4 per cent., but the older

and on South American things the rate was 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Japanese were only $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ higher on the account, but Russians, on the other hand, rose $1\frac{1}{2}$. A good many Argentine issues, as well as Brazilian and Uruguayan, improved from 1 to 2, and Brazilian Western of Minas Railway bonds put on as much as $2\frac{1}{2}$, but Costa Rica bonds dropped 2. Amongst inter-bourse favourites Spanish rose $\frac{3}{4}$, Turkish Unified $\frac{7}{8}$, Portuguese $\frac{1}{4}$, and Egyptian Unified and preference were $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ higher.

This week's dividend declarations in the Home Railway market have as a rule come up to the expectations formed, but their announcement merely leads to realisations by the "bulls" who had nothing left to go for, and the selling was in sufficient volume to keep the market from sharing in the general improvement. South-Eastern stocks were pushed up just before the dividend came out on Tuesday, but the improvement disappeared when the news came that the distribution was at the same rate as a year ago with a small increase in the balance forward, and as the unloading continued final prices were from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ down. The Chatham dividend, which came out later on the same day, also proved disappointing, as in spite of £7,500 taken from special reserve the arbitration preference receives only £1 5s. per cent. for the half-year, making £3 10s. for the year against £3 11s. 6d. per cent., and the ordinary stock was consequently nearly 10s. down. Lancashire and Yorkshire went back, although the increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum was

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	137	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	138	137
165	152½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	160	160
131½	118	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	121	118
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	112½	111½
8½	77½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79½	78½
58½	33½	Do. Def. (½ p.c.) ..	34	33½
90	91	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	91
86½	79½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	80½	79½
17½	15½	Chatham Ordinary ..	15½	15½
47½	39	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	40	39
62	51	Furness (½ p.c.) ..	52	52
34½	28½	Great Central Pref. ..	31½	30
16½	15½	Do. Def. ..	16½	16½
93½	83½	Great Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	84½	83½
108½	100½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	101½	100½
42½	34	Do. Def. (1) ..	34½	34
145½	137½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	139½	137½
55½	52	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	54½	54½
49½	41	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	46	45½
112½	106½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	107½	106½
100	91	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	92	91
42½	36½	Metropolitan District ..	38	36½
71	62½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	69
70	62½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	62½	63
83½	76½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79½	79
49½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	43½	43½
144½	135	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	135½	135
160½	147½	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	148½	147½
94½	86	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	87	86
134	123	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	124	124
58½	48½	Do. Def. ..	53½	52½
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	163½	161½
111½	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109
60½	54½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	55½	54½

loans were not so much sought after, and finished with only fractional gains. Paris has also been disposed to buy, and it was said that Russia had succeeded in arranging for a small French loan for dividend purposes. Russian loans consequently were all much harder, and bourse support was likewise forthcoming for Spanish, Turkish, and Portuguese. Brazilian issues were firm on the decision of the Committee to grant a quotation for the recent loan, which was taken as an indication that the objections raised by a certain company had been satisfactorily disposed of. Argentine loans were all firm, and Uruguay and Venezuela things distinctly

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
220	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	198	220
315	144½	Do. Def. (15) ..	280	315
115½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	113	115½
125	113½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	121	124
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	84	84
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142	142½
130½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	129	129
130	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	127	130
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118	118
109½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	108
111½	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	107½	109
108	93	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	99	100½
168½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	165
108½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	107
135½	126½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	133	134
90	79	Central Uruguay (3) ..	85	85
107	101	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	106	107
294	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	92½	92½
70	60½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	65	65
35½	28	Costa Rica (1) ..	28	28
12	10½	Cuban Central ..	6½	6½
107½	104½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	112	112
90½	72	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	106	107
60	52	East Argentine (4½) ..	84	84
96½	86½	Leopoldina of Mexico Pref. ..	52	58
110½	108	Do. Deb. (4) ..	94	94
108	104½	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	108	108
299	198	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	106
121½	103½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	23½	24½
57	30½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	113	115½
69½	48½	Do. and Pref. ..	44½	46½
14½	10½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	54	54
198	178	Nitrato Ord. (5½) ..	132	14
168½	122	Ottoman (Suynra to Aidin) (4) ..	182	182
		San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	196	197
		United of Havana Pref. ..	166	168

quite up to expectations, and South-Western issues were heavy on the failure to improve upon the 4 per cent. rate of a year ago. Published traffics showed an increase of £23,000, but those who counted on this to give them another $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum apparently overlooked both the extra £10,000 which had to be found for interest and the probability that working expenses would be heavier. The Great Central was another company which did not come up to the anticipations formed, as it pays only 3 per cent. on the 1881 preference against an estimate of the full 5 per cent., and prices relapsed here also. North-Eastern, on the contrary, made a rather better exhibit than had been expected, as it has only reduced the dividend by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. instead of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the stock, although still down on the week, closed well above the worst. Brighton issues, and especially the deferred, were flat on a poor traffic return, Great Eastern and Great Western were decidedly lower, and Underground lines showed more or less severe losses under the head of District. Midland stocks were exceptionally firm and finished with a moderate improvement. Investment

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	88½	87½
107½	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	105	105
118½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	117	116½
100½	97½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100	100½
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	55	53½
191½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	186½	184
38	27½	Denver Shares ..	32½	31½
93½	85½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	89	88½
49½	38½	Erie Shares ..	48	48½
86½	77½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	86	86½
77½	58½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	74	77½
174½	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	174½	173½
158½	140½	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	153½	151
34½	24½	Missouri and Texas ..	29½	28½
169½	140½	New York Central (5) ..	151½	148½
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	82½	88½
96	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	96	96
65½	41½	Ontario Shares ..	54½	53½
26½	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	73½	72½
55½	40½	Reading Shares ..	54	53
48	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	48	48
48	43½	Do. and Pref. (3½) ..	48	47
24	59½	Southern Pacific ..	67½	66
38½	28½	Southern ..	34½	33½
103½	97½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	101	101
140½	116½	Union Pacific (4) ..	133½	132½
102½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100½	100½
24½	18½	Webash ..	20	19½
49½	37½	Do. Pref. ..	41	39½
86½	69½	Do. Income Debs. ..	75	72
159½	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	156½	157
108½	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
111	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109½
23½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	22½	22½
101½	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	101½	101½
114½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	111	111
104½	97	Do. and Pref. (5) ..	101½	101½
52½	46½	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	51½	50½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½	108½

better, but Costa Rica gave way. The account open in this market is far from large, and lenders had great difficulty in finding employment for their money at remunerative rates. Russian, as often as not, were carried over "even," and even where a contango was secured, it rarely exceeded 1 per cent., while carrying-over charges on Japanese ranged from 2 to 4 per cent.,

buying in the prior charges is said to be steadily increasing, but so far it has not affected quotations to any marked extent.

The market having been under the influence of realisations throughout the whole of the account, making-up prices were naturally lower and in many instances the declines were decidedly substantial. South-Western ordinary was the biggest sufferer, having fallen 3, but North-Western and North-Eastern tied for second place with losses of $2\frac{1}{2}$ each, and Great Western, Brighton ordinary and deferred and District all receded 2. South-Eastern was also 2 lower and the deferred dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$, Great Northern deferred declined $1\frac{3}{4}$, Great Eastern, Midland deferred and Lancashire and Yorkshire $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Metropolitan 1. Caledonian stocks, too, were heavy and from 1 to 2 down, and the only outstanding exceptions were Midland preferred $\frac{3}{4}$ up and South-Western preferred 1 higher. Contangos were firm at 4-5, and even $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on most things, with higher rates on North-Eastern, North-Western, Great Eastern and South-Eastern deferred.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividend's for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	Allsopp Ordinary.. ..	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
71	44	—	City of London Ord. ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20)	540	540
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23xd	23
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	24xd	24
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20)	32	32
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	53	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	52
35	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	Do. Def. Ord. Stock ..	19	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	100	100
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	58	59
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aerated Bread (30) ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6	6
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	24/9	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	British Westinghouse Pref.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	—	Brunner Mond (35) ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Callender's Cable Ord. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$)	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	9/6	Calico Printers Ordinary (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
502 $\frac{1}{2}$	483 $\frac{1}{2}$	495	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	52	52
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	14/-	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) ..	495	495
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	22/-	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	6	6
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6	6
18	12	4	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	12	12
111	106	26/6	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4	4
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	108	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
13	10	20/9	Do. Debenture (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	108	108
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	24/-	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Russian Petroleum (5) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	6	6
15	13	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	10/3	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	14	14
77 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	17/9	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	14	14
48	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	13	13
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103	103
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-)	68 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	68 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$)	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	7	Do. Debentures (6) ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
13	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Discount (10) ..	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Union Discount (11) ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
134 $\frac{1}{2}$	126 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11xd	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	100	99
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	131	131
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	12xd	12xd
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7 $\frac{1}{2}$)	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pease & Partners Ordinary (31)	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
30 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	United States Steel Ordinary ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Preference (7) ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Vickers Ordinary (12 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	12	12
231	214 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Cunard Steam ..	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
35	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	224 $\frac{1}{2}$	224 $\frac{1}{2}$
8	8	—	Royal Mail ..	35	35
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) ..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
17 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	13	Anglo-American Telegraph—	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	147	Do. Pref. Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	Do. Def. Ord. ..	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	147 $\frac{1}{2}$
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	108	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	14xd	14xd
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	Eastern Extension (7) ..	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108
104	9	—	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14
129	110	—	Western Telegraph (7) ..	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	125 $\frac{1}{2}$	125 $\frac{1}{2}$
29	110	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	London General Omnibus (8)	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
			London United Trams Pref. (5)	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$

Reports of serious damage to the wheat crops of the North-West gave the "bears" on Wall Street an opportunity to hammer the market on Saturday, of which they were not slow to take advantage. Louisville and Southern, too, suffered from advices of yellow fever in New Orleans, and altogether the market was decidedly weak. As usual, Monday brought renewed

confidence, the unfavourable reports were said to be exaggerated, and an attempt was made to hoist prices all round with the help of stories about Klondike gold arriving at Seattle. To counterbalance these, however, there was talk of Japanese remittances abroad, and Wall Street generally has responded in a very listless fashion to the efforts of the cliques. Erie things met with a fair amount of support on the declaration of the full dividend on the second preferred stock, and it was lifted $3\frac{1}{2}$, carrying the ordinary and other preferred up a fraction or two with it, but except for these the movements on the week are all adverse. London dealers have kept pretty faithfully to their policy of looking on, and the daily transactions reported as coming from this side have ranged between 10,000 and 30,000 shares. The account open has not altered appreciably during the past account, and money was still to be obtained in this market at 3—4 per cent. Prices, thanks to the slump in New York, mentioned above, were nearly all lower on the fortnight, but the changes as a rule consisted of insignificant fractions. New York Central were 5 lower, and Reading $2\frac{1}{2}$ down, but these movements were chiefly due to the deduction of the dividends. Southern Pacific preference, however, lost $2\frac{1}{2}$, Louisville $2\frac{1}{2}$, Erie ordinary, Missouri and Kansas and Reading second preference $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Chesapeake, Milwaukee, Denver common, Ontario, and Union Pacific dropped from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

The Grand Trunk traffic return with an increase of only £2,400 instead of the £6,000 looked for had a depressing effect on the market, and as prices further relapsed, owing to sales in anticipation of the settlement, the ordinary and third preference ended substantially lower, in spite of the rally which was brought about in the latter part of the week. Canadian Pacific shares, however, after being flat, recovered sharply on the denial of rumours of serious damage to the crops in Manitoba, and finished with a gain of $\frac{3}{4}$. On the account these shares were $\frac{1}{4}$ higher, while Grand Trunk first and second preferences rose $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2, and the guaranteed and third preference put on $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, but the ordinary lost $\frac{3}{8}$. Carrying-over charges on Grand Trunks were fairly heavy at about 5 per cent.

Antofagasta stocks still continue high in popular favour, and extraordinary gains were recorded of $25\frac{1}{2}$ in the undivided ordinary and 35 in the deferred, bringing the prices up to 220 and 315 respectively. United Railways of the Havana preference stock has dropped behind as one of the chief counters, and only improved 2, but the reawakened interest in Argentine railways continues brisk, and quite a number of them were from 1 to 3 higher, while East Argentine put on as much as 6. Other South American things came in for a moderate amount of support, but Mexican Railway stocks were neglected, and only the second preference showed change at the end. The revival of interest in Argentine Railway issues had a very marked effect upon making-up prices, and advances of several pounds were numerous. Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred gained 3 and $5\frac{1}{2}$, Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary $4\frac{1}{2}$, and Argentine North-Eastern preferred and debenture $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$. Argentine Great Western ordinary, Buenos Ayres Great Southern, Buenos Ayres Western, Cordoba and Rosario preference, East Argentine, and Entre Rios improved from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$, and Cordoba Central first and second preferences and income debenture stock were from 4 to 7 up. Uruguay and Brazilian things, too, showed decided improvement, Central Uruguay and Midland Uruguay being from 2 to 4, and San Paulo ordinary 2 higher, but the most sensational movements were, as usual, provided by Antofagasta ordinary, which rose 14, and United Railways of the Havana preference, which advanced $12\frac{1}{2}$, carrying the debenture up 4 with it. Mexican Railway stocks were also harder, the ordinary gaining $\frac{7}{8}$, and the preferences $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Mexican Southern ordinary and Interoceanic "B" debenture stock put on $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 2.

The Miscellaneous sections still show very little sign of life, and a good many dealers seemingly did not think it worth their while to put in an appearance until

the settlement of the account forced them to return. Watney, Combe issues were heavy all week, and on the announcement that no dividend could be paid on the deferred stock the price fell sharply, dragging the preferred down with it. Ind, Coope, and Allsopp issues were flat on selling pressure, and about the only favourable movement amongst Breweries was an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ in Manchester shares. Profit taking before the settlement sent Hudson's Bays back 10s. to 15s., but part of the loss was recovered later, and they close steady, while Pekin Syndicate issues hardened on buying, said to be on German account. Amongst Telegraphs Eastern has been in demand on the excellent report, and Direct United States and Cuba Submarine also met with some attention, but Anglo-American deferred continue to fall away. Textile things have been fairly good, without much doing in any of them except English Sewing Cottons, which were brought from the provinces; but Nitrates and Oil shares were neglected, and Meat shares were also left to themselves. Lyons and kindred securities were on the whole steady, without much doing in them, but Spiers and Ponds were very flat and Liptons were inclined to slip back. In Domestic Iron and Steel issues Pease and Partners advanced on the increase in the dividend from 3 per cent. to 5, and Cammell Laird marked a further slight improvement; but a report that Armstrongs had secured a contract in connection with the Russian naval works at Riga failed to produce any effect on the price, and other things were not appreciably altered. British Electric Traction shares were again offered to a moderate extent, but sufficient support was forthcoming to keep the quotation unaltered. Buenos Ayres and Belgrano Tramways went back on the postponement of the question of a dividend until the end of the year. Movements on the account in these sections are not, as a rule, of much significance, but here and there the changes recorded reach fair amounts. Apollinaris ordinary and preference moved in opposite directions, the ordinary being $1\frac{1}{4}$ down and the preference $1\frac{1}{2}$ higher. Eastman Kodak shares have fallen 2, Hudson's Bay shares $1\frac{1}{2}$. The Brewery list contributes declines of 2 to 4 in Allsopp stocks and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 in Watney, Combe issues, and in Telegraphs we find Eastern ordinary 4 higher and National Telephone deferred $4\frac{1}{2}$ up against losses of 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Anglo-American ordinary and deferred and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Eastern preferred.

Stock markets left off firm all round, with a satisfactory business going on in the investment classes of stocks, particularly Home Railway debenture and preference stocks, with a little splashing over into the ordinary stock market, as is proved by a jump of about 2 in "Brum" ordinary. The new Natal loan has gone off well, and applicants have got only about one-third of the amount applied for. The premium on the scrip to-night is $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$. Paris bought Kaffir shares in a small way, and then sold, or tried to, and then again seemed disposed to buy, the result being a steady market at the end, but with no life in it. The Great Northern dividend was a pleasant surprise.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

In most of the sections of the mining market little business has been transacted, so on Tuesday members were able to give practically undivided attention to the carry-over. On South African shares contango rates were, on the whole, lighter than at the previous settlement. Gold Fields were done at 4—5 per cent. against $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Rand Mines and East Rands at 4—5 per cent. compared with 5—6 per cent. Barnato Consols and Johnnies' Investment were continued at 3—5 per cent., against $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the general rate on the bulk of things being a little lower at $5\frac{1}{2}$ — $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The rate on De Beers eased from 3—4 per cent. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ — $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Jagers were carried over at $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Charges were likewise easier in the Rhodesian section at $5\frac{1}{2}$ — $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which was also the ruling figure in the West African market, but Egyptians were arranged, as before, at 6—8 per cent. The latter was the con-

tango on some of the West Australian shares. On Associated it stiffened during the day to 7—9 per cent., the Oroya-Brownhill rate was 5—7 per cent., and the Great Findall $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. On Perseverance, Ivanhoe, and Lake Views the charge was 5—7 per cent., on Golden Horseshoe 2—4 per cent., on Great Boulders $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and on Brownhill Extended $5\frac{1}{2}$ — $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Miscellaneous shares were continued mostly at 7 per cent.

On balance South African prices were better than a fortnight previously, and for once in a way rises predominated. Gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ were shown in Crown Reef, De Beers preferred, and Premier Diamond Deferred, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Gold Fields, Rand Mines, and Robinson Gold, $\frac{1}{4}$ in De Beers Deferred, Driefontein Deep, Durban Deep, Ferreira, Robinson Central Deep and Tanganyika, $\frac{1}{8}$ in East Rand Proprietary, Consolidated Mines Selection, Geldenhuis Estate, Glen Deep, Glynn's Lydenburg, Robinson Deep, Steyn Estate, West Rand Consols and Wolhuter, and 5-32 in New Primrose. The declines included $\frac{1}{2}$ in Eastern Gold Farms, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Welgedacht, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Western Rand Estates and Rhodesian Banket and 5-32 in Rhodesian Exploring. There were a few fractional losses in West Africans; amongst Egyptians, United African Explorations rose 3-32 and Egyptian Options $\frac{1}{4}$, whilst in the West Australian section Associated were the most conspicuous with an advance of 1-1-32, Lake Views put on $\frac{1}{8}$, Golden Horseshoes $\frac{1}{4}$ and Oroya-Brownhill $\frac{1}{8}$. In the Miscellaneous section copper shares were prominent, Rio Tinto advancing as much as $2\frac{1}{2}$.

The Westralian has been the most interesting and exciting section of the mining market by reason of the developments connected with the Associated. Those interested in "rigging" the shares have, of course, made the most of the cutting of the Iron Duke chute in the property, but the price sharply fell as soon as the meeting was over, it being recognised, as we intimated last week, that the rise fully discounted the possibilities connoted with the finding of this lode. As was anticipated, the meeting of the company was a lively and unseemly one and the word "wrangle" but mildly describes the discreditable scene. The amazing announcement was made that on the eve of the meeting Mr. Pierre Ledoux, who was responsible for the change of management at the mine, had tendered his resignation. No reason was given for this step and it does not make the situation any the more satisfactory. On a show of hands the re-election of Mr. Landau, the chairman, was defeated, but he promptly demanded a poll, the result of which will be announced next Wednesday. Mr. Gleisberg, the late manager, was made the scapegoat for past failures, but Mr. Landau brought no serious charge against him at the meeting and it would look as if he had been most unjustly dealt with. In fact, Mr. Landau ignored practically every serious question referred to in the report of Mr. Roberts, and notwithstanding the dissatisfaction expressed at the meeting, we fear the shareholders will find it exceedingly difficult to bring about a thorough change in the directorate. Under the circumstances we cannot change our opinion, nor the advice we have given to correspondents from time to time not to touch such shares as these, but to leave them to be played with by the inside and outside gamblers. As other West Australian shares advanced at first in sympathy with Associated, so they fell simultaneously, showing that this section is not the place for prudent men to venture in.

The present account will run for nineteen days and punters are not hopeful of reaping any harvest during its continuance, for it coincides, too, with the height of the holiday season. South Africans, Jungles and Egyptians have again given way and close lower than a week ago. In the Miscellaneous department Rio Tintos and other copper shares have again shown exceptional strength in response to the improvement in the metal market.

CHARTER TRUST AND AGENCY.—In the year ending April 30 this company earned £58,326 from interest and dividends, after deducting interest paid, and the gross revenue was £63,721, against £59,000 odd twelve months ago. The net profit is £54,973, compared with £52,548, but the poor shareholders have to go without a dividend, after receiving one of 4 per cent. in the previous year, for the directors explain that the balance is carried forward "in order to keep the capital account intact." It also has to be confessed that a valuation of the investments having public quotations at the date of the accounts points to a capital depreciation of about 4½ per cent. "Although," these dialecticians go on to say, "depreciation measured by the quotations of a given day is not and may never become realised loss, the law now throws upon directors the burden of proving that negative, which is impossible." Nevertheless, shareholders are supposed to have some common sense to guide them, and they need more than an ordinary amount of sanity to help their judgment when dependent upon a company of this kind. Anyway, inferences are easily deducible from the action of the directors in not paying a dividend, in carrying so much forward, in actually opening a reserve account against fluctuations, and in applying the amount brought forward (£7,016), and the profit of £9,820 realised on the sales of shares, £16,836 all told, to writing down investments, which is, of course, far short of the admitted depreciation. The "investments" are, as usual, not detailed, but Rhodesian paper is valued at £645,238, Rhodesian companies owe £131,967, sundry stuff is given a value of £263,141, there are short loans amounting to £167,093, with debtors, £26,444, and cash £13,891, or £6,000 more. On the other side a loan from the bankers has increased from £28,000 to £41,000, and creditors are owed £1,887. The company, however, is liable for calls to the tune of £162,000, and whence is it to get this money? For it will surely be needed, Rhodesian companies are so hard up.

SELUKWE GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Here is a Rhodesian company that is actually earning a profit, though a small one, on

gold winning, but whether or not it will grow large enough to admit of dividends it is impossible to predict—the shareholders will learn in time. In the twelve months to March 31 the mill of forty stamps ran continuously and crushed 62,557 tons of ore for a yield over the plates of 22,628 ozs., averaging 7.23 dwts. per ton, whilst 41,916 tons were treated by the cyanide process, producing 7,467 ozs., making a total production of 30,095 ozs. The bullion from the mill realised £3 13s. 5d. per oz. and produced £83,122, at the rate of nearly £1 6s. 7d. per ton, whilst the bullion obtained from the cyanide treatment fetched £24,892, equal to a little over 11s. 10d. per ton, hence the total sales of bullion realised £108,015. Mining and milling costs amounted to £74,131, or £1 3s. 8d. per ton, but this does not include development redemption. The cost of the cyanide treatment was £8,020, or nearly 3s. 10d. per ton. Revenue from trading added £923, interest and exchange gave £397, and transfer fees £125, increasing the gross income to £109,459. After allowing for depreciation, London expenses, income-tax, &c., the profit left is £5,363, to be added to the previous credit of £32,300, making a total of £37,663. Having regard to the large sum of £51,805 written off on account of development redemption in the previous financial year, the directors say they do not consider it necessary to make any provision for redemption in the present profit and loss account, but in view of the present position of the mine they have deemed it prudent to continue their former policy, so they have written off from the accumulated profits the sum of £21,173 spent in development in the past year. Accordingly, the credit carried forward is £16,491. Financially, the company is in a comfortable position. The outlook, however, must be considered very uncertain, for no other opinion can be formed from reading the following:—"The policy of the board has been to continue the sinking of the incline shaft, and, if possible, to pass the poor zone of ore encountered. This work is being pushed ahead as rapidly as possible, and the latest advices from the manager show that a depth of 1,220 ft. has been reached. The result so far, although no richer ore has yet been reached, may be regarded as fairly satisfactory, inasmuch as it proves the continuity of the reef with as regular, well-defined walls as in the upper levels. As long as the walls remain in this condition it is a hopeful sign, and regarded in this light the directors are encouraged to continue the work."

TASMANIAN COPPER COMPANY.—Work at the Roseberry mine in the year to April 30 remained in abeyance, but during the present year market conditions, say the directors, have shown material improvement for the class of ore existing at this property, and they have at last been able to make arrangements with a local smelting company for selling ore to them on terms which promise to make this mine self-supporting. Active operations were, therefore, commenced last month, and continuous shipments of ore are expected to start this month. Under all the circumstances the directors think there are now good prospects of work at the Roseberry mine being carried on at a profit. At Blinman, where smelting started last October, the results leave a substantial balance of profit over and above the working expenses. The expenditure for the past year was again practically confined to Blinman, the working account of which gives a credit balance of £2,533, though some of the matte, for which credit is taken, is unrealised and is taken on the manager's estimate of value. Expenditure at the Roseberry in Tasmania and at the Blinman in South Australia, also London administrative expenses, amounted to £5,228, so there is a loss of £2,694 to be added to the accumulated deficit of £36,346, raising the total to £39,040—rather a big sum to wipe off in the future. Amongst the liabilities is a loan of £6,616 and £6,376 is owing to other creditors, the total being considerably in excess of available assets. But the company promises to do much better in the coming year.

DAY DAWN BLOCK AND WYNDHAM GOLD MINING COMPANY.—During 1904 26,274 tons of quartz were raised and crushed at the Burdekin mill, and 41,706 tons of tailings were treated at the cyanide works, yielding a total of 39,045 ozs. of bullion and realising £63,941. The average price obtained for the gold from the battery was £3 9s. 9d. per oz., and for the bullion from the cyanide works £1 8s. 1d. per oz., against £3 9s. and £1 10s. per oz. respectively in 1903. Receipts from outside crushing amounted to £3,847, and inclusive of the sums received from rentals, interest, &c., the aggregate income was £68,589. After deducting mine and London expenditure, depreciation, and income-tax there is left the tiny profit of £208. An interim dividend of 2½ per cent. was paid in November last, taking £12,460, which it will be seen was far in excess of the year's profit, "but," say the directors, "the deficiency has since been more than met by the improved returns of the current year." The justification, however, is not a strong one. At the end of 1903 the credit balance was £5,306, to this is added the above profit, making £5,514, and the whole is then deducted from the £12,460 paid away in the dividend and the £623 taken by the income-tax. Thus the accounts show a debit balance of £7,568. Though such a policy may not be original, this method of crediting future revenue, in order to pay a dividend by hook or by crook, is not to be commended, for nothing is to be gained thereby in the long run, even though the company may have plenty of cash and bullion in hand.

VICTORIAN DEEP LEADS.—This reconstructed company was registered in New South Wales in September, 1903, and the report and accounts now issued cover the period from the date of incorporation to the end of 1904. It was in February of last year that work at the mine was commenced, since when development has continued vigorously, so the report says. The liquidation of the old company, however, has not yet been completed, one or two claims still awaiting adjustment, but provision

for this has been made in the balance-sheet. Unfortunately, too, the liabilities of the old concern were found to be considerably more than the directors anticipated, and as a long period must elapse before the mine is unwatered; it is necessary for the directors "to give careful consideration to the mode of financing the company till a payable stage is reached." No profit and loss account is issued. Expenditure in London totalled £2,802 against £357 received from transfer fees and interest, showing a balance of expenditure of £2,445. Salaries and management expenses in Victoria appear at £4,719, and preliminary expenses at £2,046. Liabilities are only moderate, and are amply covered by cash. A circular accompanies the report, in which the directors intimate that they have been able to make such financial arrangements as will enable the work of the mine to be carried on for a further period of at least twelve months without having to approach the shareholders as to the provision of additional capital. This has been effected by an arrangement for the creation of £30,000 first mortgage 6 per cent. debentures at par. In part consideration for subscriptions to this, and on the advice of the engineers that the company's properties could be best and most economically worked by a division into three lengths, the directors have granted a conditional option to the lenders to purchase either one or two stretches of, approximately, three miles each of the company's undeveloped area, which would have required further shafts and a separate equipment of pumps. The company is to retain the area on and adjacent to which the present workings are situated. In the event of the option being exercised as regards either of these areas, each company formed is to have a subscribed working capital of at least £75,000, and as purchase price is to allot the Victorian Deep Leads for either block 100,000 fully paid £1 shares. The capitalisation is not to exceed £300,000. From all which it looks as if prospects are neither very definite nor promising.

SIMMER AND JACK EAST.—This company, which has not yet paid a dividend, is in need of more money, although it has issued £600,000 out of £700,000, and has half a million of debentures on the top of this. So it is announced that a meeting will be held in Johannesburg on September 20 to submit resolutions for giving the directors power to increase their borrowing powers to £900,000, and also to raise the share capital to £900,000. What is more, every Tom, Dick, and Harry will not be given a chance of making his little bit out of it. Probably not even the shareholders may be allowed to pick up a few stray pence, for it is stipulated that the issue "shall be solely under the control and at the disposal of the directors." And the bosses are amazed at the contempt in which they are held, and the just indignation they have aroused everywhere! In the last financial year to July 31, 1904, this company made a net loss of over £55,000.

QUEEN CROSS REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The output of this Queensland company in the half-year ending May 17 was 14,263 tons of ore, giving 24,396 ozs. of gold of the value of £81,171; 578 tons of concentrates were worth £13,083, and 12,492 tons of residues fetched £6,727, total, £100,983, the above figures showing a largely decreased output and reduced yield, although the average value per ton of ore was £7 1s. 7d. Above the No. 4A level and back to the angle formed by the Victoria and Caledonia block and the Victoria and Queen boundaries, the lode proved in stoping to contain a comparatively large area of blank ground, and this failure of the reef has been one of the causes of the lower yield. Again, all the levels upward from and including the No. 1 main level, in their continuation to the eastward show the reef to have depreciated both in size and quality. It is now necessary to still further increase the proportion of expenditure on exploration, and the directors regret that, failing an early improvement, reduced profits must be expected in the future. Total expenditure was £31,437, and, including smaller receipts, the net profit was £70,015. Dividends aggregating 6s. 3d. per share were paid, and a balance of £4,390 is left.

PHOEBE GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In this company's financial year to the end of March the output of quartz was more than double that of the previous year, and the yield of gold was the largest obtained in any single year. Although the operations of the first four months resulted in a loss, the mine improved so much during the remainder of the year that this loss was wiped off and a profit of £11,460 was earned. Gold sales realised £9,653; concentrates, £5,200; residues, £2,017; whilst credit is taken for stock of ore on hand at the end of March, £2,280, and for gold in transit at the same date, £6,464. From tributors the company received £215 and for haulage £114, smaller sums bringing the total credits to £25,969. The profit shown on this is £11,461. At the end of March, 1904, there was a debit of £8,202, but £4,239 of this has been transferred to capital account, leaving £3,963 to be deducted from last year's profit, which is thus reduced to £7,498. Out of this the directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of ten per cent., and as this will absorb £7,000, the sum of £498 will remain to carry forward. Cash assets are sufficient to pay this and also cover current liabilities.

SHEBA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—A circular issued to the shareholders announces the glad tidings that in the course of development on the Quarry level of the Sheba mine a new reef (now known as the north and south reef) carrying payable ore was discovered, and as the indications were that this payable ore would continue into some adjacent claims, an option to purchase additional property to the extent of 62 claims known as the "Art," "Science," "Primrose," and "Golden Vein Extension" blocks, was obtained. In addition to the north and south reef extending into some of these claims, other ground of a promising nature is being opened up; the option has, therefore, been

exercised, and the property secured at £150 per claim. The directors consider these claims a valuable addition to the company's assets. Considerable work has already been done on the north and south reef, and according to the latest advices the indications are that the payable ore will continue in depth. Again, payable ore continues to be developed in the Zwarts-kopje mine, and there are other favourable prospects along this line of reef. It is added that development is being vigorously pursued with encouraging signs, the results of which will be given in the yearly report to be published about the end of September, or as soon as the accounts for the year to June 30 have been completed and audited.

BURMAH RUBY MINES.—In the twelve months ending February 28 last 1,907,624 trucks of ruby earth were washed, at an average cost of 7d., compared with 1,500,124 trucks at 8d. in the previous year, but the quality of the ground dealt with was less valuable, whilst the royalties received from native miners amounted to £14,691, against £23,461. The balance of the ruby trading account was £90,123, interest yielded £589, transfer fees £35, and sundry receipts £128, making a total income of £105,567. Expenditure took £88,021, leaving a gross profit of £17,546, from which the percentage payable to the Government of India, amounting to £5,396, has to be deducted. This leaves a net profit of £12,150, and adding the credit of £7,577 from 1904 there is a disposable balance of £19,727. A dividend of 7½ per cent. is recommended on the ordinary shares, and as this will require £11,212, a sum of £8,515 will be left to carry forward. A fairly strong balance-sheet is presented. Owing to the brevity of the report it is impossible to form any idea of the prospects of the company.

MYSORE REEFS AND GENERAL EXPLORATION COMPANY.—A circular issued to the shareholders states that the directors of this company are making arrangements to despatch in the early autumn two exploratory parties for the purpose of prospecting ancient mining sites in Egypt and the Sudan. One party will direct its attention to the ground surrounding the Um Rus Mine, upon which several auriferous reefs are said to exist. These are to be prospected and explored, "and it is hoped another valuable mine will be located." It is added that one-half interest has been acquired in an option over about 1,000 square miles of territory in the Sudan, and the other expedition will prospect this property in conjunction with the company—the New Options—which has an option over the other half interest.

CERRO MURIANO MINES.—The accounts of this company for the financial year to March 31 show that the general expenditure, including depreciation of machinery and plant, amounted to £12,064, whilst the revenue was £480, leaving a debit balance of £11,584. In order to provide further working capital power has been taken to issue £35,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures, of which £25,000 have been offered for subscription, and are all taken up. The work done at the mine continues to be development, which is not advanced sufficiently to allow a forecast to be made of probable future results. The directors say they consider the result of the exploration work done in the twelve months to be very encouraging for the energetic development of the mine.

NEW AUSTRALIAN BROKEN HILL CONSOLS.—A report for the period from July 1, 1903, to March 31 last, states that early in 1904 the directors, with the co-operation of the general manager, Mr. T. G. Sweet, turned their attention to the acquisition of the leases and the development of the two blocks 52 and 53 of the main lode on which the mining rights had been secured. The company's title to these has now been completed and settled. To efficiently develop this newly-acquired property working capital will have to be found, and it is proposed to raise this by the creation of 600,000 preference shares of 1s. each, which will provide £30,000. The first issue is to be limited to 150,000 shares.

WESTERN ANDES MINING COMPANY.—In their report for 1904 the directors say the company's works have been carried on under great disadvantages, owing to a very severe drought which has visited Colombia, the result being that the stamps could only be worked intermittently. The production of gold was only £14,389 compared with £19,185 in 1903, and there was a loss of £2,407. Prospects look clouded.

"LLOYD" COPPER.—The secretary issues the following to the shareholders:—"As you are aware, negotiations with a view to the acquisition of the adjoining property have been carried on for some considerable time past with the owners, but from the following cable from our manager you will see that nothing satisfactory has resulted:—'Negotiations have fallen through. Impossible to deal with them on any conditions.'"

TANGANYIKA CONCESSIONS.—M. T. Heyvaert, Advocate and late Burgomaster at Brussels, the president of the Katanga Railway Company there, has been elected to a seat on the board of the Tanganyika Concessions, Limited, as a nominee of the Special Katanga Committee at Brussels.

BARCELONA TRAMWAYS CO.—The directors of the Barcelona Tramways Co. have agreed to accept their douceur for selling the property to a French company on a sliding scale. If the company's ordinary shareholders get less than £14 per share, the directors are to get a bonus of £3,000 only, and if more than £14 and less than £14 5s. per share, the reward will be £5,000, with an additional £1,000 for each complete 5s. per share distributed beyond £14.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

In the half-year ended June 30 last gross receipts of this company amounted to £2,503,464 or £33,311 more than in the corresponding half of 1904. Working expenses, however, went up £22,184 to £1,613,069, so that the increase in the net revenue was only £11,127. Of this increase upwards of £4,000 more was absorbed in debenture interest, preference dividends, and other prior charges, the total under this head being £632,444. It followed that including £31,935 brought forward the net balance available for dividend was less than £7,000 up at £289,886. The board, however, is able to again pay 4 per cent. upon the undivided ordinary stock which means the full dividend of 2 per cent. for the half-year on the preferred stock. Those figures relate to the entire receipts of the company inclusive of those from docks and steamboats. Taking the railway by itself the income was £2,303,000 and the expenditure £1,422,000, income showing a growth of £39,708, and expenditure one of £24,813. On this basis, working costs therefore came to 61·73 per cent. of the income compared with 61·72 per cent. in the first half of 1904. If, however, we take the entire income and outgo of the company, working expenses represent 64·44 of the gross receipts. In other words docks and steamboats continue to be unremunerative investments. Last half-year, for example, the expenses of the steamboat service came to £105,332, including £11,544 set aside for renewal and insurance charges. As the revenue of the steamboats was only £84,069, it follows that there was a net loss of £21,263 on this service without counting anything whatever for interest on capital, yet £578,000 of capital is sunk in these steamboats. Docks did a little better, the receipts amounting to £116,396, against £86,013 of expenses. This showed a net income of £30,381, but as the expenditure to date upon Southampton Docks has been £3,384,000, the net income was not sufficient to provide 1 per cent. upon the outlay. Such accounts do not speak well for the policy of our railway companies in embarking upon dock and steamboat business. Doubtless, however, the directors will contend that the indirect profit secured to the railway through these subsidiary enterprises justifies the outlay, and it may be possible to argue that point. On the railway itself the changes in the items of working expenditure tend to emphasise our often reiterated contention that working charges go up in spite of every effort at economy or of the ups and downs of the cost of raw material. In the past half-year, for instance, maintenance of way and works cost about £11,000 more than in the first half of 1904, locomotive power cost some £6,000 more, but repairs were £2,278, and traffic expenses nearly £2,000 down. General charges, however, went up over £3,000 and rates and taxes nearly £11,000. Along with this expansion in the working charges of the railway the burden of fixed capital charges also continues to expand, and in the past half-year showed an increase of £5,422 at £297,532. This includes £20,000 again reserved for steamboat renewals out of net revenue. Were we to add that £20,000 to the expenses of the steamboats as ought to be done the loss on that branch of the company's business would exceed £41,000 for the past half-year. After paying the dividend already mentioned there is a balance of £25,891 left to carry forward against £25,977 a year ago, and £31,936 brought in. Capital expenditure in the past half-year came to £276,747, and of this amount £36,310 went into new working stock, most of the remainder being poured out upon lines open for traffic, but there was £42,160 spent upon the Southampton Docks including the cost of the new graving dock now nearing completion and from the working of which much appears to be expected. In the current half-year the capital outlay is put at £285,000, £160,000 of it on lines open for traffic, £54,000 on Southampton Docks, and £41,000 on additional working stock. At present, however, the company is not exactly hard pressed for money since the balance at the debit of capital account is only £659,000, while the various trust funds in the custody of the company amount to about £1,118,000, so the issue of additional stock may be postponed until next year. Dividends are payable on August 16.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAYS MANAGING COMMITTEE.

Last half-year's gross receipts came to £2,176,989, a decrease of £11,709, and the working expenses to £1,472,482, a decline of £9,866. It follows that the net revenue was down only £1,843 and that the proportion of expenses to receipts was 67·64 per cent. according to the company's computation. A small increase of £4,826 occurred in the passenger traffic and of £2,727 in the season ticket income, but merchandise and mineral traffic fell off by £15,617. Traffic and general charges fell off £6,286 in spite of the additional amount represented by Sunday pay to the outdoor staff, and although there was an increase of £3,536 in the rates paid—owing, the directors are careful to explain, to the increased charge for education, which they no doubt consider money wasted. An analysis of the traffic figures shows that the steamboats yielded about £21,000 net, receipts having been £117,798 and expenses £96,601, the former showing a decline of £1,000 and the latter of £2,866. Maintenance of way, locomotive power, carriage and wagon repairs, traffic expenses, and general charges were all down compared with the first half of 1904, and we should doubt whether the decline in repairs and in maintenance of way, looking at the condition

of much of the track, implies economy. Net revenue was £633,924, after allowing for an increase of £3,924 in the interest charges payable by the committee, and this meant a decline of £2,496 in the proportion handed to the South-Eastern and of £1,734 in the amount receivable by the Chatham Company compared with a year ago. Capital expenditure in the half-year was £77,963, of which £34,238 was on steam motor carriages, 40 passenger brake vans, brake work, electric lighting, and new passengers' communication apparatus, all of which surely ought not to have been charged to capital. On lines open for traffic the outlay was £43,496 on joint account, and in the current half-year this expenditure will doubtless go on, although no estimate of it is furnished in the report.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

Not much interest attaches to the separate reports of this company and the Chatham Company, but they may as well be summarised. The South-Eastern Company's proportion of the net revenue for the half-year ended June 30 last was £374,015, compared with £376,510 a year back. Adding in other items of income belonging to the company, such as £12,382, its proportion of the Eastbourne traffic and £89,354 rent and hotel accounts, the latter showing an increase of rather more than £2,000, the entire available balance after allowing for £2,150 for directors' fees, £150 for auditors' fees, and incidental expenses, and repairs and rents payable, £16,559, was £454,277, out of which the directors are able to pay a dividend at the rate of 10s. per cent. per annum on the old ordinary stock, leaving £13,027 to be carried forward. This means that the preferred stock gets a distribution at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum. The balance brought in was only £5,078. The net capital expenditure during the half-year amounted to £82,882 net as the South-Eastern Company's share, the gross, £84,640, having been offset to the extent of £1,758 principally by sales of property. Prior charges went up by more than £6,000 in the half-year. The balance-sheet shows a credit on capital account of £304,724, so that there will be no immediate necessity to issue more stock. The dividends will be posted on August 8.

LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY.

Out of this company's proportion of the joint net income, after adding in £27,819 the net proceeds of its separate property, chiefly rentals, the directors are able to pay a dividend of 25s. per cent. for the half-year on the arbitration preference stock, making, with the £2 5s. distributed in the December half-year, £3 10s. per cent. for the whole year. This will leave £488 to be carried forward. A year ago the arbitration preference stock got £3 11s. 6d. per cent., and £1,425 was left to carry forward, so that the figures now set forth do not represent progress. However, the company managed to spend £15,059 on its own account out of capital last half-year, besides becoming liable for £31,965 to the South-Eastern and Chatham Managing Committee. Its capital debit is consequently at the handsome figure of £984,005, and it owed on June 30 last £472,455 to the South-Eastern Railway, £182,485 on Lloyds bonds, besides £100,000 on temporary loan, and had in addition swallowed up £154,000 of trust funds in its business. The amount of dead capital the Chatham company carries has always struck us as phenomenal, but nothing will ever be done under the present system of management to reduce the burden. The total capital expenditure is now put at £29,779,257, of which £993,412 has been spent by the joint managing committee, £912,000 sunk in steamboats, and £1,677,000 in working stock.

LONDON, TILBURY, AND SOUTHEAST RAILWAY.

Last half-year gross receipts were £229,602 or £1,025 less, and working expenses £148,021 or £745 more, the percentage of expenses to income being therefore about 64.35 per cent. Net receipts were £81,581, which was just about £200 more, and after meeting all prior charges and transferring £5,000 from the special reserve account to meet additional interest charges on capital expenditure, on widenings, and electrical equipment not yet brought into use, the final net revenue exhibit is £71,740, out of which the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, leaving £1,135 to be carried forward. A year ago the same dividend was paid, and £5,223 carried forward. Capital expenditure during the six months amounted to £57,620, and it is estimated that another £115,000 will be laid out in the current half-year, £5,000 of it on working stock and steamboats. The various items of current outlay show very few changes compared with a year ago, the working of the line being extremely steady and humdrum. Thanks to the recent issue of ordinary stock the capital account is in credit to the amount of about £196,000, and altogether the position of this little line appears to be unusually comfortable. The dividends will be paid on August 4.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY.

Gross receipts for the half-year to June 30 were £455,974, a decrease of £4,870, whilst working expenses totalled £273,071, decrease £2,562, leaving the net revenue £2,308 smaller at £182,903. Ratio of expenses to the income was 59.88 per cent. against 59.82 per cent. The principal decline in the revenue was £4,773 in minerals, accompanied by a falling off of £230 in merchandise, of £374 in canal dues and £77 in parcels, but there were small increases in passengers, limestone receipts, canal rents, &c. On the expenditure side the chief savings were £3,039 in carriage and wagon repairs, £1,889 in maintenance of way and £379 in traffic expenses, the largest increases being £1,231 in rates and taxes, £591 in general charges and £300

in locomotive power. To the net revenue are added £7,610 balance forward and £1,877 share of profit on other railways, making £192,391 against £193,492. As general interest takes £1,695 more the available balance is £2,780 less at £145,711, and after paying the interest on the preference stocks the ordinary again get 3½ per cent. per annum, but the carry forward is reduced by £2,780 to £5,286. Capital expenditure amounted to £52,825, chiefly on lines in course of construction, and the estimate for the current half-year is £9,000. The debit balance has increased considerably from £51,741 to £173,244. Dividends are payable on August 17.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY COMPANY.

This company's business rather stagnates. Gross receipts came to £185,876 in the half-year closed on June 30 last or only £915 more than in the first half of 1904. Working expenses were £95,674 or £549 more. Out of the resulting net revenue of £90,202 the directors are able to pay 4 per cent. on both the ordinary and preferred ordinary stocks. The balance brought in was £22,112 and that carried out is £34,886. Capital expenditure in the past half-year came to £11,232 and another £25,000 is to be spent in the current half-year. It follows that the available borrowing powers of £104,464 may have to be exercised in part during the year, since the balance at credit of the capital account is only £12,444. The directors, however, may draw upon the reserve fund of £62,500 and the company is amply provided with cash for the time being, having £77,645 lent out besides £5,198 at its bankers.

CITY AND SOUTH LONDON RAILWAY.

The gross receipts for the past half-year came to £76,164 and working expenses to £35,134, leaving a profit of £41,030, or including the balance brought forward, of £42,925. After putting aside £1,500 to the renewal fund and providing debenture interest about £30,200 remains, out of which the directors pay a dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum compared with 2½ per cent. this time last year, leaving £1,042 to be carried to the next account. They complain that the continued competition of the London County Council electric tramways, coupled with the abnormally dry weather that prevailed during the greater part of the half-year, has adversely affected the traffic and that the reduction in fares which was instituted in order to compete with the tramways has not brought much enlargement to the receipts, although it has increased the number of passengers. Both numbers and receipts, however, are decidedly less than they were a year ago. In the June half of 1904 about 9,227,000 passengers were carried, giving a revenue of £76,388, whereas in the past half-year the numbers were under 8,663,000 and the money only £71,802. These figures were better than in the December half-year, but not very encouraging. It is hoped that the extension to Euston will be open for traffic before the end of next year, meantime no further capital is required beyond the £150,000 of ordinary stock disposed of in February last.

GREAT NORTHERN, PICCADILLY, AND BROMPTON RAILWAY.

In the half-year to June 30 the capital expenditure amounted to £681,750, of which £653,266 was spent on construction, including engineering. In the current half-year it is estimated that £650,000 will be spent, and £1,996,331 in subsequent half-years—total, £2,646,331. Capital powers available to meet this are £3,779,790, but as there is a debit of £1,133,458 to capital account, the net sum is £2,646,331. The progress of the works during the half-year is stated to be satisfactory. It is added that the rent due up to June 30 from the Underground Electric Railways Company, under the terms of the agreement for lease, permits of a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and a resolution declaring this will be submitted at the meeting. Dividend warrants will be posted on August 3.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY COMPANY.

During the half-year to June 30 capital expenditure amounted to £367,189, of which £331,973 was spent on construction, including engineering equipment and rolling stock. Another £28,878 was swallowed up by land and compensation. During the current half-year the estimate is put at £600,000, and in subsequent half-years at £789,706, a total of £1,389,706. Allowing for £205,864 to the debit of capital account, the capital powers available to meet further expenditure aggregate £1,422,706.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Gross receipts for the half-year to June 30 were £479,321, or a decrease of £5,474, but working expenses were reduced by £4,942 to £266,078, the ratio to receipts being 55.51 per cent. against 55.90 per cent., and the net revenue was consequently only £532 down at £213,243. Against this sundry credits produced £1,457 more, and after providing £54,696 for interest and fixed charges the balance available for dividend was £170,129 compared with £169,449, so that the distribution on the ordinary stock is maintained at 4 per cent. per annum, equivalent to 10 per cent. on the old ordinary stock, and the balance forward is increased to £12,225. The decline in revenue is due entirely to minerals, and dock and harbour receipts which produced £4,645 and £2,066 less respectively, while passengers, merchandise, live stock, shipping receipts, and rents all showed small improvements. On the other hand, savings were effected of £1,060 in maintenance of way, £1,142 in locomotive power, £1,405 in shipping expenses, and £3,461 in dock and harbour expenses and repairs, but Parliamentary expenses went up from £1,518 to £3,546, and rates and taxes took £301 more at £30,097. Capital

expenditure in the six months amounted to £26,426, of which £15,752 was on additional tips and roads at Penarth Dock, and it is estimated that the outlay during the current six months will be £47,800, including £20,000 on Pontypridd Station and £15,000 on the tips at Penarth Dock. The debit balance on capital account, however, now amounts to £278,598, and as reserve, insurance, and savings bank funds all told only come to £58,314 a further issue seems imminent.

GREAT NORTHERN (OF IRELAND) RAILWAY.

Gross receipts for the half-year to June 30 were £458,859, decrease £2,188; working expenses amounted to £260,853, decrease £8,362, the ratio to receipts being 56.84 per cent. against 58.44, a gratifying reduction. Thus net revenue was £6,174 up at £198,006, miscellaneous credits increasing it to £199,612. There were increases of £1,184 and £583 respectively in parcels, horses, carriages, &c., and decreases of £2,486 in minerals, £870 in passengers, £333 in live stock, £160 in mails and £105 in rents, &c. In expenditure by far the largest saving was £6,523 under locomotive power, £2,000 of which came from cheaper fuel, but a year ago the account was debited with £4,600 for new engines purchased, whilst nothing is so charged this year. There was but a trifling decrease in wages. Maintenance of way was £63,149 against £63,439, repairs and renewals cost about £300 less, but traffic expenses were £100 higher, and general charges nearly £400 up. Interest on debentures and guaranteed stocks takes £244 more, and adding the balance of £51,139 brought in, the available amount was £4,122 higher at £186,770. After paying interest on the 4 per cent. preference stock the ordinary again receive 6½ per cent., and a trifle less at £40,161 is carried forward. During the half-year £42,399 ordinary stock and £1,545 preference stock were issued, the dividend on both requiring an extra £4,000. Capital expenditure was £94,637, principally on lines open, working stock and subscriptions to other companies. The estimate for the current six months is £98,000. Debit to capital account has been reduced £6,540 to £227,080. Dividend warrants will be posted August 31.

BELFAST AND COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross receipts in the half-year to June 30 were £71,282, an increase of £2,257 over the corresponding half, which was accompanied by a decrease in the working expenses of £297 at £43,433, this including £2,000 added to the account opened in the previous half-year for renewal of ways, works, and buildings. The largest increase was £1,762 in minerals at £7,562, whilst passengers, of which 75,865 more were carried, contributed an extra £1,022; on the other hand, there was a drop of £607 in merchandise and £126 in live stock. Maintenance of way cost nearly £3,000 more, but there were fair savings in locomotive power, carriage and wagon repairs, and general charges, traffic expenses being £280 higher. Rates and taxes also took a few pounds extra. Net revenue benefited to the extent of £2,555 at £27,849. With almost a similar balance brought in and with the addition of smaller credits in the shape of tolls, interest, &c., the disposable sum was £34,046 against £31,283. Interest on the 4 per cent. debenture stock requires an additional £367 on the new issue, but other prior charges are about the same, and after paying the dividends on the preference stocks the distribution on the ordinary is raised by 1 per cent. to 6 per cent., and the carry forward is a little more at £2,658. Capital expenditure was £12,216, and the debit to capital account is reduced to £53,064 from £65,300.

MANILA RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Passenger traffic in 1904 fell off by 475,777 to 1,334,784 in numbers and \$165,407 to \$851,464 in receipts. Miscellaneous income and military transport, too, were smaller at \$133,740 and \$89,587, but goods traffic rose by \$79,201 to \$401,179, although the quantity carried was only 2,182 tons larger at 146,677 tons. Rice and sugar both showed substantial improvements at 73,460 and 10,331 tons against 56,893 and 8,904 tons in the previous twelve months; tobacco also increased by 683 tons to 2,103 tons, but timber dropped from 21,060 to 9,402 tons; sundries were down 11,159 tons at 30,715 tons and building materials remained about the same. The result of the year's working was a decrease of \$111,895 at \$1,475,970 in traffic receipts, against which expenditure in Manila was \$32,283 lower at \$660,724, leaving a net revenue of \$815,246 compared with \$804,848. Converted into sterling at 2s. to the dollar, this gave £81,525 or £7,960 less, and as profits from the Quay line were only £241 up at £594 the total available came to £77,719 less at £82,119. A year ago, however, the dollar was only worth 1s. 9d., whereas the present accounts are in the new Philippine coin valued at 50 cents U.S. gold or a little over 2s., so that the provision for loss on exchange, which took £7,555 last time, is not now required, and after meeting London expenses and income-tax with £4,410 or £856 more a balance of £77,708 was left. Out of this interest has been paid as usual on the first mortgage registered stock and prior lien bonds A and B, and after again charging £43,800 for interest on the 6 per cent. debentures and writing £15,484 off suspense account against £16,072 the deficit for the year came to £24,176 or an improvement of £1,916. The total debit balance is now £482,367, while the outstanding interest on the 6 per cent. debentures comes to £591,300, against which the claims against the U.S. and Spanish Governments remain at £247,947 and £20,809. In addition the Philippine Government owes £23,253 for guaranteed interest and military transport, and the addition of expenses incurred in prosecuting the claims brings the total outstanding to £349,340. As yet the claims against the United

States and Philippines have not yet been admitted and are in charge of H.M. Ambassador at Washington, but with respect to that against the Spanish Government an early settlement of a considerable proportion is promised. The construction of the extensions to Cabanatuan and Antipolo has been proceeded with and 25½ miles of the former were open for traffic at the end of the year, while a further 38½ miles have since been opened, leaving about 18 miles to complete this line. Including £143 brought forward and £535 from interest on extensions capital the revenue from the new lines was £3,750, of which interest on secured notes took £703 and £3,047 was carried to the new account. As regards the future the general manager states that traffic prospects are good, the crops being reported as nearly equal to those of 1897, and although this may be an exaggeration there is sufficient freight in sight to keep the whole of the rolling-stock employed to the end of July.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY.

In the half-year to June 30 the net profits came to £264,066, which was a mere £1,744 below the figures for the corresponding half-year. From this £50,000 was carried to reserve, raising it to £1,400,000, leaving £214,066 as divisible profit. To this £66,391, being the balance brought forward (£18,335 more than a year ago) was added, making the entire free profit £280,457. Out of this the directors have declared a dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year, being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, the same as a year ago, and this will take £200,000, leaving £80,457 or £14,066 more to be carried to the new half-year. The balance-sheet does not show many important changes but the total of the deposit and current account balances has risen by £1,287,825 to £44,813,391. On the other hand, cash in hand and at the Bank of England, £7,922,035, is larger by £216,591 and loans at call and notice are up £856,443 to £3,412,986. There is also an increase of £1,673,000 in the total of the bank's investments and of £33,000 in the bills discounted, the total in the one case being £9,395,293 and in the other £8,784,327, the London and County management always following the commendable practice of stating its holdings of bills separate. Advances to customers at £18,115,974 are less by only £44,582. Acceptances form a cross entry of £2,322,238. Bank premises are up £37,243 to £816,489, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is now £50,839,342. It may be added that the gross profit exclusive of the above-mentioned balance brought forward, but including £27,434 for rebate brought forward was £703,242, and that interest paid to customers took £94,091 and salaries and all working expenses £321,829. The allowance for rebate this time is £23,256, discount rates being lower.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

In the half-year ended June 30 last this bank made a net profit of £9,098 more than in the first half of 1904, the total being £200,711 exclusive of £18,715 brought forward. Out of this the directors are easily able to pay a dividend of 6½ per cent. for the half-year as against one of 7 per cent. paid twelve months back, and will have £37,426 left to carry forward or nearly £18,500 more than a year ago. In the balance-sheet we find an increase of £3,392,000 in the current and deposit accounts, whose total was on June 30 £27,817,000. Acceptances have also risen by £783,000 to £1,054,000, and on the assets side cash is £841,000 higher at £4,322,000, while money at call and short notice is up no less than £2,572,000 to £7,365,000. These increases in short loans, coupled with the growth of the deposits would seem to indicate that there has been something special affecting the movements on both sides of the balance-sheet with all the London banks. Is it the creation of credit to take up new issues? Investments in Government securities remain at £3,885,000, but those in Colonial securities are down about £106,000 to £781,720. Bills discounted, loans, and other accounts are only £8,000 up at £15,599,000, but there is an increase of £42,000 in the amount sunk in bank premises, which stands at £761,000. Gross profits were £349,541, and the total working expenditure came to £148,830. The aggregate of the balance-sheet is now £33,771,231.

MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED.

Gross profits for the six months to June 30 were £3,054 down at £55,524, but £1,379 more at £25,389 was brought in and the total income was therefore only £1,675 smaller at £80,913. On the other hand interest paid to customers showed a decrease of £4,554 at £8,974, general charges were slightly lower at £19,582 and rebate on bills took £1,125 less at £3,424, so that the amount available for distribution was actually £4,105 higher at £48,933, and in addition to paying the usual dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum the directors are able to put £5,000 to reserve with a reduction to £23,933 in the balance carried to the new account. Current, deposit and other accounts have risen by £110,907 to £2,991,203 against which cash in hand, at Bank of England and with other bankers was £40,505 up at £758,323 or about 25.4 per cent. of the liabilities. Money at call and short notice was £18,331 lower at £360,969 and British Government securities £22,850 down at £395,060, but bills receivable increased £24,751 to £757,388 and loans were £94,056 larger at £1,659,345.

FARROW'S CREDIT BANK, LIMITED.

Mr. Farrow does not hide his light under a bushel and has obligingly sent us a really nicely worded puff of the operations of his bank for the 13 months or so during which it has been in operation. Space does not permit us to print this statement, but we may say that an examination of the report and accounts does not

excite any hostile feeling. The business appears to be making way, and the total of the balance-sheet has already risen to £31,678, which, however, includes £16,064 of paid-up capital. The bank owes £10,481 to depositors besides £926 on current account, and it managed during the year to make a net profit of £1,612, of which £661 was carried to reserve. A dividend of 6 per cent. was then provided out of the balance, and still £217 was left to carry forward. This looks promising enough.

LONDON TRADING BANK, LIMITED.

This company has been transferred from the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts into a limited company under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900 with a nominal capital of £250,000 divided into £5 shares, and the directors state that they now look forward to increased business and public favour. The change does not appear to have brought much fresh support in its train so far as current, deposit and other accounts show a shrinkage of £4,787 at £72,123, against which investments, including £5,000 Consols and £4,000 $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. annuities taken at par, come to £24,221 or £759 less and cash is down £1,699 at £8,917, while bills discounted and advances to customers stand at £79,632. Gross profits for the six months ended June 30 were £119 up at £3,229, but £157 less at £855 was brought forward, giving £4,084 available compared with £4,122, and as interest and current expenses were £272 heavier at £2,611 the dividend on the £33,749 of paid-up capital is maintained at 5 per cent. per annum by leaving the reserve against depreciation of securities and doubtful debts untouched at £7,500 and carrying forward £887.

LONDON AND INDIA DOCKS COMPANY.

Business was not very good for this great company in the past half-year, the tonnage of shipping entered showing a decrease of 56,247 tons at 2,548,113 tons, but the coastwise tonnage showed an increase of 7,978 tons at 337,344 tons. The weight of goods landed was 545,431 tons, a decrease of 45,576, and the stocks of goods in the warehouse on June 30 last at 199,753 tons were less by 38,006 tons. It follows that the net revenue is poorer, so much so that after meeting the interest on loan capital and the dividends on the "A" and "B" preference stocks and the preferred ordinary stock there is only £61,793 left to be carried forward to the December half-year or £23,988 less than in the first half of 1904. No dividend can be paid on the deferred stock until the company's year is completed, but as it takes over £48,000 to pay a 1 per cent. dividend upon that stock the outlook for it is not at the moment particularly cheerful. Some little help to the net revenue, however, was obtained by a decrease of about £12,000 in the working expenses which came to £612,318. As the gross earnings, however, were £37,061 down it followed that there was a decline of over £25,000 in the net revenue before any other charges were dealt with.

ROYAL BREWERY, BRENTFORD, LIMITED.

In the present condition of the brewing trade it is not surprising to find that this company's revenue for the twelve months ended June 30 showed a shrinkage of £2,280 at £67,066, and it is perhaps matter for congratulation that the falling off was not larger. By reducing the amount spent on repairs and alterations to houses from £13,862 to £9,452 the net balance, after meeting general charges, writing off £2,100 or £238 more for repairs to brewery, and the usual £5,000 for depreciation, the net profits were actually £1,664 up at £35,813. Against this, however, debenture interest rose by £1,478 to £10,261 and administration and London office expenses were no less than £3,884 heavier at £5,717, so that, in spite of there being nothing to write off for debenture issue expenses this time against £1,238 a year ago, the balance available including £12 from transfer fees and £642 brought forward, was considerably smaller at £20,488. With this state of affairs the directors are foolish enough to maintain the dividend at the 14 per cent. to which they raised it a year ago, although the payment at this rate means that the allocation to reserve after being reduced from £5,000 to £3,000 last year is omitted entirely. It is true that a larger balance of £1,488 is carried to the new account, but that is not much compensation for the failure to add to the reserve, especially as capital expenditure grows steadily year by year. During the twelve months £28,934 was spent on this account, making the total £492,236, and the allowance of £3,000 for depreciation on this sum is woefully inadequate. Trading balances are decidedly adverse, £25,709 being due to sundry creditors against £11,558 to come in from book debts and rents, £3,533 out on loan, and £7,254 held in cash, and altogether the position is one which seems to call for more prudent management and less devotion to big dividends.

PARKER'S BURSLEM BREWERY.

This company has experienced another unsatisfactory year, as we foretold it would twelve months ago. There is again a big drop in the profits for the twelve months to June 2. The gross profit, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, is returned at £79,656 against £82,280, rents brought in £14,369 compared with £15,430, and transfer fees added £29, the total credits being £3,686 lower at £94,053. There was a fairish saving in expenses, but the sum of £2,000 has to be provided as a half-yearly instalment in anticipation of the amount which will become payable under the 1904 Licensing Act. Thus the net profit is £61,022 against £64,851, and after meeting the interest on the debenture stock and mortgages the disposable balance is £40,106 in comparison with £43,596. Twelve months ago the directors put £8,000 to reserve, or £2,000 less than in the previous year, but nothing is transferred to the account this time. Instead, the amount carried to the contingency account is doubled at £5,000, the preference dividend absorbs £12,300, and a balance dividend

of 8 per cent. is to be paid on the ordinary shares, thus repeating the distribution of 9 per cent. for the year. The sum carried forward is raised from £509 to £4,356. So the reserve fund still stands at £183,000, locked up in the business. Loans from bankers total £63,622, or £5,200 more, there are mortgages amounting to £38,909, and liabilities to creditors of £23,796, to say nothing of debenture debts aggregating over half-a-million. On the other side properties have risen by £10,465 to £1,117,064, sundry debtors owe a trifle more at £24,128, loans and mortgages have been reduced from £19,066 to £15,751, whilst cash has increased from £59,177 to £71,152. We cannot trace any allowance for depreciation, and looking at past results, the present position, and the outlook, the company's affairs are anything but satisfactory.

WILLIAM MURRAY AND CO.

This is a small Scotch brewery company, which earned a trading profit of £4,814 in the financial year to the end of June, also interest £433, and a few shillings from transfer fees. Depreciation took £317, income-tax £231, and managing director's salary, directors' and auditors' fees, £685, so that the net profit was £4,013, to which £711 from the previous year has to be added. The 5 per cent. preference shares get their full dividend, and the ordinary receive 4 per cent., and after putting £1,000 to reserve, there is left £494 to carry forward. Cash, debts, and bills receivable appreciably exceed the current liabilities of the company.

EMPIRE OF INDIA AND CEYLON TEA CO., LIMITED.

The high-sounding title of this undertaking has not prevented it from experiencing ill fortune, and last year it got imperial measure—full and running over. Abnormal weather conditions prevailed in Tezpur, where it refused to rain in March when badly needed, poured too generously in the next three months, and then dried up again. At the same time less rain fell in the Dooars than in 1903, and in Ceylon, where the weather was propitious up to the end of April, the succeeding months were cold and windy. The net results of this concatenation of adverse circumstances were shortages of 593,554 lbs. in the Assam gardens and 11,964 lbs. in Ceylon, which were but poorly compensated for by an increase of 140,075 lbs. in the Dooars crop. As if these were not sufficient, the quality of the tea from the Dooars gardens was disappointing and the average price fell from 6.43d. to 5.46d. per lb. compared with reductions of 0.21d. and 0.19d. at 7.76d. and 6.40d. respectively from the other estates. Expenditure in Assam, however, was considerably less and a saving was also effected in Ceylon, while the advance in Dooars was small; but in spite of everything, 1904 was an extremely bad year. Net profits were no less than £12,617 smaller at £4,490, and with £5,313 brought in gave an available total of no more than £9,803, so that the company has once more fallen into arrears with its preference dividend, as it is only able to pay 4 per cent. instead of 5 per cent. and to carry forward £1,043. The directors say that they hope to pay the balance towards the close of the year, but matters will have to mend considerably if they are to manage it, as the financial position is none too healthy. Advances from brokers, it is true, are £12,091 lower at £27,577, the overdraft at the bankers is also down by £2,077 to £19,595, and other creditors have been reduced by £4,631, the total liabilities on current account being £54,855 against £73,654; but these payments have been made possible by a decrease of £24,246 to £39,756 in stocks of tea and cardamoms. Sundry debtors have risen by £4,318 to £5,422, but cash is £7,062 less at £3,260. Although another £2,824 of the advances at gardens has been paid back or written off the item remains unduly large at £7,276. One of the factories was destroyed by fire and £3,440, representing the cost, has been deducted from the estate account pending the recovery of the amount from the insurance company, but no provision has yet been made for depreciation nor has the reserve been augmented by a penny piece since this company took over the gardens.

LONDON ROAD CAR COMPANY.

Shareholders will be disappointed by the diminished dividend announced for the past half-year. The directors are paying only 4s. per share or at the rate of £6 13s. 4d. per annum on the fully-paid shares as against $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. rate paid a year ago. The distribution, however, is slightly larger than that of two years ago, and the decline compared with the past year is not due to diminished receipts. On the contrary these have risen slightly while working expenses came down by about £10,600 compared with the first half of 1904, the result being a net revenue of £35,966 compared with £23,704 then. How is it that the board is unable to pay at least the same dividend as a year ago? It is because £14,491 has been written off capital account in respect of horses, horse cars, and harness, "consequent upon their substitution by motor-cars." This, together with the debenture interest and other writings off, helps to reduce the free net revenue to £17,080, exclusive of £4,824 brought from last account. With that added the available balance is only £21,904 as against £23,704 a year back. Even so a larger dividend could have been paid, since the distribution proposed takes only £13,290, but the board carried forward £8,614 compared with £4,824 brought in, and proposes to transfer £2,000 to the general reserve fund, making it up to £60,000, and leaving £6,614 for the current half-year's income. All things considered, and looking at the changes taking place in the condition of street passenger vehicular traffic, the directors cannot be blamed for their caution.

GAS LIGHT AND COKE CO.

In its half-year to June 30 last this company's gross revenue declined by £158,688 to £1,905,771, while at the same time working expenses came down by only £29,040. It follows that the net

revenue fell off by £129,648 to £509,223. Deducting the debenture and preference stock charges, but adding in the balance brought forward of £248,193, which was up £72,776, the directors had £562,319 available for dividend on the ordinary stock and the redemption fund. Towards this fund £10,000 was set aside and out of the balance the ordinary stock gets a dividend at the rate of £4 8s. per cent., which was the same as a year ago, leaving £217,408 to be carried forward, or £56,568 less than a year back. It thus appears that the half-year was not a particularly brilliant one, and the reasons for the less agreeable display are summarised by the directors as a fall in the prices of residual products, more especially in coke, secondly a reduction of 1d. per 1,000 cubic feet in the price of gas, and finally a decrease in gas sales of 1.8 per cent. There is little other information in the report, but the directors are happy to state that the London County Council has been obliged to withdraw a clause in its Bill which provided for a reduction in the standard price of gas by 1d. per 1,000 cubic feet. This, they say, would have involved a reduction in the standard rate of dividend of 2s. 8d. per cent. per annum. They also say that the Corporation of the City has decided to displace electric arc lighting in certain leading thoroughfares, and to instal, experimentally, a system of high pressure gas lighting. This experiment will be watched with interest, and we see no reason at all why gas should not be a steadier and quite as effective light for public thoroughfares as electricity. It is certainly a much more agreeable light than the arc lamp usually is. The ordinary stock continues to be steadily cancelled by the redemption fund.

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS, LIMITED.

Trade was again good with this company during the year ended April 30, and although the net profits only showed an increase of £451 at £51,661, it must not be forgotten that this improvement follows on a year which was described by the chairman at the meeting as the most successful in the history of the business. With £1,460 more at £4,059 brought in the amount available was £55,721, and after deducting £3,500 for directors' remuneration and paying the preference dividend, the ordinary shares again receive 8 per cent., another £5,000 is put to special dividend reserve, and £10,000 is transferred to general reserve against £7,500, leaving £3,471 to be carried forward. These additions bring the total reserves up to £52,142 against which investments, including £15,387 for the special dividend reserve, stand at £66,872 or an increase of £6,872, and the piling up of large accumulations is commendably prudent on the part of the directors, seeing that copyrights, patents, and goodwill are still valued at £240,732, and, in addition, originals unpublished or in course of publication, lithographies, steel plates, &c., are taken into the balance-sheet at £18,352. In other respects also the company maintains its reputation for good management. Trading balances are well in its favour, as the liabilities to sundry creditors are modest enough at £34,140 compared with £100,359 due from sundry debtors, while stocks are £4,012 larger at £59,450, and cash is £7,157 up at £41,643.

NEW TIVOLI.

In their report for the twelve months to the end of June the directors bewail that the new and excessive rivalry which has arisen in close proximity to this well-known music-hall has to some extent lessened the takings and increased the expenses, but an examination of the accounts shows that the effect of this and doubtless of other contributing causes has been very serious. The takings from the entertainments, together with the profit on the refreshments, was £4,253 less at £41,522, and though the profit and loss account is credited with £101 representing appreciation in L.C.C. stock, the aggregate income, including programme advertisements, interest and transfer fees, is £42,178 against £46,338, a decline of £4,160. As the net profit amounts to £3,617 compared with £7,062, and as the sum brought in was £1,358 less at £1,735, the disposable sum shows a drop of no less than £4,836 to £5,349. This necessitates a reduction in the dividend from 10 per cent. to 6 per cent.—it was 13 per cent. in 1902-3—nothing is added to reserve, to which £1,000 was transferred in the previous year, whilst the sum carried forward is £1,006 less at £1,149. So it was a struggle to pay even the 6 per cent., for the depreciation allowance is quite inadequate, and goodwill, leasehold premises, &c., are still untouched. The reserve is £7,000 invested in L.C.C. stock, creditors exceed debtors by £1,200 and cash is £6,299. The directors think the outlook is improving.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

This creature of Crompton and Co., Limited, managed last year to scrape through with a small credit balance of £216. It spent £43,677 on capital account during the year, that is to say, in carrying out a number of small tramway and electric lighting undertakings, principally in Scotland, but also at places like Hendon, Hitchin, Sidmouth, Stevenage, and Tynemouth. Up to the date of the balance-sheet, December 31 last, the total capital expenditure had been £123,020, so that the net revenue just mentioned is not a very brilliant result. As the promoted undertakings, however, are apparently still to a great extent in embryo, we must not be too critical. Besides the capital expenditure on the undertakings, £9,166 has been absorbed by preliminary expenses, all carried to the balance-sheet, and held in suspense. As work is still going on further capital was necessary, and the directors say that they brought negotiations to a successful issue for the placing of an additional 20,000 shares by means of which the undertakings at Hendon, Hitchin, Falmouth, and Dumbarton are being pushed forward as quickly as possible. We hope they will be finished soon, but meantime the only item really of a

revenue description to be found in the balance-sheet is dividend accrued (since paid) on the Chelmsford Electric Lighting Company's shares, £1,997. Cash was fairly abundant at £6,153.

GEORGE NEWNES, LIMITED.

The net profit of this publishing business in the 12 months ending June 30 is returned at £64,407, arrived at after writing off depreciation on machinery, buildings, &c., particulars of which are not given in the profit and loss account. A balance of £7,004 was brought in, making £71,411, and after paying the interest on the 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares, the ordinary will receive the balance dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, making with the interim distribution 10 per cent. for the year, as in 1903-4. A sum of £2,500 is again put to reserve, but the balance carried forward has to be reduced from £7,003 to £3,911. The company has disposed of its half interest in *Country Life*, and the directors say they have recently acquired a half share in a printing business of the highest standing, which will materially assist the company's operations in the future. The reserve, invested outside, in securities that are not mentioned, will amount only to £12,500 against £622,500 standing for goodwill and copyrights, and leasehold buildings £54,404. Trade balances are much in the company's favour, cash amounts to £20,387, stock is valued at £74,589 and shares in other companies (at par) £65,000.

WELDON'S, LIMITED.

Though others may bewail declining business and a shrinkage in profits, Weldon's, Limited, continues to prosper, although the advance in earnings is not so considerable as was the increase for 1903 over 1902. The net profit in the year to June 30 is returned at £33,424 against £32,654, an increase of £770, the figure being the largest in the company's history. As £3,364 against £2,709 was brought in the sum available for distribution is £36,789 compared with £35,364, and the usual ten per cent. dividend is paid, £5,000 is added to the reserve, or £1,000 more, and £3,789 is carried to the new year. Nothing is written off goodwill and copyrights, which still stands at £337,415. The reserve is raised to £15,000 invested in good securities, in addition to which another £15,000 is invested in railway stock. Debtors appreciably exceed creditors, and cash stands at £21,289, thus showing a strong financial position.

WILLIAMSON'S, LIMITED.

This is a firm of grocers and provision dealers. In the financial year to April 22 the profit on trading, after providing for bad and doubtful debts appears at £79,952 in the profit and loss account, and rents, sundry receipts and transfer fees increase the total to £83,161. After deducting expenditure and depreciation—the latter being exceeded by the additional capital outlay—the net profit was £17,754 and the balance brought in was £5,294, making £23,048. But from this have to be deducted directors' fees, managing directors' salaries and auditors' fees, £2,171 and income-tax £353, leaving £20,525. The interest on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares takes £4,500 and £6,000 is required to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares. The directors propose to put £3,000 to a reserve against leasehold properties, to write a further £1,000 off fixtures and fittings, and to carry forward £5,225, the reserve fund of £25,000 being untouched. This is utilised in the business. Trade liabilities are a little over trade debts, cash is £8,517, stock £58,978, and goodwill £57,629.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Barry.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, carrying £3,086 forward, against 10 per cent. per annum and £7,597 carried out last year.

Furness Railway.—Dividend at the rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum on ordinary stock, carrying forward £1,293 compared with $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum and £1,301 forward.

Great Central.—Half-year to June 30, preference stocks down to and inclusive of the five per cent. convertible preference stock, 1879, and at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for the six months upon the five per cent. convertible preference stock, 1881, carrying forward £7,000.

Great Northern.—For half-year at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary capital, giving 2 per cent. for the half-year to the preferred converted ordinary stock, and 3 per cent. to the B stock, carrying forward £16,040, compared with £41,806 a year ago.

Isle of Wight.—For the past half-year 4 per cent. per annum on preference stock, 4 per cent. per annum on preferred converted ordinary stock, 2½ per cent. per annum on deferred converted ordinary stock.

Lancashire and Yorkshire.—For the past half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £20,500.

London and South-Western.—For the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £25,891.

London, Chatham, and Dover.—£1 5s. per cent. for the half-year on the arbitration preference stock, making £3 10s. per cent. for the financial year, carrying forward £488.

North-Eastern.—On North-Eastern Consols at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £41,349.

North Staffordshire.—On ordinary stock for the past half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £5,287.

Waterloo and City.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, carrying forward £658.

TRAMWAYS.

Associated Omnibus.—Interim for the six months ended June 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

London General Omnibus.—Eight per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, placing £20,000 to motor fund account and carrying forward £9,500.

BREWERIES.

Cannon Brewery.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for the half-year to June 30.

Royal Brentford.—Final at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum or the six months to June 30, making 14 per cent. for the year.

Southdown and East Grinstead.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

MINES.

Brilliant Central Gold (No Liability).—6d. per share, payable Aug. 14.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—For the quarter ending August of 1s. 6d. per share.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—No. 70 of 1s. per share payable Aug. 9.

Fremantle Smelter.—First interim for 1905-6 of 5 per cent. (or 1s. per share), payable August 30.

Great Boulder Perseverance Gold.—6d. per share.

New Charlotte Collieries.—Interim of 5s. per share on the preference shares, payable August 3.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Blackburn Loom and Machinery.—6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, placing £363 to reserve, and carrying forward £638.

Borax Consolidated.—Interim of 5s. per share for quarter ended March 31, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Brentford Gas.—At the rates of 5, 12½, and 9½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £59,004.

Bristol and South Wales Railway Wagon.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

British Steamship Investment Trust.—Final at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, making 5 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

California Pastoral and Agricultural.—Interim of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

City of Aberdeen Land.—10 per cent. for the past year, carrying forward £810.

City Property of Aberdeen.—4½ per cent. for the past year carrying forward £636.

County of London Electric Supply.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 21.

Felix Abraham and Co.—10 per cent. for the first six months of 1905.

"Financial Times."—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30.

Freeholders Company.—1s. per 75s. paid ordinary share for the year ended June 30 last.

Holborn and Frascati.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30 last.

Jeremiah Rotherham and Co.—Interim for the six months ended July 15 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds.—Interim for the six months ended June 30 last at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum.

John Howell and Co.—Interim of 2s. per share, payable August 3.

John Oakey and Sons.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Kempton Park Freehold Land.—2½ per cent., making 5½ per cent. for the year ended July 7.

London and Middlesex Freehold Estates.—Interim of 1s. 3d. per share for the half-year ended June 30, payable September 1.

Mercantile Steamship.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Metropolitan Electric Supply.—Interim of 5s. per share on the £5 ordinary shares, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Northern Accident Insurance.—Interim of 1s. per share for the half-year ended June 30.

Paquin.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Pease and Partners.—10s. per share on the ordinary shares, being at the rate of 5 per cent. for the year ended June 30 last.

Perry and Co.—Interim for the first six months of this year on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Price's Patent Candle.—15s. per share.

Regent's Canal and Dock.—2 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £1,543.

Roburite Explosives.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30, payable on Aug. 14.

Spencer, Turner, and Boldero.—Interim on the preference shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended July 15, and at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the same period.

Spratt's Patent.—Interim at the rate of 4s. per share on the ordinary shares.

Weaver and Co.—10 per cent. to the ordinary shareholders, less the amount paid in January, and also a bonus of 2 per cent.

Westminster Electric Supply.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum.

William Wallace.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30.

Woolley, Sanders, and Co.—Of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

THE UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK, LIMITED.

The half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., on Wednesday, July 26 1905, Felix Schuster, Esq. (the governor), in the chair.

The secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the report was taken as read.

The auditors' certificate having been read by the secretary, The Governor announced that the directors had declared a dividend for the past half-year of 15s. 6d. per share, equal to a rate of 10 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share, equal to about a further 1 per cent., clear of income-tax, on the whole of the paid-up capital, payable on and after July 27.

The Governor: Ladies and Gentlemen, those of you who have studied the course of the money market during the past six months, or who have read the intelligent anticipations of the Press, who at the end of each half-year always estimate banking profits to a nicety, will not have been surprised that our own profits have shown some falling off during this period; and, considering the general tendency and the totally altered aspect of monetary conditions, I think we have every reason to congratulate ourselves that this falling off has been comparatively slight, the net profits showing a diminution of only £7,500, as compared with the corresponding period last year. During the period under review the average Bank rate has been £2 13s. 9d. per cent., as in the month of March the rate was reduced from 3 per cent. to 2½ per cent., and this average shows a diminution of over ⅞ per cent., compared with last year. The average market rate was only 2¼ per cent., showing a diminution of about ½ per cent., and the average for daily money was £2 2s. per cent., as compared with £2 10s. 3d. a year ago. Thus a general fall in the value of money has taken place. Although during the first four months of the half-year there was no difficulty in employing money—in fact, during part of the time, especially during the period of the heavy revenue collections, there was considerable scarcity, and day-to-day money could be well employed—the general tendency was, and is, towards greater ease. This is not surprising, as the increasing gold production in South Africa was bound to make itself felt, and is a factor not to be overlooked in any general estimate of the situation. For the first time since the war, the gold production of the Transvaal has exceeded the maximum output attained before that period, and during the past six months it was upwards of 10 millions, compared with £9,600,000 during the first six months of 1899. This production is progressing on an increasing scale, and must make itself felt more and more, especially as there has been a very large accumulation of the precious metal in all continental centres, except Russia, and the reserve at the Bank of England at the end of the half-year stood at 27 millions, compared with about 21 millions at the beginning of the year—higher figures than we have been accustomed to see for about seven years. Also, the movement to which I have alluded at our last two meetings of a diminution in the deposits of the leading joint-stock banks appears to have been arrested, and, as our figures will show, we certainly have had larger amounts to deal with, although it might be, perhaps, premature to conclude from this fact that the saving power of the nation shows any marked signs of improvement; indeed, I am afraid that this can hardly be said to be the case. Trade all over the country does not yet show any great progress, if we except Lancashire—a most important exception, it is true—where there has been, and is, very considerable activity. It has been remarked elsewhere that bankers with a large country connection have better opportunities for earning profits than purely London banks. That may be so; indeed, it is because we expected this would be the case in time of cheap money that we have thought it desirable to extend our business in the country; but it can hardly be maintained that competition is less severe in country districts than in London, or that customers show greater generosity or less business capacity for extracting the very best possible terms from their bankers. Nor would it appear to be quite easy to generalise as to the nature or amount of liquid assets a bank, whether in town or country, thinks it desirable to keep; and whether in town or country, the duty to the shareholders of a bank and to the public remains the same. It has certainly not been a time when precautions in that direction could with prudence have been relaxed—we undoubtedly could have shown larger profits if we had desired to employ our funds to a greater extent than we have done; but while the war in the Far East is still in progress, and the political situation on the Continent of Europe by no means assured, the dangers that might possibly arise to this country, though, let us hope, remote, must never be lost sight of, especially by bankers.

If trade at home has not shown any great signs of activity, yet the total results as shown by the Board of Trade Returns are most gratifying, the imports for the first six months of the year showing an increase of £1,170,000, compared with the corresponding six months last year, and the exports an increase of no less than £14,500,000, or about 8 per cent. A great part of this increase is contributed by the great cotton and wool industries of Lancashire and Yorkshire; but in other manufactures also satisfactory increases are shown, and if the external trade of the country is thus progressive, the effect on our home trade should before long also make itself felt. Certain indications are already apparent in this direction, and should be further

pronounced if the agricultural prospects, which, so far, appear to be favourable, fulfil the promise that farmers may look forward to a better year.

The greater ease shown in the money market has, so far, not been reflected in the stock markets, and, especially as regards our own national securities, the expected revival has again been doomed to disappointment. The causes, considering the large accumulation of new debt, owing to the war, are not difficult to understand, and as long as the sinking fund for the reduction of the public debt is made ineffective through fresh borrowings, it is hardly likely that the national credit will quickly resume that pre-eminence which we all desire and to which it is entitled. The growth in municipal indebtedness, to which I have alluded from time to time, has also had its effect as regards the price of gilt-edged securities; but that growth seems for the time being to have been somewhat checked, for the demands on the money market for issues in that direction have been quite insignificant during the past six months, if we except one made by the London County Council. Indeed, the outcry against all municipal borrowing has now become so general that there is almost a danger lest legitimate enterprises of such a nature as can best be carried on by public bodies should be unduly retarded. But, on the whole, it is well that public attention should be directed to these matters, that the ratepayers should strictly scrutinise all expenditure to which they are to be committed, and that private enterprise should not be discouraged or interfered with. A public audit of all municipal accounts, which has been so often advocated by commercial and other bodies, and which has been approved of by Parliamentary committees, has not yet been made compulsory. This would appear to be the first step towards the desired improvement and towards a true appreciation of the credit to which each corporation should be entitled, whereas now the best of them are exposed to suffer in credit as well as those least entitled to it. I cannot help in this connection again expressing my disappointment—and, I believe, that of all bankers—at our inability to bring about the final passing of the Bills of Exchange Act Amendment Bill which has been introduced into Parliament for the third time, although that Bill has obtained the support and approval of the highest legal authorities, and is entirely in the public interest.

To turn for a moment to our own figures, you will notice that deposits show an increase, compared with those of a year ago, of £2,300,000, and stand at £34,500,000, and after the close of the half-year they showed still further increases and attained record figures. Acceptances also show an increase of £727,000, and in both these items you have sufficient proof of the progressive character of our business, which progress, we trust, will be maintained and still further developed. When you turn to the assets, you find the evidence of the ample liquid position which we always have maintained, and which we desire to maintain. Cash in hand and at Bank of England, close upon £7,000,000, shows an increase of £760,000; money at call, at £6,200,000, an increase of £1,600,000; investments, £6,300,000, an increase of £930,000; bills discounted, £4,400,000, show a decrease of £330,000; and loans and advances, £14,650,000, a decrease of £717,000. Turning to the profit and loss account, you will notice interest allowed amounts to £156,000, compared with £195,000 a year ago; this shows the important change that has taken place in the money market. Salaries and other expenses amount to £201,000, showing an increase of £2,700. I would mention that this includes a very important contribution towards pensions for the staff, as well as the automatic provision for the writing-down of our leasehold premises. The net profits are £208,800, compared with £216,000 a year ago—a diminution of £7,500, which, of course, we regret, but which, considering the circumstances, is, I am sure you will agree, not a very important one. We have declared a dividend and bonus amounting to a total of £194,000; if we had decided to maintain the bonus at the rate distributed last year, the amount absorbed would have been £212,000, and, considering our large carry-forward, we might quite legitimately have made this distribution. Taking into account, however, the prospects for the present half-year, which are none too brilliant, and also the policy of the bank, which, we know, is approved of by the shareholders, not to divide up to the hilt, we decided it would be more prudent to distribute a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share only, making a total of 11 per cent., and to carry forward £88,000, compared with £55,000 a year ago.

I wish to add that we have continued reason to be thoroughly satisfied not only with the progress and development of our business in all its branches, and the constant accession of new customers, but also with its general soundness and the nature of all our advances, which, I need hardly assure you, are always watched with the closest attention by your directors. In none of the businesses recently acquired do we see, after the closest inspection, the slightest cause either for disappointment as to earning capacity or for doubt as to the first-class nature of our new connections. And I am certain that working on a much larger scale, as we do now, we can look forward to the future with far greater confidence than was possible under the somewhat narrower conditions of the old Union Bank. We do not wish to extend too rapidly now, neither must we neglect to take any steps to protect our existing business; and as stated in our report, we have opened branches at Hampstead and Purley, both in the metropolitan area, as well as at Nuneaton and Southampton, at both of which places we thought it desirable to be represented owing to the intimate connection existing between these and other important centres where we have branches. As you have noticed in our report, the special resolution passed by you at the begin-

ning of the year has obtained the confirmation of the High Court of Justice, and we are now in a position to undertake the duties of executors and trustees. As I told you at the special general meeting we obtained these powers because certain business had been offered to us especially with regard to the trusteeship for the debenture holders of public companies, which we had not been in a position to take up and which we are now able to entertain; but in other directions also we have reason to think there is room for the legitimate development of the bank's business, in this connection, and it is only natural that a bank having taken charge of the investments and securities of a man during his lifetime, should also be able to act as his executor and trustee when desired. We feel that in taking this step we have met the wishes of many of our friends and clients. In other respects I have nothing of importance to add regarding the bank's business, but it is with very sincere regret that I have to allude to the death of one of our local directors at Exeter, Mr. E. A. Sanders, whose connection with the bank, although short, was most interesting. He joined the Exeter Bank, Messrs. Sanders and Co. (which was founded in 1769 by his grandfather) in 1834 and remained until February, 1905, in active and practically daily work. He resigned his position in the bank in February and died at the age of 94 in March last.

The half-year on which we have just entered has begun with very low rates for money, lower indeed than we have seen them for many years, and on the whole the tendency appears to be in favour of continued ease. Yet the condition of the money market is a peculiarly complex one and not very easy to judge. From time to time I have alluded to the large amounts of foreign money invested in our market; for some time past this foreign indebtedness, as far as the continent of Europe is concerned, appears to have been considerably reduced, though it has probably not entirely disappeared. The continued adverse tendency of the foreign exchanges, particularly the French exchange, proves that excessive ease in the money market here will inevitably lead to money being withdrawn, and if rates therefore fall away too much, the result will be an immediate withdrawal of funds now employed at this centre. On the other hand, if indebtedness to the continent of Europe has been decreased, the Japanese Government have employed large funds in this market and in our short-dated Government securities. This is a factor not to be overlooked in any estimate of the general situation. You remember how important a part the Japanese indemnity obtained from China ten years ago played in affecting the monetary situation at the time; the amount then involved was about 10 millions. Now we have it on the authority of one of the Japanese officials that the amount of Japanese money employed in this market a little while ago was about 10 millions. Since that statement was made a very large issue of Japanese stock has been made and the proceeds appear again to have been invested here. Whether the proceeds of that part of the Japanese Loan issued in the United States and on the Continent will also eventually find their way here remains to be seen. In any case, Japanese finance will have a very important bearing on our money market in the near future; and it is to be hoped not only on our money market, but also on our general trade, if eventually the payment of these funds is made, not in cash, but in manufactures, as was done on the previous occasion. Various corporations and probably some Colonial Governments are awaiting favourable opportunities to avail themselves of the prevailing ease, and thus floating supplies may rapidly become absorbed. But most of all, the situation will depend on the political outlook on the Continent and the issue of the peace negotiations between Russia and Japan, which it cannot be too sincerely hoped will lead to a conclusion of the conflict which has prevailed too long. Were this once settled, and that terrible spectre of war to which we have been far too long accustomed at last removed, trade in all parts of the world must experience a rapid and most important revival. Great markets will be reopened, and the ravages of war will have to be made good. In South Africa also the long-expected improvement should, with the increasing gold production to which I have already alluded, before long make itself felt, and a revival in commercial affairs as well as in the mining industry should inevitably follow. If such an improvement in the financial position of South Africa were to result in the final liquidation of the long-delayed contribution of 30 millions towards our own war expenses, enabling us to reduce the National Floating Debt to that extent, a most important step would be reached in the rehabilitation of the national credit and an immediate and general activity would inevitably follow. Cheaper money also must have a favourable influence in stimulating all our industries, and on the whole, the outlook presents many hopeful features, and perhaps we may now at last be permitted to look forward to a prolonged period of peace. I now beg to move that the report be adopted.

Mr. John Trotter (the deputy-governor) seconded the motion, which was, after some congratulatory remarks by Dr. Drysdale and Mr. M. Wilkinson, unanimously agreed to.

It was moved by Mr. Alfred Laurie, seconded by Mr. E. W. Lane, and carried unanimously: "That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the governor, the deputy-governor, and the directors for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the bank during the past half-year."

It was moved by the Governor, seconded by the deputy-Governor, and carried unanimously: "That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the general manager, the managers of the head office and the branches, the secretary, and the staff of the bank generally, for the efficient discharge of their several duties during the past half-year."

A vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding terminated the proceedings.

EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixty-sixth half-yearly ordinary general meeting of this company was held on Wednesday, under the presidency of Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B.

The Assistant-Secretary read the notice calling the meeting, and

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Before I move the adoption of the report and accounts I will, according to custom, give you some further details with regard to the principal items of receipts and expenditure. For the same reasons as those which I gave when I had the pleasure of meeting you in January last my remarks to-day will be brief. I then stated that the result of the interim half-year's working to September 30, 1904, might be described as satisfactory, and the results shown by the accounts for the final half-year to March 31, 1905, which are presented to-day, are, I think, even more gratifying to us all. The gross revenue for the half-year under review amounted to £676,000 as compared with (for the corresponding period of 1904) £636,000 or an increase of £40,000. This increase is, however, largely due to additional traffic in connection with the Russo-Japanese War. You will have noticed from the report that from the 1st proximo the tariff between Europe and India and between Great Britain and Aden will be reduced from 2s. 6d. to 2s. per word. The reduction in the Indian tariff is in accordance with an agreement made with the Secretary of State for India some three years ago, under which a standard revenue was guaranteed. It was then agreed that if three consecutive years produced an average of this standard revenue the tariff with India should be reduced by 6d. per word. For the three years ended June 30 last the average revenue reached the stipulated figure, and I am pleased to say that during the period in which the tariff has been 2s. 6d. per word the Indian Government has only been called upon to contribute some comparatively small amounts under their guarantee. The increase of traffic with India has been very satisfactory. This is not due in our opinion to the reduction of tariff, but to the late general prosperity of the Indian Empire. As a result of the increased traffic the reduction in the rate referred to will be brought into operation on August 1 next. It will, of course, be understood that, under our agreement, if the earnings of the Associated Companies on Indian traffic do not amount at the reduced tariff to the agreed standard revenue figure the Indian Government will bear a proportion of the difference between the actual receipts and the standard revenue amount. The tariff between Europe and Egypt (1st region) has also been reduced, the reduction being from 1s. 5d. to 1s. per word. With regard to this alteration of tariff, negotiations have been in progress for some time, and were completed in April this year. I am glad to say that the various existing agreements between this company and the Egyptian Government have now been consolidated, and an arrangement satisfactory both to the Government and to this company has been concluded, embodying the reduction of the rates to which I have just referred and the payment by us of an increased transit rate. We are gratified at being able with justice to our shareholders to carry out these reductions, but it must be borne in mind that should the traffics increase largely we may have to augment our cable capacity. Thus it is obviously advisable to carry as much as possible to our general reserve in view of this and also for other contingencies.

The total expenses for the half-year, exclusive of income-tax payable in England and interest on loan, amounted to £232,000 as against (for the corresponding period of 1904) £216,000 or an increase of £16,000. The expenses in London under abstract "A" show a decrease of about £1,300, contributions to staff pension fund a decrease of £800 (due to a readjustment of the amount payable by the company as the result of the second quinquennial valuation of the fund), and depreciation of spare cable also a decrease of £2,000. The working expenses at stations, the expenses attending maintenance of cables, and income-tax payable abroad exceed the expenditure for the corresponding period to the extent of £7,300, £13,600, and £1,020 respectively. Of the items comprised in the additional expenditure under abstract "B," salaries and wages have increased by £5,400, which is due to the usual annual promotions and to a considerable increase in the number of the staff to deal with enlarged traffics. I have explained the increase under this head fully on former occasions, and the same reasons apply this half-year. Maintenance of instruments accounts for £1,200, occasioned by the continuance of our system of adopting new methods and apparatus, after careful experiment and trial by our technical staff, to improve the speed and accuracy of the service. Repairs to buildings, which accounts for an increase of about £1,100, is chiefly due to various alterations to certain of the station buildings. Other items under this abstract show minor increases, while others show a decrease, but those stated are the principal items accounting for the additional expenditure at the stations. The expense attending maintenance of cables is necessarily a very fluctuating figure. Many extensive repairs have been carried out during the half-year, and the amount expended on cables is considerably in excess of that for the corresponding period of 1904. The increase under the heading of income-tax payable abroad represents this company's liability under the Act recently introduced into Cape Colony. We have been obliged to pay this tax although urgent representations have been made by us to the proper quarter with a view to obtaining exemption. We have during the half-year under consideration been able to reduce the loan from the Eastern and South African Company

to the extent of £250,000, and the loan at March 31 stood at £200,000. In continuance of the operations which have been fully explained at previous meetings, we have charged against general reserve fund £195,290 in respect of new cables and the balance of expenditure under this suspense account, to be dealt with in future years, now amounts to £255,000. You will notice on reference to the credit side of the balance-sheet that capital expenditure has been reduced by an amount of £70,000; this represents the cost price of shares we held in "other companies," which have been paid off. I may add that the amount actually received for the shares was in excess of that paid for them; as, however, the transaction was not actually completed on the date to which these accounts are prepared, the difference between cost and realisation will be dealt with in the current half-year. The net result of working for the year ended March 31, 1905, is that we are able, after making provisions for our reserve funds, to pay the usual dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., and to carry forward a small balance. He concluded by moving a resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts to March 31 last, approving the dividend to be paid on the preference stock to the 30th ult. at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax, and declaring a dividend of 1¼ per cent., with a bonus of 2 per cent., both free of income-tax, on the ordinary stock, making with the previous payments by way of dividend on account a total distribution of 7 per cent. on that stock for the year ended March 31 last.

The Vice-Chairman and Managing Director (Sir John Denison-Pender, K.C.M.G.) seconded the resolution.

Mr. Ernest Vane said he desired to ask a question as to the Pacific cable. He had seen it stated that two of the Colonial Governments which had granted preferential facilities to the company were going to withdraw them owing to some agitation. He wished to know whether these facilities would be withdrawn, and if so whether any serious consequence would result.

Mr. John Newton inquired whether the Telegraph Conference which was sitting would be satisfied with the substantial reductions in the tariffs which the company were going to make on the 1st proximo.

The Chairman, in replying, stated that with regard to the Pacific cable, the point referred to of course affected the company, but it more particularly related to the Eastern Extension Company, with whom the negotiations from time to time had taken place. He thought it would be rather advantageous if the hon. shareholder would not press his question, as the Pacific Cable Conference was still sitting. He had reason to suppose that the companies would not suffer, but he would not like to enter on the matter at the present moment. With regard to Mr. Newton's question, the Conference had nothing to do with the reductions which had been brought before the meeting. The reduction in the tariff to India was under a definite contract with the Indian Government, with which the Pacific Cable Conference had nothing to do; nor had they anything to do with the other reduction to Egypt.

The motion was then carried unanimously.

Mr. Newton afterwards proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff, remarking that the company had had the most successful half-year they had ever experienced. Although, he continued, the work of the directors was very agreeable in times of prosperity, still the shareholders owed their thanks to the board in view of the fact that they were to have a dividend of 7 per cent. with a substantial amount carried to the reserve.

Mr. Vane seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the vote, said he might tell Mr. Newton that although the company's affairs were proceeding in a most satisfactory manner, yet they did not proceed in that way without some very hard work on the part of the board. The company had many interests in all parts of the globe, and the directors were constantly having most important matters before them. The work of the board was certainly not diminished in times of prosperity.

The proceedings then terminated.

TRUSTEES, EXECUTORS, AND SECURITIES INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Trustees, Executors, and Securities Insurance Corporation, Limited, was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, E.C., for the purpose of submitting for confirmation, as special resolutions, the resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meeting of the corporation held on July 11, and also submitting a further resolution. Mr. George A. Touch (the chairman of the company) presided.

Mr. Gilbert Taylor (one of the joint secretaries) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—Our business to-day is very largely of a formal character. This, as you probably know, is the last of the series of meetings necessary for the purpose of giving effect to the scheme of arrangement for the readjustment of the capital account of the company. Apart from a simple resolution giving the directors power to sub-divide the shares into stock, and, if need be, to reconvert them again into shares, the only business before the meeting is to confirm certain resolutions which have already been passed. These resolutions were passed either *nemine contradicente*, or at the most with only two or three dissentients. It will interest you to know that the holders of upwards of 90 per cent. of the shares of the company have now given their individual assents to the scheme of arrangement. (Applause.) I think, therefore, that I may say that we have now attained that practical unanimity which the

board asked for in their circular. (Applause.) The confirmation of the first resolution to be submitted to you to-day will have the effect of dividing each share which at present exists—a share of £5 5s., £2 5s. paid, with £3 of liability—into two shares of £2 12s. 6d. each, with £1 2s. 6d. paid and a liability of £1 10s.—one of those subdivided shares will, as you will remember, be a 4½ per cent. preference share and the other will be an ordinary share. I am glad to be able to announce that arrangements have now been completed for the immediate issue and sale of the new preference shares by Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. (Applause.) I venture to think that that issue could not be made under better auspices, and I feel confident that the association of a firm of their standing with our company will be a matter of gratification to the shareholders generally. (Applause.) It may interest you to know that the preference shares which are to be offered by them are to be offered at the price of £1 2s. 6d.—that is, at par—payable as regards 2s. 6d. on application and £1 on allotment; and the liability on those preference shares is to be called up in two instalments of 15s. each. One instalment will be payable on November 30 and the remaining instalment will be payable on February 28, 1906. In that way the whole sum of £2 12s. 6d. will be paid up on the preference shares. You will doubtless remember that it was a condition of the guarantee that those who were to become responsible for the preference issue were to be entitled to nominate a director on the board of the company, and I am glad to be able to announce that Colonel Herman Le Roy Lewis, D.S.O., has been so nominated by the issuing house. The liability of 30s. a share on the ordinary shares has, as you know, to be dealt with in order to complete the scheme. That also is going to be called up in two instalments during the month of August. The first instalment of 7s. 6d. per share will be payable on August 5; the second instalment of £1 2s. 6d. per share is to be made payable on August 21. That date has been fixed in order to give time for the completion of the preference issue and the payment up by those who subscribe for the preference shares of the whole of the purchase money of £1 2s. 6d. per share. I ought to explain as regards the call of 7s. 6d. that that will be met automatically by way of set-off out of the special bonus which is going to be declared to-day, so that the 7s. 6d. provides for itself; and although you will get a call letter in respect of that 7s. 6d. it will not be necessary for you to deal with it in any way, and the £1 2s. 6d. is, of course, going to be met by the sale of the preference shares. The result will be that in the course of three or four weeks from now the ordinary shares of the company will be fully paid up. (Applause.) The liability upon your shares will be a thing entirely of the past.

The confirmation of the following resolutions was then proposed and carried:—

"That each of the 200,000 shares of the corporation of £5 5s. each (£2 5s. paid up thereon) be and is hereby sub-divided into two shares of £2 12s. 6d. each, upon each of which £1 2s. 6d. shall be credited as paid up, and that one of each of the two shares resulting from such sub-division shall be a preference share entitled to a fixed cumulative preferential dividend of 4½ per cent. per annum as from June 1, 1905, on the amounts for the time being paid thereon, and a right in a winding up to repayment of capital in priority to the other shares for the time being outstanding, but such preference shares shall not confer any further right to participate in profits or assets. And that the directors be and they are hereby authorised to number the shares resulting from such sub-division in such manner as they shall consider expedient."

"That article 50 of the articles of association as altered by resolution passed and confirmed on June 26 and July 11, 1905, be further altered by adding at the end thereof the words 'Provided that the moneys borrowed by the directors for the purposes of the company and at any one time owing shall not without the consent of a general meeting exceed the amount of the issued capital of the company for the time being.'"

"That article 82 of the articles of association be altered by substituting for the words 'to 5 per cent. of the net profits of the company in each year in excess of £63,000,' added by resolution passed and confirmed on June 26 and July 11, 1905, the words 'as from the 1st day of June, 1905, to an additional sum of £850 per annum, or such other amount as the shareholders in general meeting may determine.'"

The Chairman next proposed the following resolution:—

"That the directors be and they are hereby authorised to convert into stock any shares resulting from the sub-division of the shares effected by the resolution passed and confirmed on the 11th and 26th July, 1905, as and when paid up, and to issue fractional certificates to bearer for fractions of £1 of stock, and to reconvert stock into shares of any denomination."

Mr. Slaughter seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, on the motion of Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. J. D. Milne, closed the proceedings.

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the British Electric Traction Company, Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, G.C.M.G., C.B. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles H. Dade) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts for the year ended March 31 last, said

the chief feature of the profit and loss account was that, omitting the amount brought forward from the preceding year, the net profit for the twelve months was £229,027 as against £249,818 in the previous year or a profit of £20,000 less. They proposed to pay the same dividend upon the ordinary shares as in the previous year—namely, 6 per cent., but they had to pay nearly £15,000 more debenture interest and about £900 more dividend on preference share capital. They carried forward to next year about £15,000 as against £38,000 in the preceding year. The dividends and interest which they had received upon their investments amounted to £146,163 or about £10,000 more, but the investments amounted to £237,000 more. It would not, however, be correct to consider the increase in the dividends in conjunction with the increase in the investments without making certain allowances, as some of the investments were not brought into the books until nearly the end of the financial year; therefore, there had not been time to obtain a full year's revenue from them. It was only right to say that the directors were not satisfied with the increase in the amount of the dividends and interest shown in this year's accounts. They had hoped that with better weather conditions during the past year the profits of their associated companies at the end of the year would have been larger, but nearly all the reports of tramway companies issued in respect of the past year contained evidences of the effect of the depression in trade which had prevailed throughout nearly all branches of industry, and these evidences of depression were not confined merely to tramway companies. He found that the reports of the railway companies, the omnibus companies, the banking institutions, and the various companies owning hotels all pointed to a reduced spending power on the part of the public. The traffic receipts of late had shown improvement, but it was too early to say whether this was entirely due to the fine weather they had enjoyed, or whether part of it was the result of revival in general trade. He hoped, however, that the improvement might continue, and that the results for the current year would be better. In schedule "A," attached to the report, details of the management and general expenses were given, and in reference to that schedule he pointed out that in every single item, except auditors' fees, they had been able to effect a decided economy. The auditors' fee was larger, because last year was charged with the fees payable to two separate firms of auditors, whereas in previous years only one firm was appointed by the shareholders. A reduction in the directors' fees would also be noticed, but this was not due to any economy under this particular head, but to the circumstance that some of the directors who were now paid salaries as managing directors were formerly in receipt of directors' fees. Salaries and wages showed a reduction of over £8,000, and travelling expenses stood at £3,760 against £5,396. Rents, rates, and taxes amounted to £5,296 as against £6,161, and legal expenses came to £3,168 against £9,977. On the whole there was a reduction of over £20,000. This economy had been rendered possible by the policy which the directors had been pursuing of limiting as far as possible the further capital commitments of the company in respect of new schemes. This statement must not, however, be taken to imply that they had suspended all enterprise, because, as a matter of fact, they had during the past year developed some important new undertakings, but they had not during the past year promoted any Acts of Parliament or Light Railway Orders for new tramway undertakings in this country. Without departing from the policy they had already laid down to restrict as far as possible further capital commitments, he believed the large experience which this company had acquired in connection with transit problems generally placed it in a very strong position for being of service in connection with the carrying out of kindred undertakings in the colonies and abroad, and in the application of electricity to railways. The special feature in their balance-sheet was the reduction of their liabilities. Last year they owed their bankers in respect of temporary loans sums amounting to £200,000, and they had had deposited with them by associated companies the total sum of £66,000. The whole of the loans had been repaid and the deposits had been reduced to £19,250.

Mr. Emile Garcke seconded the resolution for the adoption of the report, which was unanimously adopted.

Sir Charles Rivers Wilson was, on the motion of Mr. Garcke, seconded by Mr. Henry Whitten, re-elected a director of the company; and the auditors, Messrs. Fred. W. Smith and Co. and Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, and Co., were re-appointed.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

CONSOLIDATED MINES SELECTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, Limited, was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on Tuesday, Mr. Francis Muir (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles W. Moore) having read the notice convening the meeting and also the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Although the period under review has hardly been an ideal one—and, in fact, for more than half the year the market has been dull and lifeless—we are able to show you a profit, including the balance brought forward, of £71,231, a result which under the circumstances I think must be considered very fairly satisfactory. Anticipating the issue of £100,000 of fresh capital, the board decided to pay an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the old capital, and they now recommend that a final dividend of 5 per cent. on the whole capital

or say 10 per cent. for the year be paid, carrying forward £16,231 to the next account, subject to the extra remuneration due to the directors. The profit of £71,231 has been arrived at after taking a very conservative view of the position of the company generally, and from this point of view we begin the new year in a very comfortable position. As the report indicates, our attention has been chiefly directed to South Africa during the year, and against some increase in our investments there are interests in America, Australia, and New Zealand which are all smaller. That does not mean that we are ceasing to look all the world over for mining properties of merit, but that for the time being South Africa has seemed to present the greater attraction. Since the accounts were made up we have taken a considerable property outside South Africa the details of which will come into the next account. Two of our properties are in the Far-Eastern portion of the Rand, in what may be called comparatively a new mining country, namely, the Transvaal Coal Trust and its child, the Brakpan Mines. The Transvaal Coal Trust Company was originally formed to work, and is still working, valuable coal deposits, which have been proved to carry, underlying the series of gold reefs, what is called the deep levels of the Main Reef, or the Van Ryn series. From the Coal Trust has been formed the Brakpan Mines with an area of 1,150 claims and a possible capacity of 600 stamps or more, and the Farm De Rietfontein, also belonging to the Trust, is now being exploited by the Eastern Exploration Syndicate with the view to the promotion of a company, from which the Trust Company, as owner of the ground, will greatly benefit. The main point is that on both these properties operations have advanced beyond a purely speculative stage, and have given great encouragement in the important particulars of width of reef, values, and working conditions, and it has been proved that after allowing for curvature of the boreholes the reef will be struck at a much less depth than was originally estimated, which means, of course, less work and less cost to attain the producing stage. On the Brakpan Mine has begun the sinking of two shafts and the engineers to the Brakpan Company entertain a most favourable opinion of the Far-Eastern district. We believe it has a great future before it and that we are fortunate in being largely interested on favourable terms. The good opinion we have of the district is held by other large houses, and this is proved by the work that they are doing on adjoining properties. It appears to us that the South African mining situation and prospects are at the present time full of promise. From whatever point of view you regard the industry progress is being made, and made rapidly. For instance, in the matter of improvements, the tube mills, about which one has heard so much, are expected by the engineers to affect a considerable saving, to allow of a much larger extraction, and to treat a much larger tonnage, thus yielding better returns. In regard to the matter of costs there seems to be no doubt that these will be considerably reduced, and with an ample supply of labour one may look with a great deal of confidence to better results than we have seen hitherto. In all these particulars the story is the same. The comparison with last year alone is striking enough, but the comparison with 1902 is extremely remarkable, and yet, judging by the market, one might suppose that the industry had been declining, instead of going forward by leaps and bounds, in spite of severe discouragement. It is our business to discriminate, and without claiming perfection we believe that we have been, and are, on the whole, fairly successful in this discrimination. At all events, we regard the future most hopefully and with confidence that the policy we are pursuing will in due time bring its reward. I beg to move: "That the report and accounts submitted to this meeting be received and adopted, and that a final dividend of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, be now declared out of the profits of the company for the year ended June 30, 1905, payable at once to shareholders registered on that date, leaving a balance of £16,231 6s. 6d. to be carried forward to next account."

Mr. Strettell seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Walter McDermott, seconded by Mr. Hicks, the retiring directors (Mr. Francis Muir and Mr. J. Werminghoff) were re-elected. The auditors were then reappointed.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixth annual ordinary general meeting of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., under the presidency of Lieut.-Colonel Ivor Philipps, D.S.O. (chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. A. S. Evens, A.C.A.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and account, dealt in detail with the accounts of the company, and, referring to the loss of £51,445 last year, said it was no doubt chiefly attributable to the low price the company received for the oil it supplied to the Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company. He went on to say: The agreement under which we were bound to supply this was considered a satisfactory one when it was made—I have not the slightest doubt about that—but there is no doubt it has worked very unfortunately. Good results were certainly anticipated, and up to comparatively recent times; but, as the chairman of the Russian company said recently, at the annual meeting of that company, "The year under review has been one in which our calculations have been very largely upset by causes entirely beyond our control." Well,

as we supplied our oil to them, and we had really very little control as to what was done with that oil after it was handed over to them, if circumstances have arisen which upset their calculations, and which were beyond their control, they were still further beyond ours. That is all I can say, except that the result has been most disappointing. The report which I have had to lay before you to-day cannot be at all pleasant hearing. I do not consider for a moment that it can be; but the late chairman gave you an outline of the position last November, and I hope, anyhow, it is not much more unsatisfactory than he led you to anticipate. After referring to the many other difficulties and troubles the company had had to face during the year, especially the strikes at Baku, he said he hoped to visit Baku in the course of the present year, so that he would be able to give the shareholders a personal report upon the property. He concluded by saying: Taking our production from January 1, we have sold that production up to June, or the greater part of it, to the Russian company at remunerative prices. We have also made forward sales to some of the leading houses in the trade for a considerable proportion of our production; so that we have gained marketing facilities at what we consider to be remunerative prices. Well, gentlemen, as to our future prospects. We look for a better production. We are doing everything we possibly can to develop our properties, and we hope that as the production increases the working expenses will decrease; but whether the low cost of working expenses that was formerly known will ever return is, I think everybody must agree, very doubtful. Fountains get scarcer every year and the wells get deeper. Those two things alone tend to increase the working expenses. Well, in spite of all the difficulties of which I have told you, we are doing better. But we must keep up our production; that is the one thing we are struggling for. We are doing everything that is possible in that direction. On the rough estimates that we have been able to put together for this year we are undoubtedly working at a profit—I mean working at a profit after we have paid all expenses and set aside the same amount of depreciation as we did last year. (Applause.) Well, I think you will agree with me that that is something to be thankful for. We are glad to think that we have at last got even to that extent; but, as I say, we can only keep that going by increasing our production. Our object is to make this a dividend-paying concern again as soon as possible. I think you are all agreed—at least, I have had a good many letters from shareholders on the subject—that it is necessary for us to deal in some way or other with the arrears of preference dividend and the serious debit to the profit and loss account. The board have hesitated to bring forward a scheme to this effect until they saw that, within a measurable distance, there was a chance of the company earning a dividend. Well, we now believe we are within measurable distance, or very nearly within measurable distance of this. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. H. N. Gladstone seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously after some discussion.

The Chairman next proposed the re-election of Mr. H. N. Gladstone as a director of the company.

Mr. Lea Smith seconded the motion, amid applause, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved the re-election of Mr. C. F. H. Leslie as a director, which was seconded by Mr. C. H. Moore and unanimously agreed to.

On the position of Mr. Shirer, seconded by Dr. Moody, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co. were reappointed auditors, and the proceedings terminated.

UNITED AFRICAN EXPLORATIONS, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the United African Explorations, Limited, was held on Tuesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. R. J. Price, M.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The secretary (Mr. A. P. Mack) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Turning to the profit and loss account, the only item I need mention is the directors' travelling expenses, which refer to the travelling expenses of our two Scotch directors, and, as regards which, I shall presently have an alteration in the articles of association to propose to you; and the special travelling expenses, which were the travelling expenses of myself to Egypt in the course of the last winter. My presence was required by our agent on the spot, and I went over, and although I cannot claim to have done any business there which appears in this year's accounts, I think we have laid the foundation of excellent business. We have a further reserve in order to meet the income-tax on our profits. Our profits consist in interest on loans, transfer fees, underwriting commission—because, in the course of the year, we have been fortunate enough to undertake a good deal of good underwriting business—and profit on shares sold, less amounts written off, £46,000. The rest of the report deals with the condition of our assets, and I do not know that I can tell you anything very material that does not appear in the report. It tells you that we have disposed of our interest in the Nile Valley Company, that we have disposed of a large portion of our interest in the Nile Cold Storage Company, and that we have reduced our holding in the Nile Goldfields. On all these realisations we have made a profit. Then, under the head of "Africa," we tell you that we have taken an interest in the Tanganyika Concessions, Limited. As you are aware, this is a very remarkable and interesting property. As you know, it has, perhaps, the finest deposit of copper in the world, and the only question is how to

get that copper to market. They are building a railway; it has a certain amount of engineering difficulties, and will, no doubt cost a large sum of money and take a long time to make; but we have convinced ourselves that that railway will be made, and that the work on those concessions will ultimately be carried on under proper conditions, and that there is, in our judgment a very great future before the company. We hold a considerable number of other investments. We buy investments when we think there is a favourable opportunity, and of which we have some knowledge, and hitherto we have generally succeeded, when we sold them, in getting rather more than we paid for them. Now, with regard to other matters, I do not know that I need refer at any length to them, except to the dividend that we propose to pay. You will notice that we paid a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum in December, and at the end of this year we intend to give you the same amount of money; but we are doing it in the way of a 5 per cent. dividend and a 5 per cent. bonus, from which you can see that, in the opinion of the directors, we ought not to expect from year to year to distribute more than 15 per cent. upon our capital. If we succeed in doing that I think we shall do very well. At the same time, we are starting the principle of a bonus, because, as in last year, we were lucky enough to have profits which give us not only enough money to pay at the rate of 20 per cent., if we felt disposed to do so, but to carry forward a very large balance. We think shareholders will expect in lucky years—if I may use the expression—to receive something more than the ordinary dividend, and we have established the principle of a bonus. Our idea is, if we can manage to do it—and I hope we shall—to keep the dividend as nearly regular as possible at the end of the year, paying a bonus out of any surplus profits there may be which the directors and shareholders together think it wise and reasonable to divide. In the directors' judgment, we ought not, as reasonable people, to expect to earn from year to year more than an average rate of 15 per cent. I do not know that there is any more that I need say, so I will conclude by moving: "That the report of the directors, together with the annexed statement of the company's accounts for the year ended June 30, 1905, duly audited, be received, approved, and adopted."

Mr. C. E. Akers (managing director) seconded the motion. The report was unanimously adopted.

The confirmation of the election of Mr. R. W. Skipwith and Mr. E. T. Patterson to seats on the board was confirmed, and the retiring directors (Mr. R. J. Price and Mr. M. F. H. Young) were re-elected.

At an extraordinary general meeting subsequently held, certain alterations were made in the articles of association, providing for an alternate director, and empowering the board to give additional remuneration to directors resident in Scotland.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of proprietors of the Union Bank of Australia, Limited, was held on Monday, at the head office, 71, Cornhill, E.C., Mr. Arthur Flower (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The manager (Mr. A. C. Willis) read the advertisement calling the meeting and the auditors' certificate.

The Chairman said: Apart from the usual fluctuations of money between London and Australasia, there is an increase in our deposits of £1,170,000. Advances remain stationary. The tendency of a favourable season such as the present is, of course, toward the reduction of advances by results of agricultural or pastoral occupations; but our advances have increased since the date of this balance-sheet, and will no doubt continue to increase. Meanwhile every precaution is taken to ensure that fresh advances are made only after careful scrutiny and with full regard to their safety. Then there is a reduction in our expenses of some £4,000; this is attributable, not to any reduction in salaries or general expenses, but mainly to reduction in payment on account of income-tax, rates and taxes, and other similar expenses. The whole of our liquid and readily-available resources, as shown in the present accounts, consisting of specie on hand and cash balances £2,798,000, bullion and advances on bullion £271,000, money at call and short notice in London £1,365,000, investments £1,584,000, and balance of remittances and drafts *in transitu* and bills receivable at London office £3,186,000, amount to £9,204,000, which, after deducting £1,000,000 investments specially allotted to the reserve fund, represents some 8s. 6d. in the £ of our total liabilities in London and the colonies, consisting of circulation £459,000, bills payable £1,851,000, deposits £16,870,000, or £19,180,000, as against 7s. 9d. shown six months ago. The present season in Australia is reported as an exceedingly favourable one, with the exception of some districts in Queensland, while the price of wool has been, and is, also most satisfactory. With the increase of stock, arising from favourable weather conditions, we shall, I imagine, soon see an improved demand for properties which, while stock was so low in numbers, were not sought after. I am sure you will be glad to notice, from our report, the reduction of £10,000 now effected in the amount at which bank premises stand in our accounts, and also the addition of £15,000 to our reserve fund, while I believe you will consider the dividend of 10 per cent. a very satisfactory one. (Applause.) You will see noticed in our present report the recent death of Sir Robert Herbert, whose loss is a matter of great regret to the directors. A vacancy on the board is thus created. Certain resolutions will presently be put before you, proposing to leave to the discretion of the directors any appointment or non-appointment of a director to fill a vacancy, provided that the number of directors shall never be

less than six nor more than 12. In the event of this resolution meeting with your approval, it is not the intention of the directors at present to fill the vacancy alluded to, though they will consider at any time the advisability of doing so, should a suitable candidate present himself. So long as this vacancy shall continue, it is the directors' intention to deduct from the sum allotted for their remuneration the sum of £250 per annum. I beg to move: "That the report and accounts, as now presented, be received and adopted." (Applause.)

Mr. William O. Gilchrist seconded the resolution, which, on being put to the meeting, was unanimously agreed to.

The retiring directors and auditors were then unanimously re-elected.

A special general meeting of the proprietors was then held, when the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—"That the company deed of settlement, dated October 26, 1837, be amended in the manner following: (a) That the 4th Clause be struck out, and that the following clause be substituted therefor, viz.: 'The shares registered, or to be registered, in the book or books called the colonial proprietors' register, shall not exceed in number 20,000.' (b) That in Clause 41 the words 'banker or solicitor' be struck out. (c) That Clause 42 be struck out, and that the following clause be substituted therefor, viz.: 'The directors may at any time appoint a director or directors of the company, but so that the total number of directors for the time being shall not exceed the maximum number fixed by Clause 8. Any person so chosen shall retain his office until the next general meeting of the company, and shall then be eligible for re-election.' (d) That the words 'banker or solicitor,' in Clause 43, be struck out. (e) That Clause 53 be struck out."

MINING RETURNS.

Aruba.—590 ozs. from 1,728 tons of ore.

Brilliant Block Gold.—Crushed 310 tons, 282 ozs.; value of cyanide, £1,900.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—6,045 tons crude ore produced 981 tons concentrates containing 598 tons lead and 28,449 ozs. silver.

Brilliant Central.—2,390 tons for 1,687 ozs.; cyanide return, £577; concentrates, £1,586.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal 17,000 tons, sales 13,500 tons.

Forest Creek (Victoria) Gold.—3,400 tons for 1,215 ozs.

Gibraltar Consolidated.—Tributers crushed 90 tons, 141 ozs.; eight tons of concentrates, containing, as per assay value, 64 ozs.; tailings, 10 ozs; total, 215 ozs. New: Tributers crushed 53 tons, 38 ozs.; six tons of concentrates containing, as per assay value, 15 ozs.; total, 53 ozs.

Komata Reefs Gold.—Crushed 1,360 tons; bullion recovered, £3,775.

Lachlan Gold.—Crushed 770 tons, result £1,310.

Maryborough Leviathan Gold.—Crushed 1,017 tons, 233 ozs.

New Queen Gold.—Crushed 522 tons, 450 ozs.; concentrates, £350.

Pahang Corp.—Crushed 2,300 tons, producing 45 tons black tin.

Pahang Kabang.—Crushed 1,200 tons, producing 12 tons black tin.

Raub Gold, Malay Peninsula.—Crushed 3,470 tons, 480 ozs.

St. John del Rey.—Gold produced £7,750; yield per ton, 657 of an oz. troy.

Tasmania Gold.—4,150 tons, 2,060 ozs.; chlorination 392 tons, 484 ozs.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JULY 31.

Barcelona Tramways.—Winchester House, noon.

Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Gould and Son.—48, Lime Street, 3.30 p.m.

Hibernian Bank.—Dublin, 1 p.m.

Jarrah Timber and Wood Paving Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.

Mauritius Estates and Assets.—1, Walbrook, 3 p.m.

New Australian Broken Hill Consols.—Winchester House, noon.

Nicaragua Development.—Salisbury House, noon.

South-Eastern Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1.

Charter Trust and Agency.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

London and Blackwall Railway.—Crutched Friars, 1 p.m.

London and India Docks.—109, Leadenhall Street, 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2.

Consolidated Kent Collieries.—Winchester House, noon.

Central London Railway.—Holborn Restaurant, 2.30 p.m.

Watney, Combe, Reid.—Westminster Palace Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3.

Brazil Great Southern Railway.—Winchester House, noon.

English Sewing Cotton.—Manchester, 11.30 a.m.

London and South-Western Bank.—Liverpool Street Hotel, 1 p.m.

London and South-Western Railway.—Waterloo Station, noon.

Manila Railway.—Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.

Waterloo and City Railway.—Waterloo Station, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4.

Anglo-American Telegraph.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Great Northern and City Railway.—Westminster Palace Hotel, noon.

North Staffordshire Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

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The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

The Blight of the Big Six.

Even more enthralling in some ways than Lawson's attack on Standard Oil is Mr. Charles Edward Russell's *exposé* of the evil deeds of the Beef Trust in the States, an *exposé* appearing alongside that of the Standard Oilers in the pages of *Everybody's Magazine*. What we know of the Trust here is but little, and that little chiefly learnt from splashes of whitewash mixed by Mr. Garfield and described by him as a report. These articles of Mr. Russell's have therefore come as a startling revelation, making us wonder what on earth the people of the States are doing to allow themselves to be pillaged, day by day, year in year out, by the few multi-millionaires comprising the beef gang. The methods adopted by the Trust are sordid in the extreme, and the political power it wields presents, under present circumstances, the faintest chance of it being overthrown, unless something very like a social revolution occurs.

In the first place, the Trust is not a trust proper. That is to say, the great packing houses which go to form it have not united to form one outward and visible corporation like unto the Steel Trust or the old Standard Oil Company. Instead, they have formed a working union, secret, indefinite, and so the more dangerous, as an octopus hiding its repulsive body deep down in a dark and gloomy crevice while casting its evil, blood-sucking arms far and wide. Moreover, when Garfield was investigating the allegations brought against the group, the absence of an outward show of union and the seeming existence of six separate firms, each with its own works and presumably separate interests, was paraded before his eyes so magnificently that he believed what he saw, declared no trust existed, and restricted his inquiries to the surface of things. Unfortunately for the liars some of the men detailed to assist Mr. Garfield were neither so blind nor so credulous as he was, and the appendices to the report in many cases flatly contradict statements made in the body of it. Space does not allow us to deal with Mr. Russell's indictment at any great length, highly interesting though it is, and the most we can do is to briefly sketch the rise and progress—the fall has yet to come—of this, in many respects, the most cruel of all United States "combines."

Like all, or nearly all, the trusts in the States, this beef one was begotten of railway rebates and plunder of the independent houses—of these and the monopoly use of the refrigerating car. With the Beef Trust the preference usually took the form of icing charges—for the most part fictitious—which it compelled the railways to add to the outsiders' freights and hand over to it, the railway doing all the dirty work. Did any manager or other railway official dare refuse to carry out the Trust's commands there was quickly a vacancy in the post he had occupied, so great was the quantity of freight it could control and divert to competing lines. Having by these tricks either killed competitors or forced them to sell their businesses for a mere song to itself—grabbed businesses which, by the way, it carefully continued under the old firm names—the Trust then turned its attention to the retail trade, being of an opinion that the barrel was of no use without the spigot. With this in its hands the consumer could be robbed as easily as cattle, sheep, and pigs in the stock-yards and packing houses are skinned, but to

gain control of it meant wiping out the small local commission agents and butchers who had the audacity to refuse to come to heel. These unfortunates were in the majority of cases wiped out or roped in as slaves.

But the final move of the game was the most diabolical of all, and spread even more misery and ruin, brought more men to a suicide's grave than any that had gone before. Not satisfied with the barrel and the tap the Big Six coveted the gutter and spout as well; in other words, they wished to control, not only the price the consumers should pay, but also that which they paid for their raw material—the living bullocks, calves, sheep, lambs, and pigs. To understand how the Trust worked this, the most fiendish of its operations, a few words explaining the system of cattle raising for food purposes are necessary. Beef that will stand freezing or chilling must come from cattle whose flesh contains certain properties that enable it to withstand these processes, and to give it such the animals must be fed either on a kind of short grass found in comparatively few places, or on corn. This fact once known, farmers in the wheat belt used to buy cattle from the long grass ranges, bring them down to the corn lands, there fatten them, and finally ship them to Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha, or other stock markets for sale to the packers. In time the industry became one of the greatest in the middle and west-middle States, and farmers were able to pay off mortgages that had hung like mill-stones round their necks for years, and grew to be men of considerable substance. Few, however, were in a position to pay cash for the beasts they bought from the upland long grass ranches, and the majority were always to some extent indebted to the local banks, which built up a safe and good-paying business on advances on live-stock. But when the Big Six cast their evil eye on the scene and reached forth their tentacles a rapid change took place. In the heyday of prosperity farmers were wont to ship their beasts to whichever market suited them the best, and genuine competition among the packing houses allowed them to obtain a price which left a decent profit after paying off all loans from bankers. One day, however, at Chicago they found, instead of six buyers, only one, and that one, take it or leave it, at a lower figure than they were prepared to accept. Most of them probably refused, and held their cattle over till the next day, only to find the same thing happen, though this time a lower figure was offered than before. And what happened at Chicago took place at St. Louis and elsewhere, competition having suddenly and mysteriously vanished. But those farmers who did sell noticed that while the buyer might be Armour, Swift, Morris, or another, the cattle were split up among the remaining five, though from them no offers were forthcoming, or, if they were, they merely equalled those of the first man who went through the market. Gradually the true state of affairs dawned on the unhappy cattle-raisers, and they awoke to find themselves gripped by the biggest blood-sucking tentacle of the octopus. What this move has meant to the western States it is impossible to say yet, but the tale of bank failures and suicides among bank officials set out by Mr. Russell is simply appalling, while of the number of bankruptcies and the amount of misery among the farmers no record can be made. But the most astounding feature of the whole thing, and one that makes us wonder what the American people are doing, is that while the price of cattle has steadily dropped, that of killed meat and other articles dealt in by the Trust have steadily risen to the consumer.

Bare as this outline is it suffices to show the evil wrought by this malevolent union, invisible but most unholy. Time and again it has been assailed, yet so wide is its reach, so powerful the influences it can bring to bear, that all attacks, so far, have been successfully parried. At one time the official appointed to examine into its methods was proved to be gullible and confiding, easily brought to view things through the Trust's glasses, and at another political wires have been pulled to burke indictments or remove too

shrewd observers. For the Big Six wield enormous political power, pay large sums to the party funds, and number among them some of the most prominent officials of the Republican organisation. In other directions they have a hold on the railroads, banks, some of which they own; the electric traction and power interests, Wall Street and financial circles generally; all of which forces they marshal in battle array when any danger seems to threaten their abominable monopoly. Occasionally, when the attack seems better organised, stronger than usual, recourse is had to the old expedient of burning incriminating documents, while a few prominent officials take a holiday out of the jurisdiction of the State Government on the prowl, or the Federal authorities, returning home when the danger is past. But a time must come when the nation will end this and similar outgrowths of anti-human barbarities. When it does these men of millions, wrung from the blood and pinched from the bellies of the workers, may find that other than aristocrats are capable of being hanged from the lantern.

In his final article upon this foreboding subject, Mr. Russell deals with the possibility of finding remedies, and comes to the sad conclusion that there is no remedy except what may come through a change in the spirit of the nation. It is useless for the excited reformer to cry out there must be no more rebates. Laws are already in existence amply sufficient to suppress rebates, could they be enforced, but it is impossible to enforce them, since rebates can be covered up, given away as legal expenses, entered as terminal railroad charges, or as refunds and drawbacks on damaged goods—dealt with in a variety of ways quite impossible for any law to touch. Therefore, Mr. Russell says, when the public, or, as he calls it, the basic feeling of the country, recognises the trust question as paramount to all others, when it places the suppressing of trusts above all other considerations, above personal aggrandisement, and above party, and when it will not tolerate in office any man that for any reason whatever makes terms with law breakers, the whole thing is solved. He is hoping, apparently, that this happy change in public feeling will one day come. We are not so sure; it certainly will not come until the money-hunting passions of the people have been, as it were, consumed in the fiery furnace of adversity.

The Finances of New South Wales.

Part I. of the New South Wales Statistical Register for 1904 and previous years, compiled by Mr. T. A. Coghlan, one of the most intelligent and conscientious statisticians the Australian colonies ever had, reached us the other week, and as usual proved very interesting. It deals with public finance and puts before the eye in tabulated statements the whole story of New South Wales extravagance. It is always a painful story, and we should be inexpressibly relieved were any sign visible that real economy was about to be practised. There is undoubtedly little or none. In the year ended June 30, 1904, the latest for which full figures are available, the revenue of New South Wales is put down at £11,352,061. This is a startling total for a population of considerably less than 1,500,000, but the shock is somewhat mitigated when we examine details and find that including the Customs revenue collected within the colony or State by the Federal Government and handed back to it, the entire revenue from taxation was only £3,787,000. Of the remainder £4,264,000 came from railway and tramway receipts and another £1,116,000 appears to be largely capital utilised as revenue, since it embraces the proceeds of auction and special sales of land and the instalments of purchase money together with interest received for land sold. The entire land revenue of the year was £1,860,570, and it has always appeared to us that an undefined portion of this section of the State's income was really capital grabbed and spent as revenue. But all allow-

ances made, the gross income remains an enormous one, whether it springs from capital or taxation or is return for services rendered. Unfortunately the colony requires all the money for its public services, which are organised upon what we should consider a most extravagant scale were it applied even in this country, famed for its reckless waste of public revenue. How is it possible for so small a country to require £512,000 for old-age pensions, £35,000 for Parliamentary representatives' allowances, £15,000 for electorates and election expenses, about £5,000 for the Parliamentary standing committee on public works, £30,000 for the Governor, the Chief Justice, the puisne judges and sundry officials like the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Attorney and Solicitor Generals, £32,540 for the executive and legislative apparatus, £64,000 for the Government printers' department, £18,000 for free railway passes to M.P.'s, distinguished visitors, school children and others, £104,000 for prisons, £75,000 for the survey of land, and so on? The total cost of the administration of justice to the State was £336,000 in the past fiscal year, the Chief Secretary's department cost £1,218,000 and the departments of Treasury and Secretary for Finance and Trade absorbed £574,463. The public debt, by the way, took £3,115,000, which was not far short of the entire amount supplied by what is described as taxation, and at every point there are indications of free-handed outlay, such as a young community ought never to have submitted to.

The result is seen in the appalling weight of the public debt, which on June 30, 1904, amounted to £80,033,581, or £55 7s. 2d. per head of the population. As recently as 1900 the per head weight of debt was only £48 4s. 9d., and if we go back to 1890 it was £43 2s. 7d. Ten years earlier still it was only £19 18s. 6d. Thus is prosperity created and the appetite for grandiose finance nourished in all departments of the public services. Of the total debt no less than £43,990,000 has gone into railways, and it is always a boast of colonial politicians that these railways are such valuable assets as to be quite sufficient security for the whole of the debt. This is nonsense, they can be nothing of the kind; they are largely disguised instruments of taxation, and were they sold, by a financial transaction conveyed to the wanting creditor as direct proprietor, they would very soon become worth nothing at all to the new owner. Rates and fares would be reduced and revenue would be spent where now capital is dipped into until there would be no net income at all. With all these Australasian settlements we never can be sure that net revenue is not swelled out by this method of dealing with debt. Thus the loan expenditure on railways authorised under the 1904 Loan Act came to £473,000, and another £109,000 was authorised to be spent on tramways, the total loan outgoings for the year being put at £1,138,551, which was satisfactory in so far that it represented a considerable diminution on the figures of years immediately preceding. On water supply and sewerage from first to last £10,181,000 of borrowed money has been spent, exclusive of £1,063,000 on water conservation and artesian boring. Harbours and rivers navigation has taken £10,196,000, roads and bridges £1,654,000, and fortifications and military works £1,422,000. Then public works, buildings, &c., amongst which are offices of the State, reformatories, buildings for educational and scientific purposes, have devoured £4,809,000, and advances to settlers only about £508,000. A mere recital of these figures indicates to what a height the spirit of extravagance has risen, and not even the most enthusiastic upholder of Australian methods of living by public loans could venture to say that any direct or indirect income accrued from many of the items here set down. Happily a check has been given by the untoward mood and circumstances of the London money market to the free issue of loans, and all these colonies have been compelled to slow down. It has been our fault throughout quite as much as theirs that extravagant habits have had free scope, and if this check had been applied at an earlier date it would have been good

both for the people of these settlements and for the London market. Unable to issue public loans, however, New South Wales, like others of the colonies, has fallen back upon Treasury bills, and the gross total of these played with was, at June 30, 1904, the formidable one of £17,655,000. Some of these bills have been issued in Sydney or in the colonies and some have been handed over in exchange for trust funds laid hold of by the administration. When they fall due in such circumstances the plan is followed of substituting long-term stock for the short-term Treasury bills. At the present time there are bills to the amount of £5,000,000 afloat on the London market, and in addition about £3,200,000 afloat in Sydney. This is exclusive of £755,000 exchanged for trust funds. These floating debts may prove very troublesome should conditions remain adverse to the issue of large public loans, but the attempt to issue them will none the less have to be made before long. It will be harder to get the money though than in the mad old days before the South African war.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

HOW TO PASS THE ESTIMATES QUICKLY.

The House of Commons is going through them merrily. Mr. Massingham says Sir Henry Fowler has calculated that only eighteen votes this session have been discussed out of a total of 150, and that but about £72,000,000 has been voted after debate, leaving about £60,000,000 to be rushed through without debate. Does it not seem a pity that members should waste their time in discussing any of these votes? Would it not be better to adopt some modification of the Tibetan prayer-wheel and a calculating machine combined, so as to get the votes run through, registered, and added up mechanically without the waste of time involved in taking a succession of divisions or in making speeches? So many votes might be put into the machine every afternoon, and the thing be set spinning by an electric current supplied by that new monopolist electric power company whose dominion over London the House of Commons appears so eager to establish. The company would doubtless be only too pleased to give the necessary current for nothing in gratitude to the facilities afforded by the House in passing its Bill. All that would then be necessary would be for some member to get up and move "that the Chancellor of the Exchequer do now press the button," and after a vote taken on this motion the wheels could be set running and the votes put through in a highly scientific and systematic manner. For Parliament to pretend that it has now any more control over the national expenditure than a machine would give as the business of voting "supplies" is now conducted, is no better than an impudent farce. Would it not then be well to recognise the grotesque character of the assumptions, and to put the flinging away of public money on to a purely mechanical and formal basis? The machine might even be made to register the amount per head or per family, reeled off each time it was set going as a dock off Sir R. Giffen's "National Income." We commend this suggestion to a hard-pressed Premier and his weary colleagues waiting anxiously for their holiday. What is the use of the Public Accounts Committee pitching into the Admiralty and other spending departments for wasting money when the House of Commons has absolutely no control whatever over what these departments do? "Your committee," says the latest report of that body, "desire to point out that no less than £160,000 was spent on refits of vessels now about to be sold as being of no further use to the Navy. These refits have not added much to the value of the ships, because they are not sold for commercial purposes and fetch little more than the price of old iron, and the committee strongly condemn so extravagant a policy."

Just so, but what is to hinder the Admiralty from spending three times £160,000 on the next batch of ships gotten ready for sale? They might fetch a few pounds more if nicely painted over and all the rusty places rubbed up? So after all the policy of waste may represent some sort of grotesque economy, may it not? Let us get to the prayer-wheel method and be done with mockery.

LORD ROBERTS AS ALARMIST.

Lord Roberts does not appear to be of the same opinion now as he was when he wrote that memorandum quoted by Colonel Hanna in his recent letter to the *Times*. In sounding that deliriously alarmist note at the meeting of the London Chambers of Commerce on Tuesday last he begged the people not to listen to anything that may be told them as to the impossibility of India ever being invaded through Afghanistan. India has been invaded no fewer than twenty-one times from that direction, he proceeded, "and though I do not propose to enter into my reasons to-day for the conclusion I have arrived at, I have no hesitation in giving it as my opinion that a twenty-second invasion would be a far less difficult undertaking than any of those that have gone before, unless we make up our minds to take the necessary precautions to safely guard 'the brightest jewel in England's Crown.'" He ought to state his reasons, seeing that the opinion he now expresses is entirely contrary to that formerly held and most ably defended by him. Does his Lordship seriously mean to maintain that without our assistance in the shape of roads and railways driven through the mountain passes it would be easier for Russia, crippled, bleeding, exhausted Russia, to bring an army of the size necessary to conquer India, with all the modern furniture of war required to maintain a successful assault through the Afghan passes, more barren of supplies now than ever they were? Did any of the former twenty-one invasions involve the dragging of heavy guns, of enormously heavy ammunition, and all the other appliances now required by a modern killing force, across mountains, through defiles, roadless and often waterless? If not, where does the analogy between the past and the present come in? It is to be hoped that the public is not going to lose its head over any such nonsense as this raving by the late Commander-in-Chief. Everybody who cares to look can see quite well what the object of the alarmist talk is. The military faction wishes to bring conscription upon us, to force all the youth of the country to undergo military drill, so as to have still further pretexts for adding to the already intolerable burdens our useless army imposes. But they must be hard pressed for arguments when this Afghan danger has to be trotted out, at a time, too, when Russia has no army to invade with and no money to maintain one on. We wonder men like Earl Roberts are not ashamed to stand up and speak as they do about our own army. It is costing us twice what it did ten or a dozen years ago, and these alarmists coolly inform us that it is of less value than before the South African War. What is the meaning of such a state of uselessness? How has it been brought about? What has been, is being, done with our money that such a confession should have to be made, and made without, apparently, the slightest sense of shame, by one of the men most responsible for the state of impotence and perfect inefficiency into which, he says, the wholesale murder machine has fallen? Wise men of all nations are beginning to think that the best cure for ills such as Lord Roberts loudly bemoans would be to have done with armies altogether.

"GREAT IS BANKRUPTCY."

The annual reports upon insolvency in England and Wales are always interesting, but most depressing reading. They impress one with a feeling that there must be untold misery created every year and hidden away in the crowd, a great wastage of human flotsam ever going on. Last year the total estimated losses to

creditors upon the bankruptcies and deeds of arrangement coming under the cognisance of the Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade, and reported upon by the Inspector-General in Bankruptcy, came to £9,372,000, an increase of £2,045,000 upon the previous year, and in all probability the real loss always much exceeds the estimated. Last year's estimated loss was the highest for the ten years tabulated by the Inspector-General, and brought up the total for the whole period shown to about £82,000,000. This tale of losses alone must represent an enormous tax upon the trade of the country, and there seems no possibility of devising means of reducing the terrible scourge. Short of ceasing to trade on credit there is no device within the scope of legal enactments by which insolvency can be diminished. It has probably increased of late years owing to the enormous consumption of the capital of the country by the Government. Up to 1903 the wave of prosperity induced by war expenditure may be said to have continued, but it has now exhausted itself and insolvencies are not unlikely to increase both in number and in the magnitude of the liabilities for some years to come. It is a costly experience for the taxpayer as well as for creditors, the handling of bankruptcies. Including the current year the loss to the Treasury in conducting this bankruptcy business has amounted to upwards of £570,000 since 1884. The loss in the year ended March 31 last was about £27,000, that is to say, the outlay of the department and its army of officials exceeded receipts from fees, stamps, and dividends on invested capital by that amount. The total liabilities arising through failures in the year ended March 31, 1904, were £12,086,000, and the assets were estimated to be worth only £5,770,000. Many interesting particulars are given, although without the names, by the Inspector-General as to the mal-practices of debtors of various kinds, but we have not space to go into them. The story is melancholy enough when taken in summary.

Equally depressing is the record of failed joint-stock companies dealt with by Mr. G. S. Barnes, Controller of the Companies' Department of the Board of Trade. Some mitigating circumstances, however, emerge in last year's statistics, the most striking being a reduction both in the number of companies registered and in the capital. There has, in fact, been a steady reduction in the capitalisation of joint-stock ventures, good and bad, mostly bad, over a series of years. The high water mark was reached in 1896, when the average capital per company was £66,479. Last year it fell to £24,127, the lowest figure for many a year. Mr. Barnes thinks the principal cause of this decline is to be found in the fact that large issues of public funds were made in the period from 1900 to 1902, inclusive, which weakened the capacity of the investing classes to take up shares in companies, but may it not also be the case that the public is becoming educated, less gullible? It is certainly the fact, as the *Financial Times* points out, that there are fewer enterprises left to be companyised. The joint-stock furore rose so high and rushed ahead so fast in the middle of last decade that everything which could be turned into a company has pretty well already been operated upon. There is consequently room now only for brand new enterprises or for electric and bankrupt businesses, still converted into companies for the relief of creditors whenever possible. More interesting perhaps than the figures relating to the creation and disappearance of companies is the story of the devices fallen upon by promoters to get outside the law. Some months ago we drew attention to the extraordinary growth of the registration of joint-stock companies in the island of Guernsey, and Mr. Barnes gives statistics from 1899 onwards, showing an enormous spurt in these registrations during 1902 and 1903, with, however, a welcome decline in at least the capital of the companies registered in 1904. During the first five months of the current year there was a still greater decrease, the total number registered in Guernsey during that time being only 23 with a nominal capital of £3,755,500, of which

£1,000,000 is due to a single company. Worse than the Guernsey device is the habit steadily growing of floating joint-stock companies without issuing any prospectus, and we are decidedly of opinion that this ought to be made illegal. If the Stock Exchange is unable to prevent dealings in the shares of such unfathered and undescribed adventures, the law must come to its assistance and say that no new joint-stock company whose capital is offered to the public can be allowed to transact business until it has issued a prospectus, or in some shape made a full disclosure of the facts surrounding its inception. Publicity is the only durable check possible upon the fraudulent company promoter.

REVENUE AND GOVERNMENT BORROWINGS.

Nobody has taken the trouble to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what he means by continually adding to the floating debt. In a momentary fit of virtue he paid off £2,000,000 on Treasury bills on May 14 last, and is now systematically reborrowing the money. A week ago he got £500,000, and there is now another £200,000 to be raised in excess of the batch of Treasury bills falling due on the 13th inst. The total amount of such bills is £1,800,000, and the new issue is to be for £2,000,000. Thus within a fortnight £700,000 will have been borrowed, and in addition the Government has got and used up the greater part of £7,520,000 obtained upon that issue of Exchequer bonds emitted to pay off part of the £14,000,000 of such falling due next December. What is the meaning of it all? The Treasury return for the past week shows that of the £500,000 obtained from the additional Treasury bills sold towards the end of the month £464,527 remains at the credit of the Exchequer on Bank balances. Is there any concealed expenditure to be sprung upon the country after Parliament has gone to the grouse moors and to continental spas, or is it that the revenue is coming in so poorly as to make it absolutely necessary for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to raise money whenever he can? Certainly last week's income figures are not particularly glorious. Customs have dropped back to £631,000, excise yielded only £478,000, and income-tax a paltry £45,000. There is, however, money being gathered up by the Post Office and Telegraph services which will doubtless come to hand in a heap to redress the balance. Even so the prospect seems somewhat dreary, for last week's total receipts of £1,671,213 are only at the rate of about £87,000,000 per annum. Happy the Chancellor who can borrow and still borrow. It is £50,000,000 or thereby he has got power to raise this fiscal year, is it not?

AN UNFAIR LETTER ON OUR TRUSTS.

We are free to confess that a letter like the one printed below excites in the editorial mind considerable indignation. Had we ever made money by the trusts suggested in the *INVESTOR'S REVIEW*—as we have not, but might easily have done since prices usually rise now on the mere mention of a security in its columns—the writer might have had some basis for his remonstrance, for we should probably have played readers false. As it is, we have never touched a stock or given a "tip" in the ordinary sense of the word in the paper. Nothing more is done there than to select week by week certain securities according to their actual ascertainable qualities as a help to private judgment. When the securities are speculative, they are so described, and no one is ever recommended to buy any one of these without the exercise of his or her own judgment. If this kind of help is of no use to readers of the *INVESTORS' REVIEW*, or if the furnishing of it is to be misinterpreted after the example set by the writer of this letter we shall be only too delighted to abandon a labour so thankless. It is, we can assure readers, a continuous and troublesome labour. But, hitherto, the complaint has mostly been all the other way; that we discontinued the publication of the trusts during and after the African war. And is it not to the

waste caused by that war and not to any misjudgment of ours that the writer of the following owes his losses? It is hardly a manly proceeding to curse us for that.

DEAR SIR,—As I think I might claim to be a reader and distributor of your paper ever since it started, I very much regret to see you have started one of your weekly trusts. The information given every week, coupled with ordinary common sense, will enable any man to form his own trusts. Of course, one sometimes may have doubts about any fancied security, but then one can easily take advantage of your rs. or more charge for information required. Should the trust turn out good, you get no thanks. On the other hand, should it be the opposite, well, of course, you do not hear the bad language and smell the sulphur, but they are there all the same. I was bitten, up to fortunately only about £1,000, and against my own judgment, as English rails have been for years my *bête noir*, to invest in one of your trusts—viz., Midland deferred, 91; Great Eastern (I forget exactly the figure); Glasgow and Great Western deferred, 70; San Paulo Gas, 17. Where are they now? I cleared the lot out gradually some time ago at a considerable loss.

I was induced to write you this letter this morning by coming across in an old scrap-book, in which I paste odd things, amongst others many of your old trusts in which you recommend Barry deferred, Loo ordinary, Doom Dooma Tea, Jokai Tea preferred, Brooke-Bond Mazawattee Tea, Nobel Dynamite Trust, Eastern Telegraph ordinary. As the song says, "Where are they now?" Your paper is well worth the money, ably (if bitterly) conducted, without having recourse to tipping, which might be left to the (to my mind) "no account" so-called financial papers which I never read.

Excuse my troubling you with this letter, but I do not like my favourite paper to lower itself by adopting this contemptible class of business.

Yours truly,

CHAS. A. BLACKBURN.

Leeds, August 2, 1905.

YORKSHIRE INDIGO, SCARLET, AND COLOUR DYERS, LIMITED.

When the directors of this combine addressed their shareholders 12 months ago they spoke of improved trade, and expressed the hope that the year then current would produce more satisfactory results. The value of this forecast is evident from the fact that the trading profit has collapsed from £15,256 to £8,365, a sum little more than sufficient to provide debenture interest, but as usual the directors have excuses galore to advance for the breakdown, one branch, for example, which used to make a profit of between £5,000 and £6,000 a year produced a small loss "in consequence of what is believed to be a temporary falling off in the particular trade from which the branch obtains its work," another, which one time earned good revenues, has been going steadily down hill for years, and also ended up on the wrong side, while in regard to a third the report says that "Mr. Francis Davis left the employ of the company in February last and the trading of his branch for the year shows a loss of over £1,600, the reasons of which are still the subject of inquiry by the directors." That sounds rather "dicky," and we doubt if the shareholders will be much consoled by the directors' intention to close one of the losing branches with the object of transferring its business to another. The works are held under a lease which expires next year, and of course "considerable economies will be effected by this change." A trite statement which no one heeds nowadays. We hope, however, that the board will prove more fortunate prophets in their further remark that there is a more encouraging outlook in connection with the Government orders. According to the story now related the introduction of khaki has been the main cause of the diminution of the company's turnover and profits during the past three years, but there are indications that the unpopularity of this colour will shortly lead to an increased demand for scarlet and blue, especially for home use. In the commercial trade also, we are told, signs appear that plain goods as dyed by the company are coming into favour again, and for shareholders' sakes we hope there is good foundation for these assertions. The profit and loss account is now a much more informing affair than it used to be, and we learn that the branch trading profits were £18,714, bank interest and dividends on investments gave £973, and transfer and registration fees £30, or a total of £19,717. Of this £6,764 is required for depreciation, directors remunera-

tion is £2,745, income tax £1,124, and sundry other charges come to £720, leaving only £8,365 as already mentioned. Now to pay the debenture interest and preference dividend £14,820 is required, so the board takes £4,154 from reserve and uses up the whole of the balance brought forward of £2,301. This deduction will bring the reserve down to £5,846, a nice set-off to the capital expenditure of £380,171, especially bearing in mind the depreciation allowance of considerably less than 2 per cent. In other ways the position is not so bad, as only £9,155 is owing to sundry creditors against debtors £40,558, cash and bills £16,759, and investments £13,319, including £3,319 in the company's own debenture stock.

THIS WEEK'S MODEL TRUST.

The subjoined securities are all of a solid character, and yield just over 3½ per cent. on the money invested. At the same time the chances of a depreciation in capital can be considered very small. Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway 4 per cent. debenture stock requires no explanation or commendation, the security being right in the front rank. The South Suburban Gas was formerly known as the Crystal Palace District Gas, and as the company pays 5½ per cent. on its ordinary stock, the dividend on the preference capital, which is small in amount, should be quite safe. London and India Docks 3 per cent. "B" debenture stock is a second charge on this important undertaking, and the Investment Trust Corporation is a well-managed concern with a good record, satisfactory and regular dividends having been paid on the preferred and deferred stocks. The debenture issue included in our trust is redeemable at six months' notice at 102.

	£	£	s.	d.
£250 Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway 4 per cent. debenture stock at 108	270	10	0	0
£250 South Suburban Gas 5 per cent. preference stock at 127½ (ex div.)	318½	12	10	0
£250 London and India Docks 3 per cent. "B" debenture stock ... at 86	215	7	10	0
£250 Investment Trust 4 per cent. debenture stock at 104	260	10	0	0
	£1,063½	£40	0	0

GREAT NORTHERN AND CITY RAILWAY.

Just a year ago the first half-yearly report of this enterprise was issued to the shareholders, and revealed such shockingly bad results that a good many people were quite ready to consider the large amount of money sunk as good as lost. To the end of June, 1904, the line had been open just about 20 weeks, and the total revenue earned in that time of £19,355 undoubtedly afforded some justification for the gloomy prognostications so freely indulged in. But, as we thought it well to point out, the achievements attained were no criterion of what might reasonably be expected when circumstances were more propitious. During the first five months the agreement for an interchange of traffic with the Great Northern Railway was not in operation, and the Highbury station, which serves a particularly populous neighbourhood, was as yet unopened. In the second half-year those drawbacks were removed, the arrangements with the Great Northern permitting passengers from suburban stations north of Finsbury Park to book through to stations on and beyond this company's line, while holders of season tickets from those stations to the City could travel at their option to the Great Northern and City terminus, Broad Street station on the North London, or the Bishopsgate Street station on the Metropolitan. Beyond that the Highbury station was also in operation, and business so far improved that in the six months to December 31 the revenue was £36,509, or very nearly double that of the previous 20 weeks. Moreover, the contractors in a spirit of great generosity agreed to retain for working expenses 60 per cent. of the receipts for the first year, and 50 per cent. for the two remaining years of the operating arrangement, instead of the 65 per cent. to which they were entitled, and the position of affairs

began to show improvement. Still further progress was made during the half-year to June 30 last, the gross receipts advancing £9,731, to £46,240, and the company is gradually being lifted from its seemingly perilous position. The percentage retained by the contractors for working is £24,292, but they hand back £625 for directors' fees, making the deduction £23,667, and leaving £22,572 for the company. General and law charges absorb £1,039, rents £7,661, debenture interest £10,084, and general interest £3,301; while £487 is placed to a guaranteed interest suspense account so that the debit balance of £10,821 brought in is not increased. As before, Messrs. S. Pearson and Son, the constructors of the line, provide £15,600 for dividend on the preferred ordinary shares and £2,238 for dividend on certain deferred shares, so that the actual sum they receive for working the line is reduced to under £5,000. Instead of the £100,000 estimated, the capital outlay for the half-year was only £575, but the expenditure for the six months now current is again put down at the larger figure with a subsequent outlay of £267,268, but we imagine these sums will not be spent while the extension to the Bank remains in abeyance. Existing debit to capital account is £217,932, of which the contractors appear to have lent £71,900, and £130,500 has been raised on Lloyds bonds. For the sake of record it may be mentioned that the passengers carried in the past six months numbered 6,391,574, or well over 1,000,000 more than in the previous half-year; local season tickets issued rose from 2,511 to 2,913, while the three-route season ticket holders using the company's line amounted to 2,547. Through bookings over the Great Northern and the City and South London Railways are still moving upward, and when the agreement with the contractors comes to an end there is reason to hope that the company will be earning dividends on some portion at least of its share capital.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: THE TREASURY.

The capital of the Treasury Gold Mines, Limited, is £540,000 in 135,000 £4 shares, and as the greater part of this is of no more solid consistency than carbonic acid gas, the small-looking dividends paid for a term of years are easily accounted for. The company was formed in 1891 with a moderate capital of £15,000, but as in subsequent years new claims were acquired, the capital was gradually increased to £100,000. Then, ten years ago, in the midst of the last great Kaffir madness that afflicted us all, the company underwent reconstruction, when the shareholders were given a £4 share for each old £1 share. That is to say the capital was watered to the extent of £3 per share, or £300,000 in the aggregate. Since that date the price of the share has stood at a substantial premium, so the then fortunate shareholders have made a goodish bit out of the bold policy of inflation and need not care who suffers. After a suspension of nearly four years, dividends were resumed in April, 1898, when 15 per cent. was paid, followed by 17½ per cent. in 1899. Then came the war, and distributions were again suspended until 1902, when the dividend was 15 per cent.; but it dropped to 13½ per cent. in the following year, and to 12½ per cent. in the past two financial years. Will the lowest of these be exceeded in future years? We doubt it. Recently, the share has been below par, so we will calculate the yield at 13 per cent. Several estimates have been made as to the probable life of the mine. Some put it at no more than six to seven years, whilst the official estimate made at the end of March, 1902, was 12½ years. Three years have passed since then, but let us calculate the life at ten years. On an investment of £100 this would yield £130 at the end of ten years, but the actual sum for dividends would, of course, be less than £30 after deducting stamp fees, commission, &c. To allow for the redemption of the principal the investor would have to set aside about £8 10s. per cent. per annum at 3 per cent., so the yield would work out at over 4 per cent. But would it be worth the while of the investor to risk getting this return for 10 years, seeing that the life might be less than our estimate and

dividends might be lower? For the value of the ore reserves has shown a falling off, due to the fact that the winzes sunk on the three reefs from the tenth to the eleventh levels in the western section of the property are of lower quality than the assay values obtained in the higher levels thereof. Referring to this important matter at the recent meeting the chairman said, it was possible that the values might improve, "but," he added, "although we may allow ourselves to hope that such will be the case, it is the duty of your directors to submit to you the actual results obtained, and not to indulge in optimistic theories beyond suggesting the possibility of their occurrence." Working costs have been slightly reduced, and something is expected from the installation of tube mills. But there are many safer investments to be had at 4 per cent.

CANADA AS A SOURCE OF WHEAT SUPPLY.

A valuable report appears to have been compiled by Professor James Mavor on the Canadian North-West, with special reference to its capacity to furnish us with an adequate supply of wheat. His conclusions will not quite commend themselves to the Birmingham school of tariff-mongers and hate disseminators between people and people, but they are none the less valuable on that account. Briefly, Professor Mavor decides that we cannot rely upon the Canadian North-West to give us year by year a quantity of wheat even nearly sufficient for our growing requirements. He doubts whether an exclusive regard to wheat cultivation is likely to arise in the North-West even if the soil were uniformly suitable, and even if the seasons could be absolutely relied upon. The disposition of the people and their settlement upon small farms of which the owner is also the cultivator seems against the exclusive cultivation of one crop. Moreover the climate is severe, and every now and again a crop is lost through early frosts, but beyond any drawbacks of that kind there is the contiguity of the United States with their rapidly growing population offering a market for the wheat grower of the Canadian North-West at his very doors. To divert his produce from this market to the United Kingdom by any natural process would be impossible. Tariffs of an exclusive, cut-throat description might shut Canadian wheat and flour out of the neighbouring states of the Union, and force the farmer to ship them to this country, but short of this whatever surplus produce the North-West may have for sale would go to nearer markets, or is as likely to be competed for by Japan as by food consumers in the Mother Country. The truth is that it is impossible to rely on any part of the North American continent for a steady supply of grain. We have an example of what is taking place there in the change which has come over California. Formerly, that great state sent us enormous quantities of wheat every year. It now sends almost none, as our Consul in San Francisco pointed out in a recent interesting report made by him to the Foreign Office. Whatever wheat California grows beyond the quantity required to meet the necessities of its own augmented population goes east to supply the wants of the crowds pouring into the other states of the Union. The same thing will doubtless happen with Canadian wheat. As long as the population continues to expand at its present rate the tendency must be for the home markets to forestall foreign ones. Hence the contention of the Birmingham clique becomes a perfect absurdity. We can place no reliance upon supplies from Canada to supplement our own grievous deficiency. Our reliance must be upon the grain crops of the entire world and these must remain free to come to us without shackle of any kind if we are not periodically to suffer grievous famine. How great our necessities are, was illustrated by a reply of Mr. Bonar Law to a question put to him by Dr. Shipman in the House of Commons the other day. The Secretary to the Board of Trade stated that the total produce of wheat in the United Kingdom last year was 4,740,000 imperial quarters, and the total quantity imported from abroad during that year, 12,924,567

imperial quarters. Of that total we, for once in a way, got 9,891,350 imperial quarters from British colonies and possessions, that is to say, principally from India, but to an unusual and by no means to be relied on extent, from Australia and Canada. But if we had been deprived of foreign supplies, it is obvious that these colonies and dependencies could not have fed us, although last year they were in an exceptionally fine position to do so. Two years or so before, neither Australia nor India had grain worth collecting to send us.

A NEW POOR-LAW COMMISSION.

Mr. William Crooks appears to have really frightened Mr. Balfour, raising in his mind perhaps visions of a discontented working population falling into the hands of subverters of constitutions and land-law reformers, enemies of corrupt finance and public extravagance. It may be that, or Mr. Chamberlain may have ordered the Prime Minister to arrange for a General Election towards the end of the present year while it can still be carried out on an antiquated register. Whatever the motive driving him, Mr. Balfour not only reinstated a practically useless Unemployed Bill in his list of measures to be heaved through Parliament, but has determined to create a Commission for the purpose of inquiring into the working of our poor laws. We welcome this proposal, and think that a well-selected Commission, given the widest powers to probe and examine, may do a great deal to create a healthy opinion on our poor-law system, so paving the way for reforms. As we have year after year contended in these columns the cost of administering poor relief has been steadily growing in England and Wales until it has become almost intolerable, a clamant public scandal, soon to become altogether intolerable, and our conviction is, that the whole existing poor-relief machinery wants at least revision. If it could be altogether abolished and its place taken by some national system of old-age pensions whereby the whole machinery of poor-law unions could be dispensed with for good, we should have done something to bring ourselves into line with other countries whose treatment of their poor is decidedly more enlightened than ours. We trust, therefore, this Commission will be carefully selected and forthwith appointed, and that it will get to work soon to probe the mysteries surrounding the present waste characterising the administration of poor relief in this country.

OUR IRON TRADE IN 1904.

The annual report of the Iron Trade Association for the past year compiled by Mr. J. S. Jeans is a document of first class authority and always full of instructive material. It has just been issued, and we learn from it that on the whole the trade of the past year, although peculiar and perplexing, dull also for the first eight months, was not really so unsatisfactory. Our total trade for the year, indeed, grew at greater pace than those of any other competing country, or as Mr. Jeans puts it, no other country in 1904 showed a greater general advance than our own. Yet the iron trade itself was not in an expanding state, and the export portion of it is being increasingly met by foreign competition. Small and thinly peopled countries are struggling to establish home iron industries of their own, and Mr. Jeans instances the Transvaal, Natal, New South Wales, and Queensland as having made a commencement in this direction during 1904, while Chile, Brazil, and Peru are, he says, competing for a pioneer iron industry in South America. Several of the Danubian principalities, too, have already taken this matter in hand, including Bosnia, which has both blast furnaces and steel works in regular operation. They may not be very successful at the first, but it is in the order of things that these efforts should be made, and for our trade to continue moderately flourishing alongside the uprising of domestic production all over the world after this fashion is surely a most encouraging fact. Assuredly also we are not going to stimulate our exports

of iron and steel by going about to hit these ambitious young countries with restrictive tariffs. Coming to statistics, the value of our exports of iron, steel, and machinery in the past year was £62,354,000, or just £376,000 less than in the previous year. But our imports of iron, steel, and machinery also fell off about £459,000 to £17,845,000, so that the change on both sides was simply due to the general slackness of business, and our exports of tin plates went up from 293,000 tons to 359,000 tons. It is noticeable also that our imports of finished iron goods were smaller, and of partially manufactured larger than the year before.

INDIAN PROSPERITY BY RAILWAYS.

In the summary fashion which we have been made painfully familiar with in recent years the House of Commons dealt with the East India Loans to Railways Bill, put up on Monday evening for second reading. The proposal is to take powers to borrow £20,000,000, principally for the extension of the railway system of India, and to pay 3 per cent. upon the money. Sir Henry Fowler took occasion to once more bless the system whereby this debt is continually being added to, laid upon the inhabitants of India without their consent, primarily, one might say exclusively, for the benefit of the foreign capitalist. During the last ten years, he said, the Indian Government has proceeded very surely, and the Indian railways had now reached a point at which they not only paid something over 5 per cent. on the capital invested, but were giving a large contribution, increasing at a great rate year by year, towards the revenue. He, therefore, endorsed the policy indicated by this loan, and declared that it would prove "a bold, progressive, and successful policy." Rather a gruesome commentary upon this blind optimism, as we call it, was furnished on Tuesday morning in a Reuter's telegram from Madras. During the last few weeks, it said, "there has been a steady influx into Madras of homeless beggars from the famine-stricken districts who are proving a serious menace to the public health, and he went on to say, "the Government is erecting relief camps in order to cope with the distress, and has granted Rs. 3,000 to feed the poor. The allotment, however, is inadequate; the death rate is officially estimated at 89.7 per thousand." Is another famine going to blight India in the coming season, and how is the exportation of interest to satisfy the obligations laid upon India, and held by British capitalists, going to bring prosperity back to a hunger-stricken community? Parliament cannot be expected to take account of sentimental considerations of that sort, nor yet to heed the further question: How will India stand when the loan prop is withdrawn, and all the interest on all this capital has to be found year by year from current resources?

VICTORIAN MINING IN 1904.

Little or no interest is taken by investors and capitalists in this country in the gold mining industry of Victoria, and little is likely to be taken in the future, for though gold is still being turned out, the quantity is not startling, and nothing stupendous is happening. The year 1904 was not such a good period as 1903, although the output has only been exceeded three times in the past 22 years. Up to the end of November the gold won amounted to 743,383 ozs., against 741,710 ozs. for the first eleven months of the previous year, and there was up to then good reason to believe, as the annual report of the Secretary of Mines says, that 1904 would prove a good year. Unfortunately, however, owing to a variety of causes, the December returns fell below expectations, with the result that there was a decrease of 1,407 ozs. compared with 1903. But Victoria did not do so badly as some of the other colonies. For instance, in Western Australia there was a deficiency of 81,571 ozs. in 1904; in Queensland the decline was 29,395 ozs., and in New Zealand, 11,849 ozs. Of the seven mining districts of the State, Bendigo easily stands first, with an output of

242,880 ozs., and an increase of 18,133 ozs. Ballarat follows far behind with a yield of 148,973 ozs., and is in the unenviable position of having the largest decrease, the shrinkage amounting to 25,843 ozs. Beechworth is next in order with 122,585 ozs., an increase of 5,699 ozs., but Maryborough did not maintain its position, its return of 85,149 ozs. being 5,280 ozs. behind that of the previous year. Owing mainly to the activity in dredge mining Castlemaine gave 77,170 ozs., or 2,847 ozs. more; Gippsland has a good increase of 4,934 ozs., its yield being 66,721 ozs., whilst the Ararat and Stawell district, with its return of 24,544 ozs., shows the big deficit of 6,686 ozs. Since 1851 Victoria has produced 67,557,353 ozs. of gold, valued at over £270,000,000, but much more than half of this was the output of the first 25 years of the period, and the present annual yield is less than a third of the high-water mark of 3,053,744 ozs. in 1856. For 1904 the total production was 765,600 ozs., of a value of £3,252,045, and Victoria still occupies second place to Western Australia. In the same period a total of £623,397 was distributed in the shape of dividends, being an increase of £22,245 on the amount paid in 1903, and the largest sum disbursed in any year since 1885. It is noteworthy that dividends have been paid by companies treating very low-grade ore. The Ballarat district paid £77,315, Beechworth £57,510, and the Ararat and Stawell district £10,166. As regards other minerals, the output of coal, although nearly twice that for the previous year, is still much below the production for the period anterior to the strike, and the industry is only slowly recovering from the effects of the labour troubles in 1903. The output was 121,741 tons, valued at the pit's mouth at £70,208, or 11s. 6d. per ton, against 64,200 tons in 1903. Seventy-one tons of tin were produced against 33 tons, and some 20 tons of antimony were obtained at Costerfield.

PEASE AND PARTNERS.

This well-known iron and steel business of Darlington managed to improve its position a little during the past year, but the directors, four of whom bear the once-revered name of Pease, have nothing much to boast of, because before showing signs of recovery the profits slumped most alarmingly from the £351,233 earned in 1900-01 to the £61,891 for the twelve months to June 30, 1904. For the year just closed the total was £88,741, not after all a very brilliant advance, especially in view of the circumstance that during the period the directors acquired practically the entire interest in Wilsons Pease and Co., part of the estate of the late Sir Joseph Pease. This asset, together with holdings in the Skinnington Iron Company and the Horden Collieries, appears in the balance-sheet at £133,441, and while the board tells us that the Wilsons Pease acquisition is fully justifying itself, we cannot trace that these interests are giving an adequate return. At the last annual meeting authority was sought and given for the creation of £250,000 second debenture stock, but the directors did not deem it expedient to make—attempt would be a more descriptive word—a public issue of this stock, and have therefore only placed £27,091 amongst certain persons, chiefly shareholders, who displayed a desire to subscribe, and £65,000 with the bankers as security for loans. This lack of funds has in a manner forced the directors to limit capital expenditure, and only £24,889 was laid out, principally in connection with the opening of the Windlestone coalfield and its more complete underground connection with the Eldon coalfield and the collateral outlay in connection with the bye-product coke ovens at Eldon and St. Helens. Expenditure to date, though, is now £1,400,223, after deducting £31,378 for depreciation of leaseholds, &c., so there is room for going slow, especially having regard to the continued dependence upon borrowed money. Purchase moneys unpaid and loans still amount to £165,574, the bank overdraft is £30,709, and sundry creditors reach £130,003, besides £15,239 owing for wages, an aggre-

gate of over £340,000. Against that the realisable floating assets are not very startling, cash, for example, reaching the lavish amount of £485, while sundry debtors come to £137,118. True there are good class investments to the amount of £61,567, but they are held on account of the reserve now reduced to £95,000, a sum of £5,000 having been applied in reduction of the book value of the original investments, sadly depreciated we have no doubt. From the profits above mentioned of £88,741 must be deducted £5,690 for interest on unpaid purchase moneys and loans, £4,815 for directors', auditors', and trustees' remuneration, and £1,005 for educational and charitable agencies, leaving £77,231. Debenture interest next takes £16,582, and £21,788 is allowed for depreciation of leaseholds, so that the directors are able to declare a dividend of 10s. per share, being 5 per cent., or 2 per cent. more, with an increase in the carry forward from £838 to £4,699. Referring to the state of trade, the directors say that the first half of the year was characterised by inactive demand and very low prices, but the second half brought in both respects marked improvement. Just now there is no indication of any particular change, and if the present year turns out as well as the last probably that will be as much as shareholders should expect. Not a very exhilarating prospect.

THE LAW AND RHODESIAN MINES.

In the House of Commons on Monday Mr. Vincent Kennedy asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he would state whether the attention of the Government had been called to the condition and financial status of a number of Rhodesian and other South African mining companies whose shares are quoted daily; also whether any steps were being taken by the Government to safeguard the public from investing in such mining companies as were on the verge of bankruptcy and whose condition was withheld; and further, in view of the fact that the public had already suffered loss in consequence of reckless South African company promoting, he would have inquiry made with a view to remedying the evil by suitable legislation. Mr. Lyttelton's written reply was as follows:—"The answer to the first part of the hon. Member's question is in the negative, and as regards the remainder of the question, His Majesty's Government are not prepared to take upon themselves the impossible task of safeguarding the public in its choice of investments." It is difficult to see what other answer could have been given to the above specific questions, for the millennium would come if by legislation the fool could be saved from the consequences of his own folly. In spite of the bankrupt positions of dozens of Rhodesian mining companies, the financial Press of London is united in its efforts to persuade the public to put even more money into the industry in which they have already lost countless thousands. Though we do not care to indulge in trumpet-blowing, the public would have no idea of the insolvent positions of the majority of these concerns were it not for the detailed analyses of their finances printed from time to time in this REVIEW. No other organ can be named whence such information is to be gathered. The eulogistic reports of directors alone are published, their balance-sheets are ignored, and the public are persistently told, in defiance of facts, that the industry is thriving. Shareholders in individual companies can study the balance-sheets they receive; but one or two reports do not cover all reports, and though they may know the positions of their own companies, they must be ignorant of the positions of others unless they can learn of the facts from the financial Press. The public have the power of saving themselves. They need not invest in a Rhodesian company except by their own wills, and they can learn—or ought to learn—more from bitter experience than from any Governmental warning or advice. What is the use of shouting in the wilderness to the fool—to the man who will make no use of his reasoning faculties, who usually curses you when you venture to tell him the truth? What can legislation do for such? Can a Bill be devised for

the prevention of the individual from investing in bankrupt companies? Directors can, of course, be punished for publishing fraudulent balance-sheets, but the balance-sheets we have analysed speak eloquently and warningly enough for themselves and are nowise frauds. The law cannot take from a man the liberty he enjoys of choosing his own investments, any more than it can take away from him the liberty of choosing his own wife and his own house. Investors would be the first to resent it. And of what value would experience be if the law left no scope for individual judgment? To ask the Government to exercise the functions of the financial journalist would be, as Mr. Lyttelton says, to ask the impossible.

THE WATNEY COMBE REID MEETING.

It is not surprising that Mr. H. Cosmo O. Bonsor, the chairman of this terribly over-capitalised brewery agglomeration, met with some opposition on Wednesday when he faced the shareholders. The story he had to tell was assuredly a depressing one, and he in a way admitted it, but he sought to mitigate hostility by pointing out that the board had been really writing down to an enormous extent for bad debts, no less than £187,000 in the past year. What he omitted to dwell upon was the increase in the expenses, by virtue of which a decrease of £23,000 in the gross profits was turned into a decrease of £69,000 in the net. He was unshakable, however, in his faith in beer. It is the national English drink, he declared, and the thirst of the people for it will never grow less. That might well be, and still Watney Combe Reid's fluids show decreased consumption. As a victimised deferred shareholder wrote to us the other day, that famous poster over which Mr. Bonsor expatiated in such self congratulatory terms some years ago, which represented a dog sniffing at his master's stout glass, might require to be supplemented by another showing the dog's disgust—that he smelt and fled. But Mr. Bonsor was not strong in meeting criticisms, and could not understand logic. Mr. Harris pointed out that bad debts kept pace with the increase in repairs and depreciation, and now stood at £117,000, and that comparing the present value of their shares with the prices ruling when the prospectus was issued, there was a depreciation of £6,258,000. We believe it will be greater still before the turning point is reached, and think that £8,000,000 would be an excessive valuation for the properties. Another critic was Mr. A. E. Nepean, who had put himself up as a candidate for the board in opposition to the redoubtable chairman. He pointed out that the actual loss in bad debts during the past five years was £480,000, and suggested that the £700,000 of liquid assets paraded by the board should be utilised to buy up drink houses in the present depression, so as to increase the outlet for the Watney brews. But all these opponents and advisers were swiftly squelched, and the board emerged triumphant from the ordeal. We have no quarrel with this result, not having money in the thing, but the shareholders are none the less to be pitied. "It cost us twopence per barrel more to brew this year," said Mr. Bonsor, "and twopence per barrel more to sell the liquid." Is there any chance of that cost decreasing? If there were would the company be in any better position? Is it not the case that it must continue to write down the properties, loans, and so on, because of the dishonest valuation at which the businesses were taken into the combination? Why shut the eyes to the original imposition and its consequences?

THE DISTRICT RAILWAY MEETING.

A very interesting speech was made by Mr. R. E. Perks, M.P., at the meeting of the Metropolitan District Railway on Wednesday last. He took the chair in the absence of Mr. Yerkes, and gave really a very engaging account of the company's affairs. We are unable to accept in full his views of the financial position and prospects of this underground line, but

that does not hinder us from cordially recognising that a great work beneficial to the community has been carried out in its electrification. The cost has been very heavy, £1,373,766 to date, Mr. Perks told the shareholders, and we trust it will be recouped, and more. There is no particular reason why it should not be once the inner circle is in complete working order. It will be that in about five weeks, Mr. Perks said, as soon as the Metropolitan Company has completed the alterations in its rolling stock. When the attempt was made in the beginning of July to run the inner circle trains by electricity it broke down because of some difference between the fittings of the Metropolitan trains and those of the District. This is now being remedied as fast as possible by the Metropolitan Company, and when the work is completed we shall hope to see nothing but electric trains upon any part of the underground railway. We are not sure though that we can endorse the zone fare system which is then to be applied by the District Company. Twopence is too much as a minimum fare; there ought to be a penny zone. Zones at a penny, twopence, and threepence would work well. For instance, look at the number of people who have to go in from Charing Cross, Westminster, or the Temple to the Mansion House, Cannon Street, or the Monument. To ask all of them twopence for travelling from Charing Cross to the City when they can go up to the Strand and get in for a penny or across the Embankment, and reach their destination with but slight inconvenience by the County Council steamboats, is to drive away traffic. Perhaps the board will consider this point, and make such alterations as will entice instead of driving away business once they are in a position to handle it. In the past half-year the company did well on the whole with its passenger traffic, in spite of the abolition of second-class, for there was an increase of over 11 per cent. in their first-class travellers or 196,000, against a loss of 207,000 through the abolition of second-class. With trains running more frequently round the circle, and order and cleanliness all over the underground lines, there ought to be immense augmentation in the receipts provided the public is not driven away by injudicious fares. One interesting announcement made by Mr. Perks related to the property, the real estate, belonging to the railway company. It has grown to be an important source of revenue, and as money is wanted it is proposed to sell £250,000 of this property to a company created for the purpose. As Mr. Perks pointed out, the Metropolitan Company subdivided its assets in this fashion many years ago when he was its solicitor, and practically gave its shareholders a bonus of 50 per cent. on the par value of the ordinary stock. It is impossible for the District to do anything of that kind, but there seems no reason why it should not utilise some portion of this asset in order to provide money for the very expensive outlays involved in electrification, as long as no prior security is imperilled. The revenue from the property has risen from about £10,000 five years ago, or is about to rise to something like £18,000 or £19,000 now.

Passing Events.

Quite a nice little story was told at a meeting held in the middle of last week by the Council of Foreign Bondholders, and presided over by Lord Avebury. The debt of Colombia is once more to be "honoured" by the Government of that republic. A new agreement has been entered into whereby default is to be wiped off, and an immediate resumption of the full service of the debt, both interest and sinking fund to proceed from the 1st of last month. "The coupon due January 1 next is to be paid at the full rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum and subsequent coupons at a 3 per cent. rate." Besides this, further concessions will be made as soon as Colombia has settled her dispute with France over the shares of the Panama Canal Company, and has come to an agreement with the United States about what is to be paid by that great northern Power for the

province of Panama wrenched away. Arrears of debt interest are also to be provided for to the extent of one-half by Banco Central warrants on the Customs. There are £13 of arrears on each £100 bond, and Lord Avebury expressed the belief that half this amount was assured, although he was unable to say that the payment of the other half was other than "problematical." A very nice story; we hope it will be justified by events.

The trade of Cape Colony in the year ended June 30 last was a little less lopsided than in the years immediately preceding. Imports fell off by £7,672,000 to £19,985,000, while exports went up by £2,843,000 to £29,863,000. This is progress indeed—after the Yankee fashion. Unfortunately it does not seem to be progress in the export of the permanent productions of the country's agricultural and pastoral industries for more than all the fine growth in exports was due to gold. The value of the gold, that from the Transvaal being included in the above figures, was £18,069,000 for the past year, or £3,764,000 more than in the previous year. As the total increase in the value of the exports of all kinds was only £2,843,000, it follows that there was a decline of about £923,000 in the value of other commodities exported. This is just what we should have expected looking at the drought-scourged, poverty-stricken, and generally backward condition of the real industries of Cape Colony. Consequently, when examined these swelling figures by no means warrant us in a belief that the debt of Cape Colony is now well secured.

The latest reports from the United States indicate a poor cotton crop, and we may perhaps put some confidence in the figures since the scandal connected with past publications of them is too recent to be repeated with impunity. A clerk in the Washington Statistical Office was recently expelled the service for concocting false returns in the interests of some cotton gamblers. Taking the figures as they stand, the crop is put for July at 75.4, a decrease of 5.8 from the previous return, and of 9 compared with a year ago. What this exactly means we would not venture to define, but it undoubtedly implies a poor harvest for the current year. Hence recent efforts to drive the price of cotton up to a height which threatened to once more involve our great Lancashire industry in distress. It is perhaps just as well, because any shortness in the crop of the United States will stimulate anew the efforts being made by consumers of cotton, not only in England, but all over Europe, to find other sources of supply. Progress has already been made in this direction, and we have not the least doubt that in a few years the European spinners will be able to get a much larger proportion than now of their cotton from other sources than the United States. It will serve American growers and speculators as they deserve. There was a meeting in London the other day of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers, which was attended by representatives from all European countries where cotton is spun, and it decided to recommend, amongst other things, that every cotton spinner in Europe and America should refrain from buying American cotton during the next three months, except for immediate wants. This policy is dictated by the belief that large stocks left over from last year's crop are being held back in order to profit by the fictitiously advanced prices now current. In other words, the spinners believe that in spite of the probability of a short crop, this year there will be between the harvests of the two years quite enough to meet all legitimate demands. They therefore urge abstention from hasty action, calmness, and a policy of waiting on events. Undoubtedly the decision is a wise one.

Quite a cheerful note is struck by our Consul in Milan, Mr. Towsy, over the progress of the trade of Lombardy in 1904. Italy is reviving, thanks to happier relations between her and France. The industries of Lombardy testify to the fact. Details of figures are given, which might, perhaps, in another

year's report be condensed somewhat, so as to bring out, if possible, the share which England has in this development of Italy's trade. As now given, with the splitting up into imports and exports by various routes with the items scattered around in a somewhat haphazard way, we cannot profess to attempt analysis or to indicate the drift of the trade. One or two points, however, are obvious enough. England is nearly out of it. France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, all have a larger share in the trade done by Lombardy with foreign countries than we have, but this is natural, and an obvious consequence of the proximity of these countries, at least of Austro-Hungary, Germany, and France, to the Lombardy markets. We, for instance, appear to have no share whatever in the glassware imported by Lombardy, and very little in metals, much less than any of these countries or even than Switzerland. That we could do more there is not the least doubt were energy displayed, for the port of Genoa should bring us almost as close to the Lombardy markets as the St. Gothard Railway brings Germany. Note, though, how goodwill and concord between Italy and France are stimulating productive energy all round.

A subscriber wrote to suggest that we should include amongst our weekly table of tramway and omnibus receipts the figures relating to the London United Tramways. The idea seemed good, and we accordingly wrote to the company, asking it to send us its figures, as other tramway companies do. The answer we got was a regret to be unable to comply with our request, as, the secretary added, "my directors do not publish the traffic receipts of this company." The subscriber also asked for the ordinary shares to be quoted, and that likewise is a request which cannot be complied with, for the simple reason that there is no market in them.

We are informed that Mr. Arthur Digby Besant, B.A., F.I.A., has been appointed secretary of the Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance Society. Mr. W. J. H. Whittall remains principal officer, with the title of actuary, and we trust that for him this lightening of labours in the office will mean renewed vigour and a larger share in what may be called the public life of his profession.

It seems a pity that certain undesirable portions of the Press in this country and in Germany have been endeavouring to stir up bad feeling over the proposed visit of some English ships of war to the Baltic. All sorts of alarmist rumours have been put in circulation by the blue-funk school in both countries, with the obvious intention of so stirring up animosity as to facilitate the continued waste of taxpayers' money upon monstrous additions to their navies. The intention of the British Government to send part of our fleet to the Baltic was indicated in due course to the German Government in May last as an ordinary act of courtesy, and there is no reason why the visit should not be as much a means of stimulating friendliness between the English and German peoples as the recent visit of the British squadron to Brest was in furthering accord with France. We hope indeed that these scenic displays of fighting vessels will be more and more utilised for this purpose, as certainly the days when their uses for purposes of mutual destruction can be counted upon ought to be passing away. The more intercourse of any kind is promoted between nations the less probability is there that they will fly at each other's throats. Our enduring hope is that the strengthening of commercial ties between nations, the more intimate relations developing with every increase in their respective foreign trades, will in time dissipate the old-fashioned habit of regarding every foreigner as a natural-born enemy. Time was when rival cities felt this way towards each other, when there was feud between town and village, but the world has long outgrown that spirit of jealousy and hate among next-door neighbours. Why should it continue between great nations? It is only adherence to antiquated fashions and benighted superstitions which compels nations to still waste their substance in preparation for murderous conflicts every year

becoming more impossible. In some senses the recrudescence of the military spirit expresses but the consciousness of the fighting man and fighting profession that their day is drawing to an end among civilised communities.

Most people connected with newspapers will be sorry to learn that there is danger of a change in the position of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son. We have all at times grumbled over their practical monopoly, but all have had to recognise that on the whole the firm has behaved with impartiality and fairness towards its customers. Those who have been familiar with the bookstalls at railway stations for many years cannot fail to have recognised the enormous change which has taken place in their contents, a change involving tremendous additions to the detailed work of supply. In the old days there were but few newspapers and periodicals, and much more business was probably done in books. At any rate, the cheap penny and halfpenny periodical was not in existence, so that the bookstalls were not loaded up and littered over by all manner of ephemeral or low-priced publications, whereas now the crowd of such is so great that the old-fashioned and more expensive publications are often thrust on one side. To distribute the ever-changing multitude of these publications all over the bookstalls and to collect the returns of copies left unsold form a task demanding the highest organisation and immense labour, yet Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son have not only coped with the difficulties but have treated publishers with reasonable fairness. Now, however, it seems two of the great railways are going to change all this. Tenders have been invited by them from outsiders for the supply of their bookstalls. They apparently hope to get larger rents than Messrs. Smith feel disposed to pay, and the *Times* has been sounding a note of warning about the change, from which we infer that amongst those tendering are publishers and proprietors of newspapers. It protests against this, and rightly enough. No newspaper owner ought to be in control of any railway bookstalls. That might at once introduce a system of favouritism and exclusion, of "undue preference," which the trade might find intolerable when compared with the cold, unsympathetic, it may be, but unswerving impartiality of W. H. Smith and Son.

Surely the men implicated in the revolting operations of the Economic Bank will not be allowed to escape scot free? The story unfolded by the Official Receiver at the meeting of creditors held on Thursday is one of unrelieved heartlessness and robbery, whereby hundreds of poor people have been bereft of their savings. It was a bank, as Mr. Wincarls, the Assistant Official Receiver, pointed out, "established to encourage thrift," and the way it proceeded to do so was to engage in crooked financial "deals" of the most disgraceful kind. Unhappily those who stand to lose £47,000 by the misdeeds of the people who laid hold of the bank for their own sinister purposes are all of the "third-class" type of little account with our high-and-mighty rulers, and unless a determined effort is made to see justice done the powers that be may sleep. We are glad though to note the intelligent zeal with which Mr. Wincarls has taken the work of investigation in hand. It is the high-placed friends or screens of Whitaker Wright and the like whose indifference we fear. Pity it is that restitution and punishment cannot be made to go together, but the misappropriated money is probably gone beyond recovery.

According to a return issued this week the acreage in five Highland counties of Scotland—Argyll, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, Caithness, and Inverness—devoted to deer forests has increased by 1,210,000 acres in the past 21 years, and now aggregates 2,920,097 acres. And Scotland not only submits to the depopulation such a change implies, but appears to rejoice in it.

Friday's *Daily News* computes that £50,619,241 of the taxpayers' money was mechanically voted away in the nights of Wednesday and Thursday without a syllable of explanation, criticism, or debate. Among the items composing this revolting total were £15,082,100 for the

Army, £9,399,300 for the Navy, and £12,005,475 for the Revenue departments. No wonder the taxes are wasted, misappropriated, stolen with both hands in all departments of the public service. The Civil Services swallowed up nearly £14,000,000, the balance of the above total, and all these votes with others were "reported to the House" and passed *sub silentio*. To such a depth of degradation and impotence has the "mother of parliaments" fallen.

Critical Index To New Investments.

THE URBAN ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

This is one of those companies whose origin suggests doubts about their stability. Essentially it is a finance company, created in order to find money for work done by Edmundson's Electricity Corporation, and in this follows a fashion long familiar in the railroad history of the United States. Probably enough, necessity compels our electric manufacturing corporations to fall back upon this device in order to provide them with the means to execute contracts, and certainly this company served Edmundson's well enough. Its total capital is £650,000, divided into 50,000 five per cent. cumulative preference and 80,000 ordinary shares of £5 each. All the ordinary shares have been issued, but up to now only £30,000 of the preference shares, and there is in addition £200,000 of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stock. It is now proposed to issue the balance of the preference share capital at par, and the offer will perhaps be accepted by the public, since Edmundson's Electricity Corporation has guaranteed the dividends on all the preference shares up to December 31, 1910. The record of work done shows that a number of small places in England and Scotland have been endowed with electric light and power which probably would never have attempted anything of the kind had they been left to themselves. So far, too, the results seem to have been profitable, as the net income for 1904 is certified at £19,234, having risen to that from £1,371 two years before. For the first half of the current year, moreover, the work done has enabled the directors to estimate profits for the whole of this year of not less than £26,000. As only £21,500 is required to meet the debenture stock interest and the dividends on the whole of the preference capital, it would therefore seem that the shares are at present sufficiently protected. At the same time the company is heavily behindhand with its cash for work done. The total sums paid to the contractors—that is, to Edmundson's Electricity Corporation—since this Urban Company was incorporated have been £722,823, including £15,000 paid to Edmundson's for underwriting the first issue of 30,000 ordinary and 30,000 preference shares, and there is about £178,000 now owing. The whole of the present issue of preference capital is to be used to partly pay this debt, and there will still be £78,000 left to be met from other resources. Does that mean a further creation of debentures, or will Edmundson's take the paper of the communities favoured with its enterprise?

BUENOS AIRES PORT AND CITY TRAMWAYS COMPANY.

Whatever the fate of this enterprise may be it is put before the public in a frank way which helps to disarm criticism. The company has been formed with a share capital of £200,000 in 40,000 £5 ordinary shares to buy and carry out a concession for the construction and working of an electric tramway in the City of Buenos Aires from the Barracas Bridge on the south to the Retiro Railway station on the north, a route about seven miles in length, and competing partly with lines already in operation. This does not interfere with the right of the company to make its own line at these competing points, but if arrangements can be come to with the other companies this may not be necessary. The concession is held direct from the Argentine Government, and has no time limit. It was obtained by two Argentines named Gandulfo, and by them transferred to the Government and General Con-

tract Company and Francis William Lowther, trading as Lowther and Co. This Contract Company in turn entered into an arrangement with the B.A.P. Syndicate to float the company and to issue the debentures, which to the amount of £200,000, bearing 6 per cent. interest, are now offered for subscription at par. Of the total £126,500 has already been applied for, and will be allotted in full. Apparently the B.A.P. Syndicate undertakes to satisfy the claims of the original concessionnaires, who were to get £20,000 in cash, £20,000 in 6 per cent. debenture stock, and £10,000 in ordinary shares in payment. Various other outlays are incurred which we need not specify, but preliminary expenses are estimated at £5,000, including, we suppose, the £3,500 to be paid by Lowther and Co. to George Kitchen and Co., Scott, Stratten and Co., and T. H. Evans, for services rendered, as also the fee of £500 to the brokers of the company, and the $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission on all allotments made on applications bearing the broker's stamp. The estimated profits are brought out at £29,000, but that does not hinder the enterprise from bearing a distinctly speculative if promising aspect.

Answers to Correspondents.

CROPPER.—Sell if you can get a profit. If you could only sell at a loss, there is a chance that the price may go a little higher on the recently-reported new discovery in the mine. Dividend prospects seem very remote.

W. MORROW.—Not a very good security, and a rise in price is most unlikely. We think you could find something better.

L'ARGENT.—No, these bonds could not be paid off at less than par, and in the event of conversion it would not be possible to force you to accept a security bearing a lower rate of interest without adequate recompense. No occasion to sell, we think, "China-man." We do not see where you could place your money to better advantage, and since you would not be a real loser should your bonds be redeemed, your best plan will be to hold on and take the risk.

READER (Bermondsey).—1. We think you might hold on a little longer on the chance of some improvement, particularly as the Money market seems fairly comfortable, but you must be prepared for a set back, even though it may be temporary, should the peace negotiations prove abortive. You might try to hold out for the price you gave, but sell directly the loss is recovered. 2. Here the current quotation is very slightly below your purchase price, and it seems a fair risk to wait a bit.

M. S. G.—We cannot see any advantage in locking up money in this security as there seems very little prospect of dividend payments. Should the Government decide to buy, there might be a rise, but that is the only chance, and we have not heard a purchase suggested.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

How to Increase Trade and Employment, True and False Prophets. By D. M. Mason. (London: W. Brown and Co., 36, St. Mary Axe, E.C.) Price 1d.

World's Work and Play for August. (London: W. Heinemann, 21, Bedford Street, W.C.) Price 1s. net.

National Review for August. (London, 23, Ryder Street, St. James's, S.W.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

Bankers' Magazine for August. (London: Waterlow and Sons, London Wall, E.C.) Price 1s. net.

Civil Engineering by T. Claxton Fidler. Books on Business Series. (London: Methuen and Company, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

MAGAZINES FOR AUGUST.

The *Book Monthly* has always something to recommend it, for, apart from its varying contents, the standing dishes, if we may put it so, are invariably worth devouring. This month also, "A Lost Carlisle Essay," though but a dissertation on Indian Meal, is an interesting find; "Bodley at Home" and "R.L.S. in the Pacific," are entertaining and instructive. We are sorry we cannot enthuse over Mr. Gerald Massey's four new poems, but they are really poor stuff.

The contents of *The Strand*, *Sunday Strand* and *The Grand*, are varied enough to suit all, and contain their usual complement of grave and gay. Father Gapon's Story of his Life, "The Humour of Cricket," by Arthur Thomas, and the humour of W. W. Jacobs are among the choicest bits in the *The Strand*. The *Sunday Strand* does not belie its name in the religious and moral trend of its contents and an article on "Holiday Schools" is worthy of attention. The *Grand* on the whole keeps up to the standard of interest with which it started, but surely the causeries of the *Grand Club* make rather futile gossip.

Really *The World's Work* has improved since the days of its commencement. This month, at any rate, the motoring element is reduced to judicious proportions. The Magazine can be congratulated on the excellence of its illustrations throughout, and on its up-to-date articles: "Ju Jitsu for Men and Women," "Wireless Telegraphy," "Camera Work for Amateurs," and last but not least an appreciation of Mr. Henry H. Rogers!

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended July 31, \$3,684.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 30, \$20,545, increase \$8,883; aggregate from January 1, \$464,065, increase \$98,450.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 30, Rs. 1,06,959, decrease Rs. 1,634; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 15,05,416, increase Rs. 1,82,455.

Bengal Central.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 29,193; increase, Rs. 11,110; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,05,470, increase Rs. 9,482.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 21, \$92,900, increase \$25,200; total from July 1, \$268,400, increase \$72,800.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 30, Rs. 66,332, increase Rs. 12,249; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 7,78,111, decrease Rs. 80,061.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 15, £435, decrease £162.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of July, \$17,648, decrease \$1,068; aggregate from January 1, \$415,886, increase \$808.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 30, Rs. 26,247, increase Rs. 660; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 2,93,525, increase Rs. 13,955.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended July 7 amounted to \$37,470.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending July 29, £1,042, increase £54; aggregate from July 1, £4,734, decrease £113.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for 8 days ending July 29, £1,139, decrease £54; aggregate from July 1, £4,182, decrease £809.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for May, £4,399, decrease £149.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending July 29, £286, decrease £79; aggregate from July 1, £1,107, decrease £294.

Liverpool Overhead.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 30, £1,633, decrease £9; aggregate from July 1, £6,569; decrease £361.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 28, £1,437, increase £550; aggregate from July 1, £5,607, increase £2,043.

Blessington and Poulaphuca.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 30, £26, decrease £6; aggregate from July 1, £98, decrease £27.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 28, £5,441, increase £133; aggregate from July 1, £21,829, increase £13.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending July 28, £30,318, increase £3,001; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £771,272, increase £60,929; 430½ miles, against 433½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, £1,032, increase £46; aggregate from July 2, £4,599, increase £223.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 30, £168, decrease £15; aggregate from July 1, £723, decrease £46.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 28, £140, decrease £9; aggregate from July 1, £580, decrease £26.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 28, £5,565, increase £136; aggregate from July 1, £22,538, increase £508.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, £5,725, increase £905; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £146,176, increase £12,159.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 28, £285, decrease £14; aggregate from July 1, £1,138, decrease £85.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, £1,373, decrease £153; aggregate from October 1, £19,835, decrease £929.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 22, £16,395, increase £1,874; aggregate from April 1, £243,807, increase £45,273. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, £25,375, decrease £85; aggregate from July 2, £107,947, decrease £1,007.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, £8,377, increase £127; aggregate from July 1, £37,801, increase £493.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 28, £194, increase £1; aggregate from July 1, £824, increase £53.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, £12,692, increase £1,031; aggregate from January 1, £396,330, increase £24,703.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, £2,696, increase £247; aggregate from January 1, £65,104, increase £8,226.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, £326, increase £44; aggregate from January 1, £9,082, increase £1,246.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to June 30, \$903,014, increase \$91,687. Net earnings from July 1 to June 30, \$328,680, increase \$43,638.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £15,277.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, \$42,345, decrease \$3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, Rs. 36,030, increase Rs. 323; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 1,65,452, increase Rs. 28,523.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £4,590, increase £1,777. Total to June 30; £26,606, increase £3,852.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of June, \$392,528; aggregate from January 1, \$2,171,470. Net traffic receipts, \$214,675; aggregate from January 1, \$1,131,943.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	July 30	£ 2,211	— 240	4	£ 8,603	— 277	
Cambrian	" 30	8,562	— 3,360	4	31,522	— 5,120	
Central London ..	" 29	5,687	— 208	4	24,043	— 585	
City and South London ..	" 30	2,270	— 114	4	9,056	— 252	
Furness	" 30	10,047	— 706	4	42,544	— 490	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 30	73,642	— 3,696	4	280,472	+ 5,474	
Great Eastern	" 30	121,600	— 23,600	4	458,900	— 35,900	
Great Northern and City ..	" 29	1,444	+ 459	4	5,852	+ 1,975	
Great Northern	" 29	128,700	— 18,463	†	476,488	— 33,573	
Great Western	" 30	267,900	— 46,200	4	999,500	— 62,700	
Hull and Barnsley	" 30	9,953	— 279	4	36,758	— 3,165	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 30	133,200	— 6,312	4	482,244	— 6,028	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 29	73,837	— 19,944	4	279,288	— 27,916	
London & North Western ..	" 30	314,000	— 52,000	4	1,180,000	— 52,000	
London & South Western ..	" 30	110,900	— 19,700	4	416,000	— 26,200	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 30	12,144	— 1,892	4	47,427	— 3,290	
Metropolitan	" 30	17,042	— 596	4	69,823	— 581	
Metropolitan District ..	" 30	6,206	— 877	4	26,508	— 2,212	
Midland	" 29	234,643	— 27,521	4	871,312	— 16,172	
North Eastern	" 29	201,901	— 3,599	4	757,500	— 18,270	
North London	" 30	8,903	— 204	4	35,295	— 1,459	
North Staffordshire	" 30	16,995	— 1,547	4	66,185	— 2,880	
Rhymney	" 30	5,776	+ 263	4	22,937	+ 785	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 29	105,691	— 13,886	†	418,219	— 20,747	
Taff Vale	" 30	18,508	— 184	4	70,049	— 4,457	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	July 30	91,417	+ 211	26	2,187,252	+ 14,759
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 29	41,053	+ 249	26	880,825	— 12,677
Great North of Scotland ..	" 29	12,284	— 141	26	240,031	— 6,975
Highland	" 30	15,118	+ 716	26	252,023	— 5,654
North British	" 30	109,216	+ 3,592	26	2,319,677	+ 19,743

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	July 28	4,257	+ 374	4	18,236	+ 162
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 28	1,834	+ 269	4	7,936	+ 507
Great Northern	" 28	20,994	— 1,161	4	89,049	— 500
Midland Great Western ..	" 28	11,606	— 442	4	41,976	— 2,858

* From July 1 to date.

PARR'S BANK LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1865.

Head and Registered Office:
4, BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.

(Telegraphic Address:—"PLUTUS, LONDON.")

CAPITAL:

Authorised and Issued -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£8,542,500
Paid up -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£1,708,500
Reserve Fund -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£1,708,500

Directors.

CECIL F. PARR, Esq., Welwyn, Herts, *Chairman*.
 EDWARD W. NIX, Esq., Tunbridge Wells, *Deputy-Chairman*.
 EDWARD BANBURY, Esq., London.
 THOMAS H. DIXON, Esq., Gresford, Denbighshire.
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 PETER STUBS, Esq., Newnham, Gloucestershire.
 JAMES TULLOCH, Esq., London.

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 JOHN RAE, *Superintendent of Branches*.
 F. E. STEELE, *Asst. Supt. of Branches*.
 A. ALLAN SHAND, *Manager*.

JOHN STEWART, *Asst. General Manager*.
 JOHN A. CHADWICK, *Accountant*.
 E. D. HYATT, *Secretary*.
 F. W. INGALL, *Asst. Manager, (Bartholomew Lane Office)*.

GENERAL BALANCE, 30th JUNE, 1905.

LIABILITIES.					ASSETS.				
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Capital—85,425 Shares of £100 each	8,542,500	0	0				By Cash on hand and at Bank of England	4,827,824	16 11
To Amount Paid up—£20 per Share on 85,425 Shares				1,708,500	0	0	Money at call and short notice	5,199,670	12 6
Reserve Fund				1,708,500	0	0	£1,000,000 Consols at 85	850,000	0 0
Due by the Bank on Current Accounts, Deposit Accounts, Deposit Receipts, and Circular Notes	27,746,432	8	8				Other Imperial Government Securities (of which £240,000 lodged as security for Public Accounts and the Note Issue in the Isle of Man), British Railway Debenture and other first-class Stocks	2,333,372	1 8
Notes in circulation in the Isle of Man	10,003	0	0					3,183,372	1 8
Drafts Current (payable within 21 days), Customers' Acceptances advised, &c.	356,983	3	5					13,210,867	11 1
				28,113,418	12	1	Bills Discounted	2,251,969	0 3
Acceptances on behalf of Customers				1,980,882	17	2	Loans and Advances to Customers, after deducting provision for all bad and doubtful debts, &c.	15,497,842	8 10
Foreign Bills Negotiated				47,920	12	9	Acceptances on behalf of Customers, as per contra	1,980,882	17 2
Dividend to be now paid	162,307	10	0				Foreign Bills Negotiated, as per contra	47,920	12 9
Bank Premises Account	15,000	0	0				Bank Premises and Furniture	840,027	4 3
Officers' Pension and Provident Fund	5,000	0	0						
Balance of Profit and Loss, carried forward	87,980	2	4						
				270,287	12	4			
				£33,829,509	14	4			
									£33,829,509 14 4

BRANCHES:

METROPOLITAN.

52, Threadneedle Street, E.C.
 77, Lombard Street, E.C.
 1, Finsbury Square, E.C.
 87, Fleet Street, E.C.
 126, High Holborn, W.C.
 1, Cavendish Square, W.
 239, Regent Street, W.
 88-90, High Street, Kensington, W.
 And 23 others.

PROVINCIAL.

LIVERPOOL. MANCHESTER.
 BIRMINGHAM. CHESTER.
 DERBY. LEICESTER.
 ST. HELENS. WARRINGTON.
 WIDNES. WIGAN.
 And 124 others.

PELICAN & BRITISH EMPIRE **LIFE OFFICE. A.D. 1797.**

70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Total Assets exceed - £5,100,000.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.—NOTICE.

NO MEMBER OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE IS ALLOWED TO ADVERTISE for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of The Stock Exchange or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of The Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance of the Bank of England or obtained on application to EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,

Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $2\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent. on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Monday was rather a stirring day in the short loan market owing to the withdrawal of £2,000,000 by the issuing banks, being the first 20 per cent. of the London portion of the latest Japanese loan. As it was also the last day of the month, which always brings a mass of miscellaneous demands upon bankers, it was no wonder that the price of call money rose in the morning to 2 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; but the market struggled through the day without further borrowings at the Bank, and since then ease has generally prevailed. Occasionally, perhaps, bankers would get $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for seven-day money, and on Wednesday call loans rose to 2 per cent. because another £2,250,000 of Japanese money, being the last instalment of the first issue of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cents., was on that day paid over to the Bank of England; but the ease was never seriously disturbed, and the week closes with loans plentiful at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., whether for the day or the week. This afternoon there was less floating credit about than in the morning, but that was probably because of holiday withdrawals of currency.

In all the ups and downs of the market the discount rate has remained tolerably firm at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for three months' remitted bills, with a struggle towards the end of the week to get $1\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. and even $1\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. Foreign correspondents of the discount houses have indeed been charged $1\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. for the last two days, but most of the business has been done even on the firmer market at $1\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., because the joint-stock banks have been free buyers from the brokers at $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. There is generally a full supply of bills, owing mainly to the large quantity of American paper coming in, but we doubt whether the market can hold up now that £100,000 in gold coin has been received by the Bank from Egypt. People were disappointed in the beginning of the week over that 1,000,000 sovereigns from Bombay. The India Government has put it away in its own private safe instead of letting the market have it in the usual way, and as the foreign supply of gold, the £700,000 dealt with last Monday, was all taken for Paris, there was some pre-text in the state of the bullion market for holding discount rates up. Now, however, with the French exchange firmer, the price of bar gold falling, and with sovereigns coming in from Egypt, we are likely enough to see discount rates give way to some small degree. It is probable none the less that the £300,000 or so of bar gold due in next Monday will again be taken for Paris.

Nothing at all requires comment in this week's Bank return, which merely indicates the usual holiday drain upon the currency, the reserve being down £1,224,000. This reduction only impoverished the open market to the extent of £241,000, the amount of the decrease in

Other Deposits, the balance having been provided from Public Deposits, which have fallen off £940,000. The India Council has been calling in money most of the week, but got $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to-day for considerable loans and renewals.

SILVER.

This market has been exceedingly quiet throughout the week. Prices were at first raised to $27\frac{5}{16}$ d. per oz. for cash, and $27\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz. for future delivery on a small Continental and Eastern demand, but the inquiry practically ceased at the higher quotations, and there was an immediate drop back to $27\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 27d. No movement has occurred since, and the market closes quietly steady. For the Rs. 70,00,000 Council drafts in India offered on Wednesday the applications in bills were Rs. 4,04,50,000, and for telegraphic transfers Rs. 34,00,000. Of these Rs. 62,27,000 were allotted in bills, and the balance in transfers, tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. 4 1-16d. respectively, receiving 22 per cent.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 2, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 53,608,605	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	35,158,605
		Silver Bullion	—
	£53,608,605		£53,608,605

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 16,752,444
Reserve	3,414,043	Other Securities	29,185,888
Public Deposits (including		Notes	23,535,885
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,725,550
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	9,790,370		
Other Deposits	43,357,654		
Seven Day and other Bills	84,700		
	£71,199,767		£71,199,767

Dated August 3, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Aug. 3.		July 26, 1905.	Aug. 2, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,456,299	Rest	3,383,249	3,414,043	30,794	—
6,027,370	Pub. Deposits ..	10,730,591	9,790,370	—	940,221
41,735,322	Other do. ..	43,598,277	43,357,654	—	240,623
78,842	7 Day Bills ..	81,560	84,700	3,140	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,703,766	Gov. Securities ..	16,752,444	16,752,444	—	—
26,864,809	Other do. ..	29,108,648	29,185,888	—	77,240
23,282,258	Total Reserve ..	26,485,585	25,261,435	1,224,150	—
				1,258,084	1,258,084
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£		£	£
29,278,235	Note Circulation	29,985,825	30,072,720	86,895	—
34,110,493	Coin and Bullion	38,021,410	36,884,155	—	1,137,255
488 p.c.	Proportion ..	488 p.c.	478 p.c.	—	10 p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate ..	28 "	28 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £80,000 out.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July. 25	July 27.	Aug. 1.	Aug 3.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'11 ³ / ₄	12'11 ³ / ₄	12'11 ³ / ₄	12'11 ³ / ₄
Do. do.	3 months	12'3 ³ / ₄	12'3 ³ / ₄	12'3 ³ / ₄	12'3 ³ / ₄
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'36 ¹ / ₂	25'36 ¹ / ₂	25'36 ¹ / ₂	25'36 ¹ / ₂
Hamburg	3 months	20'60	20'60	20'61	20'61
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'60	20'60	20'61	20'62
Paris	cheques	25'14 ¹ / ₂	25'14	25'16 ¹ / ₂	25'16 ¹ / ₂
Do.	3 months	25'30	25'30	25'30	25'28 ¹ / ₂
Marseilles	3 months	25'30	25'30	25'30	25'30
Switzerland	3 months	25'41 ¹ / ₂	25'41 ¹ / ₂	25'40	25'40
Austria	3 months	24'27	24'27	24'25 ¹ / ₂	24'25 ¹ / ₂
St. Petersburg	3 months	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂
Moscow	3 months	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'41 ¹ / ₂	25'41 ¹ / ₂	25'41 ¹ / ₂	25'41 ¹ / ₂
New York	60 days	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂
Lisbon	3 months	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	49 ¹ / ₂	49 ¹ / ₂
Oporto	3 months	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	49 ¹ / ₂	49 ¹ / ₂
Copenhagen	3 months	18'39	18'39	18'39	18'39
Christiania	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Stockholm	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended July 29.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs £ 631,000	National Debt Services .. £ 24,111
Excise 478,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties .. 269,000	Charges 9,475
Stamps 242,000	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion —
Property and Income Tax.. 45,000	Supply Services 1,803,100
Post Office —	Bullion Advances —
Telegraphs —	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands —	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds —
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds —
Miscellaneous 6,213	Uganda Railway —
Bullion advances repaid .. —	Military Works —
Uganda Railway —	Naval Works —
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts —
count —	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts —	ings) —
Naval Works Acts —	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts —	Act —
Land Registry Acts —	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act —
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means —	in reduction of debt .. —
Deficiency —	Cunard Agreement —
Suez Canal Drawn Shares.. —	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds.. 130,000	paid —
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid —
Temporary Advance —	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances 464,527
tion payments —	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances —	
£2,301,213	£2,301,213

* Exclusive of £100,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £2,616,496.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148	94,657,000	—
Week ending				
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
	7,377,744,000	6,236,330,000	1,141,414,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for Treasury bills to the amount of £2,000,000 will be received at the Bank of England on the 8th inst. at one o'clock. The bills, of which £1,800,000 will be in replacement of bills falling due on the 13th inst., and £200,000 in further part replacement of bills paid off on May 13, will be dated August 12, and will be payable at six months after date.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
1,800,000	6 months	Aug. 13	2 6 1
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27	2 2 10
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4½
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
19,933,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25 13½	25 15	Antwerp	short	25 18½	25 19
Brussels	chqs.	25 18	25 18	Italy	sight	25 13	25 14
Amsterdam	sight	12 07	12 07	Constantinople	3 mths	110 50	110 05
Berlin	chqs.	20 47	20 47	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	173 3d.	173 3d.
Do.	3 mths	20 36½	20 36	Valparaiso	90 dys	153 3d.	153 3d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20 45½	20 45½	Calcutta	T.T.	1 43½	1 43½
Frankfort	short	20 46	20 46	Bombay	T.T.	1 43½	1 43½
Vienna	sight	24 02	24 01½	Hong Kong	T.T.	1 108	1 108
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94 30	94 30	Shanghai	T.T.	2 7½	2 7½
New York	60 dys	4 84½	4 84½	Singapore	4 mths	2 08	2 08
Lisbon	sight	49 1½	49 1½	Yokohama	4 mths	2 08	2 08
Madrid	sight	33 23	33 25				

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Friday, Egypt £100,000	Nil.
Total £100,000	Net Influx £100,000
	Total £100,000

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Last Week.	Market Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	1½	1½
Berlin	3	February 25, 1905	2	2
Hamburg	3	February 25, 1905	2½	2
Frankfort	3	February 25, 1905	2½	2½
Amsterdam	2½	March, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2½	2½
Vienna	3½	February 3, 1902	3½	3½
Rome	5	September, 1904	3½	3½
St. Petersburg ..	5½	February, 1904	7½	7½
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	3½	3½
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	4½	4½
Stockholm	4½	February, 1905	4	4
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4	4
Calcutta	3	July 20, 1905	—	—
Bombay	3	July 27, 1905	—	—
New York call money ..	2	—	—	—

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	July 31, 1905.	July 22, 1905.	July 15, 1905.	July 30, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£ 46,806,500	£ 47,237,125	£ 46,971,166	£ 48,175,041
Silver reserve	12,860,166	12,971,041	12,955,958	12,664,583
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,759,541	1,739,958	1,830,583	1,704,041
Note circulation	68,183,208	64,328,208	65,574,333	70,312,750
Bills discounted	14,520,041	11,549,041	12,078,833	12,631,791

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	July 29, 1905.	July 22, 1905.	July 15, 1905.	July 30, 1904.
Specie	£ 44,966,000	£ 44,038,000	£ 44,032,000	£ 54,236,000
Legal tenders	18,082,400	17,821,800	17,823,200	17,209,600
Loans and discounts ..	228,960,000	225,280,000	221,460,000	219,460,000
Circulation	9,761,000	9,784,600	9,831,400	7,792,600
Net deposits	239,940,000	235,480,000	231,800,000	241,000,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £5,063,400 against an excess last week of £2,989,800.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 31, 1905.	July 22, 1905.	July 15, 1905.	July 30, 1904.
Cash in hand	£ 48,042,850	£ 50,268,250	£ 48,702,500	£ 46,301,850
Bills discounted	45,240,000	44,059,900	46,047,100	39,398,650
Advances on stocks ..	3,461,950	2,723,550	3,148,900	2,024,300
Note circulation	66,001,450	64,903,400	67,443,950	63,498,750
Public deposits	25,929,550	28,588,100	26,388,850	24,237,800

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	July 27, 1905.	July 20, 1905.	July 13, 1905.	July 28, 1904.
Coin and bullion	£ 4,695,040	£ 4,787,640	£ 4,762,680	£ 4,555,480
Other securities	22,701,800	22,506,360	22,656,160	21,521,640
Note circulation	26,699,760	26,417,760	26,528,040	25,118,440
Deposits	2,874,480	2,874,320	2,955,440	2,844,560

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 3, 1905.	July 27, 1905.	July 20, 1905.	Aug. 4, 1904.
Gold in hand	£ 117,455,320	£ 117,334,400	£ 116,928,760	£ 108,091,640
Silver in hand	44,395,600	44,404,720	44,387,040	45,056,800
Bills discounted	26,681,400	23,715,520	22,403,160	28,242,520
Advances	19,160,320	18,863,320	19,229,280	20,328,240
Note circulation	177,107,400	172,442,560	174,927,040	173,126,840
Public deposits	9,005,480	9,945,240	8,110,000	6,795,360
Private deposits	24,437,240	27,711,920	24,984,640	24,304,560

Proportion between bullion and circulation 91½ per cent., against 92½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 29, 1905.	July 22, 1905.	July 15, 1905.	July 30, 1904.
Gold	£ 14,879,754	£ 14,872,665	£ 14,864,776	£ 14,741,146
Silver	22,487,212	22,394,925	22,304,464	20,459,464
Foreign Bills	1,729,509	1,744,115	1,658,464	1,567,285
Discount and Short Bills	45,887,293	62,379,127	46,420,267	38,943,213
Treasury Account ..	21,196,564	21,193,500	21,197,128	21,913,022
Notes in circulation ..	62,977,204	63,085,999	63,245,296	65,558,832
Current Account deposits	23,035,602	23,094,820	23,152,404	26,130,871
Dividends Interests ..	3,036,682	2,895,699	2,934,823	2,609,042
Government Securities	4,245,700	4,356,289	3,997,308	4,015,989

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 30, 1905.	June 20, 1905.	June 10, 1905.	June 30, 1904.
Reserve	27,435,520	26,263,240	25,956,120	26,106,880
State notes and small change ..	623,800	742,640	653,520	695,160
Discount and loans	13,828,960	11,492,720	10,953,200	11,391,000
Public stock and State loans ..	8,420,280	8,348,840	8,376,280	8,449,000
Credits	7,151,400	6,800,920	6,398,320	6,813,960
Note Circulation	37,640,320	34,955,080	34,217,280	34,106,360
Current account	4,569,760	4,312,600	3,804,400	4,159,560
Deposits	2,408,160	2,729,240	2,679,800	2,938,760

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 8/21, 1905.	July 1/14, 1905.	June 23, July 6, 1905.	July 8/21, 1904.
Gold	£ 92,090,846	£ 91,895,618	£ 91,475,215	£ 84,470,956
Silver and subsidiary coin	5,847,125	5,908,860	6,014,354	8,634,912
Advances and bills discounted	35,075,157	35,577,019	35,704,714	38,515,287
Securities belonging to the Bank	5,444,058	5,696,976	5,705,089	4,328,250
Notes in circulation	93,418,323	92,396,549	92,733,593	67,504,149
Deposits and current account	55,839,994	53,665,925	53,069,527	48,441,563
Treasury account	7,315,230	9,993,458	11,129,361	30,133,491

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	1 1/2 - 1 3/4
Three months	1 1/2 - 1 3/4
Four months	1 1/2 - 1 3/4
Six months	1 1/2 - 1 3/4
Three months fine inland bills	2 1/2 - 2 3/4
Four months	2 1/2 - 2 3/4
Six months	2 1/2 - 2 3/4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	2 1/2
" " short loan rates	3
Bankers' rate on deposits	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	1
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	1 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	1 1/2
" " for call loans	1 1/2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

It would be a pity to spoil the August Bank Holiday with disquisitions upon the prospects of the stock markets tending to upset the equanimity with which everybody has gone away for a change, nor is there any necessity. Keep the Russo-Japanese war out of sight, and as far as we can see markets will continue in their present sentimentally optimistic mood for some little time to come, as long at least as money remains cheap on all great markets. Nothing seems to disturb any of them much so long as banking credit can be had at 2 to 3 per cent. in unlimited supply. It looked at one time as if there might be an upset in the equanimity of the Paris Bourse through the failure of that deputy and speculator who gambled unwisely and too extensively in sugar, but the crisis is being smoothed over, and, after all, it affected the Bourse de Commerce far more than the stock market. Such an incident, however, reveals the dangers that lie beneath the surface when speculation goes beyond bounds. Happily there are no signs that it has done so of late on our Stock Exchange, but very much the reverse. Speculative business continues much restricted, but there has been a steady absorption of investment classes of stocks going on ever since money became so cheap that the joint stock banks have only been allowing 1 per cent. per annum as interest on deposits. This has materially lightened the weight of unplaced securities carried on the Stock Exchange, or by finance houses in more or less intimate relations therewith. Hence, in part, the greater firmness shown by the municipal stock market and by Colonial inscribed stocks, as well as by Home Railway privileged stocks of nearly all classes. Some little time ago it was much easier to buy than to sell in these directions. Now there is at least no difficulty in selling almost anything an investor may wish to get rid of. Still, the main source of the firmness of markets is cheap banking credit, coupled with a happy obliviousness to unpleasant facts.

ERRATUM.—In our dividend announcements last week we misprinted the interim dividend declared by the Cannon Brewery Company for the half-year to June 30 as 3 per cent. instead of 8 per cent. per annum.

The Week's Stock Markets.

There is very little to be said about markets this week, nothing of real interest having developed at any point, and after keeping fairly steady for the first day or so prices showed a tendency to slide back. This perhaps was not very surprising in view of the approaching holidays, any dealers with profits naturally electing to take them before departure, in addition to which the gloomy talk regarding the probable result of the forthcoming peace conference proved a rather unsettling influence. Absence of business, though, was the principal cause of the dulness, and we are hardly likely to witness any pronounced revival while the holidays are in full swing. The monthly Consol settlement was carried through during the week, and was

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 1/2	87 1/2	Consols (2 1/2 p.c. Money)	90 1/2	90 1/2
91 1/2	87 1/2	Do. Account (Sept. 1)	90 1/2	90 1/2
90 1/2	86 1/2	2 1/2 p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89 1/2	89 1/2
100 1/2	99 1/2	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100 1/2	100 1/2
95 1/2	89 1/2	Irish Land (2 1/2)	92 1/2	92 1/2
101 1/2	99 1/2	Local Loans (3)	100 1/2	100 1/2
99 1/2	97 1/2	National War Loan (2 1/2 p.c.)	98 1/2	99
99 1/2	97 1/2	Do. Account (Sept. 1) ..	98 1/2	99
101 1/2	97 1/2	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99 1/2	100
308	297	Bk. of England Stock (9 p.c.) ..	301 1/2	301 1/2
109	105	India 3 1/2 p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	105	105 1/2
99 1/2	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1948 ..	97	97 1/2
89 1/2	85 1/2	Do. 2 1/2 p.c. Stock. red. 1926 ..	81 1/2	82
66 1/2	65 1/2	Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65 1/2	66 1/2

conducted with the utmost ease. A fairly large account was thought to be open, but bankers' credits are pretty cheap just now, and the considerable sum of money required was practically all lent at 2 per cent. Sometimes the contango was a little more, occasionally a trifle less, but the round figure was predominant. These low rates, however, had no stimulating effect on prices, which, after a very poor business, ended rather easier. Other British funds held their prices well, and

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 1/2	99 1/2	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	101	101 1/2
102 1/2	97 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100 1/2	100 1/2
106 1/2	100 1/2	Do. 6 p.c. Funding	101 1/2	102
104 1/2	98 1/2	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101 1/2	101
93 1/2	85 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	92 1/2	92
92	85 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	90 1/2	90 1/2
90 1/2	85 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	90 1/2	90 1/2
104	99 1/2	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	103 1/2	103 1/2
89 1/2	82 1/2	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	89	88 1/2
100 1/2	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c.	99 1/2	100
106	101 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	104 1/2	104 1/2
89	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902	88 1/2	88
102 1/2	93 1/2	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	100 1/2	100 1/2
95	87 1/2	Chilian 4 1/2 p.c. 1885	95	95
96 1/2	89 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1886	95	96
96	88 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1895	95	95
102 1/2	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	100 1/2	100 1/2
97 1/2	91 1/2	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	94 1/2	94 1/2
106 1/2	103 1/2	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	105	105
105 1/2	100 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	104	104
99 1/2	92 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99	99
106 1/2	97 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	106	104 1/2
59 1/2	28 1/2	Costa Rica A	54	56
51 1/2	2 1/2	Do. B	44	47
44 1/2	26 1/2	Colombian External	44 1/2	44 1/2
108 1/2	104 1/2	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	108	108
107	104 1/2	Egypt Unified 4 p.c.	105 1/2	105 1/2
103 1/2	99 1/2	Do. 3 1/2 p.c. pref.	102 1/2	102 1/2
106 1/2	102 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
91 1/2	88 1/2	German 3 p.c.	89	89
54 1/2	47	Greek, 1884	52	54 1/2
55	48 1/2	Do. Monopoly Loan	53 1/2	55
43 1/2	38 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	42	43 1/2
54	47	Do. Funding	52	54
100 1/2	96 1/2	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	96	96 1/2
106 1/2	102 1/2	Italian 5 p.c.	104 1/2	104 1/2
101 1/2	88 1/2	Japan 5 p.c.	100 1/2	100 1/2
102	88 1/2	Do. New	100 1/2	100 1/2
89 1/2	76 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	88 1/2	88 1/2
106 1/2	97	Do. 6 p.c.	104	103 1/2
105	102 1/2	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	104	104
70 1/2	64 1/2	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	68	68 1/2
91 1/2	86 1/2	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	89	89
81	76	Servian 4 p.c.	81 1/2	81 1/2
95 1/2	89 1/2	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	90 1/2	90 1/2
103	100	Turks 3 1/2 p.c. Tribute	102	102
105	100 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	104	104
84 1/2	86 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Unified	88 1/2	89
73 1/2	63 1/2	Uruguay 3 1/2 p.c.	71 1/2	71 1/2
96 1/2	88 1/2	Do. 5 p.c.	94 1/2	96 1/2
50 1/2	42 1/2	Venezuelan, 1881	48 1/2	49

a sharp rise took place in the quotation for Rupee paper, following a rapid advance in India. It appears that a good deal of selling had been indulged in against

the new loan, tenders for which were opened on Wednesday, and as this went at a much higher price than expected, applications at 98½ receiving only 14½ per cent., dealers found themselves "short." Their covering purchases drove up the price. Little went on in Home County and Corporation stocks, but all the movements were favourable, as were the changes in the Colonial inscribed list. Hull Corporations, however, were a little dull on the poor success of the new loan. The underwriters have been called upon to take 50 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	137	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	137	135
165	152½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	160	157
131½	118	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	118	119
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	111½	112
83½	77½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78½	79
38½	35½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	33½	34
94½	90	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	91
86½	79½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	79½	79½
17½	15½	Chatham Ordinary ..	15½	15½
47½	38	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	39	39
62	51	Furness (½ p.c.) ..	52	52
34½	28½	Great Central Pref. ..	30	30½
18½	15½	Do. Def. ..	16½	16
93½	83½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	83½	82½
108½	100½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	100½	100½
42½	34	Do. Def. (1) ..	34	33½
145½	137½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	137½	137½
55½	52	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	54½	53½
49½	41	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	45½	45
112½	106½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	106½	105½
100	90½	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	91	91
42½	35½	Metropolitan District ..	36½	36½
71	65½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	69	69½
70	62½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	63	63½
83½	76½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79	79½
49½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	43½	44½
144½	135	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	135	135½
160½	147½	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	147½	149
94½	86	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	86	86
134	123	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	124	124
58½	48½	Do. Def. ..	52½	53
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	161½	161½
111½	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109
60½	52½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	54½	54½

The Foreign bond market remains in a very lifeless condition, and can be dismissed in very few sentences. Even Japanese issues failed to attract an appreciable amount of business, and the tendency for them as well as for Russian bonds was slightly adverse. Some play was again made with Greek loans, and Portuguese were given a lift, but other internationals were at best steady, and Spanish and Turkish were disposed to dulness at the end. Leading South Americans, too, seemed inclined to recede, as also Uruguays, but Peruvians picked up after being easier, and most Central American things improved under the lead of Costa Ricas and Guatemalans. We still hear talk of a scheme of arrangement for the latter.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	87½	89½
107½	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	105	105½
118½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	116½	117½
101½	97½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100½	101
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	53½	56½
101½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	184	185
38½	27½	Denver Shares ..	31½	32½
93½	85½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	88½	89½
49½	38½	Erie Shares ..	48½	47½
87½	77½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	86½	86½
74½	58½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	77½	76½
174½	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	173½	175½
158½	140½	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	151	152
34½	24½	Missouri and Texas ..	28½	29½
166½	140½	New York Central (5) ..	148½	151
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	88½	88½
96	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	96	96
65½	41½	Pennsylvania Shares ..	53½	54½
76½	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	72½	73½
55½	40½	Reading Shares ..	53½	53½
48	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	48	48
48	43½	Do. 2nd Pref. (2) ..	47	47
74	59½	Southern Pacific ..	66	66½
38½	28½	Southern ..	33½	34½
103½	97½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	101	101
140½	116½	Union Pacific (4) ..	132½	133½
102½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100½	100½
24½	18½	Wabash ..	19½	20
49½	37½	Do. Pref. ..	39½	41½
86½	69½	Do. Income Debs. ..	72	73
159½	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	157	157½
108½	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
111	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109½	110
231½	199	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	227½	22½
102½	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	101½	102
114½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	111	111
104½	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	101½	102½
52½	40½	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	50½	51½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½	108½

The Home Railway market had little to do except wait for the final dividend announcements due at the end of the week, and some of these unfortunately proved disappointing. With the published traffic increase, in mind, dealers expected the Great Western Company to maintain the 4 per cent. distribution on the ordinary stock, but the company pays ½ per cent. less than this, with a very moderate increase in the balance carried forward, and operators signified their disappointment by letting the price down nearly £1. Another poor declaration was that of the North London, which is suffering severely from various kinds of competition, and although the directors again see fit to help revenue by a transfer from reserve of £7,000, the dividend is only 2½ per cent., compared with 3 per cent. a year ago. The North-Western Company, however, managed to maintain the ordinary distribution at 5 per cent. per annum, with a practically identical sum carried forward, a good achievement in face of the decrease in gross takings, and the Midland also kept its dividend at 4½ per cent. per annum on the old ordinary stock, giving 2½ per cent. per annum to the preferred ordinary, and 2 per cent. per annum to the deferred at the cost of a reduction of £12,500 in the carry forward. Prices, therefore, which were inclined to wobble in the middle of the week, after starting with a fair show of strength, pulled up again, and closed fairly buoyant looking.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
221	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	128	211xd
315	144½	Do. Def. (15) ..	315	317xd
115½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	115½	115½
125	113½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	124	123
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	84	84
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142½	142
130½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	129	129½
130½	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	130	129
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118	116xd
109½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108	108
111½	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	109	108½
108	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	100½	99½
168½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	165
108½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	108
135½	124½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	134	133½
90	79	Central Uruguay (3) ..	85	88
107	101	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	107	108
94	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	92½	92½
70	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	65	66
38½	28	Costa Rica (1) ..	24	24
7	5½	Cuban Central ..	6	6
12½	10½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	12	12
107½	104½	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	107	105xd
90½	72	East Argentine (4½) ..	90	90
64	5	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	58	58
70½	50½	Leopoldina (3) ..	68½	69
96½	86½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	94	94
110½	108	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	108	109
108	104½	Do. "B" (6) ..	106	106
29½	19½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	24½	24½
121½	103½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	115½	115
57	36½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	46½	46
69½	48½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	54	54
14½	10½	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	14	14
198	16½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	18½	18½
201	176	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	197	201
173	122	United of Havana Pref. ..	168	173

The Yankee market just now is a mere shadow of its former self, and but for spasmodic efforts on the part of Wall Street to infuse a little life into a few selected stocks there would be nothing going on at all. The position is healthy enough, we are told, it always is to the professional eye, and the only thing wanted in order to create a nice little boom is the public. It, fortunately, is standing off, content to watch from a distance, and we are compelled to counsel a continuance of this cautious attitude, because already prices in many directions are inflated beyond all reason. Nothing was done in the market any morning this week, prices hanging near parity always, sometimes just above, and sometimes below, but in the afternoons Wall Street played with one or two stocks, first Ontarios, then Southern, Atchison, Steels, or Louisville. Moderate rises in the selected favourites usually resulted, but the rest of the market declined to follow the lead, and when New York operators tired dulness quickly supervened.

Canadian Pacific shares led off with a dollar rise, but the price was soon knocked back by some heavy sales, and later receded still further on a report that another new issue is in contemplation. No confirmation of the rumour, however, was forthcoming, and

a slight rally ensued, but all the initial gain has been wiped out. Grand Trunk stocks were let down slowly during the first few days, in view of a possible traffic disappointment, but the gain of £7,200 just about met expectations, and quotations slightly recovered. Canada Atlantic bonds advanced to 2 premium.

Probably the most active market is still that for foreign railways, but even here the amount of business passing has been considerably reduced. Argentine Railway stocks were inclined to pause, some actually going back a little, particularly East Argentine and Pacific ordinary, but Rosarios were bought on the traffic, and once more advanced. Antofagasta deferred started well with a gain of 5½, but dealers seemed satisfied with this achievement, and left the price alone for the rest of the week. The ordinary, however, fell back after showing improvement. Brazilian stocks were all firm, particularly San Paulo ordinary and Brazil Great Southern preference, although not always holding the best prices, and Mexicans displayed some irregularity, owing to the traffic being below expectations. United Railways of Havana preference again went up.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	16½	17	16½	21
71	44	—	46½	46½
566	505	—	540	550
27½	22½	—	23	21
2½	2½	—	2½	2½
3½	3½	—	3½	3½xd
68½	52	53	52	56
35	10½	17	16½	2½
105	99	—	100	100
78½	56½	—	59	60
6½	5½	5½	5½	5½
7½	5½	6½	6½	6½xd
6½	5½	1½	6	6
1½	1½	24/9	1½	1½
3½	2½	—	2½	2½
3½	5	—	5½	5½
11½	9½	—	10½	10½
5½	4½	9/6	5½	5½
502½	483½	495	495	495
1½	1½	14/-	1½	1½
1½	1½	22/-	1½	1½
8½	5½	6	6	6½
13½	10½	—	12	12
4½	3½	4	4	4
18½	1½	26/6	18½	18½xd
111	106	108	108	108
1½	1½	20/9	1½	1½
6½	5½	5½	5½	5½
1½	1½	24/-	1½	1½
1½	1½	8½	1	1
7½	5½	—	5½	5½
15	13½	7½	7½	7½
104½	102½	103	103½	103½
77½	49½	—	68½	69½
48½	38½	43½	43½	44½
106½	99½	104	104½	105½
9½	8½	—	9½	9½xd
11½	10½	—	11½	11½xd
13	10½	7	7	7
104½	95½	—	104½	104½
134½	126½	—	131	131
3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
5½	3½	3½	3½	3½
1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
1½	1½	—	1½	1½
11½	9½	9½	9½	10
39½	26½	34½	35	35½
108½	93½	104½	105½	106½
2½	2½	2½	2½	2½xd
14½	11½	—	12	12
231	214½	—	224½	225½
35	28½	—	35	35
8½	8	—	8½	8½
109½	101½	106	106	106xd
17½	10	13	12½	13½
147½	134½	147	147½	147½ & b
14½	13½	14	14½	14
113½	100	108	108	105xd
14½	13½	14	14	14
10½	9	9	9	8½xd
8½	7½	8½	8½	8½
129	110	—	125½	125½
10½	9½	—	9½	9½

Although business is still very poor, changes in the miscellaneous markets were rather more numerous, and some of them were not without interest. In the Brewery list Allsopp's issues had a rather sharp rise, and the market is wondering what the annual report, now overdue, will be like. Watney, Combe issues

also recovered both before and after Wednesday's meeting, but the best prices did not hold. Some debenture issues were likewise better, and for the moment the market looks a little steadier. Catering things were not much dealt in, but Savoy and Gordon Hotels ordinary suffered a sharp relapse, and amongst meat shares Imperial Cold Storage fell to 6s., on the deplorable report just issued disclosing heavy losses. Little enthusiasm is displayed over the proposed docks amalgamation, and both London and Millwall issues gave way, but in the shipping list P. and O. deferred added 1. Telegraphs and Telephones were all very firm at first, particularly Anglo-Americans, Easterns, and Nationals, but part of the early gains were subsequently lost. Gas Light stock was good, rising to over par, and electric lighting things were still disposed to recover. Textiles were firm as a whole, particularly Sewing Cottons, but Oil shares went back, and Iron and Steel things were barely steady, Pearson and Knowles falling sharply to 3. Chinese Land and Exploration shares were heavy throughout. Associated Cement preference and debentures were put better, foreign tramway shares advanced fractionally here and there, Spratt's Patent had a good rise, part of which was subsequently lost, and Schweppes' deferred ran up to 6s. Barnums and Moss Empires were both better, while Cassell's shares once more went back.

Stock markets began their holiday before this evening, and when we went round the City in the afternoon we found the offices mostly deserted. Everybody has gone away happy, with markets inclined to rise on a confident hope that within the next few days we shall hear of peace being concluded. That is quite the Stock Exchange way, and if peace did come it would probably be found that the results expected to flow from it had been amply discounted beforehand by markets. The worst thing about market affairs at the moment is the absence of business, which is extreme even for a holiday season. Kaffir shares were a little off this afternoon, but everywhere else the tendency was good, and North-Western stock rose to 152 on the unexpectedly good dividend announcement noted elsewhere. The Midland also will please everybody.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

All sections of the mining market have again been listless, for not even the most desperate gamblers have shown an inclination to enter into fresh commitments in view of the holiday to-day (Saturday) and Monday next, whilst next Friday they will have to face the carry-over. It was not likely that business under any circumstances would have been transacted on behalf of the general public, who want to scrape together all the pence they can for their summer holidays, and professionals have had no inducement or encouragement to make plunges in any direction. Each day has seen the market more deserted and quiet, as members have departed for their holidays. Nor is the market so hopeful as it was of peace resulting from the forthcoming conference, owing to the Tsar's warlike message in the St. Petersburg *Official Messenger*, and M. Witte's reported statement that next week's deliberations will prove abortive. So members take their holidays in a rather subdued, if still hopeful, frame of mind. Some German support has been given to Kaffirs, but it has not been sufficient to keep prices steady. Quotations, especially in the latter part of the week, fell rather sharply.

In the first day or two some of the leading Rhodesian speculative counters were manipulated higher, but they had to come down in sympathy with the weakness in the rest of the South African market.

Less interest has been taken in the West Australian section, and prices have fallen here also. The result of the poll in the Associated voting was what we foresaw—viz., the victory of Mr. Landau and Mr. Collier, and the defeat of the new candidate for a seat on the board in the person of Mr. Corder-James. Quotations in this department are generally lower on the week.

There is nothing whatever to say about Jungles and Egyptians. On the other hand, copper shares have been very strong, conspicuously so Rio Tintos, on the further sharp advance in the price of the metal. Indian shares have just been steady, but other miscellaneous descriptions have been dull.

ROBINSON DEEP GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This leading deep level company is a member of the Consolidated Gold Fields

group, and in the twelve months to the end of March last it ran an average of 190 stamps out of the full battery of 200 stamps. These crushed 313,645 tons of ore, with the following results:—From the mill, 102,787 ozs.; cyanide works, 48,552 ozs.; slimes works, 8,226 ozs.; and by-products, 2,144 ozs.; making a total yield of 161,709 ozs., of a value of £681,119, averaging 10.31 dwts. per ton, with £2 3s. 5d. per ton. Working costs, including £58,696 allowed for development redemption, amounted to £385,389, equal to nearly £1 4s. 7d. per ton, leaving a gross profit of £295,731, or 18s. 10d. per ton. Interest and commission added £4,473, and rents, transfer fees, &c., £4,995, raising the net profit to £305,199. There was, on the average, a slight reduction in the grade of the ore, attributed to the use of machines in the South Reef stopes, but it is stated that the grade has improved in the last few months, since the employment of more hand labour. By bringing in a credit of £102,357 from the previous accounts, the directors have a disposable balance of £407,556. The 10 per cent. profits tax for two years takes £55,354. Two dividends have been paid, of 15 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively, absorbing £237,500. £23,750 is put to the reserve fund to provide for equipment, additions, and renewals, and after deducting smaller charges, there is left £87,250 to carry forward. With the above, the reserve fund is raised to £60,813, and there is also a premium account of £747,289, all of which is employed in the company. In February last the directors increased the capital to £980,000 by the creation of 30,000 new shares offered at £6 each, a premium of £5. Thus the issue realised £176,202 net, after payment of commission, &c., and this money is to be spent in the erection of another 100 stamps, in order to bring the total crushing power to 300 stamps. With the inflow of all this money the directors can display a plentiful amount of cash in the balance-sheet. Ore reserves are estimated at the high figure of 1,407,000 tons, of an average assay value of 10½ dwts. per ton. It is to be noted that this is an increase of 536,835 tons over the estimate made at the end of March, 1904. This is not the result of any extraordinary development work carried out during the year, but is due to the fact that remeasurements have been made, including a larger proportion of the Main Reef that has been found payable, so the engineers now compute each claim to contain 64,000 tons instead of 46,000 tons, as estimated in the past. According to this calculation, the life of the mine has been greatly prolonged. Under the old computation, with 200 stamps, it was put at 21 years, but with 300 stamps it is raised another five years to 26 years. Shareholders will naturally hope that these new calculations will not hereafter be found to be exaggerated.

SALISBURY GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In its financial year, which closed May 31, this leading Rand gold mining company crushed with 50 stamps 61,706 tons of ore, for a yield of 14,538 ozs. from the mill, equal to 4.71 dwts. per ton. In addition, 45,994 tons of sands and concentrates were treated by the cyanide plant, producing 6,108 ozs. A slimes plant to serve both the Jubilee and Salisbury companies has been erected, and the treatment of slimes was started at the beginning of February, but the gold won is included in that yielded by the treatment of sands. Including £1,915 from sundry revenue, the gross income was £89,558, and as the working expenditure amounted to £65,103, the working profit was £24,455, equal to a little over 7s. 11d. per ton. The sum written off for depreciation was £6,989, at the rate of 14 per cent. A balance of £35,090 was brought from the previous year, and out of the total a couple of dividends of 10 per cent. each, 20 per cent. all told, absorbed £20,000, and there is left a credit of £23,478 to take to the current year's accounts. A good balance-sheet is issued. Ore reserves are estimated as follows:—Main Reef, 61,600 tons; Main Reef Leader, 92,423 tons; South Reef, 21,984 tons; total, 176,007 tons. No allowance, however, is made for waste rock, and about 22 per cent. will be discarded when the ore is broken and passed through the sorting station. It will be seen that the low grade Main Reef is included in the above, the manager reporting that he has found some of it payable, which might lengthen the life of the mine.

ETRUSCAN COPPER ESTATES.—An extraordinary general meeting of this concern was held on Monday last to receive from the directors an interim report for the half-year to June 30. In his speech Mr. Vavasour Earle, the chairman, went so far as to confess that the work of opening up the mines has been slower than was anticipated, but the directors had not changed their opinions regarding the eventual value of the mines. Taking the average quality of the ore as at present supplied the copper recovery was under 2 per cent. of the ore treated, but recently bodies of better grade had been struck. It was possible that the mine would become self-supporting within a short time. It will be remembered that profits and dividends were promised by Mr. Earle long, long ago, and in the light of past experience how much faith is to be placed in this new vague possibility that the mine will become self-supporting in a short time? And how long will it be after that achievement before it can earn profits, and what further period will elapse before dividends can be paid? It appears that Mr. Govett has recently resigned his position as a director, whilst the present members of the board feel so keenly the labours incidental to their positions that they have asked for the assistance of a good working committee of the shareholders. They have likewise decided to send still another expert to examine the property, in spite of their professed belief in it, and it is amazing to learn that the name of this expert is Mr. Alexander Hill. For this mining engineer adversely reported on the mine some three years ago; in fact, at the same time as Mr. Moreing reported on it. It will be ex-

tremely interesting to see if Mr. Hill still holds to his early opinion; and if he does, what the directors will do.

KENT COLLIERIES.—Our contemporary, the *Financial Times*, has received from Messrs. Hedley and Harpers, mining engineers, of All Saints, Derby, a very interesting circular on the prospects of the Kent Collieries, Limited, and their conclusions are practically identical with those given in this REVIEW. The circular points out that nearly 15 years have elapsed since Mr. Bradby struck the coal measures and reached the first thin seam of coal in 1890, since when there has been little result beyond proving that coal measures containing some thin seams of coal do exist under the new rocks in the south-east of England; likewise the sinking and equipment of the Dover shafts as far as they have progressed. The question now arises what the new company, with a capital of £400,000, is likely to do towards completing and establishing a good paying colliery. That seams of coal do exist in Kent Messrs. Hedley and Harpers have no doubt, but it is still an open question whether any of the coal seams so far proved in the boring, or in the sinking of the shafts at Dover, are of such a nature and workable thickness as to admit of profitable mining. They add: "With the exception of the bottom seam, proved in the boring to be 4 ft. thick at a depth of 740 yards, all are comparatively thin seams, and even supposing that any two or three of them having a thickness of from 1 ft. 8 ins. to 2 ft. 9 ins. should be proved to be workable seams, their thickness is not favourable to economical working, and it still remains to be proved by actual trial working whether any are really workable seams and capable by skilful working and appliances of the most modern description of being mined to a profit." Dealing with the costs of working, they remark that Professor Hull in the prospectus of the new company estimates the cost of working seams varying from 1 ft. 8 ins. to 2 ft. at between 8s. 6d. and 10s. per ton, when the output is 400 to 500 tons per day, and the cost in the case of seams between 2 ft. and 3 ft. at between 7s. and 9s. per ton, inclusive of all surface charges. Messrs. Hedley and Harpers consider this estimate too low, taking into consideration the small output and the consequent heavy surface and standing charges, and are of opinion that the average working costs on an output of anything like 400 to 500 tons per day of coal and slack, from any of the seams so far proved, inclusive of rents and royalty and all underground and surface charges, will not be less than 10s. per ton into trucks, though capable of being reduced, say, to 8s. 6d. per ton, if an output of 1,000 tons a day can be obtained. In conclusion, they observe there can be no doubt that the statements that have been put forward from time to time as to the early productiveness and profits likely to be earned from Kent coal are not yet within realisable distance, and that much remains to be done before it can be proved beyond doubt that coal in Kent can and will be produced to compete with coal now raised in the Midlands.

NERCHINSK GOLD.—In a circular to the shareholders in this company the secretary states:—"Mr. Harper, the resident mine manager, reports that the mills recently erected, capable of crushing 50 tons per day, are working very satisfactorily and fulfilling the original anticipations as to their capacity and efficiency. The latest cable from the mine gives the value of the ore then being crushed as 18 dwts. per ton. Deducting 5 dwts. for expenses, and allowing for loss in extraction, leaves a net profit of over £2 per ton on ore of this grade." It will be remembered, he adds, that the estimate put forward at the meeting assumed a profit of £1 per ton, the value of the ore being taken at 10 dwts. Allowing for the usual variation from time to time, that estimate would appear to be a conservative one. A further cable has been received from Mr. Harper stating that the second consignment of mills, capable of crushing another 50 tons a day, has arrived on the mine, and as it has been found that the mills now running consume considerably less power than had been estimated, he is erecting one of the additional mills, without waiting for the second boiler. When this has arrived the output should reach 100 tons a day.

ARIZONA COPPER COMPANY.—The results of this company's operations in the six months to March 31 were:—Copper company's operations: Profit from copper, stores, and rents, &c., £145,957; expenses of administration at Clifton, less interest received, £2,743; taxes in Arizona for 1904, £4,736; charges and expenses in Edinburgh, less transfer fees, £1,818; hence the surplus was £136,658. Arizona and New Mexico Railway: Net returns, £34,554; expenses of administration, £2,955; taxes for 1904, £2,243; surplus, £29,355; making a total of £166,013. From this sum there fell to be deducted interest on terminable debentures (less interest received on deposits), £4,033, and balance of income-tax, £7,078, making the free profits for the half-year £154,901. Deducting the preference dividends, there was a surplus of £142,635, increased to £152,921 by the addition of the balance brought in. The directors have resolved to pay for the year to September 30 next interim dividends of 1s. 6d. per share on 1,266,120 preferred ordinary shares and 253,776 deferred ordinary. These will absorb £113,992, and leave a balance of £38,929. The losses caused by damage done by floods have neutralised the advantage derived from the higher price of copper in the six months. The erection of an additional concentrator, to treat 700 tons of ore per day, has been authorised, and when this is in operation—probably next spring—a production of 20,000 or 21,000 tons of copper per annum may be looked for. Since last report 2,500 of the 10,680 deferred ordinary shares held at that time by the nominees of the company have been sold, realising £6,332, and terminable debentures to the amount of £1,530 have been redeemed out of the proceeds. In his report the superintendent, Mr. Colquhoun,

says the condition of the mines is thoroughly satisfactory, and adds:—"The developments in the clay, while showing a lower grade of clay than was found in the main tunnel, are of great importance, and justify the hope for a further extension of the ore body. The exceedingly satisfactory developments in the 500 ft. level of the Coronado are of even greater importance, for at this level the fissure has entered another geological horizon, and the vein now enclosed between granite walls remains as strong and as good as ever. Recent estimates made by our engineers find that the total amount of ore in sight, or practically in sight, may be regarded as 10,370,000 tons, which, without counting on future developments, would enable us to maintain an output equal to that of last year for a period of 20 years."

GOLD ESTATES OF AUSTRALIA (1903).—The net profit made by this company on its sales of land in the twelve months ending April 30 amounted to £11,621, dividends and interest gave an additional £232, and smaller sums raised the gross credits to £11,910. After deducting expenses in Australia and London, also depreciation, the net profit was £7,493. With the balance from the previous accounts the disposable sum is increased to £11,655, and the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. The amount owing to sundry creditors is only £205, and this is greatly exceeded by cash and other available assets. Shares held in subsidiaries of the old company are valued at £4,680, and shares in various South African companies at £12,310, on the former there is a contingent liability for uncalled capital of £2,778 and on the latter of £1,867. The directors say they intend to realise the South African shares when the market is favourable.

NILE VALLEY COMPANY.—A circular has just been issued by the directors of the Nile Valley Company notifying that the option which was given to the mining magnate, Mr. J. B. Robinson, to take up the 47,000 unissued shares at 30s. per share has expired through effluxion of time. Has Mr. Robinson, then, no faith in the future of the mine? As further working capital is needed, the directors offer these shares to the shareholders at par. The circular reminds the shareholders that a large amount of gold has been extracted in the past from the rich chute of ore, but it is not expected that the specimen gold still left between the 108 ft. and 150 ft. levels will do much more than discharge the present liabilities of the company. The money is wanted for the erection of plant, the development of the mine in depth, and the enlargement of the mill.

NEW ZEALAND GOLD YIELD.—For the month of July the gold yield of New Zealand amounted to 42,955 ozs., valued at £172,896, compared with 48,013 ozs., of a value of £180,027 in the corresponding month of 1904, thus showing a considerable decline.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

In the June half-year the gross receipts were £2,753,776, a decrease of £68,674 compared with the first half of 1904. Working expenses came to £1,807,278 being £28,863 less, so that the ratio of expenses to income was 65.63 per cent. compared with 65.05 per cent. a year ago. This meant a decrease of £39,811 in the net revenue which was £946,498, and after meeting all fixed charges the directors are just able to pay a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the original stock with £16,040 left to carry forward against £41,806 in the June half of 1904, when the dividend was the same. All branches of the company's business except parcels, &c., have done rather badly, and the fact would seem to indicate that its traffic is being cut into by the Great Central. Passenger receipts fell off £13,101, exclusive of £2,267 lost on the season tickets. Parcels, however, gave an increase of £10,350, so that the net decrease on the coaching traffic was only £5,040. On the other hand, merchandise, live stock, and minerals all gave smaller returns, aggregating £64,653. The directors, it is to be hoped, will offer some explanation of this unpleasant dwindling in the company's business at the forthcoming meeting. Working expenses have not been cut down in proportion, as the figures above given show. Still carriage and wagon repairs cost about £8,000 less, and locomotive power is down £12,000 on the comparison of half-years. Traffic expenses also are about £3,600 down, and for a wonder there is a slight decline in rates and taxes. Compensation was about the same for both half-years, and amounted in the one just closed to £17,446. Capital expenditure in the past half-year amounted to £168,873, of which £75,833 was on lines open for traffic, and in the current half-year the estimated outlay is another £134,000. There is consequently a great decrease in the company's commitments on capital account, and that is the most satisfactory point about the report. The company, moreover, is not in immediate need of money, for the balance at debit of capital account is only £195,715, and it has nearly £1,000,000 of trust funds in its possession, of which only about £143,000 is invested outside the business. Dividends are payable on Wednesday, August 23.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

The gross revenue for the half-year to June 30 was £1,835,362 an increase of £102,879, while the expenditure went up £54,715

to £1,213,447, the proportion of outlay to income being 66.11 per cent. against 66.88 per cent. This is a very good result, particularly in view of the poor displays made by some of the other trunk lines, and is due, we believe, to management as energetic as any in the kingdom. Probably a good deal of traffic is being drawn away from the Great Northern system, and also doubtless new sources of revenue are being created. Passenger traffic yielded an additional £10,694, parcels and mails rose £2,610, merchandise and live stock £40,892, minerals £46,072 and rents, &c., £2,555. There was a decrease in the steamship receipts, but only a very small one, and on the expenditure side it is good to find the largest increase under maintenance of way up £17,778. Locomotive power cost £8,791 more, carriage and wagon repairs advanced £7,830, traffic expenses £13,477, general charges £2,853, rates and taxes £4,294 and rents payable £1,139. Steamship expenses showed a reduction of £1,558 and compensation of £1,517. Net receipts of £621,915 are larger by £48,164, proportion of joint lines net receipts was reduced £4,189 to £92,407 and the balance brought forward was up £554 to £6,232, so that from all sources the available revenue is £720,554 a gain of £44,529. The large fresh issue of debentures last year increases the debenture interest charge by £34,350, but interest on Lloyd's bonds absorbed £11,990 less and there was a saving of £4,250 in hire of working stock. General interest was higher, but there was still an extra sum of £24,361 at £320,666 available for preference dividend and the directors can pay in full down to the 1879 issue and distribute 1½ per cent. on the 5 per cent. stock of 1881, carrying forward £7,027. It may here be mentioned that the receipts and expenses of the Wrexham Mold and Connaught Quay Railway and the North Wales and Liverpool lines are included in the accounts now submitted and that the interest charges include the amount payable in connection with the acquisition of the former undertaking. On lines open for traffic the capital expenditure for the half-year was £86,240, but premium received on issue of debenture stock reduces the net charge to £55,274. Lines in course of construction required a further sum of £77,257, subscriptions to other railways were £139,756, docks, steamboats and other special items absorbed £29,755 and £59,930 was spent on working stock or a total of £361,971. In addition there were huge sums involved in the purchases of other railways, so that altogether the capital charges for the half-year were £1,252,268. Against that only £570,623 came in and the debit to capital account is once more heavily increased to the stupendous figure of £4,381,896. Moreover, the outlay for the current six months is put down at £683,000, and without doubt the financing of the undertaking must continue to be a matter of great difficulty. Dividends payable August 23.

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.

Gross revenue for the past half-year £2,685,598 an increase of £87,234, working expenses £1,616,749 or £45,246 more; ratio between expenditure and income being 60.20 per cent. compared with 60.48 per cent. Second class passenger traffic showed rather a sharp decline but first and third were better, especially third, the revenue from travellers being £19,242 to the good. This, of course, is a reflection of the cotton trade revival and to the same cause can no doubt be traced the merchandise increase of £57,408 and the gain from minerals of £18,348. Parcels, horses, carriages, &c., also gave a very fair advance, but the live stock traffic was rather poor, mileage and demurrage fell £1,582, rents dropped £2,000 and only £545 came in as the company's proportion of the Fleetwood, Belfast and Londonderry steamers, the corresponding amount being £6,224. With the exception of general charges, in which a few hundreds were saved, and a sharp decline in the amount payable for compensation all important items of expenditure went up, an extra £9,495 being spent on maintenance of way, £15,053 more on locomotive power and £2,682 more on carriage and wagon repairs. Then there was an advance in traffic expenses of £18,993 and in rates and taxes of the formidable sum of £10,459. Balance of net revenue is larger by £41,988 at £1,068,849, and allowing for a small decline at £31,048 in the credit brought forward the sum available is £40,195 better at £1,099,897. Fixed charges took a little more, chiefly on general interest account, and preference charges rose £13,543, but the directors are able to increase the distribution on the ordinary stock by ¼ to ¾ per cent. per annum with a balance of £20,504 to next account. Capital expenditure for the half-year was heavy, £83,665 on lines open for traffic, £47,157 on working stock, £346,787 on fresh construction and steam vessels and £68,000 subscriptions to other railways, or a total of £545,609. This has raised the debit to capital account to £1,019,034, meaning that some large superannuation and other savings have been used up, and as the outlay for the current six months is put at £313,140 it is not unlikely that an early appeal for more money will be made. Dividend payable August 10.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross receipts in the half-year to June 30 came to £206,602, or a decrease of £6,169, due entirely to a big loss of season ticket revenue consequent on the changes now taking place in the company's system. Pending the introduction of zone fares which has been postponed until the installation of electric traction is completed it has been found necessary to suspend the issue of season tickets for more than a month's duration, and in April last the issue of second class season tickets was abolished. The resultant loss of income was over £7,000, and there was also a decrease of £2,315 in ordinary second class fares, but fortunately

first class rose about £2,000 and third £2,971. First class passengers carried increased 196,117, and third 421,643, while second fell off 207,843. Of the other business dealt with parcels, &c., dropped £448 and goods and minerals £531, and there was no receipt this time on account of passenger traffic arrears, but rents of stations, privileges, &c., increased by more than £3,000. On the expenditure side the largest movement is a decrease of £1,451 under carriage repairs, and from the condition of the rolling stock we should have been quite prepared to find a saving four times as large. Maintenance of way was also down, but locomotive power, traffic expenses, general charges and rates and taxes all drew off more, and an outlay of nearly £900 was incurred in the hire of rolling stock. In the result the total outgo was £114,879 compared with £115,156, and the net revenue shows a shrinkage of £5,893 at £91,722. There are sundry important changes in other revenue items accruing, but in the present position of the concern they are not worth detailing, and it need only be said that from all sources the net balance is raised to £108,262, or a decline of £3,023. Fixed charges, however, go up by £4,679 in consequence of heavier debenture interest, and the sum available for dividend is no more than £5,052. It is insufficient by £4,323 to provide a dividend at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum on the guaranteed stock, and this amount will be charged to capital in the true Yankee style. Total dividend deficiency on the guaranteed stock now reaches the comfortable little fortune of £138,008, and we have already been told that this will be funded. Quite a delightful prospect, because by this means it seems probable that one of these days a dividend will be earned on the first preference stock, not the seconds, perhaps before all the brand new electrical equipment is worn out. Who buys District ordinary at 37? Last year the capital outlay was only £637,001, including discount on sundry issues of preference stock, and as £329,319 will go in the current six months it will be seen that the electrical installation is costing the mere trifle of a million sterling a year. We wonder how many people realise that net revenue must advance about £200,000 per annum before a dividend on the ordinary stock can be even dreamt of. We should think the intrinsic value of the latter nearer 5 than 40. Present credit to capital account is £81,397, but that will not go far, and in order to provide further funds the directors propose to sell surplus freehold lands and properties of the company to the value of £250,000. A separate concern to be called the Surplus Land Company will be formed to deal with the property, and District shareholders are actually to have the first opportunity of subscribing the capital. How nice! There is nothing more to be said except perhaps that the work of electrification is now practically completed, and given an absence of floods and frost we may yet be afforded the pleasure of travelling on the District in comparative comfort before our allotted span comes to an end.

HULL AND BARNESLEY RAILWAY COMPANY.

In the half-year to June 30 this company's gross revenue was £235,709 or just £71 more than in the corresponding period of 1904, and the movement in expenditure was nearly as small, this being up £945 to £146,082. The most striking movement on the revenue side was a decrease in the dock receipts of £4,775, made good by an improvement in merchandise of £2,317 and in minerals of £2,649. Passenger traffic yielded a trifle more and parcels, horses, carriages, &c., a little less. Expenditure items were much as before, but the dock outlay, including maintenance, showed a decline of £1,037, locomotive power was up £870 and traffic expenses rose £944. No other change is worth mention. To the net balance of £89,626 is added the considerably larger sum of £8,985 brought forward, making £98,611 compared with £96,085 and as there was a saving in fixed charges, thanks to a decline in general interest, the balance remaining for dividend is better by £4,885 at £33,139. It enables the directors to provide the full dividend on an increased amount of preference stock, with £20,014 against £18,016 carried forward. Ships of a total tonnage of 680,208 entered the docks during the half-year, a decrease of 38,287 against the corresponding period, which led to the above-mentioned shrinkage in receipts. Proportion of total expenditure to income was 61.98 per cent. compared with 61.59 per cent. Capital expenditure in the six months was £21,363 only, and very little is to be spent this half-year, which is satisfactory because the debit to capital account already stands at £67,418.

FURNESS RAILWAY.

Gross revenue in the six months ended June 30 was £243,822, an increase compared with the opening half of 1904 of £6,465, against which the working expenses went up £1,056 to £130,794. Although less depressed, the iron and steel trades in the district served by the railway have not shown the improvement expected, and merchandise traffic actually exhibits a further shrinkage of £6,191, but the income from minerals fortunately went up £11,811. Passenger business again suffered to a small extent along with live stock, and rents from hotels, houses, &c., but additional money came in from parcels, horses, carriages, &c., lake and other steamers, land rents, and carriage and wagon mileage and demurrage. Movements on the expenditure side were not usually of much importance, but a striking advance of £1,355 is noticeable in rates and taxes, due to the operation of the Education Act. Carriage and wagon repairs also cost a good deal more, and traffic expenses rose slightly, but maintenance of way, locomotive power, general and law charges, compensation and lake steamer expenses all showed small declines. Net revenue of £113,028 is better by £5,409, but there was a drop of

nearly £1,000 in the sum brought forward, so that the balance for disposal comes to £117,120, against £112,680. Fixed charges were a little higher owing to a saving in interest, and after providing the guaranteed and preference dividends the directors are able to raise the distribution on the ordinary stock from ¾ to ¾ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £1,293. Happily, capital expenditure was kept down to £5,676, and only £9,022 is contemplated for the current half-year, as the present debit is big at £105,145, involving loans to practically the same amount. Dividend warrants posted August 21.

BARRY RAILWAY COMPANY.

In the June half-year this company's gross receipts came to £335,755 or about £17,264 less than in the June half of 1904. As working expenses went up about £2,300 it follows that the net balance of £153,627 was £19,581 down. The directors are, therefore, able to recommend a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum only compared with 10 per cent. a year ago. This will leave £3,087 to be carried forward against £6,753 brought in. There was an increase of upwards of £1,000 in the interest charges, so that the amount available for ordinary stock dividend was reduced to £76,765 compared with £92,098 twelve months back. Nothing whatever is said in the report about the causes which have brought down the company's revenue, nor is any attempt made to compile a summary of the half-year's business. Capital expenditure in the six months was £84,415, of which no less than £51,262 was upon new working stock, and the expenditure in the current half-year is put at £32,336. The general balance-sheet shows a debit on capital account of £207,048, so that it is no wonder the company owed £81,923 to its bankers on June 30. Dividend warrants will be payable on the 16th inst.

RHYMNEY RAILWAY.

Revenue in the half-year ended June 30 was £153,372 or a decline of £3,454, and as the expenditure went up £1,745 to £92,302 the net revenue is down more than £5,000 to £61,070 and the proportion of outgo to income is 2.44 per cent. higher at 60.18 per cent. Receipts from passengers, parcels, horses, carriages, &c., were better, and a few hundreds more came in from merchandise, but the mineral traffic showed a falling off of £4,887. Moderate increases under locomotive power, carriage and wagon repairs, traffic expenses and general charges accounted for the rise in outlay as maintenance cost a good deal less and rates and taxes did not go up. With £2,324 brought forward the sum for disposal is £63,394 compared with £68,079, and as fixed charges were nearly £1,000 larger the directors, after providing preference dividend, are obliged to lower the ordinary distribution by 1 to 7½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward the much reduced balance of £2,214. Only £21,741 was spent on capital account during the half-year, which is good because the present debit is £90,784 and another £36,000 is to be laid out in the current six months.

CAMRIAN RAILWAYS COMPANY.

Gross receipts in the first half of 1905 amounted to £146,805, a decrease of £5,501, whilst working expenses were £4,634 lower at £99,766, so net revenue declined only £868 to £47,038. The largest shrinkage in receipts was £3,311 in merchandise and live stock, minerals fell off to the extent of £1,145, passengers, parcels, &c., £776, and miscellaneous £269. On the expenditure side nearly the whole of the saving, viz., £4,545, was in locomotive and carriage and wagon repairs, both wages and materials being much cheaper than a year ago. Some £386 less was spent on maintenance of way and £262 on traffic and general expenses, but miscellaneous charges advanced £262. Capital expenditure amounted to £20,329, the bulk of it on lines open and the balance on rolling stock. For the current half the estimate is £10,504. With the balance of £16,477 brought in the total available sum is £3,449 higher at £63,515, and interest is again paid on all fixed charges down to the "D" debenture stock which requires some £5,480 extra, so the balance carried forward is reduced from £1,320 to £252. Debit to capital account is £106,184. Interest warrants will be posted on August 31.

LANCASHIRE, DERBYSHIRE AND EAST COAST RAILWAY.

In the six months ended June 30 this company received a gross income of £65,910, an increase of £6,657 against the corresponding period, and as the working expenses were reduced by £3,173 to £32,539 the net revenue improves almost £10,000 at a total of £33,371. Practically all the gain in revenue was derived from the coal traffic, but there were also small gains in merchandise and carriage and wagon hire, and on the expenditure side it is good to note that the reduced outlay did not mean a starvation policy on the line, maintenance, indeed, costing about £1,000 more. There was no other increase of any importance, and on the other hand locomotive power was down £2,394, and carriage and wagon repairs, traffic expenses and general charges each a few hundreds. Ratio between outgo and income was no less than 10.90 per cent. lower at 49.37 per cent. Balance brought forward and general interest build the available credit to £34,080, and after providing rents and debenture interest and placing £5,500 or £4,500 more to general renewal suspense fund it is proposed to pay the full dividend at 5 per cent. per annum on the first preference shares, and a dividend at 2½ per cent. per annum on the 5 per cent. second preference shares, which last year received nothing, carrying forward the larger sum of £443. Capital expenditure in the six months was

£26,764, but only £3,000 will be laid out this half-year, and there is still a credit to capital account of £8,304.

WATERLOO AND CITY RAILWAY COMPANY.

This useful little electric line carried rather fewer passengers in the past half-year than in the corresponding period of 1904, but the number of season tickets continues to increase, and from all sources the revenue comes to £17,583 or £200 more. Working expenses, general charges, &c., altogether took £8,350 or £140 less, and the net revenue is therefore up by £340 at £9,232. Other items increase this total to £10,136, and after providing debenture interest and rent charge the directors again propose a dividend at 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £237 more at £659. The capital account for the time being is closed.

EAST AND WEST YORKSHIRE UNION RAILWAYS COMPANY.

Gross receipts in the half-year to June 30 were £10,649 compared with £11,372 in the corresponding half, which at that time included £740 from passenger traffic. Working expenses came to £5,551 against £8,398, so that net revenue was £2,124 up at £5,098, raised to £5,392 with the small balance brought in. This time net revenue is debited with £537 loss on an engine, and as prior charges take an extra £65, the balance carried forward is £1,911 higher at £2,252, of which £2,129 is required to pay a dividend at the rate of 3¼ per cent. on the preference stock, leaving £123 only to be carried forward. Capital expenditure was £755, and the immediate estimate is £465. There is a balance of £2,252 to the credit of capital account.

LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY.

Last half-year was another poor one for this company. Gross receipts came to £39,918, or £1,967 less than in the first half of 1904, and working expenses were about £9 up at £31,749. It followed that as interest charges were slightly higher, and the amount paid up on the preference shares more, no dividend could be paid upon the ordinary shares which a year ago received 1½ per cent. per annum. After meeting the preference share dividend £4,337 will be left to carry forward against £3,743 brought in. The directors regret their inability to report any improvement during the half-year, and the company carried 66,308 fewer passengers. Poor as the exhibit was, £16,457 was spent last half-year on capital account, and the expenditure thereof in the current half-year is put at £8,000. The balance at the debit of capital account is £15,806.

ALEXANDRA (NEWPORT AND SOUTH WALES) DOCKS AND RAILWAY.

This company's gross receipts came to £121,155 for the first half of the current year, an increase against the corresponding period of £7,066, so that good progress continues to be made. Part of the improvement came from the carriage of minerals, merchandise and live stock, and there was also a notable advance in the very small passenger business, but the chief gain was in the dock receipts and graving dock dues, up £5,841 to £95,520. Most items of expenditure were higher, the outlay at the docks alone being £3,000 larger, and we find that the total increase in expenditure adds up to £4,585 at £67,403, meaning a slight advance in the ratio from 55.06 per cent. to 55.63 per cent. Balance of net revenue was £53,751 compared with £51,271, and £466 came in from interest, but there was no credit from previous account against £3,105 brought forward a year ago, so that the actual sum for disposal comes to £54,217 against £54,377, a trifling decline. Debenture interest took the same and rent charges a little more, but there was a saving in interest of £1,550, so that once more the balance is brought round to the right side at £40,975. From that the full interest is again provided on the "A" and "B" preference stocks, but the amount absorbed is bigger owing to the increased capital, and the balance forward sinks over £2,000 to £17,800. Capital outlay for the half-year was not very formidable at £36,681, part of it on the new quay on the east side of the south dock now nearing completion, and we note that a further sum of £10,297 was spent on renewals, &c., £6,070 having been brought forward, and in this way kept out of the revenue account, and the remainder coming from the revenue of the half-year. In the current half-year the outlay is put at £70,000, but the company has a good deal of cash in hand, thanks to a capital credit of £20,926 and a loan from bankers of £90,721.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY (IRELAND).

In the June half-year gross receipts were £635,783 and expenses £393,234. These figures show a decrease of £10,184 in income and of £7,546 in outgo compared with the first half of last year. After meeting all debenture and other fixed charges and adding in the balance of £51,233 brought forward, there is £134,495 available for the ordinary stock compared with £136,527 a year back. This allows the directors to pay the same dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, to carry £15,000 to the general reserve fund, £5,000 to the general improvement account, and £2,000 to the fire insurance fund, leaving £19,298 to be carried forward. They say that if the proposed addition of £15,000 is made to the general reserve fund it will stand at £120,000, and may not call for such large additions in future. This will be just as well for the business of the company is obviously at present unprogressive. In the past half-year it added no charge whatever to its capital account, being able to set off a nominal reduction of £224,081 in its capital, brought about through the conversion of the guaranteed Waterford and Limerick stock, so that allowing for the

small actual outlays, there was a net credit to capital on the half-year of £204,766, after £2,655 had been spent on new working stock, and about £17,000 on other items relating to lines open for traffic. The capital account of the company is overdrawn by £194,170, against which there are reserve, fire, and other funds aggregating about £210,000. The directors say that the attempt to get a committee of investigation into the affairs of the company made at an extraordinary general meeting during the past half-year was defeated by the proprietors holding a majority of £1,649,255 stock. The dividend warrants will be posted on August 31.

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF IRELAND COMPANY.

Gross revenue receipts for the six months ended June 30 were £281,851, a decrease of £5,869 against the corresponding period of last year, divided between passengers, merchandise, live stock, minerals and the canal. There were moderate improvements in parcels, horses, carriages, &c., and rents. Happily the saving in expenditure was just about as large as the decrease in income, although it may not be altogether satisfactory to reduce the maintenance outlay by £3,515. Locomotive power cost £2,443 less, and traffic expenses went down £2,574, but rates and taxes absorbed a little more as usual, and there was a heavy increase under the head of compensation, particularly for personal injury. Net revenue comes out just £10 less at £114,314, and with the larger sum of £12,398 brought forward, interest, &c., the actual net credit is £1,782 to the good at £128,105. Fixed charges were a trifle greater at £38,854, and after providing preference dividend the directors again propose a distribution on the ordinary stock at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, carrying forward the increased balance of £5,398. Capital expenditure was very light at £7,741 in the half-year, and only £4,525 is to be laid out in the current six months, so that the existing debit of £4,307 will not be very heavily increased.

MILLWALL DOCK COMPANY.

Business at the London docks was not very flourishing during the opening half of the year, and although the number of ships entering this company's premises increased by 15 to 621 their tonnage was 30,001 less at 535,096. Even this, however, does not convey the worst of the story, because there was actually an increase in the tonnage of vessels loading outwards, and these as is well known yield to the company only a small profit, having regard to the accommodation required for the large quantity of goods which pass direct from barges to the ships free of charge. It follows from this that the decrease in the tonnage that pays was larger than the above-named figure, and we find that the import and export rates on goods, tonnage dues, and rents on goods and shipping, &c., fell away £13,409 to £97,862. Transit and railway gave £1,767 less, and there were also decreases in interest and transfer fees, the solitary increase being in rents, up the trifle of £77. From all sources then the income was £15,153 down at £103,504, against which there was a saving in expenditure of £6,613 at £84,486, so that after providing for interest on debenture stock £12,286, the net balance is no more than £6,732, a shrinkage of £8,539. The directors, however, recommend the distribution of a sum of £12,250 to the perpetual 5 per cent. preference stockholders and £3,137 to the 4½ per cent. preference holders, being the balance of the moneys standing to the credit of those proprietors for the year ended December 31, 1904. The only addition made to the depreciation and renewals account is £272 for renewing and replacing buildings and works and sinking fund for leases, which seems a lot for a very little money, and it is not surprising to find that the cost of work done was £6,767, reducing the fund to £5,000. The report makes no reference to the proposed amalgamation with the London Docks Company.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANY.

During the six months ended June 30 the prices of gas charged by this splendidly-conducted undertaking was only 2s. per 1,000 cubic feet, or 1d. less than in the corresponding period, and this reduction naturally had some influence on the revenue account. Receipts from sales of gas fell off £17,470 to £602,568, and the drop in the value of residuals caused a loss of income of £25,977 at £250,330. Meter and stove rents, however, increased £3,989 to £57,491, and including rents and transfer fees the total income amounts to £912,120 compared with £951,559, a shrinkage of £39,439. On the other hand, the expenditure was reduced £12,610 to £715,559, notwithstanding the heavy payment of £24,092 under the co-partnership scheme, and the actual net revenue was £196,561 against £223,390. Interest on bankers' balances was £274, making £196,834, from which must be deducted interest on temporary loans and deposits £44,408, and on debenture stock £27,961, leaving £164,465. That is £7,410 short of the sum required to pay the same dividend as recommended by the directors six months ago at 5½ per cent. per annum, and this small deficiency will be taken from the balance brought forward, which, after the further subtraction of £7,291 to be added to the reserve fund on account of the balance of dividend not paid in March last, will leave £22,300 to be carried forward. Reserve and insurance funds and the balance to be carried forward altogether add up to £297,928. The board directs special attention to an item in the balance-sheet called "Monazite Sand Suspense Account, £19,143." As is now generally admitted, a vital necessity for the gas industry is a continuous supply of reliable incandescent mantles at a reasonable price, and it appears that for some time the directors have entertained fears that the quantities might become restricted or the price

materially increased as the supply of monazite sand and the thorium which is extracted therefrom and used in the manufacture of mantles is in monopolist hands. So the directors set to work to remedy this state of affairs, and have purchased a deposit of monazite sand in the United States. Plant for working is now being erected, and the directors are assured that a supply of sand will shortly be on its way to this country. Moreover, further investigations show that the deposits are more extensive than the agents sent out by the company reported as in sight, and the directors are happy to say their great anxiety as to the future supply of mantles is entirely relieved. A rather vigorous grumble is next indulged in at the action of the London County Council in the matter of gas tests, action which it is declared has cost both consumers and ratepayers immense sums of money, and as the Council has lost on every point that has been contested, the directors may be justified in their protests. An appeal is made for friendly co-operation between all parties, and certainly this is a very desirable end.

WOULDEHAM CEMENT CO. (1900), LIMITED.

No wonder the shareholders of this venture kicked up a fuss at the annual meeting on Tuesday, and went so far as to demand the return of money subscribed, on the ground of a misleading prospectus. Without a doubt promises have not been fulfilled, and the plausible story told by Mr. John Bayley-White—connected with that other disastrous enterprise, the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers—was not exactly convincing. It is all very well to take comfort from the fact that the loss for the year to December 31 last—seven months are required to make up the accounts—was only £631 compared with £4,000 in the preceding twelve months, but when the prospectus says the preference dividend is covered three times over proprietors naturally become restive and ask for explanations. They get nothing adequate, of course, just the regulation yarns about fall in prices owing to competition, rise in cost of production, necessary changes in the system of manufacture which are attended with tremendous difficulties, and so on, to say nothing of a dramatic assertion that the directors are quite prepared to justify everything done or said in a court of law. This kind of thing though did not entirely quell the opposition, and only the casting vote of the chairman forced through the adoption of the report. Happily the preference shareholders are not placed in peril yet, the guarantee of dividend still having another five years to go, but with the expiry of this guarantee ends the obligation of S. Pearson and Son to take not less than 50,000 tons of cement from the company per annum. By that time the Admiralty Harbour works at Dover, which Messrs. Pearson are building, will no doubt be finished—at least we hope so—and then the company may have difficulty in disposing of its output. What will the position be then? We leave the shareholders to guess, but meanwhile more money is required in the approved fashion, and the directors seek authority to issue 6 per cent. preference shares to the amount of £50,000. There can be no objection to this because no security in the hands of the public is affected, and the cash may be the means of pulling things round. Arrangements have been made for the issue of £10,000 of these shares at par, and when more come to be placed the business can also be profitably left in the directors' hands. Last year the cement trading account gave a profit of £8,592, rent and transfer fees came to £40 and some royalties amounting to £2,948 connected with the Rotary Kiln Patents were recanted, making an income of £11,580. Debenture interest, however, took £9,000, and the large sum of £1,000 was allowed for depreciation, so that after providing for general charges and commissions there is a debit of £631. Total reserves, including general depreciation fund of £1,500, are now £4,795, and the capital expenditure is only £467,000. Floating debts of various kinds come to £52,744, against which debtors reach £22,889, stock £12,821 and cash and bills £6,657.

STUCKEY'S BANKING CO., LIMITED.

Profits of this excellent West of England bank again show very little variation, the total for the six months to June 30 being £47,662 compared with £47,914 in the corresponding half of 1904. Balance from previous account was £7,622, making the sum for disposal £55,284, but we are never told how the money is divided. According to the balance-sheet the ordinary public liabilities amount to £6,465,491 or £58,300 more than a year ago, while the notes and drafts in circulation at £85,787 are down by £2,535. Including £1,500,000 Consols at 85 the bank's investments reach the imposing aggregate of £3,781,899, an increase within the twelve months of £157,900, and there is also a small advance of £10,746 to £388,718 in the cash at Bank of England and in hand, but loans at call and short notice have been reduced £5,350 to £354,650, and bills discounted, loans and advances are less by £109,138 at £2,742,090. Bank premises have gone up rather sharply to £77,129, but other freehold and leasehold property shows a decline of £7,505 at £25,076, and the changes may be merely a transfer from one item to the other.

BANK OF CALCUTTA, LIMITED.

So good was the June half-year's business of this Calcutta bank that the directors were able after paying the preference and ordinary share dividends, the ordinary getting the usual distribution at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, to add Rs. 1,00,000 to the reserve, raising it to Rs. 18,00,000 or Rs. 8,00,000 more than the entire paid-up capital. Gross profits for the half-year came to Rs. 1,79,762, exclusive of Rs. 65,307 brought forward,

and after meeting all expenses, paying the dividends and adding the above-mentioned sum to the reserve, Rs. 66,779 will be left to carry to the new half-year. The total liability of the bank on current accounts and fixed deposits was on June 30 Rs. 1,50,28,270, and of this Rs. 19,45,076 was invested in Government paper, municipal and port trust debentures at market rates, and Rs. 11,66,386 held against advances. The cash on hand and with bankers, exclusive of the London balance of Rs. 1,49,340, was Rs. 32,21,611, and the total of the balance-sheet is now Rs. 1,80,11,142. The bank, by the way, has Rs. 1,03,45,667 advanced on loan, cash credits, and overdrafts.

NORMANBY IRON WORKS CO., LIMITED.

This is another Pease affair, one of the worst of the boom promotions, and we can see no prospect of any immediate return to dividend payments even to the preference shareholders. Profits last year slipped back a bit further to £7,876, a decline of £348, and after providing interest on debenture stock and loans and directors' and trustees' fees only £4,077 is left. Balance of £377 brought forward raises this to £4,454, but £1,742 is required to write off special expenditure on alterations and repairs, and £2,500 is transferred to the depreciation fund, so that the balance carried forward is actually less than that brought in at £212. No preference dividend has been paid for four years now, meaning that £14,400 is owing, the payment being cumulative, but the public would not heed advice when it was given them to keep away from these boom inspired ventures, and must put up with the consequences. Naturally no reserve of any kind is possessed, and floating liabilities are decidedly heavy at £43,553, including an unsecured loan of £11,000 at 4½ per cent. Sundry debtors owe £24,308, cash is £1,735, and stocks are entered at £41,719. There is still a balance of preliminary expenses amounting to £1,500 unextinguished, and capital outlay on land, buildings, plant, and machinery amounts to £157,003. What is the true value?

JOHN LOVIBOND AND SONS, LIMITED.

The position of this brewery business as disclosed in the report for the year to March 31 does not justify the payment of the 10 per cent. ordinary dividend recommended. Trading profits fell from £31,421 to £24,916, from which £9,464 was required for repairs and depreciation and £3,271 for various fees, salaries and commissions, so that after providing £4,959 for debenture interest only £7,226 is left. That is a shrinkage of £4,233 against the preceding twelve months, and as to pay the preference dividend together with 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares and write £1,000 off leaseholds requires £8,861, it is necessary to take £1,636 from the balance of £2,538 brought forward, leaving only £902 to be carried out. Again there is no contribution to reserve, which thus remains at £16,000, apart from a special reserve of £3,317 against bad debts and losses on stocks, and capital outlay is ever on the increase. Net additions to freehold and leasehold properties and goodwill were £2,488, bringing the total to £153,162, and although £80 was written off the Cannon Brewery, Fulham, a sum of £2,805 was spent on plant, machinery, fittings, &c., so that notwithstanding the depreciation allowance and the special sum set aside a year ago this item reaches the large total of £48,495. Sundry creditors come to £29,356 against debtors of £9,556 only and cash £3,113, but stock in trade is valued at £39,895. The so-called reserve is entirely invested in the business.

PAGE AND OVERTON'S BREWERY, LIMITED.

This company's income suffered a little in the financial year to June 30, the total revenue amounting to £34,059 against £35,110, and as repairs, insurance and depreciation took £454 extra at £8,307 the net revenue was £25,752 compared with £27,257. Debenture interest required £10,687, income-tax £1,020, other interest £510, directors', trustees' and auditors' fees £725, and loss on realisation of investments £175. The preference dividend is met, and the ordinary shares again get 5 per cent., leaving £1,210 to carry forward. The additional expenditure is attributed to dearer hops and the increased amount spent in maintaining and improving the properties. In addition to a debenture debt of £250,000 the company owes £2,217 in the shape of mortgage and interest, and £27,662 to trade and other creditors and depositors. There is no reserve fund, and nothing this time is written off preliminary expenses, which still stand at £3,838 on the credit side of the balance-sheet. Though the amount is not stated, it is clear that the depreciation allowance is inadequate on assets valued at over £467,000. Book debts, rents and loans receivable amount to £32,121, and cash comes to £6,704.

RYLANDS AND SONS, LIMITED.

A gratifying recovery took place in the profits of this excellent business during the past six months, the total of £104,079 showing an improvement against the opening half of the preceding year of £15,819, when, by the way, a decrease appeared of £18,894. Balance brought forward was £21,197, making £125,277, and the directors can easily maintain the dividend at the old rate of 12½ per cent. per annum with a big increase from £6,760 to £31,527 in the credit to next account. That is good, and the absence of a contribution to the savings is not of great consequence, seeing that the reserve and insurance funds aggregate £695,000, although we must not forget that £50,000 was withdrawn six months back in order to help the revenue account of the second half of last year, when the profit was down to £58,187. Sundry liabilities are less by £53,864 at £884,012, and

in consequence of this and the decrease in the reserve, the stock-in-trade, ledger balances, investments, bills receivable and cash, all given in one item as usual, show a reduction of £71,281 to £3,272,507. The only other entry on the assets side of the accounts, the freehold and leasehold land, buildings and plant, is less by £7,716 at £836,057, but no mention is made of the actual wastage allowance.

A. M. PEEBLES AND SON, LIMITED.

A further slight increase to £17,230 took place in the profits of this paper manufacturing business during the past year, and shareholders seem to be gradually forgetting how much smaller these profits are than those shown in the prospectus and their former dividends of 8 or 8½ per cent. After providing debenture interest, office expenses, directors' fees, &c., the net balance is £9,600, which the sum of £2,070 brought forward increases to £11,671. Preference dividend takes £5,000, and £4,000 is again absorbed in paying the ordinary shareholders 4 per cent., the balance forward going up to £2,671. That is not very grand, and although the balance-sheet looks clean enough, it is rather discouraging to find the company without any kind of reserve after an existence in limited liability form of just nine years. It seems that £7,585 was charged against the profits of the year for depreciation, making the fund £10,428, but £6,904 was laid out on repairs and renewals, so that the balance remaining is no more than £3,523. The directors tell us that the buildings and machinery continue to be maintained in the highest state of efficiency. They are valued at £148,406, a small increase on the year, and the London business and goodwill, being, we take it, the agency as distinct from the manufacturing part of the undertaking, stand at £109,155, which seems enough. Sundry debtors owe about the same, £45,345, but cash and bills are down somewhat, and stocks are up £10,475 to £53,408, producing a rather sharp increase in floating liabilities.

S. HOFFNUNG AND CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this general merchant company, which does business principally with Australia, are able to announce in their report to the end of March that the prospects for improved trade consequent on the satisfactory condition of the agricultural and pastoral industries of Australia, foreseen by them a year ago, have been to a considerable extent fulfilled during the latter part of the financial year, and they look forward to a further improvement in the company's business. Profit on trading amounted to £48,864, rents gave £655, and transfer fees £4, so the total income was £49,524. After deducting head office expenses, interest on mortgage, directors' fees, the net profit was £29,269, to which £902 has to be added from the last accounts, making a total available credit of £30,172. Dividends at the rate of 5½ per cent. are paid on the preference shares, and the ordinary get 4 per cent.; £3,000 is put to reserve, and £1,922 is carried forward. Since the company was formed in 1902 this is the first distribution on the ordinary. The reserve will be increased to £10,500, against goodwill £150,000 and freehold and leasehold properties, both at cost, £153,670. Trade balances and bills receivable exceed liabilities to creditors and bills payable, stock is as high as £269,122, and cash stands at £13,720. But liabilities also include mortgage on leaseholds at Sydney, £75,000; deposits £12,149, and a contingent liability on bills discounted £112,583.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

Out of the £100,000 new capital created in January last £40,000 was taken up by the shareholders, but apparently the additional funds were not received in time to make any great addition to the earning powers of the company in the year ended June 30. Nor has the war between Japan and Russia affected the business appreciably, as any vessels lost in which this company had an interest were covered by insurance. Including £472 from the previous account, the revenue for the twelve months showed a recovery of £2,740 at £44,333, and after meeting debenture interest and other charges, transferring £6,066, or £958 more, to the fund for depreciation in steamship shares held, and writing off £425 for expense of issue of new capital, the amount available was £2,273 larger at £21,545. The preferred dividend having been paid, the deferred stock again receives 5 per cent., but this time £1,000 is put to deferred dividend reserve together with £3,000 from general reserve against £4,000 transferred last time, and the balance carried forward is increased to £2,305, out of which, however, the managing directors' remuneration would appear to come. A sum of £11,172 from profit on investments realised was added to reserve, so that after taking the above-mentioned £3,000 in order to provide for the interim dividend on the deferred stock in January next this fund will come to £73,221. In addition the depreciation fund is maintained at £110,000, and these two funds are separately invested in securities, mostly first-class, valued at £170,484. Other investments held, including £44,798 less at £224,150, in loans and mortgages come to £709,791, cash stands at £13,672 while current liabilities are small at £5,234, and are more than offset by £5,848 to come in from sundry debtors.

HARVEY AND THOMPSON, LIMITED.

During the year ended June 30 this business of pawnbrokers and general salesmen earned a net profit, after providing £1,127 for depreciation of leaseholds and fixtures, of £10,909. To this was added £350 brought forward giving an available total of £11,259, out of which the preference dividend is paid and the ordinary shares receive 12 per cent. for the year, £200 is added to staff bonus account and £1,000 is transferred to reserve, leaving £699 to be carried forward. The company would seem

to be in a comfortable enough position as with current liabilities of £16,932 it holds pledges valued at £59,140 and sale stocks of £33,218 and has £5,426 in cash. Leasehold premises and fixtures after deducting depreciation stand in the books at £22,493 and goodwill is moderate enough at £17,230. Reserve amounts to £5,500 but is all in the business.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and July 29, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to July 29, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to July 30, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	—	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	10,966,000	11,842,000
Excise	30,200,000	9,312,000	9,555,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	4,649,000	3,935,000
Stamps	8,000,000	2,623,000	2,343,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	390,000	510,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	4,578,000	4,990,000
Post Office	16,500,000	4,260,000	4,150,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,270,000	1,220,000
Crown Lands	470,000	140,000	140,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	674,573	607,244
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	509,975	516,476
*Revenue	142,454,000	39,372,548	39,808,720
Total, including balance		46,802,826	44,072,562
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		200,000	150,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		410,408	630,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds		7,525,000	—
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		—	12,000,000
Total		55,277,826	60,022,562
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	39,372,548	39,808,720
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	48,555	54,304
Excise	5,291,000	1,080,851	1,068,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	1,486,839	1,488,242
Total	9,756,000	2,616,245	2,611,219
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	41,988,793	42,419,939

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to July 29, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to July 30, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 11,490,924	£ 11,630,056
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	669,000	669,114
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,252,000	32,314,222	35,034,423
Expenditure	142,032,000	44,706,321	47,565,803
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		220,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		90,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		1,200,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		300,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		940,000	855,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		400,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		105,000	76,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		135,000	—
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	3 100,000
		48,119,321	55,421,803
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 6,613,351	£ 4,053,730	—
Bank of Ireland	545,154	547,029	—
Total		55,277,326	60,022,562

Treasury, August 1, 1905.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—The Liverpool market has been more affected this week than usual of late by American influences, a firmer tone prevailed towards the middle of the week, and speculative positions advanced in value. But in spite of this, the continued unfavourable accounts of Russian crops, and lighter shipments, markets generally have remained dull and apathetic, with business transacted within narrow limits. Dornbusch estimates the wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 2,520,000 quarters this week against 2,835,000 last. In America the week has been quieter, and fluctuations within narrow limits. Markets opened firm and advanced $\frac{1}{8}$ c. above Saturday's closing values, but a reaction soon followed on favourable weather news, and a large increase in visible supply. Bradstreet's estimates putting the supplies in sight east of the Rockies at 20,075,000 bushels against 17,825,000 last week, and 19,508,000 last year. Further buying orders and a good cash demand steadied the markets a little, but the general tendency has been lower.

WOOL.—August is more or less of a holiday month in the wool trade, and not much activity can be expected till the autumn season commences. But the markets are steady, and more confidence is expressed as to the outlook. Raw materials are firmly held at the last basis of values, and a conviction is expressed in some quarters that the ground lost at the close of last series of London sales will be more than recovered at the next. Such a report has resulted in a number of inquiries from dealers anxious to take what advantage is possible from the temporary easing of prices, but no actual business has been done, as spinners decline to make any concessions. Yarns are also a little more active on home account, but exports both for these and in piece goods show little improvement.

LINEN.—Fresh business in the yarn market continues much in excess of production, but a check was put upon it last week by the continued rise in prices. Spinners, too, are cautious, not willing to commit themselves more deeply, and also indifferent, as they have plenty of work on hand for the present. The trade in brown linens, hollandes, paddings, damasks, &c., continues above the average for the holiday season, and with no cause for anxiety as to the future, though, in view of the probable shortness of raw material the high prices are likely to remain. Outside markets show a slight improvement all round with the exception of the colonies, which are rather disappointing.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market has been generally quiet in point of transactions in both yarn and cloth. No free buying has occurred in any quarter. Piece goods for India in the finer fabrics have moved off better than in the heavier makes. Dhooties, for instance, requiring Egyptian yarns have been sold to a moderate extent. The Monsoon rains continue generally satisfactory throughout India. To-day a telegram was received from Kurrachi reporting good rains. China buyers seem to have satisfied their wants for the time being. The nearer markets of the Continent have presented no change worth naming. The production of the looms was not nearly sold last month, as hinted at here previously. Order lists are lighter than they were. Manufacturers, however, are fairly well sold yet, and are not pressing for orders. Home trade American yarns have been irregular in price, but to-day rather more inquiry has been experienced in small lots, and spinners have been pressed to deliver old orders. Ring yarns continue over supplied in both warps and beams. Coarse weft has been quiet. Shipping yarns have been for the most part neglected, no business of weight appears to be coming round from the Continent or India. Bolton spinnings have undoubtedly been in better demand during the last ten days or so in carded numbers. Spinners are improving their margin in the finer counts. Combed descriptions show very little change from week to week.

The wages question is disturbing the market somewhat. From present appearances it looks as if there would be a strike beginning on August 21. Cotton spinners seem to be rather in the humour to stop a few weeks, even if they have to pay a rise of 5 per cent. in wages at the end of September. Raw American cotton has been easier. Spinners are buying very sparingly, and at the moment are in no mood to anticipate their wants. Egyptian cotton is in improved demand at hardening rates.

Cotton in New York opened steady at from 4 to 6 points higher on firm cables, bull support and adverse private crop advices. But subsequent bearish estimates caused the price to weaken. This was, however, quickly followed by a further advance. Then under further heavy "bear" selling, unloading by bulls, selling by spot interests and disappointing Manchester advices, prices receded. In fact, the market has been unsteady and irregular, prices fluctuating almost from moment to moment.

In Liverpool the market for spot American has been dull, and quotations have been falling, but in Egyptians a fairly good business has been done at hardening rates. Closing quotations of futures are:—August, 5.71d.; August to November, 5.70d.; November to December, 5.71d.; December to January, 5.72d.; December to March, 5.73d.; March to May, 5.74d.; May to July, 5.75d.

COAL.—Business with London and the southern markets keeps in its usual August condition, nor are the eastern counties much more animated. But further north trade is looking up again, especially in exports, and where steamers are in demand there are many inquiries and increasing orders. Consignments to the Humber are fully up to the average for the season, and coal-owners are already raising their prices for this and next year's delivery. Coke for export is also increasing in popularity and price, and 15s. 6d. per ton is being given for medium qualities. Welsh trade is in a depressed condition, and troublous times are

expected before the end of the year. Elsewhere also there are signs of serious labour conflicts to be faced.

COPPER.—Further considerable strength has developed in the copper market, and prices have been advancing daily. One of the principal causes of this has been the news of excellent trade done both in America and on the Continent, the London market following the rise in New York. The advance has not been maintained throughout, for later in the week it went off on the pressure of some scattered selling, only to recover immediately afterwards. According to Messrs. R. Merton and Co. stocks show a slight increase of 81 tons compared with a fortnight ago, but there is a decrease of 294 tons in the visible supplies, owing to a falling off in the shipments advised from Chili and Australia. Closing values are £68 12s. 6d. cash and £68 17s. 6d. three months.

TIN.—Quotations of tin have again come considerably higher from the East, but the advance in the London market has not been sustained, prices here having fluctuated appreciably at times. Shipments during July from the Straits are reported to have totalled 4,200 tons, whilst the monthly consumption in America is given at 3,200 tons. Lack of orders on the eve of the holiday quietened the market considerably, and values further receded. Closing quotations are £150 2s. 6d. cash, and £148 15s. three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—There are signs here and there of an improvement in the iron and steel trades, though many argue that it is of a speculative nature. But there is undoubtedly more legitimate trade doing, the only point on this side tending to check hopefulness being the accumulation of a large stock of Cleveland iron, which is financed on behalf of a strong syndicate. Advices from the United States report a further big advance in iron prices, which may eventually exert a considerable influence on the attitude of European consumers. Meanwhile, manufacturers appear to be securing rather a larger amount of new business, which may account for the increasing orders for half-finished material. In Glasgow pig-iron warrants are again easier on realisations, the market closing at 46s. 2½d. cash and 46s. 5d. month. In the Midlands the market has been very thinly attended, chiefly owing to the nearness of the holidays. Pig-iron is only bought from hand to hand. But in the north some encouraging over-sea reports have given an appearance of activity to the market.

TEA.—Auctions have been fairly heavy in both markets, and bidding has been strong for all the better class teas. Indian offerings amounted to 26,666 packages, including over 9,000 packages of new crop, and good and medium sorts showed a slight advance in quotations, while poorer sorts were easier if anything, particularly in common and low Pekoes at 5½d. to 6½d. per lb. Good selections came from Assam, the first arrival of 488 packages averaging 9½d. per lb. In Ceylon the same tendencies appeared, better teas in good request and quoted higher; common sorts not much inquired after, and therefore slacking. Javas had no auction this week. The average price in both markets on the whole sale amounted to 7½d. per lb.

SUGAR.—The principal event of the week has been the collapse of a large Paris speculator, and this disorganised the market, causing declines from 11s. 1½d. to 9s. 9d. to 10s. 3d. for August, from 10s. 5½d. to 9s. 9½d. to 9s. 11½d. for September, from 9s. 6d. to 9s. 0½d. to 9s. 3d. for October, and from 9s. 3d. to 8s. 10½d. to 9s. 1½d. for November-December. This decline has again reduced prices to a moderate level for old and a low one for new crop, and No. 3 crystals are now, in Mr. Czarnikow's opinion, the cheapest article to attract buyers' attention, but whether they will remain so sufficiently long to affect the price of 88 per cent. Hamburg and of foreign granulated, which are not plentiful, is a question. The article has gone into fewer hands lately, especially in Paris, but also in Hamburg, and the future is largely dependent on the few important holders who may elect to try for fair values, at least for part of their stock, rather than sacrifice the whole at prices at which a large crop probably cannot be grown, though a small one will always be sown. In America the actual trade demand has kept the market steady, despite events in Europe. The landings in the three ports for the week were 25,000 tons, and meltings 39,000 tons, leaving stocks at 206,000 tons. In Cuba the receipts and shipments in the six ports in the week ending July 26 were 2,000 tons and 20,000 tons respectively, leaving stocks at 282,000 tons against 96,500 tons a year ago.

KING INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The business and assets of the Fire Reinsurance Co. of London, Limited, which the directors are careful to state was established in 1895, were acquired during 1904, and it is due to this no doubt that the premium income took a big jump from £6,311 to £61,385. Unfortunately losses came to £37,483 or 61 per cent. against 55 per cent. and expenses of management and commission took £19,319 or 31½ per cent., so that although net profits came to £4,582 compared with £909 their proportion to premium income was decidedly smaller. Of this surplus £2,052 has been transferred to reserve, and with the funds of the company taken over added that account now stands at £25,000, while the issued capital comes to £54,961. The remainder of the net revenue with £366 brought in and £1,253 from interest and transfer fees gave a total of £4,149 available, and after deducting the dividends for 1903 and the first half of 1904, paying administration charges and writing £153 off preliminary expenses there was a balance of £1,144 out of which a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is paid for the second half-year.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Cork Bandon and South Coast.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on ordinary stock.

Great Western.—For the past half-year, on the consolidated ordinary stock at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £28,500.

Lancashire and Yorkshire.—On the ordinary stock at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum.

London and North Western.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, with £74,000 carried forward.

Midland.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary, and 2 per cent. per annum on the deferred ordinary stocks, carrying forward, £12,254.

North London.—2½ per cent. on the ordinary stock for the six months.

Rhymney.—7½ per cent. per annum.

Vale of Glamorgan.—4½ per cent. per annum for the last half-year on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £774.

MINES.

British Columbia Development.—5 per cent.

Golden Horse Shoe Estates.—Second interim for 1905 of 6s. per share, payable Sept. 5.

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. a share for July.

Waihi Gold.—Interim of 3s. per share, payable Sept. 1.

BREWERIES.

Bent's.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year ending 30th ult. at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Holt.—Interim on both the preference and ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Page and Overton.—Further div. of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Rhondda Valley.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Wheeler's Wycombe.—1½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 14 per cent. for year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

B. Morris and Sons.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30.

Bank of British North America.—Interim of 30s. per share for the half-year ended June 30, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £9,000.

Bradbury, Greatorex.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Brentford Gas.—At the rate of 12½ per cent. on the consolidated stock and at the rate of 9½ per cent. on the new stock (1881) for half-year ended 30th ultimo.

British Wagon. Interim of 4s. per share.

Brompton and Kensington Electricity Supply.—Interim for the half-year to June 30 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum.

Charles Roberts and Co.—Final 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year ended June 30, placing £2,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £888.

Consett Iron.—Final of 30s. per ordinary share.

Crocker, Sons, and Co.—Interim for the past half-year on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Dillwyn and Co.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30.

Gas, Water, and General Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the preferred stock for the half-year ended July 28.

Grantham Gas.—Usual maximum of 5 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £22 9s.

Grantham Water.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, carrying forward £8,398.

Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30 (making 10 per cent. for the year), placing £150,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £142,808.

Hayes, Candy, and Co.—Usual interim dividend on the ordinary capital at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the six months ended July 19.

John Moir and Son.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Jones' Sewing Machine.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares and a bonus of 6d. per share, carrying forward £603.

Joseph Travers.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum (or 6d. per share) for the half-year ended July 31.

Melbourne Metropolitan Gas.—5s. per share for the half-year, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,500.

Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus.—Bonus for the year ended June 30 at the rate of 2½ per cent., payable Aug. 16.

National Boiler and General Insurance.—At the rate of 6s., and a bonus of 1s. per share, carrying forward £7,583.

National Gas Engine.—Interim at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the six months ended June 30.

North's Navigation Collieries (1889).—3s. per share on the ordinary shares, payable Aug. 15.

Read Brothers.—Interim for the six months ended June 30 at rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, payable Sept. 1.

Rylands and Sons.—12½ per cent. per annum.

"Sanitas."—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30, payable Sept. 1.

Smith, Garrett, and Co.—7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £4,000 to suspense account, and carrying forward £9,643.

South Metropolitan Gas.—At the rate of 5½ per cent.

South Suburban Gas.—At the rate of 5½ per cent.

Stock Conversion and Investment Trust.—Dividends declared by the North-Eastern Railway for the two half-years ending June 30 will, after payment of the dividend on the 3 per cent. first charge preferred stock (North-Eastern consols), permit of a payment to the deferred charge stock (North-Eastern consols) for the year ending June 30 of 12s. 6d. per cent.

Tokatea Trust.—5 per cent. for year.

Pawsons and Leafs.—Interim for the half-year ended the 27th inst. at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

MINING RETURNS.

Balaghat Gold.—4,100 tons, 3,278 ozs.; 2,750 tons of tailings (cyanide), 269 ozs.; total, 3,547 ozs.

Brilliant Extended Gold.—Crushed 2,185 tons, value £5,960; cyanide, £1,000.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—5,077 tons crude ore produced 874 tons concentrates containing 533 tons lead and 25,346 ozs. silver.

Broomassie.—Crushed 489 tons, yield 920 ozs.; 2 tons of concentrates, of an assay value of £42 13s. per ton.

Cecil Syndicate.—Tailings, 1,200 tons, £775 bullion.

Champion Reef.—19,320 tons, 15,877 ozs.; 16,374 tons of tailings (cyanide), 2,135 ozs.; total, 18,012 ozs.

Coronation Colliery.—Output 16,320 tons.

Day Dawn Block.—Crushed 2,050 tons, 1,242 ozs.; 3,138 tons of tailings (cyanide), value, £2,800.

Durban (Natal) Coal.—Output, 10,881 tons.

Eaglehawk Consolidated.—Crushed 950 tons, 354 ozs.; cyanide, 129 ozs.

Elandslaagte Collieries.—Output, 13,813 tons.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output, 11,574 tons.

Great Eastern Collieries.—Output of coal, 17,500 tons.

Lace Diamond.—Loads of blue ground floored, 45,819; loads of blue ground on floors, 477,950.

Lorna's Luck.—Crushed 57 tons, for 51 ozs. 6 dwts.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—4,278 tons crude ore for 74 tons of concentrates containing 58 tons 13 cwt. copper.

Mysore West and Mysore-Wynaad Gold.—1,032 ozs. from 2,162 tons crushed.

New Hillgrove Proprietary.—Crushed 385 tons, including 120 tons of screenings, yielding 1,355 ozs. bullion and 8 tons concentrates value 32 ozs.; value of tailings, 5 dwts. 11 grs. per ton; cyanide 130 tons 31 ozs.

New Vaal River Diamond.—Value of diamonds registered by diggers on the Vaal River Estate, £3,125.

Natal Navigation Collieries.—Output, 18,992 tons.

North Lachlan Gold.—Crushed 679 tons, £1,150; slimes untreated, £250; total, £1,400.

Nundydroog.—6,300 tons, 5,091 ozs.; 7,020 tons of tailings (cyanide), 663 ozs.; total, 5,754 ozs.

Ooregum Gold.—10,200 tons, 4,444 ozs.; 10,061 tons of tailings (cyanide), 1,043 ozs.; total, 5,487 ozs.

St. George's Coal.—Output 8,703 tons.

Surprise Gold.—Crushed 2,857 tons, 1,090 ozs.; cyanide, 475 ozs. from 2,710 tons.

Tasmanian Consols.—Crushed 993 tons, 472 ozs.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained 1,070 tons lead, 158,000 ozs. silver, 140 ozs. gold.

Transvaal Coal Trust.—Output 36,300 tons.

Transvaal Gold.—Crushed 10,673 tons, 2,265 ozs.; central cyanide 4,920 tons, 980 ozs.; central slimes 3,380 tons, 510 ozs.; kameel's cyanide 1,540 tons, 266 ozs.; kameel's slimes 770 tons, 128 ozs.; total, 4,149 ozs.

Waihi.—23,237 tons of 2,000 lbs. (equivalent to 20,747 tons of 2,240 lbs.), yielding £55,470.

Wankie (Rhodesia) Coal.—Output 7,937 tons. Sales, 5,710 tons.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8.

Corn Exchange.—Seething Lane, 11 a.m.

London Road Car.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

National Boiler and General Insurance.—Manchester, noon.

Normanby Iron Works.—Middlesbrough, 11.30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9.

Barcelona Tramways.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Coruna Copper.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.

Great Central Railway.—Manchester, noon.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.—Manchester, noon.

McNamara.—Great Eastern Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

Perseverance Gold Mines.—Salisbury House, noon.

Pease and Partners.—Darlington, noon.

South Metropolitan Gas.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10.

Midland Great Western of Ireland Railway.—Dublin, 1 p.m.

Page and Overton's Brewery.—Croydon, 2.30 p.m.

Russian Collieries.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

Trust and Loan of Canada.—7, Great Winchester Street, 2 p.m.

Union Bank of Australia.—71, Cornhill, 1 p.m.

West Ham Gas.—Liverpool Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11.

Great Northern Railway.—King's Cross Station, noon.

Hull and Barnsley Railway.—Hull, noon.

Neath and Brecon Railway.—Charing Cross Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

North-Eastern Railway.—York, noon.

Rhymney Railway.—Cardiff, noon.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING.

The half-yearly ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the London and County Banking Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.

The Hon. George Joachim Goschen, M.P., presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, stated that they would all agree that the figures given in the balance-sheet were satisfactory, especially so if they took into consideration the condition of the Money market during the past six months. Their net profits for the half-year were £264,065, a difference only of £1,744 compared with the figures of the corresponding period of last year. There had been a considerable decline in the value of money, a condition of affairs not favourable to the making of large profits, and he thought they might look forward to a continued period of ease. He was afraid that it was not possible to speak of a great revival in trade; but he thought that there was a tendency towards steady progress. The Board of Trade figures for the past six months rather proved this, and he thought it was not out of place to mention that their discounts for the year showed a figure of £8,784,327, as compared with £8,450,814, being an increase of £333,513. This was surely a further testimony of the improved condition of the country, especially in foreign trade. They could also congratulate themselves that the agricultural outlook was very good. Hay was exceptionally fine, and the harvest now being gathered would show a good yield, and there promised to be, if favourable conditions prevailed, very large crops. As to the political situation in the Far East, it would be impossible for them to omit it from their calculations. He hoped, in the matter of settling the war of the Far East, that the peace plenipotentiaries would be able to arrange terms, perhaps on a permanent basis, and one which would commend itself to other nations. The effect of this would be immediately felt in the commerce of the world. New markets would be opened, and a fresh impetus given to trade, together with an expansion of business in that part of the globe. The chief item of interest in the financial world was the issue of the Japanese loans, the success of which was due not merely to a feeling of sentiment for our allies, but to the high appreciation in which that nation was held in commercial matters, as well as in other relations. Domestic politics had not exactly the same influence on trade as foreign; but here, again, fortune had been slightly against them; for, whatever opinions might be held, there must be a general consensus of opinion that a period of doubt as to what changes might take place in fiscal policy must act detrimentally upon trade. For this reason all desired that an end should be put to the suspense which was generally felt. Turning to the figures for the half-year, the net profit, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, was £264,065, as compared with £265,809. Of this sum they proposed to carry £50,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £1,400,000. He was sure that they would approve of the policy of building up this fund; in fact, they had a direct proof of the approval of the public for this cautious policy in the enhanced value of their shares. Customers' balances were £44,813,391, showing an increase of £1,287,826. This was probably the most satisfactory feature of the report. Bills payable amounted to £2,322,237, showing an increase of £801,504. Cash in hand amounted to £7,992,034, or an increase of £216,591. Discounted bills were £8,784,327, or an increase of £333,513. Loans to customers stood at £18,115,973, or a decrease of £44,583. These advances, being well secured, were a profitable portion of their business; but as they did not desire them to assume too large a figure, they did not complain of the reduction. Turning to the profit and loss account, they brought forward in the last account £63,391, and they proposed, after paying a dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year, to carry forward £80,456, an increase of £17,065. The gross profits were £703,241, showing a decrease of £60,241. This was accounted for by the lower rates of interest obtained for their advances during the half-year; but against that they paid £61,828 less as interest to customers.

Mr. William Howard seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff closed the proceedings.

EMPIRE OF INDIA AND CEYLON TEA COMPANY.

The ninth annual ordinary general meeting of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Company, Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. F. T. Verner (the chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. H. F. Turner) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The report of the directors will already have made you acquainted with the very disappointing results of the past year's working. One of the chief causes was the increase of the duty on tea to 8d. per pound. This had the effect of greatly reducing consumption, and resulted in a general fall in the average price of tea of about 3½d. per pound. This represents a loss of about £10,000 to this company. With regard to the working of the Assam gardens, as chairman of the company I do not wish to evade any responsibility for any indirect loss that may have arisen through a change of policy in the working of those gardens. The main feature of the policy which I strongly advocated was an effort to work all the gardens more on the lines of Sonajuli. This garden of our Tezpur group has probably given, acre for acre, as good an average profit since the formation of the company as any gardens in Assam, and its working was clearly an object lesson for the other gardens of this group to follow. Unfortunately two uncontrollable events occurred which marred our efforts during the past season—(1) the abnormally bad weather, and (2) the temporary breakdown in the health of our superintendent, both of which contributed to a rather serious loss of tea. Naturally, I was very disappointed at the results obtained in 1904, and I thought it my duty to go out to Assam. I arrived on the company's gardens on January 2, and, with about one week's interval, I was engaged until February 19 in inspecting and studying the company's properties. As many of you are aware, I was a planter for some 18 years in the Dooars, and, with my past experience to guide me, I thought, with ample time at my disposal, I should be able to form a reliable opinion on the merits of these gardens and their potentialities in the future. It may be that I value my own judgment on this subject too highly, so I give you my opinion for what it is worth. It is that this group of gardens can do well—exceptionally well—under good management. I have the greatest confidence in our superintendent, and with a good staff to assist and work with him, feel assured you will see excellent results, always providing that the Assam industry is allowed to prosper. The overtaxation of tea and the question of labour and labour laws are difficulties that may upset all calculations. Turning to the Dooars gardens, we find that although the crop was 140,075 lbs. in excess of 1903, the garden revenue account shows that, as compared with that year, the profits were £3,063 less. I think we may safely assume that the greater part of this loss is to be attributed to the increased tea tax. It has to be noted, however, with regret that the improvement in the manufacture apparent in 1903 has not been in evidence in 1904. The superintendent, Mr. Daunt, who was absent on leave last season, is making every effort to improve the quality of the manufacture in these gardens, and there is certainly room for considerable improvement. With regard to our Ceylon gardens, although the season was very far from a favourable one, we would have made practically the same profit as in 1903 had it not been for the general fall in tea prices brought about by the increased duty. The profits of the company are only £4,489 18s. 2d., and with the amount brought forward from 1903, the balance available for dividend is £9,802 12s. To pay the full preference dividend would require £10,950. The board have, therefore, paid a dividend of 4 per cent., and hope to distribute a further 1 per cent., representing £2,190, in December next, in addition to the usual ad interim dividend of 2½ per cent. No shareholder in this company has as much reason as I have to complain of and lament over the results. I am far and away the heaviest sufferer in pocket, but I was more or less prepared for poor results, for no one has recognised more than I do the disastrous effects of the overtaxation of this industry. I did all I could to awaken to the dangers those interested. I also referred to the crushing blow that had been dealt the industry by the further impost of 2d. per lb., and pointed out that all the difficulties we had to contend against were dwarfed by the cruel injustice, and that this burden of overtaxation was more than the industry could bear. I think you will agree with me that it is a duty we owe to ourselves to strenuously work together for a reduction in the tea tax. With regard to the regulation of sales and the regulation of production, two subjects to which I referred at some length last year, I regret to say there has been no advance; but eventually these questions, like the question of fiscal reform, must be dealt with and put on a sound basis. The Chairman concluded by making a somewhat lengthy reference to the labour question, and after some remarks by Mr. Densham and Mr. Seton, the resolutions for the adoption of the report and payment of dividend were put to the meeting and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

Mr. Edward Hellings informs us that by effluxion of time the partnership of Allen Hellings and Co. is this day July 31, 1905 dissolved, and that he will continue the business of a bill and discount broker at 80, Cornhill, under the style of Edward Hellings and Co. He has given the procuration of the firm to his son, Mr. Arthur Hellings and to Mr. Stanley Adams Farr, both of whom have been connected with him in business for the last five years.

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The Investors' Review.

Our Foreign Trade in July.

The further the year progresses the sorrier we grow for those forlorn Tariffites of Birmingham. Instead of going to rack and ruin, as they say it is, the trade of the country appears to be irrepressibly elastic, and in the month of July imports reached a value of £44,741,838, being £3,785,237, or 9·2 per cent., more than in July, 1904. At the same time exports of British and Irish produce went up £3,037,469, or 12·2 per cent., to a total of £27,821,051. The re-shipments of foreign and colonial merchandise also rose £479,764, or 9·4 per cent., to a total of £5,773,478. How this brings up the totals for the seven months may be seen in our appended summary table. The point we have to note here is the month's remarkably healthy expansion on both sides of the account, taking even the standard set up by the Tariffites, Protectionists, Preferential Tariffmongers, and such like. Their wail has always been that we were being swamped by the foreign manufacturer, who has not only ousted us from markets abroad, but is rapidly clearing us out of markets at home, poor decrepit mortals that we are. The figures for the month of July give no support whatever to this grotesque contention. We imported more food last month by £1,344,527, but about £165,000 less meat of all kind, and very little more dutiable articles of food and drink. But there were increases of a more or less striking kind in nearly all sorts of raw material imported. Iron ore and old iron and steel went up by £68,000, other metallic ores by about £169,000, wood and timber by over £49,000, raw cotton by nearly £1,250,000, wool by almost £77,000, flax, jute and silk by nearly £43,000, and on, y in sundry oils and turpentine were there substantial decreases, making a net decline under that heading of nearly £153,000. Hides of all kinds, however, were imported to a value of £113,000 more, materials for paper making to £87,000 more, and there was a decrease of £45,477 net in the value of articles wholly or mainly manufactured. Among these articles, however, it is always prudent to insist, are many things that are really raw materials to our manufacturers, such as steel castings, forgings, bars, angles, &c., girders, ingots, blooms, billets, and so on, and we regard it as an unpleasant incident in the figures relating to this class of commodity for the month that the last mentioned group of imports should have shown a decrease of nearly £63,000 compared with July, 1904. We have imported £57,000 more machinery, principally electrical, and a little more cutlery as well as rather more cotton manufactures and woollen yarn and manufactures, but the variations or increases in such things as chemicals, leather, and paper, are altogether insignificant when placed alongside the splendid aggregates of our export trade.

Turning to that trade we find that last month, leaving aside grain, meat, including living animals, miscellaneous articles of food and drink, tobacco, and so on, we did an increased business in nearly every important branch of manufacture. About £60,000 less coal and coke was exported, and nearly £8,500 worth less iron ore, scrap iron and steel, but these are not manufactured articles any more than wood and timber, wool, flax, silk, hides, rags and clay. Under articles wholly or mainly manufactured, however, we find an increase of nearly £692,000 in the value of iron and steel exported, of £239,000 in the value of other metals and manufactures sent away,

of £23,000 in the value of cutlery, hardware, &c., exported, of £14,410 in the value of telegraph cables and apparatus, and of fully £290,000 in that of machinery and millwork sent abroad. A slight decline, less than £14,000, in the value of the new ships exported counts

IMPORTS.

	July.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
General merchandise.	45,653,320	40,956,601	44,741,838	+ 3,785,237
Gold	2,373,310	2,044,017	2,488,711	+ 444,694
Silver	654,975	654,015	1,019,765	+ 365,750
	48,681,605	43,654,633	48,250,314	+ 4,595,681

EXPORTS.

	July.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	25,875,545	24,793,582	27,821,051	+ 3,027,469
For. and Col. M'dse..	5,665,518	5,293,714	5,773,478	+ 479,764
Gold	2,447,519	1,407,542	3,122,636	+ 1,715,094
Silver	968,229	1,025,621	1,257,680	+ 232,059
	34,956,811	32,510,459	37,974,845	+ 5,464,386

IMPORTS.

	Seven Months ended July 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
General merchandise	306,086,900	312,893,391	317,847,399	+ 4,954,008
Gold	16,029,037	19,154,465	21,972,148	+ 2,817,683
Silver	5,444,798	7,600,813	7,647,476	+ 46,663
	327,561,335	339,648,669	347,467,023	+ 7,818,354

EXPORTS.

	Seven Months ended July 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	168,398,170	168,900,249	183,527,272	+ 14,627,023
For. and Col. M'dse..	41,713,386	42,356,719	45,827,771	+ 3,471,052
Gold	10,049,635	15,693,054	14,374,962	- 1,318,092
Silver	6,064,303	8,248,820	8,249,355	+ 55
	226,225,494	235,198,842	251,979,360	+ 16,780,518

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	July.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
Imports	48,681,605	43,654,633	48,250,314	+ 4,595,681
Exports	34,956,811	32,510,459	37,974,845	+ 5,464,386
Excess value of im- ports over exports	13,724,794	11,144,174	10,275,479	- 868,795

	Seven Months ended July 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
	£	£	£	£
Imports	327,561,335	339,648,669	347,467,023	+ 7,818,354
Exports	226,225,494	235,198,842	251,979,360	+ 16,780,518
Excess value of im- ports over exports	101,335,841	104,449,827	95,487,663	- 8,962,164

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

for nothing against magnificent increases such as these, and to crown all, the month brought an expansion of about £476,000 in the export value of cotton yarns, piece goods, and other manufactures sent to our foreign customers. We hope masters of men in Lancashire are not going to spoil this progress by quarrelling. Woollen goods also went out to the extent of £203,000 more, and there was an increase in the exports of jute, woollen,

and silk commodities to the value of £131,000, while apparel showed a growth of £23,000, chemicals of fully £170,000, leather, boots and shoes, saddlery and harness, with other manufactures of this class, to the extent of nearly £84,000, and glass and earthenware of nearly £24,500—a dying trade you perceive. Miscellaneous productions like cement, railway trucks, cycles and parts thereof, soap, musical instruments, oil and floor cloth, stationery, skins and furs, and so on, were exported to an increased value of nearly £314,000. Thus our trade with foreign nations and the colonies, but especially with foreign nations, continues to flourish and grow, and there appears to be no particular reason why it should not go on doing so while we leave it unshackled. It may not be because of the export duty on coal that our foreign orders for that commodity appear to be falling off, but the decline in the quantity of refined sugar sent out of the country coupled, as it is, with an advance in the price, must assuredly be ascribed to the one-sided arrangement entered into by us under the sugar convention. Prices generally, it may be added, have not materially contributed to the expansion in the value totals as recited above, whether on the import or the export side. Grain of most descriptions is rather dearer but meat is almost unchanged, comparing the two Julys, and there is on the same basis a decline in the price of flax, balanced, however, to some extent by an increase in that of jute. Leather is cheaper and nitrate of soda, but sugar has gone up materially. In most other articles, however, the changes are of small importance, if we except tin, which for the month rose 7·7 per cent. in quantity and 24·8 per cent. in value. Wine is also dearer, but that may be due to higher qualities imported, as there is a slight falling off in the quantity, and so far as exports go, we have not received such good prices for cotton yarn and twist, cotton piece goods, iron and steel, linen piece goods, soda compounds, or spirits, as we got a year ago, but then neither have we paid anything like so much as a rule for the raw material.

German Imperial Finances.

There is not much consolation to students of Imperialism in the Imperial German budget, for it shows a State labouring under chronic deficits, due to the exacting demands of Imperial militarism. Since the Empire was founded it has borrowed on an average £4,500,000 per annum, and the total indebtedness will during the current year go beyond £192,000,000. This debt, it must never be forgotten, is wholly independent of the public debts of the various individual States, upon the top of which all the Imperial grandeur is imposed. It differs, moreover, from those debts in that the bulk of it has been incurred for purposes wholly profitless. This is not to be wondered at when we find the total military budget for the current financial year mounting up to about £41,000,000, including £6,408,000 paid away as military pensions. The total outlay on pensions is £6,817,000, and of this only £121,000 goes to the Imperial civil service, naval pensions amounting to but £280,000. Part of the money is found by depleting the Imperial invalid fund, constituted originally out of the indemnity wrung from France, so that long before the necessity for its existence has come to an end, the capital of that fund will apparently have vanished. Owing to the deficits of recent years, the Empire has been compelled to depend more and more upon borrowed money, and the deficit for the current year is still put at £11,248,000, although that is £1,357,000 less than the deficiency for 1904. It is recognised by German statesmen that this sort of thing cannot go on. There is a floating debt at the present time in short-dated Treasury bonds, of £8,811,000, and besides this there are Imperial notes to the amount of £5,874,000 in circulation. So heavy has been the borrowing of recent years and so untoward the temper of the market that it has been impossible to raise any more loans at 3 per cent., and soon it will be necessary

to raise the interest to 4 per cent., for a large amount of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. could not now be issued at par.

Therefore we may well keep our minds calm when our sensation-mongers clamour, as Lord Roberts is doing, for the establishment of conscription in this country, in order to be ready for the German foe or for an imaginary Russian invasion of India, for it is obvious that an Empire whose finances are strained in this fashion in times of profound peace could not long maintain a war carried on under modern conditions as to costs. It will be very difficult to bridge the peace deficits by raising more taxes. Further taxation, however, is now contemplated and inevitable, because the various States who contribute to the maintenance of the Imperial glory are burdened and grumbling at the exactions put upon them. Already they are paying a considerable sum in addition to the various shares of the revenues collected for or assigned to them by the Imperial authorities. As is well known, there was a kind of bargain struck between the Empire and the States, whereby the receipts from Customs and various other duties were collected by the Empire, and a certain proportion handed back to each individual State in the Germanic Federation. Out of this money these States in their turn handed over a certain amount, called matriculation contributions, to meet Imperial charges, and for years back the demands made upon them have exceeded the amount they received from the taxation collected on their behalf. As early as 1902, Mr. Whitehead, Councillor to His Majesty's Embassy at Berlin, with whose excellent report we are dealing, mentions, the Federal States declared themselves unable to provide more than about £1,175,000 per annum in excess of the sums received by them out of the taxes imperially collected, and even this amount strained their financial capacity to the utmost. But in spite of this, about £820,000 in excess was exacted in 1904, although the collection of the money was deferred, and is still deferred. From 1899 to 1904 Federal Governments have provided more than £5,825,000 towards the needs of the Empire beyond the sums received by them in the shape of consignments out of the imperially collected taxes. For all that, the German Empire is hard up, and loading itself with debt upon debt until the interest charge alone in the current year will amount to more than £5,530,000, an increase of £428,000 compared with 1904. That some more money can be got by raising the tax on tobacco and the brewing tax, or by imposing an Imperial estate duty, as appears to be in contemplation, is no doubt true, but the Empire will not deepen its hold upon the affections of the German people by such increases in their burdens.

A curious example of the strength of socialistic forces within the Empire is afforded by the statistics relating to old age pensions. The total outlay upon such is put in the current year at about £2,500,000 as the proportion of the total charge borne out of the Imperial revenue. The total expenditure actually incurred for infirmity expenses, sick allowance, old age pensions, &c., amounted up to the end of 1903 to £41,881,000, of which £27,480,000 was paid by the insurance offices from contributions by the people, and £14,401,000 was provided by the State. The German navy costs much less than ours, but still, pensions included, and also the charge on account of the Kiauchow project for the current year, amounts to about £13,500,000, and as both the naval and military extraordinary expenditure has to be met out of loans, one can realise how urgent the cry must soon become for a drastic reduction in these wasteful forms of expenditure. For the Imperial revenue is not very elastic. Its net total is put at £59,489,000 for the current year, an increase of £4,492,000 on the figure for 1904. This includes about £199,000 drawn from the capital of the invalid fund, and £540,000 received as interest on the Chinese indemnity, besides other sums not strictly revenue. Customs, excise, and stamp duties, less assignment and cost of collection, that is to say, assignments out of the proceeds to the various States in the federation, are expected to yield

£38,464,000, posts and telegraphs £3,995,000, the Reichsbank £772,000, railways £986,000, and matriculation contributions from the States £13,083,000, this last showing an increase of £1,497,000. Much is expected from the new and more ruinous Customs tariff when it comes into operation, but we shall be surprised if the result of the change is not disappointing. As a final indication of the stress and strain Imperialism is putting upon Germany, we may mention that the original amount of the Imperial invalid fund, set aside out of the French war indemnity, was £27,461,000, and it is now down to about £12,000,000. In the estimates for the current year £2,346,045 is to be drawn from this fund to supplement revenue, and of that amount only £374,561 represents interest, the balance being capital.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

IS IT PEACE?

All eyes are turned to that little house in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, watching for signs of peace. We earnestly trust it is going to be peace, for the war between Russia and Japan cannot continue many months longer without bringing both Powers within easily measurable distance of irretrievable financial disaster. It is all very well for Mr. Takahashi, financial agent of Japan, to tell us that the war is only costing his country £75,000,000 per annum, and that it will be able to go on with the assistance of further loans for perhaps an indefinite time, or for Russia every other week to attempt to raise another loan—the latest effort being a £20,000,000 loan in 5 per cent. bonds, of which news came on Thursday morning—but neither Power can go on borrowing for many months longer, and hope to avoid an agonising time with its creditors. Were Japan to come here for another loan even as late as the end of this year it is very doubtful whether it would be subscribed. There is a feeling, in other words, that Japan has already had quite as much money as she can find the interest upon year in and out, and a continuance of the war would certainly tend to damage her credit on every great money market. An earnest and sustained effort ought therefore to be made to bring about peace, and we hope the stories about Japan's determination to exact a more or less heavy money indemnity from Russia are not true. Japan is in no position to force Russia to pay any large money indemnity, because she does not possess any Russian territory beyond the island of Sakhalien, which is not worth a large ransom even if Japan were prepared to surrender it, as she is not. Her compensation for the terrific cost of the war must be found in the occupation and development of Manchuria. Russia may be ready to consent to lose the whole of the capital sunk by her in that province, to assign her portion of the Manchurian Railway to the victor in the war, but to go further and ask her to provide an indemnity equal to the amount of money the war has cost Japan is certain to wreck the attempt to bring about peace. The dogged Russian might rather than yield decide then to risk everything, domestic turmoil, impotence in Europe, revolution and partial dismemberment rather than yield. "I have but to squat and wait," he might say.

THE NAVAL WORKS BILL.

The Opposition did well to resist the passing of this measure which authorises the borrowing of £5,835,000 for naval works, most of them perfectly useless. Mr. McKenna on Monday afternoon moved that this total should be reduced by £2,000,000, the object being to compel whatever Government may be in power next year to table its annual estimates for these works in the regular manner instead of going on with them behind the backs of Parliament and spending money without check or stint. The amendment was defeated,

but the country will note the eagerness with which any proposal to waste public money, borrowed money especially, is welcomed by the supporters of the Government, and debt is added to debt in the most astounding manner. Just look at that answer of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the question put to him by Mr. Bright in the end of last week. Mr. Bright asked him the present amount of the unfunded debt, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain answered that it was £77,554,100 against £82,183,000 a year back, but he had to confess that the smaller total does not include £6,000,000 of Exchequer bonds issued in October, 1904, under "Capital Expenditure Money Act, 1904," for the purpose of the naval and military works Acts. In fact, that £6,000,000 does not appear anywhere except perhaps in the annual statement of the floating debt, jumbled up in an official paper few people see. The total floating debt on August 4 was £83,554,000, or £1,374,000 more than on August 4, 1904, not £4,629,000 less as guileless Mr. Austen's table would make it appear. So it goes on, and we never really know how we stand. In the same reply the Chancellor of the Exchequer declared that out of his April £10,000,000 bond issue he had already bought in nearly £3,000,000 of the Exchequer bonds falling due in December next, and that he proposed to redeem the balance of the £7,000,000 designed to be cancelled this year on or before the due date. But where does this reduction already effected make its appearance? Not in the weekly cash account of the Treasury. That shows £7,705,000 received on the issue of Exchequer bonds, but not a penny of the amount said to have been spent in redeeming the expiring bonds. How is anybody to follow a loose, slip-slop method of finance such as this? We have no assurance that the £4,000,000 of the 1905 Exchequer bonds to be redeemed before the end of the year will not be provided for out of other forms of debt created in anticipation of the naval works expenditure voted by the House in the beginning of this week. What is to hinder the Chancellor of the Exchequer from secretly putting out another £6,000,000 of Exchequer bonds long before the money is actually wanted, and utilising part of the proceeds to nominally redeem Exchequer bonds expiring, or any other fancy article affected by Governments always spending and ever in want?

THE "TIMES ENGINEERING SUPPLEMENT" ON LONDON'S FIRST NECESSITY.

We have barely had the report of the Royal Commission on London Street Traffic with us for three weeks, but that has been long enough to give the House of Lords the chance to show its contempt for the citizens of London by throwing out the County Council's Bill to authorise its tramways to cross the bridges, and the *Times* opportunity to display its anti-municipal zeal without fairness and often without discretion. Poor old *Times*! Something has been gained, none the less, although no prospect exists of the attainment of that better ordering of London street traffic, about which the Commissioners invited us Londoners to dream. Alas! There is no money available, and the ground landowners do not mean us to have any money as long as they can help it. Instead of meeting in an honourable and good citizenish way their fair share of the public burdens of the metropolis, they never cease their efforts to thrust more and more of them on to other and weaker shoulders. It is the unresting energy displayed in this selfish and unpatriotic direction which lies at the root of the bitter hostility of the peers to the London County Council, and to these peers the suggestion of the Street Traffic Commissioners that a "Traffic Board" should be set up—one more dividing and enfeebling authority to keep London in bondage—has come as a joyful thing and precious. The *Times* "Engineering Supplement" of this week, accordingly is to the fore with an effusion which discloses opportunely the use to which the Commission's suggestion will be put. In a leading article, after ponderously assuring readers that the two main

administrative suggestions of the Commissioners—this Traffic Board and larger powers bestowed upon the police (not on the Council, oh, dear no!)—had met "with no opposition"—which is a peculiar kind of truth—the scribe labours on in this style:—

It must be borne in mind that the larger projects for new avenues and street widenings, in addition to vast extensions of tramways, were not put forward as enterprises to be immediately undertaken, but as part of a general scheme, to be subject to the careful examination of a permanent Traffic Board, and the estimates of capable engineers. It is probable that, until such a Traffic Board is created, the select committees of Parliament called upon to deal with applications for new tramways and railways or street improvement projects, will as far as possible follow in the line of the recommendations and conclusions of the Royal Commission. In this way, and in that above indicated, effect can be given at once to some of the recommendations, and the public may receive the benefit of the prodigious work which the Commission has undoubtedly performed.

Another matter, of minor importance perhaps, but one that should not be overlooked in the winding up of the present Session of Parliament, is the necessity for preserving for future use, or for the use of the Traffic Board when created, the vast amount of unpublished matter collected by the Commission. Under the general practice, we are informed by a reliable authority, the material will be destroyed, because no department of the Government is particularly charged with its preservation. The nucleus of a library on modern city transportation will here be found, with reports, in some cases complete sets of volumes, relating to the modern developments of locomotion in nearly all the great cities of Europe and America, together with much information of the greatest value to engineers and economists who are charged with the inauguration and management of undertakings for providing traffic facilities. The new Traffic Board when established should be authorised, we think, to take over, classify, tabulate, and index these valuable reports for future reference and use.

Very deft craftsmanship this, all in the assuming it settled style, which only an old hand could be trusted to employ with effect. A "Board" being a thing of course, what could be more appropriate than that it should have documents no other authority has the right or power to collect and keep, put in its charge to classify, &c., &c.? Urgency for the appointment of the board, lest these papers should be lost, is thus indicated in a fashion hardly calculated to rouse susceptibilities, and if we can get a decent semblance of public opinion manufactured out of nothing in this way while the County and Borough Councils are taking their holiday, the thing might be as good as done—if this boodlers' Parliament of ours would only live another year.

AN APOLOGY TO MR. ROBERT P. PORTER AND AN ELUCIDATION.

Speaking of the *Times* "Engineering Supplement" calls up the name of Mr. Robert P. Porter, and reminds us that we seem to have done him an injustice when his name got printed in our "Passing Events" the other week. He was then described as the "'Hon.' Robert P. Porter," just as we have often seen him described in the *Star* and other unpleasant Radical papers, as if the "hon." was for all the world a merry jest, like "Col." or "Genl.," to which all Yankees are supposed to be entitled by birth. It is not a jest, though, with Mr. Porter, but quite serious and altogether genuine. Mr. Porter has been thus labelled or marked off from commonalty by the highest personages in the United States, from the late President McKinley, whose friend he was, the late Mr. John Hay, and the present President, Theodore Roosevelt, downwards. He has, therefore, quite as much right to claim the prefix hon. without commas as any disinherited younger son of a Peer with us, or any colonial M.P. of them all. We did not know the American etiquette on this point before, and beg to apologise to Mr. Porter, and to stand corrected, promising to sin no more.

While doing this quite sincerely, may we be permitted to confess that this long while back the uses to which the prefix "hon.," meaning honourable, are put in our own and other countries, and likewise the origins of it, have offered a subject of occasional study, out of which we have extracted no small instruction. In our own old country the King himself seems unable

to make a hon. straight off; he has to do so by proxy—first, create a peer, and then all the peer's children after No. 1 forthwith become hon. Most interesting, is it not? and it becomes more so when we contrast this limited power—limited in the interests of first-borns, perhaps of our sovereign—with the greater freedom enjoyed in the colonies and in the United States. In the colonies any body of voters, no matter how small, can, by electing a man to the local Parliament, convert him into a hon.; whereas our voters possess no such power. Here an M.P. is an "hon. member" only when inside the House; outside he is just plain Mr., and as often as not a company promoter. But in the colonies, what with the devotion of the inhabitants to politics and sport, joined to the creating faculty of the electors, every second man you jostle in the streets is either a hon., a "Mike and Geo" knight, or an umpire.

In the United States it seems they go a step further. Rigid principles of republicanism and democracy really forbid the use of any distinguishing epithets, labels or honour marks among the citizens, so that no Congressman or Senator is, in the eyes of the constitution, anything more than John, Jacob, or Aaron Plantagenet. But usage has so far softened the austerities of George Washington and his comrades in successful rebellion as to bestow the hon. hall mark of incipient nobility upon all and sundry elected of the people to perform representative duties. Of late years sour republicanism has been still further diluted and meliorised by social usage until it has come about that Presidents and Governors, Ministers of State, Commissioners, and mere eminent accidentals in the national life confer the title hon. upon whomsoever they elect to elevate or please. Thus the custom within the North American Republic is actually broader and more liberal than that of our colonies, or rather in the Great Republic of the West the high official assumes the function retained for the use of the King in our colonies, and becomes a fountain of honour or honours "on his own." Is not this very interesting? And now that you understand you will surely be able to sympathise with us over the mistake we made about Mr. Robert P. Porter. He is as much a hon. as Mr. Whitelaw Reid or the great President Roosevelt himself.

OUR FOOD SUPPLY IN WAR TIME.

So important are the conclusions arrived at by the body of gentlemen appointed to inquire into this subject that we feel constrained to make room for the greater portion of part 4 of their report in this week's number. There is much consolation in studying a deliverance of this kind in that it suffices to demonstrate once more the capacity inherent in a body of Englishmen to shed off the fads and the theorisings of cranks when they get together and calmly survey the subject put before them. Assuredly the conclusions appended here are marked by a degree of common sense which must be gratifying to every patriotic mind. It was at the instance of the Protectionists, and above all, of those sincere but hopelessly wrong-headed busybodies whom we have labelled blue-funkists, that this Royal Commission was brought into existence. People of these descriptions were anxious to obtain the sanction of such a body for more or less hare-brained schemes of their hatching, designed, in the first place, to lay upon the nation a permanent and altogether wasteful charge for the maintenance of stocks of grain in the country against possible dangers from war, and as corollary thereto, to get imposed upon the people a more or less drastic system of Protection, whose real object was to stimulate the rents of the landed classes. All this nonsense has been swept away by the Commissioners, every one of whom has signed the main report from which these extracts are taken, and above all the death blow has been given to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's preferential tariff nonsense. "We regard," they say, "the present variety of sources from which our food supplies are drawn as likely to contribute to our advantage in time of war, since their wide geo-

graphical position must tend to minimise risks of effective interference with our imports." And they go on to point out that instead of deriving 62 per cent. of our annual imports of wheat and flour from a single source we are at the present time drawing our main supplies from four countries in widely different parts of the world, viz., British India, Russia, the Argentine, and the United States, which in 1904 sent us respectively 21 per cent., 19 per cent., 18 per cent., and 16 per cent. of our total imports. They add that the more numerous the neutral Powers supplying our wants the less probable is the violation of international law by our enemies. If that does not kill the pernicious tariff agitation emanating from Birmingham with all its insincere and not particularly honest fustian about "closer union with the colonies" and rubbish of that description, then the men behind it are as incapable of being silenced by sound sense as by ridicule. It only remains to include here the names of the gentlemen who have signed this most valuable report and to add that the string of objections, divergencies, tariff and other manifestations of various individual members of this Commission tend in no way to weaken the force of the conclusions signed by the whole body. Naturally gentlemen like the Duke of Sutherland, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Wharton, Sir H. Seton-Karr, and Mr. Cunyngame would like to see a costly system of grain storage established in order to justify the sliding scale of duty on imported wheat, designed apparently to compensate in some measure for the ravages of rats, but they are quite harmless, and their scheme merely requires to be mentioned to reveal its absurdity. They would store up wheat in bond and charge a duty of 2s. per quarter if it was sold after being less than a month in hand. If less than two months the duty would fall to 1s. 6d., and not less than three months to 1s., or not less than four months 6d., while after that it would escape duty free. But if the rats were allowed the full run of grain in the granaries for eight or nine months or a year, where would the compensation to owners come from? This scale is far short of what would really be required. But for what they have said as a body we tender the Commissioners our respectful thanks. Here are their names:—George P. Balfour of Burleigh (Chairman), Sutherland,* Burghclere,* Henry Chaplin,* John L. Wharton,* John C. R. Colomb,* A. E. Bateman,* Henry Seton-Karr,* Henry H. S. Cunyngame,* Edmund Robertson,* T. E. Holland,* Alfred Emmott,* Robert Montgomery,* Joseph Edward Street,* John Wilson,* Day H. Bosanquet, and W. H. Clark (Secretary).

We have taken wheat as the article of food which is of the greatest importance, and we think we are justified in saying that, having regard to all the facts put before us, it is safe to assume that the stock of wheat within the United Kingdom, which usually represents about 17 weeks' supply in September, will not fall below 7 weeks' supply, except in the month of August when it might be 6½ weeks. The minimum could only occur in the unlikely contingency of first hand, second hand, and farmers' stocks being at their lowest point at the same time, and even under these circumstances this result could only be reached in the period from June to August, when the home-grown crop is to a large extent exhausted. We do not think it likely that at any given time the stock will actually be at the minimum above mentioned. We have put this calculation forward as the worst that we think it necessary to take into account, and we think it a fair deduction from the facts and figures we have brought together to say that our stock of wheat will seldom fall so low as seven weeks' supply.

In all the calculations in which we refer to stocks, &c., of wheat and flour in terms of weeks' supply, we have used the term one week's supply as the equivalent of a fifty-second part of the estimated total consumption of the United Kingdom during the year in question. At the present time our average weekly requirements may be taken as equivalent to about 600,000 qrs. It may be suggested that war, should it affect the purchasing power of the poorer classes, may tend to increase the usual rate of consumption in view of the low cost of bread and its great dietetic value, especially in proportion to its cheapness, as a source of energy; and to some extent, no doubt, this is likely to occur.

In the calculation in paragraph 245 we have only referred to the stocks actually held in these Islands; but it must be borne in mind that the course of trade is fairly constant, and we find that there is usually afloat for the United Kingdom an amount of wheat averaging from about two to four million quarters, or

* The names with an asterisk attached are those of Commissioners who have signed subject to reservations stated in separate reports.

three and a-half to seven weeks' supply. Some of this wheat is at a considerable distance from our shores; it is obvious, however, that, taking five weeks' supply as the average amount afloat, a fifth of this will probably be within one week's sail of the United Kingdom. This conclusion is borne out by an analysis of the grain afloat in a single week, which was prepared for us at our request by Mr. S. Woods, managing director of "Dornbusch's Floating Cargoes List," showing that in the week in question—chosen as the period in the year 1902 when the largest quantity of grain was afloat—the amount within one week's sail of the United Kingdom represented 20 per cent. of the whole amount afloat in that week for British ports.

Turning to the position of this country in time of war, we think that it would be unwise to allow the safety of our supplies to depend too largely upon the observance of every rule of International Law of a hostile Power. At the same time we consider International Law to be one of the factors which will contribute in an important degree to the maintenance of our security by placing restrictions upon the operations of our enemies. An example will illustrate our meaning. It is no doubt true that the rules to the effect that the neutral flag covers enemies' goods except contraband of war, and that neutral goods unless contraband are free even when carried in a belligerent bottom, might conceivably be evaded by a declaration that foodstuffs were unconditionally contraband. Such a declaration, however, would in itself be a violation of International Law, against which neutrals would be sure to protest, and, as recent experience has shown, with every prospect of success.

We also regard the present variety of sources from which our supplies are drawn as likely to contribute to our advantage in time of war, since their wide geographical distribution must tend to minimise the risk of effective interference with our imports. From this point of view the recent decline in exports from the United States, and its effect upon our imports, is of considerable moment. Instead of deriving 62 per cent. of our total annual imports of wheat and flour from a single source, we are at the present time drawing our main supplies from four countries in widely different parts of the world—namely, British India, Russia, the Argentine, and the United States, which in 1904 sent us, respectively, 21 per cent., 19 per cent., 18 per cent., and 16 per cent. of our total imports. It should, however, be borne in mind that the year 1903-4 was one of comparatively small production in the United States, and experience alone can show whether the tendency indicated above will continue in the future.

It may also be said that the more numerous the neutral Powers supplying our wants the less probable is the violation of International Law by our enemies. There is, therefore, a certain advantage to us in the fact that the supplies of our principal foodstuffs are drawn in a greater proportion from foreign countries than from British possessions. In the triennial period 1900-1902 over 80 per cent. of our annual imports both of wheat and flour and of meat (including animals for food) came from foreign countries, and though as regards wheat and flour this proportion has been somewhat modified by the recent decline in imports from the United States, it is still considerable—namely, 73 per cent. in 1903 and 61 per cent. in 1904.

We think that the effect of the naval and shipping evidence is conclusive as to the point that while there will be some interference with trade and some captures, not only is there no risk of a total cessation of our supplies, but no reasonable probability of serious interference with them, and that, even during a maritime war, there will be no material diminution in their volume, unless such a disaster takes place as is referred to in paragraph 116.

If it should be thought that we have been too sanguine in our estimate as to the extent to which our supplies will be affected by a maritime war, and that their arrival is likely to be interfered with more seriously than we have supposed, it still has to be remembered, as we have pointed out, that there is considerable scope for economies in consumption, and that the number of weeks we have mentioned would by no means see the country at the limit of its resources, and therefore of its power of resistance. We believe that any rise of price which occurred would at once and automatically cause economies in consumption, and that substitutes for wheat, such as barley, oats, maize, &c., would be brought into use.

Another point must not be left out of sight when considering the limit of the country's resources. Whatever number of weeks is taken as the minimum period for which our supplies might be expected to last, it must not be assumed that the lapse of that number of weeks would see the country at the end of its resources. We believe it to be beyond the power of any naval force which would be at the disposal of any possible combination against us altogether to prevent the importation of our supplies, while any increase in price would be a considerable stimulus to induce shippers abroad to run the necessary risks.

We do not therefore apprehend that any situation is likely to arise in which there would be a risk of the actual starvation of our population into submission. But we do regard with much concern the effect of war upon prices, and especially therefore on the condition of the poorer classes, for they will be the first to feel the pinch, and it is on them that the strain of increased prices would chiefly fall. We do not, however, look with any great alarm on the effect of war upon prices, so far as concerns what we have referred to as the economic rise of prices—i.e., the increase likely to be produced by the enhanced cost of transport and insurance in time of war. We consider that the addition to the price of commodities under this head will be covered by a moderate percentage on their ordinary cost, and we believe that even this moderate increase might to a large extent be obviated by the adoption of a scheme of National Indemnity.

At the same time it seems to us that it would be unwise to disregard the dangers that might accrue from what we have described as the "panic" rise of prices of staple articles of food, which might take place in the excitement sure to be caused by the outbreak of a great maritime war. No doubt the rapid spread of accurate information would tend to prevent any considerable duration of a rise due solely to panic, and we may assume that the greater the rise of prices the greater would be the exertions made to pour in supplies. But it can hardly be doubted that much suffering would be caused if the rise in prices was sudden in its inception, and more especially if it were to continue over any lengthened period of time; and we cannot disregard the possibility that it might result in danger to calmness and self-possession, just when those qualities would be of the greatest importance.

An example of the influence which may be exerted by an unreasoning panic is afforded by the history of certain occurrences in the recent war between Spain and the United States, to which we have referred in some detail in an earlier portion of this report. In that instance the panic in the United States was not connected with any dread of interference with supplies of food, which might affect the whole nation, but was, so to speak, merely a local alarm on the sea-board that a raid might be made on some of the coast towns by Admiral Cervera's fleet; yet its influence was sufficient to cause pressure to be brought to bear upon the Government which adversely affected the strategic disposition of the American fleet.

We have thought it our duty to consider whether any measures could be devised to minimise the risk of panic and to maintain so far as possible a steady level of prices in time of war. It may be conceded that a larger stock of grain existing within the United Kingdom would be a powerful, if not indeed the most powerful, or, as some may think, the only adequate means of attaining this end. The existence of larger stocks within this country might go far to allay the natural apprehension among the poorer classes that war might mean scarcity, or a serious and protracted enhancement in the price of bread. It is also perhaps worthy of consideration that the knowledge in foreign countries that the United Kingdom was provided so far as food is concerned against any sudden emergency, might defeat any calculation which takes for its basis the possibility that the United Kingdom might in face of starvation consent to an ignominious peace.

It is the realisation of these facts that has induced so many of the witnesses whom we have called before us to propound schemes having for their object the increase of the amount of grain normally held in this country. Notwithstanding this, we have come to the conclusion that the disadvantages and evils which it seems to us are inseparable from all or nearly all of these schemes are greater than any benefit which is likely to be derived from them. Neither the cost nor the argument that any of the schemes for national granaries or for subsidising those engaged in the trade would be an interference with commercial enterprise are in themselves conclusive against either of these classes of schemes. If an additional supply of grain were essential in order to prevent the suffering of a great number of the poor from greatly enhanced prices of food, or were vital to national safety, neither cost nor the interests of any one trade, however important, should be allowed to stand in the way; but these considerations are of sufficient importance to weigh heavy in the scale unless that vital necessity is distinctly proved.

It has also to be remembered that all schemes for increasing our stocks of wheat touch only one portion of the problem before us. So far as they might prove effective, they would tend to keep down the price of that grain, and it is infinitely the most important article of consumption in the United Kingdom; but the effect of war will not make itself felt only in an increase in the price of food. The same causes will naturally operate to raise the price of imported materials for industry and also to increase the cost of exporting manufactured articles. The British manufacturer may therefore have to struggle at one and the same time against increased cost of production and additional expense in placing his manufactures on the foreign market, and it seems almost certain that under these conditions some markets must be lost. We have referred in paragraphs 184 and 185 to the considerations which are likely to ameliorate this state of affairs, but when all allowances are made we think that war can scarcely fail to place the British manufacturer at a disadvantage which he can only meet either by reducing his output, if high prices lead to restricted consumption, or by diminishing his expenses through a reduction in the wages of those in his employment. Obviously either of these alternatives must press heavily upon the working man. He will be working either at a lower rate of wages or for less than ordinary time with a corresponding reduction in his earnings, and it therefore seems clear that the possession within these islands of a larger stock of wheat would not wholly obviate the difficulties in which we might be placed.

As regards the schemes which involve the Government in the actual purchase and sale of foodstuffs, we think that the objections to such a policy are conclusive. The Government would be exposed to serious losses in constantly purchasing and selling grain; much disturbance would inevitably be caused to the grain trade; and in the event of war the difficulties attendant on a satisfactory distribution of the stores held, which we have dealt with above in paragraph 226, coupled with the fact that the very existence of such stores would tend to discourage the enterprise of the private importer, appear to us to be insuperable.

Nor do we find it possible to regard with much less disfavour the schemes for inducing by payment of subsidies merchants or millers to carry a permanent stock of grain or flour over and

above the stocks which they would hold in the ordinary course of their trade. In addition to their costliness, which, if not so great as that of national wheat granaries, would still be very considerable, schemes of this class seem to us to have the great disadvantage of placing power in the hands of individual traders and in some cases of affording them the opportunity of deriving considerable pecuniary benefit, while it is by no means proved that if put into operation they would really cause large stocks—additional to what are kept at present—to be stored in the United Kingdom.

If, however, it is thought on full consideration desirable to have recourse to measures for increasing the stocks of wheat held in this country, we are of opinion that a scheme for offering storage room rent free would be open to the fewest objections from a general economic or trade point of view, and that such a scheme might be tried as an experiment. But even this proposal has difficulties of its own. In the first place, we do not think it by any means certain that the offer of storage free of rent will be a sufficient inducement to persuade owners to keep in this country wheat which at present is held in the country of production. It also appears to us doubtful whether these schemes might not have considerable effect in depleting existing stores and attracting their contents to the subsidised buildings, and, further, whether in practice it would be possible to bring the matter to the test of actual fact.

Until an experiment is tried, these objections can only be matter of conjecture, and as the cost is not great we think it well worth the consideration of the Government whether a public invitation should not be made, upon the authority of some Department of State, for the purpose of seeing what offer would be made in response to it, and on what terms, with the object of ensuring the holding of larger stocks of grain within the United Kingdom than is the case at the present time. It must, however, be borne in mind that even with an experiment, especially if tried on a small scale, it may not be possible to arrive at a decisive result.

Having in view the considerations mentioned in the preceding paragraph and the possibility that if the free stores were filled the only effect might be to diminish proportionately the stocks held elsewhere in the country, it seems to us that if any decisive results are to be obtained from an experiment of the kind, it may have to be tried on a very considerable scale. The figures quoted above show that first-hand stocks may well consist of 2½ million quarters, and it would be necessary to allow, say, 1½ million quarters for that proportion of millers' stocks both of wheat and flour which these rent free stores might probably attract. If stores of this total capacity of 4,000,000 qrs. were filled without a very noticeable depletion of other warehouses and millers' granaries there would be a strong presumption as to the successful operation of the scheme; but the undertaking on which the Government had embarked would, of course, have become proportionately more serious. On the scale of expenditure proposed by Mr. Marshall Stevens, the cost of such a scheme would amount to £100,000 per annum.

With regard to the proposals laid before us for offering in some form or another inducement to farmers to keep their grain in the rick for a longer period than at present, we are afraid that the cost of any of these schemes would be out of proportion to the results likely to be obtained from them. Taking as typical the scheme proposed by Mr. Jeffreys, we find that the subsidy to be paid to the farmer is estimated at 4s. 6d. per quarter, of which 3s. 6d. is to represent indemnification for loss of interest, loss by vermin, &c., and 1s. the subsidy to induce the farmer to fall in with the scheme. The sum proposed would in itself amount to a considerable total if any large quantity were held, and it will be seen that no allowance is made for expenses of administration, especially the cost of keeping the ricks under inspection.

If 1s. per quarter is all the advantage which would accrue to the farmers, it seems to us probable that the inducement would not be adequate to cause them to fall in with the scheme, especially in view of the fact that those who bound themselves to carry wheat would be deprived of the use of their straw until the period for which the ricks were to be kept had elapsed. Similar opinions were expressed by the witnesses representing the Central Chamber of Agriculture, who thought that no subsidy which the Government could offer would be sufficient to induce farmers to enter into contracts of the kind described. So far as the interests of the British farmer are concerned, it may be said that in some of the schemes for free rent storage provision is to be made for storing home-grown as well as foreign grain free of rent, and one of the witnesses who appeared before us expressed the opinion that British grain is considerably enhanced in value by being properly dried and stored.

We recommend that steps should be taken for the more satisfactory ascertainment of the actual stocks of wheat and flour held in this country. As regards British wheat, we know from the Board of Agriculture that fairly reliable estimates can be formed of the stocks still in existence on farms at any given time in the cereal year; but no official statistics of these stocks are collected, nor are there any official returns as to the stocks held at the ports or in possession of millers and bakers. We earnestly recommend that this matter should receive the careful attention of the Departments of Government concerned.

We are further of opinion that a system of National Indemnity against loss from capture by the enemy would operate both as an additional security to the maintenance of our overseas trade and as an important steadying influence upon prices. We have dealt at length with the general considerations involved in such a scheme in Part III. of the Report, and we wish to place dis-

tinctly on record our opinion that the advantages to be gained from some well-considered scheme of the kind seem to us very largely to outweigh any objections which have been stated to us. We do not feel ourselves competent to draw out the precise terms of such a scheme, but we look rather in the direction of National Indemnity than in that of National Insurance.

We recognise that National Insurance may at first sight appear more attractive since the amount received by the State in premiums would be something to set against what might have to be paid out on account of losses. But this economy seems to us to be more apparent than real when it is remembered that the amount paid in premiums, both on the goods carried and the ships in which they come, is almost certain to be paid eventually by the consumer. Similarly, it has been suggested that National Insurance, owing to the payment of a premium by the shipowner, does not to the same extent as National Indemnity imply preferential treatment of a single industry; but, even granting that some preference would accrue to the shipowner, the importance of maintaining efficient means of transport in time of war, and of keeping rates of freight so far as possible at a normal level, is so great as to outweigh this objection. Moreover, it appears to us that a scheme of National Indemnity will leave it more open to the Government, acting through the Admiralty or otherwise, to impose conditions, to prescribe rules, and to keep greater control of the risks that, in some form or another, will undoubtedly have to be run.

We are of opinion that a small expert committee should be appointed to investigate the subject and frame a scheme after consultation with underwriters and others interested in our mercantile marine. Having regard to the importance of complete preparation being made in peace to provide for the exigencies of sudden war, we desire to express the hope that there may be no undue delay in taking this step, and in completing all arrangements necessary, for the effective operation of any such scheme will depend upon knowledge during apprehension of war that it is ready to be promptly put in force.

We look mainly for security to the strength of our Navy; but we rely in only a less degree upon the widespread resources of our mercantile fleet, and its power to carry on our trade and reach all possible sources of supply wherever they exist; and we believe that a guarded and well-considered scheme of National Indemnity would act as a powerful addition to our resources, because it would tend to keep down the cost of transport, and therefore would go far in the direction of preventing high prices in time of war, while at the same time it would be a stimulus to the enterprise of British shipowners.

INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE MARINE COMPANY.

Under this high-sounding name we have the Morgan shipping combine, once so notorious and full of strange portents as to frighten our unmatchable Government into bestowing a large subsidy upon the Cunard Company in order to prevent the commerce of England from going to rack and ruin. Within a day or two of the publication of our lament that the report of this combine for the year ended December 31 last had not reached us we found it, in abstract at least, obscurely tucked away in the pages of the *New York Commercial Chronicle*. Instead of being displayed in the fine open manner made familiar to us by the advertisements of the great American railroad corporations, the report is modestly stuffed into little more than a column. Economy in the cost of advertising is, therefore, a virtue which the directors appear to be practising. Not much of an instructive sort is to be found in the summary as thus published nor in the balance-sheet, but we shall present the balance-sheet to readers at the close of this note so that they may study it for themselves. Briefly put, the company earned so little last year that after paying interest on bonds and loans, together with the English income-tax, there was an acknowledged deficit of \$2,039,150, so that share capital, preference and common, to the amount of more than £20,000,000 got nothing at all. The acknowledged deficit, indeed, was reduced by taking \$897,000 from the insurance fund, so that it is made to come out at only \$1,142,097 against a surplus of \$1,798,000 in the previous year, but that is merely a way of shifting things about, and the glaring fact is not thereby hid that the company is so ruinously over-capitalised as to be at the present time hopelessly bankrupt, the true deficit being much larger than the one brought out in the accounts.

One has but to look at some of the figures to see that this must be so. The company claims to possess steamers in service, including the subsidiary lines, of a gross tonnage of 1,013,608 tons, and upon the basis of the cost of properties alone this represents a fleet valuation of about £32 per ton. If the new tonnage

building is added in, and also the investments of the combine in the Leyland, National and other companies, as vaguely set forth in the balance-sheet, we find the fleet valuation working out at about £34 10s. per ton. It might be more and cannot be much less, and in these days it is totally impossible for shipping priced at such figures to yield by honest account keeping any net revenue whatever. But the directors are hopeful, as they must be or perish. The outlook for 1905, they are made to say, is more favourable, and what with the great quantities of wheat, maize, and other raw produce to be carried this coming season, it may, they hint, be possible once again to turn the deficit into something of a surplus. But there can be no real surplus because were the revenue doubled it would have to be devoted to paying off floating debts in the first instance, and to writing down the cost of the fleet in the second. On all that monstrous capitalisation the sum spent for betterments, improvements, &c., last year was only \$503,102—little more than £100,000 on a capitalisation of £35,000,000—and there is practically no reserve of any kind against the excessive valuation placed upon the fleet and other properties. The floating debt on December 31 last amounted to nearly \$17,000,000, and all the cash available was \$830,835, while the bills and loans receivable came to only \$681,350. These items, together with \$1,758,121 representing accounts receivable and possibly some other entries such as marketable stocks and bonds \$599,000, do not bring the total available assets to set against the above-named floating debt up to more than \$4,000,000, if so much. The company is thus, by its own demonstration, proved to be perfectly swathed in fixed and floating obligations, and it will have to be reorganised before it can hope to do any good. Happily, the loss involved in such reorganisation will not fall here to any serious extent, unless some large credit-wielding houses are brought down in the process.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE-SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1904—COMPRISING AMERICAN, RED STAR, WHITE STAR, DOMINION, AND ATLANTIC TRANSPORT LINES.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.
Cost of properties..... 171,036,213	Prof. stock outstanding .. 52,255,971
Investments—	Com. stock outstanding.. 49,912,735
F. Leyland and Co.	5 % 1st M. bonds..... 20,000,000
(1900) Ltd. 11,965,177	4 ½ % M. and coll. trust
Nat. S.S. Co., Ltd. 400,030	bonds..... 50,000,000
Sundry ship and allied	Deb. bonds of consit.
cos. exchange memb'r-	companies held by
ships & Gov. deposits	public..... 1,247,938
Inventories..... 793,813	Loans on mortgages 745,496
Accounts receivable 1,758,121	Loans, bills payable, &c.. 10,311,190
Bills receivable and loans	Accounts payable..... 3,725,719
Int. received and accrued	Agency balances..... 22,805
Advances to Leyland Line	Interest accrued..... 1,085,877
Do. National Line .. 1,321,256	Reserves—
Agency balances..... 265,098	For liabilities for re-
Marketable stocks & bonds	habil. and repairs, for
Cash in banks & on hand	insurance claims and
Open voyage accounts,	for outstanding Do-
charges, and unexpired	minion Line shares.. 720,156
insurance..... 1,105,505	Def. credits to profit and
Improvements, better-	loss..... 1,488,433
ments, &c. 504,102	Insurance fund..... 1,897,052
Shipway for S.S. <i>Adriatic</i>	Protection and Insurance
Net loss for 1904 before	funds (Ocean Steam
depreciation or propor-	Navigation Co., Ltd.) 47,860
tion of losses of Leyland	Depreciation fund..... 115,607
and National lines, less	Miscellaneous..... 1,698
surplus (\$501,401), Jan.	
1, 1904..... 1,537,748	
Total..... 193,598,538	Total..... 193,598,538

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT.

Now that no balance-sheet is issued for the Post Office Savings Bank there is not very much in this annual statement of value to us. All the particulars about the enormous business in letters, parcels, and the interesting notes regarding the carelessness, ignorance, or stupidity of the scribbling and business public are usually set forth with great fulness in the columns of the daily papers. One or two financial points, however, deserve mention. The profit of the Post Office for the past year was put at £4,819,193, gross receipts being £16,275,000 and expenses £11,456,000, the one showing an increase of £451,000 and the other an increase of £255,000. This is all very nice and comfortable, but the telegraph service told another story as it showed a net deficit of £937,495. To be sure this was £20,288 less than the deficit of the previous year, but if the interest on the

capital spent, the total of which is £10,868,000, be added in the net deficit on the telegraph department rises to £1,216,000. In other words, upwards of 25 per cent. of the profit of the Post Office is swept away by the loss upon the telegraph department, and it seems to us that this loss must continue, and on an average of years tend to increase rather than to diminish, for in the past year there was a decrease of 1.14 per cent. in the number of telegrams passed over the Post Office wires, and the further the telephone business is developed the less likely is the telegraph department to prove remunerative.

This reminds us that the House of Commons has accepted the agreement effected by the Post Office for the purchase of the National Telephone Company's business. We are inclined to agree with the *Daily Chronicle* in describing the bargain as a bad one, but have never attempted to oppose it with any insistence because we know very well no compact between the Government and a private or joint-stock undertaking can be effected except at a more or less grievous loss to the community. And after all it is probably better that the telephones which are steadily growing in efficiency as competitors with the telegraph department should be in the hands of the State. We cannot hope to make money out of them, will probably lose money and find, when the capital sunk in the purchase with subsequent additions is added in, that the loss of the department as a whole, telegraphs and telephones together, will show an important increase upon the figures for the telegraphs alone in the past year, but we must put up with it.

As regards the Post Office Savings Bank there is in absence of a balance-sheet—now foolishly suppressed—little to be said, but it may be noted that the withdrawals continue to exceed the fresh deposits, the net decrease in the past year having been £1,291,425. New deposits, that is to say, amounted to £40,613,000 and withdrawals to £41,904,000. This is not such a bad exhibit as the previous year made, but had it not been for £3,920,000 credited to the depositors as interest and compound interest, the aggregate balance in the hands of the Government and used by it for various more or less illegitimate purposes must have shown a decline on the year. As it was the total due by the State to depositors on December 31 last, the Post Office Savings Bank figures being always made up to that date, was £148,339,354. The whole of that money is wasted so far as any good to the industries of the country is concerned, and we might add, so far as any real benefit to the depositors.

THE UNITED STATES EQUITABLE LIFE OFFICE SCANDALS.

We have not been saying much lately about the Equitable Life Office of the United States because nobody here seems to care particularly about it. Its policyholders on this side are keeping quiet, and doubtless hoping for the best. To some extent they are justified in taking this attitude, for there is an effort being made in America to bring order out of the present confusion. For a long time Governor Huggins, of the State of New York, resisted the demand for a legislative investigation into the Equitable's affairs, but in the end he gave way suddenly and appointed three State Senators to undertake the work. We hope they will prove men of courage as well as of capacity, men able to sift the mysteries to the bottom. One remarkable incident has cropped up in connection with the agitation. There was a loan of \$685,000 which had been obtained from the Mercantile Trust Company, apparently by the former president of the Equitable, James W. Alexander, together with the former controller, James D. Jordan. When the question arose as to what this advance meant and in whose behalf it had been obtained the money was suddenly refunded by the two men in whose names it had been borrowed. Why was this? the *New York World* is asking, and the explanation suggested is that the Mercantile Trust Company as a creature of the Equitable was utilised by it to make corrupt payments

to legislators up in Albany so as to smooth the way for such Parliamentary help as the Equitable required. Direct payments to these most immaculate lawmakers could not well be made, so the money was handed round through the Mercantile Trust and in such a way that the name of the Equitable never appeared. How the money was found to wipe out this advance is still a mystery, but perhaps Senators Tully, Riordan, and Armstrong will by and by tell us all about it.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: THE FERREIRA.

The Ferreira, a member of the Wernher-Beit group, has been for many years past not only one of the greatest dividend payers on the Rand, but one of the greatest in the world. This is mainly because it has been exceptionally favoured as regards its capital. It is one of the few companies whose capital, which has always stood at a very moderate figure, has never been watered. The following table showing the growth of this and dividends paid since the initial distribution in 1891 makes an interesting record:—

Dividends.	Per Cent.	Capital.	Amount.
		£	£
June, 1891.....	50	44,000	22,000
December, 1891	75	45,000	33,750
June, 1892.....	50	45,000	22,500
December, 1892	35	45,000	15,750
June, 1893.....	50	45,000	22,500
December, 1893	50	45,000	22,500
June, 1894.....	100	45,000	45,000
December, 1894	50	89,000	44,500
June, 1895.....	65	90,000	58,500
December, 1895	65	90,000	58,500
June, 1896.....	125	90,000	112,500
December, 1896	150	90,000	135,000
June, 1897.....	150	90,000	135,000
December, 1897	150	90,000	135,000
June, 1898.....	150	90,000	135,000
December, 1898	150	90,000	135,000
June, 1899.....	150	90,000	135,000
December, 1902	100	90,000	90,000
June, 1903.....	75	90,000	67,500
December, 1903	112½	95,000	106,875
June, 1904.....	112½	95,000	106,875
December, 1904	137½	95,000	130,625
	2,152½		1,769,875

It will be seen that the company's best years were 1897 and 1898, when 300 per cent. was reached, though this would probably have been equalled in 1899 had it not been for the outbreak of the war. In 1903 the capital was increased to £95,000, when 5,000 shares were issued at £20 each to acquire the property and other assets of the Worcester Company, including the claim area estimated to contain 108,800 tons of payable ore and a 40-stamp mill. This increased the capacity of the Ferreira Company's battery from 80 stamps to 120 stamps, which have been in work since December, 1903. In the full year of 1904 these earned sufficient profits to return a total dividend to the shareholders of 250 per cent. There is the possibility, of course, that before the mine is exhausted the dividends will be higher, but this is a speculative uncertainty, and will largely depend upon a considerable reduction in the working costs. It would be more prudent to calculate upon 250 per cent. for the rest of the mine's life. As regards the life, let us recall the statement made by the chairman at the meeting in April, 1902:—"The reefs at present being worked," he said, "are the South Reef, the Main Reef Leader, and a portion of the Main Reef. Taking the proportions as far as the mine is at present opened up and calculating the reef contents in the area still unopened, the mine shows, roughly, 1,500,000 tons still to be worked." He then pointed out that with the extra 40 stamps of the Worcester the company would be able to mill an increased proportion of Main Reef and Leader. "Irrespective of the bulk of Main Reef in both properties, and assuming on reefs worked that the Ferreira mine contains 1,500,000 tons, this would last 80 stamps

nearly 11 years, or 120 stamps about 7½ years." This is without taking any account of the possibilities of action whereby water-right areas may be mined under about 25 claims." Seeing that this was the calculation over three years ago the life would be but 4½ years from the present time. At the annual meeting in April of the present year the chairman said:—"There has lately been some discussion as to the probable life of the Ferreira, and shareholders at a distance, seeing the figures of developed tonnage, appear to be under the impression that they represent the entire contents of the mine. It appears, therefore, to be advisable that the available information should be laid before you; but it must be borne in mind that in expressing an opinion regarding ground which is not yet opened up we are only guessing intelligently. The lowest level in the mine is disclosing excellent widths and values, and we believe we are safe in saying that in addition to the 1,170,464 tons developed, there are 785,000 tons in the mine, or, in round figures, 1,955,000 tons still to be mined. This total of course includes the ore in the Worcester mine, but entirely excludes the footwall portion of the Main Reef, part of which will almost certainly be mined at a profit later on. It is very possible that as stopes are cleaned up they will yield more than they are now credited with." As in 1904 270,988 tons were mined, the above total of contents should last, say, about seven years from now. Taking the yield at roughly 10½ per cent. on the market price the total return would be at the end of seven years £73 10s., showing a loss of £26 10s. of the principal on the basis of the current price of the shares. If we allow for redemption, which would require about £12 11s. 6d. to be invested annually at 3 per cent., the loss would be over £2 per cent., exclusive of stamp fees, commission, &c. This will give plenty of margin for all the unknown possibilities vaguely alluded to by the chairman, such as the footwall portion of the Main Reef, part of which only he expects to be mined at a profit. But as the Main Reef is a low grade body the crushing of this might actually reduce dividends. So Ferreira shares at £20 and over look anything but attractive, yet the price is low compared with the average of past years.

IMPERIAL COLD STORAGE AND SUPPLY COMPANY.

Only five months have elapsed since we last handled an annual report of this De Beers creation, the one covering the year to March 31, 1904, but the completion of the following 12 months' accounts to March 31, 1905, has been much accelerated, and the statement is already to hand from Cape Town. It unfortunately will bring bitter disappointment to the poor deluded shareholders, and harrowing must be the thoughts of the old South African and Australasian Supply and Cold Storage Co. proprietors, who were deluded into amalgamating their fine business with this Imperial thing, the whole of whose structure, without the prop thus afforded, must have long since come to the ground. No amount of excuses on the part of the directors—and they are masters in the art of making them—will alter the fact that this De Beers attempt to create a monopoly in the food supply of South Africa has proved an absolute failure, the assistance given by the Imperial Government of innocents notwithstanding, and if the Kimberley locusts were the only sufferers our joy at the smash-up would be unbounded; but as always happens the innocent suffer with the evil doers and the failure of this cold storage venture to earn profits means much misery for the unfortunate English investor who believed all the plausible stories told him and entrusted his fortune to the cosmopolitan crowd now forming the directorate. Coming to hard facts we find that in the past 12 months the company earned a general trading profit of £167,166, rents gave £7,924, interest on investments £10,246, transfer fees £142 and bad and doubtful debts previously provided for and now recovered £1,521, or a total of £186,999. Against this there was a total outgo of £227,757, so that before providing anything in the shape of interest there is a loss to be faced of

£40,758. Some of the outlay no doubt was of an exceptional character such, for example, as the loss of £15,886 on the realisation of Consols, but other losses we are now about to refer to need never have occurred had the management been efficient.

Take an instance. We are told that in consequence of an unforeseen falling off in the consumption of frozen meat, mainly contributed to by the prevailing depression but in a measure the result of livestock being thrown on the market in unusual quantities, the company was compelled to divert to London two shipments of frozen meat entailing a loss of £19,803. But the directors were well enough aware of the general stagnation in South Africa—their wailing in the previous report was simply pitiful—and should have taken steps to regulate the supply in accordance with the demand. Instead of that they appear to have allowed the market to become glutted—in proof note the enormous cost of cold storage hire, £35,185—and it is perfectly clear that the entire business lacked proper control. Of course now that the mischief has been done the “perishable supplies are being shipped forward in keeping with the actual requirements of the business,” and “no expenditure for outside storage is now being incurred.” Do you believe that, good reader? We don't. The worst has not been told yet though, because stocks had to be written down by £27,544 before they dare be taken into the account, and £12,165 went to a reserve in connection with certain unsettled claims still pending. All this contributed to the deplorable result, as also the £10,219 written off the preliminary and consolidation expenses, to say nothing of £15,624 allowed for bad and doubtful debts. Other and what may be termed the legitimate items of expenditure included £57,151 for salaries and wages, £21,505 for general expenses, £10,944 for rents, rates, and taxes, and £4,482 for depreciation of fixtures, &c. The result, as above mentioned, is a deficiency of £40,758, but on top of that debenture interest of £25,000 must be provided, making the entire loss for the year £65,758, and building the debit to date to £95,055. Naturally, the £1,750,000 of share capital gets no return. What can the English shareholders do in face of a position like this? Nothing. The company is registered in South Africa, the meeting will be held in Johannesburg a couple of weeks hence, and the controlling capitalist swarm will see to it that no effective protest is made against a condition of affairs that is absolutely disgraceful. Still less will they permit any prying into facts or effective criticism. But what does it matter? Are not the directors “pleased to be able to report that they have effected considerable economies in administrative and working expenses”? meaning, perhaps, that one day income and expenditure will balance! No depreciation allowed on properties, buildings, plant, machinery, standing at £1,049,433, did you say, and goodwill put in at £404,566 without a penny of reserve accumulated against it? A mere detail surely for a company of such imperial magnificence, and besides there is always a reconstruction and its pickings for those inside to fall back on if matters come to the worst. Shares and investments are put in at cost, £303,297—they apparently return rather more than 3 per cent.—sundry debtors owe £472,093 against £368,513 due to creditors, cash amounts to £111,969, and stock-in-trade is valued at £162,335. Would Sir James Sivewright like to come to England and address the British shareholders, the former proprietors of the South African Supply Company? We wonder what kind of reception he would get. Why have the Transvaal auditors resigned?

LEEDS FIRECLAY COMPANY.

The regulation and thoroughly wearisome trade depression story put forward by the directors of this undertaking falls far short of excusing the steady retrogression which has characterised the recent operations. To our mind the fault lies deeper, and we should be inclined to attribute the wretched results to deplorably inefficient and short-sighted management. We have the last two annual reports before us, and the one is in direct contradiction to the other regarding the best method of

handling the company's business. When lamenting, a year ago, the unsatisfactory trading results then presented the directors admitted that in certain departments defects had been found in the management, and set about providing what they thought was an adequate remedy. For some time they had felt the necessity of altering and reorganising the general management, ran the story, so as to more effectively secure the fullest benefits of the combination. So after investigation and much consideration it was decided to reduce the number of works' directors and decrease the expenses of management, and in accordance with this policy five members of the board were appointed works' directors, a Mr. Alfred Barrett, formerly the secretary, assuming the position of deputy chairman and managing director. But matters went on going from bad to worse, and now we learn that the principle of divided management of the works has been discarded altogether. Three men have retired from the board and from their positions as works' directors, and in future all the departments will be under the control of Mr. Wm. Oates and Mr. W. H. Allen, a new move which, it is supposed, will further reduce the management expenses and effect economy in the cost of production. We hope anticipations will be fulfilled, because matters have reached a really serious pass, and, as we have already said, mere trade depression does not bring profits down from between £50,000 and £70,000, as shown in the prospectus, to a good deal less than nothing. In the year to June 30 last there was actually a trading loss of £9,922, and as £13,579 had to be provided for debenture interest and redemption, and £7,995 for depreciation of investments, the deficiency was raised to £31,496. To help to meet it £30,000 was withdrawn from reserve, and since £1,384 was brought forward, the loss to be carried out was reduced to the trifle of £112. Reserve fund is now brought down to £70,000, which is not a great sum considering the balance-sheet total of £1,400,000, and the fact that depreciation allowance is either inadequate or apparently absent altogether. Freeholds, buildings, fixed machinery, &c., have been reduced £4,000 to £717,619, but leaseholds, &c., are actually £1,572 larger at £44,858. Reserve fund investments naturally show a decrease being down £31,336 to £68,115 but the investments in shares, &c., of other companies and freehold properties have gone up £22,122 to £270,220. What revenue do these produce? Movable plant, horses, wagons, &c., are somewhat less at £31,908, stock-in-trade has been reduced £6,352 to £186,928, sundry debtors owe £19,391 less at £62,858, and cash is startling at £607. In consequence of these movements it has been necessary to increase the loan from bankers by £18,074 to £23,671, but sundry creditors are down from £25,186 to £16,725. The meeting next Wednesday may be exciting.

OUR SAMPLE TRUSTS.

There must be a suspension of these for a few weeks owing to holidays. This is the less to be regretted because with the approach of autumn and the consequent upward tendency of rates for money some reaction in prices is probable. But it is our present intention to resume these samples or models for the guidance of investors when business grows active again. On another page we have printed some letters on the subject, *pro* and *con*, and take this opportunity to thank Mr. Blackburn for the courteous and, we fear, too appreciative terms in which he now speaks of the paper. It perplexes us still to find valid ground for the hostility some readers exhibit towards the samples of investment securities offered for their consideration. A prime motive impelling us to start, and after suspension, to resume, these groups of stocks was furnished by the never-ending examples of successful swindling perpetrated on the public by the advertising financial shark. At least, we reasoned, we can keep our hands clean, and endeavour to put before the public, without either self-interest or selfish prejudice of any sort, investments of all degrees of excellence which might be bought on the mixing or private trust

system. Mere gambles we have never encouraged, but risks have been pointed out always in accordance with the best judgment we could form of the quality of any stock taken up. That we should have made mistakes was inevitable, but we cannot include among these the severe and universal shrinkage in prices brought about by the South African war. As old readers well know, we nearly ruined ourselves by the unceasing and strenuous resistance we offered to that war when it was hatching and throughout its ruinous continuance. This line was taken quite as much on economic as on humanitarian grounds, and it is surely no reproach to us that events have more than justified the attitude maintained by the REVIEW, bringing irretrievable loss to tens of thousands of people who had money laid by. To us it has been anything but pleasure to see our forecasts fulfilled, and we do not write now to boast about that. The subject is too fraught with memories of disaster for elation. All we aim at here is by this example to emphasise the influence of the unforeseen and unforeseeable in human affairs. If readers cannot make allowance for the unknowable in dealing with the hints for their guidance as investors we put before them, then the sooner we cease to try to help them in any shape the better surely will it be, for us at least. No labour is so exhausting as thankless labour, unless it be labour misjudged.

Passing Events.

More and more unpleasant grows the story of M. Jaluzot and his Printemps Company. It will be remembered that this deputy came to grief ostensibly over sugar speculations about a fortnight ago, and that the French Government together with some of the big banks have been wrestling ever since with the mass of insolvency his suspension disclosed. In spite of the fact that M. Jaluzot's position has been pretty well understood for some considerable time and his various enterprises carried on quite in the style of our Hooleys and André Mendels, and people of that sort, his stoppage appears likely to cause much loss to many poor and some rich people. The Printemps establishment was supposed to be mainly a drapery business, and was first run as a private concern of M. Jaluzot's. In 1881, however, there was a fire, and immediately after it was converted into a limited liability company with a capital of 40,000,000f., reduced in 1884 to 35,000,000f. In creating this company M. Jaluzot took good care of himself and retained such a position of mastery as enabled him to utilise the money of the savings bank attached to the drapery business in his sugar speculations. What his total liabilities may be does not seem to be yet known.

It is not altogether the happiest sign of financial stability that the bankers of New York should be represented as retaining perfect serenity of mind while contemplating the narrowness of the banking surplus reserve. It was brought down last week to \$12,166,000, which meant a decrease of \$44,143,000 compared with the same date last year. The margin seems very narrow in view of the fact that money has to be found for harvest work, and for moving the crops, and that the autumn always brings pressure upon the banking resources of the United States for these and other requirements. When we remember also that there is a frail fabric of purely manipulated and rarified-air finance reared in Wall Street at the present time upon the narrowing and altogether too minute basis of this banking reserve, we may well have doubts as to the probability of New York banking escaping bad half-hours between now and December. Last week there was again a small addition to the advances made by the banks at the same time that the deposits were slightly diminished, and were deposits to be drawn upon heavily, credits to be utilised in the actual business of harvest and crop moving to the usual extent, while at the same time no help came to the banks from imports of gold during the next three or four months, money might after all, get dear on Wall Street, and several grand financial structures betray symptoms of strain.

According to the correspondent of the *Financial News*, the people of the Johannesburg district are at the present moment "a prey to melancholy bordering on despair." And the cause? The persistent slump in the market. "As the Kaffir market declines," says the correspondent, "so, in inverse ratio, does the gold output advance." We witness the same phenomenon on this side, do we not? Why cannot the advent of Chinese change the melancholia to exultant joy? Why have the slaves failed to bring with them those priceless blessings foretold to a sceptical world by the mine bosses? How on earth have far-seeing men like the Kaffir potentates come to fail as prophets? We believe it is because they are selfish, avaricious, ignorant men, not the all powerful deities Johannesburgers and others imagined them to be. "Were it not," the same observer adds, "for Madagascar and the Bushveld tin fields, which continue to attract a large share of public attention, mining affairs here would be dull, indeed. In the prevailing apathy of the Rand gold share market local attention is being largely directed to Madagascar." In fact, leading representatives of most of the big Rand financial houses have gone to the island. Surely, having failed to engineer a Kaffir boom, they are not contemplating a Madagascar boom in the extremity of despair.

A correspondent in the Punjab has forwarded a cutting from the *Pioneer*, for which we are much obliged to him. This Allahabad *Pioneer*, by the way, has distinguished itself above all the Indian papers in its opposition to the scheme of military tyranny instituted by Lord Kitchener—but that is another story. According to the cutting before us, which contains a letter from the Johannesburg correspondent of the paper, there was serious trouble shortly before June 9, the date of that letter, owing to the fact that a large body of Chinese attacked a Kaffir compound and drove the blacks away, and then proceeded to use the Kaffir women shamefully. "The story," the correspondent adds, "is denied in some quarters, and nothing has appeared in the Rand press regarding the women incident, but this version comes from a resident near the mine. It is a serious thing, for the blacks will not put up with this kind of thing indefinitely, and one day will turn out in force and there will be a terrible battle between the two races." Other parts of the letter deal with the attack made upon the white quarters by the Chinese, of which some more or less garbled accounts have reached this country, but the serious part of the letter is that contained in the sentences we have quoted. We trust it may have the Archbishop of Canterbury's prayerful consideration.

According to a Parliamentary paper just issued there is a serious deficiency upon the Metropolitan Police Pension Fund, and its trustees have had to borrow £177,960 from the Bank of England in order to be able to meet all its engagements for the year 1904-5, and for the previous year there was a deficiency of £165,154. This surely is a matter that requires immediate attention. It does not come within the cognisance of the London County Council, because our jealous Imperial Government does not permit the local authority for London to control its own police. Hence perhaps in part the extravagance indicated by the pension deficiency. It is just one of those floating debts that are accumulating against the Imperial Exchequer in so many quarters, obligations which will one day have to be clubbed together and "funded," turned into an annuity or something of that kind—Post Office, Chancery, terminable annuity, police deficiencies; they will amount to a nice sum by and bye.

Sugar, a Board of Trade return obtained recently by Mr. Gibson Bowles shows us, is still rather cheaper in this country than anywhere on the Continent, except in Denmark and Germany. Our retail price, according to this paper, is 2½d. per lb., the same as the price in Berlin, while in Denmark it is only 2¼d. per lb. In Austria, however, the price is 3½d., in Brussels and Paris 3¼d., in Amsterdam 4¼d., and in Petersburg 4½d. This is interesting, and still more so is the fact that the sugar duty here is lower than anywhere in Europe.

In Austro-Hungary it rises to 1.98d. per lb., the lowest being Denmark with 0.73d., and the highest Russia 4.22d. The Customs duty in Holland rises to 2.45d., and all these countries impose an Excise duty upon sugar produced at home, but we have taken note of the Customs duty alone, because that embraces the other, since no important sugar manufacturer pays both Customs and Excise. Our duty is returned at 0.45d. per lb. That sugar should be as dear here as in Berlin, where the duty is rather over 1d. per lb., and dearer than in Denmark, where it is still slightly higher than ours, is a mystery which the figures naturally do nothing whatever to dispel.

The Dailuaine-Talisker Distilleries managed to earn a profit last year of £20,170, making with £2,951 brought forward, an available balance of £23,122. This enables the directors to bring the preference dividend right up to date, adding £2,000 to depreciation and reserve account, and carrying forward £1,184. What the directors call a disastrous fire occurred at the North of Scotland Distillery, Aberdeen, since the last report, resulting in widespread destruction, but as the insurance money enabled the directors to liquidate much indebtedness and the state of trade may not justify rebuilding, the fire, from the company's point of view, does not seem such a terrible misfortune after all. We may deal with the report more fully next week.

The directors of Madame Val Smith, the Liverpool wholesale and retail millinery business, "have been successful" in securing the controlling interest and management of another concern carried on by Greville and Company in Manchester, for a payment of 6,000 ordinary shares. Needless to say, the acquisition offers great opportunities for development, and its solid character is evidenced by a turnover of £33,000 a year, but we assume it would not be "in the interests of the business" to disclose how much profit was made on the £33,000. But why worry about such trifles when the purchase price is only 6,000 shares and the directors "confidently hope this step will greatly enhance the value of the business"?

Difficulties without end are presenting themselves in connection with the capital reorganisation of Showell's Brewery. The directors' proposals for meeting the deficiency in assets having been rejected with scorn and contumely it was thought good policy to call the thirty largest shareholders together to see if a way out of the deadlock could be found, and these gentlemen duly met in solemn conclave on the 27th ultimo. Their deliberations were long, and apparently a little acrimonious, but while it was impossible to reconcile the many conflicting interests, there was a consensus of opinion that to set the capital account straight would be to the advantage of all concerned. Therefore it was decided to suggest to the general body of shareholders that each class should appoint one representative, such representatives to appoint a sole arbitrator, who, after having the case for each class of shareholder laid before him, would decide the manner in which the deficiency of £299,380 was to be written off. He would allocate the losses between the various kinds of capital and lay down in what respects the position and rights of the proprietors, both as to capital and dividend, should be altered or modified. Shareholders are invited to notify their assent to, or dissent from, this idea, so that the directors may know how to proceed.

It is very pleasant to find Jack Tar and Jacques Bonhomme fraternising as they have been doing this week at Portsmouth and in London, but one cannot get over a feeling of incongruity that this harmony should be exhibited and emphasised chiefly by a great display of murderous forces on the part of both countries. We hope, however, that the two nations will presently rise to higher ideals and recognise that true accord is not to be secured by such exhibitions or maintained by rivalries in shipbuilding and gun casting, by new inventions in weapons of death, but by the diligent fostering of every pacific interest and industry. We welcome the French tars all the same, and trust they have enjoyed their visit. That they will carry back happy impressions of English hospitality and courtesy there

can be no doubt whatever, and the memory of this may act as a leaven which in time will change entirely the sentiment of the two nations towards each other. Hitherto the military spirit has been nurtured in both countries, a spirit of rivalry and silly hatred founded on complete mutual ignorance. All this should now be in a fair way to be dissipated with the happiest results.

A useful reminder is furnished by the New York correspondent of the *Financial Times*. Telegraphing under date August 9, he points out that an unfavourable impression was produced by the failure of the National Enamelling Company to pay a dividend on its common stock. The excuse was that the funds are needed for working capital. It is probably a good excuse, for the correspondent goes on to say that the present great prosperity claimed for industrial business is certain when combined with the favourable attitude of the New York money market to tempt managers of industrial companies to issue new securities to provide working capital which is needed by most of them. The significance of such a warning cannot be over estimated. We here are accustomed to live upon capital to an unwholesome extent, but the Yankees altogether beat us at the game.

Last week's revenue came to £1,536,000, of which £559,000 came from customs and only £279,000 from excise, property and income tax yielding but £56,000. Estate duties, however, gave £379,000, and stamps £164,000, else the exhibit would have been a lean one. As it was, supply services, always heavy at the end of the month, drew away £3,194,000, and in spite of a refresher of £180,000 from the new Exchequer bond issue, the balances of the Treasury at the banks were brought down by £1,495,000. Since, then, however, another instalment has been paid up on the said Exchequer bond issue, so there is no danger of Treasury paymasters' cheques being returned marked "N.S."

The meetings of McNamara and Company usually give rise to some excitement, and there was a little mild fun at the gathering on Wednesday, Lord Mayor Pound—"Bart." now, you know—being in the chair. To begin with, a shareholder took the unusual course of objecting to the payment of a 5 per cent. bonus in addition to the 5 per cent. dividend just because there is a deficiency in the assets of £49,000, and goodwill still stands at £20,000, surely a fastidious idea bearing in mind the company's history. This proposal having been duly scotched, another incident occurred of an even more diverting nature. A suggestion was made that the sum of £1,000 should be divided amongst the staff, and since the staff could not by any stretch of imagination be made to include the board great was the agitation on the directorial side of the table. So up jumped Sir John Pound, Bart., to inform the meeting that the directors had the entire management of the staff, and any such matter must be left to their discretion. Subsequently the amount was reduced to £500 on a shareholder taking exception to voting so much of the proprietors' money without all being consulted, and the chairman gravely proceeded to announce how the cash would be divided: £100 to each of the four directors, and £100 to the manager. The staff is still looking for its share no doubt.

Mr. Balfour has triumphed. The House of Commons, by chucking out everything—good, bad and indifferent—it had on hand in the law-making or botching-line, even to the German-promoted London Electric Power Bill, has escaped dissolution, and Ministers can now fly to the golf links, Homburg and the moors, happy in the prospect of at least another six months' salary. After all, is not that the main thing? What do we want with more laws, even laws creating new monopolies? Let us eat, drink and play golf, or kill something, while the weakness of the Empire is being made manifest—no army and a gunless fleet, you know—the reckoning day will come soon enough and just the same.

The Calico Printers' Association did just a little better last year than in the previous 12 months, the profit, after providing for depreciation and debenture interest,

being £195,680, compared with £180,072. Do not buy the shares on that account though, because in the previous year the revenue was £364,243, and in 1901 there was a deficiency of £105,842. Including balance brought forward, the sum available is £319,620, and it is not improbable that the shareholders may get another dividend of 2½ per cent. Negotiations are said to be pending for the acquisition of the business of F. Steiner and Co., the well-known calico printers and Turkey red dyers.

Critical Index To New Investments.

THE NOVA SCOTIA EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Messrs. George Elliott and Company, of 11, King William Street, are inviting subscriptions for £490,000 in 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds of the above-named railway at the price of 92½ per cent. The bonds are in dollars converted into pounds at \$4.86 to the £, the total amount offered in Canadian currency being \$4,568,400. Repayment of the debt thus originated must be made in 1955, but the company has the option to redeem the bonds at 105 any time after 1910 on six months' notice given. It is pointed out in the prospectus that the cash subsidies granted to the company aggregate about £553,580 on a total length of 236 miles, the Dominion Government having bestowed a maximum of \$6,400 and the Government of Nova Scotia one of \$5,000 per mile. Out of these subsidies the trustees for the bondholders will receive enough money to cover the interest on the bonds for two years or during construction. The central part of the province of Nova Scotia lying between the Intercolonial Railway and the sea will be served and opened up by this line. There is much information embodied in the prospectus, as also in reports appended thereto, all pointing to future prosperity for the new road. Mr. Archibald estimates a free revenue of £64,746 after meeting all expenses, and Mr. Brown one of £118,333. We see no reason why the line, which ought not to be costly to build—it is put down to cost only £4,732 per mile—should not prove remunerative, and feel sure that were the track between New England and Canada liberated from the fetters of blighting tariffs the enterprise would prove very remunerative.

THE BOMBAY ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

This nursling of the British Electric Trust is, as an independent company, coming upon the market for £1,200,000 altogether. The Electric and General Investment Company offers at par on its own account £600,000 4½ per cent. debenture stock which it has purchased from the B.E.T. Company, and also £600,000 in £10 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares on behalf of the Bombay Company direct. The whole of the debenture stock is to be paid up by November 15 next and £4 per share on the preference shares by September 15, as set forth in the prospectus. Many interesting particulars about the enterprise are therein elaborated, and they go to indicate that the company may pay its debenture interest and preference dividends without supreme difficulty. Meantime it has to hand over £950,000 to the B.E.T. Company as purchase price, £225,000 of it in cash, £600,000 in debenture stock and £125,000 in fully-paid £10 ordinary shares. This price covers what the B.E.T. Company paid out for the Bombay horse tramway undertaking, together with expenditures since, and only the £125,000 in ordinary shares is treated as its profit on the re-sale. Also the B.E.T. Company has to carry out further works necessary, estimated to cost about £550,000, of which £375,000 will be provided out of the present share capital issue and the remainder by issues of ordinary shares or otherwise as the directors may determine. The concession apparently lasts for 56 years. The Electric Traction Company gets 14,500 fully-paid ordinary shares for underwriting the present preference issue and meeting all issuing costs in connection therewith.

Letters to the Editors.

OUR SAMPLE TRUSTS.

SIRS,—I was sorry to see that you had printed my letter, as it was quite the farthest thought in my mind when writing you that it should be printed.

It was simply a friendly expression of my idea, without any wish to blame you at all for any failure in respect of your trusts. I am not aware there is anything in my letter, and most certainly there is not anything in my mind as to your making any money out of your recommendations. I have too high an opinion of you, a proof of which is my continually taking your paper, posting it to friends, and speaking a good word for it on every possible occasion. Surely this is not the way of an enemy. If it be, what a good thing it would be were all your subscribers enemies. Then I think you would have no cause to grumble at your circulation.

I am quite sure it is a continuous and troublesome labour making these trusts. I am also quite sure you could have made a lot of money had you let your paper out to these mine-owners, shady and other company promoters. It is to your everlasting honour and credit that you have never done so, like so many supposed to be respectable weeklies and dailies. I don't ever remember seeing an advertisement of anything but the very best of things in your Journal, which I consider marvellous in this greedy, money-grabbing age.

Sirs, you do me a great injustice to think and say I curse you, rather, bless you, as I never held a mine share in my life. And it is quite on the cards I should have held many but for reading your Journal, as many friends of mine have been hardly hit in this market.

Yours truly,

CHARLES A. BLACKBURN.

Leeds, August 7, 1905.

SIRS,—Mr. Blackburn's letter in yours of to-day is, to my mind, a good one. Of course, you know your own business, and, without a doubt, he knows his; but your "model trust" always seems to me to spoil your paper, and it surprises me you continue it.

Believe me, &c.,

Yours respectfully,

WM. WINDETT WOODS.

Brighton, August 5, 1905.

SIRS,—I would not have troubled you with a letter in regard to Mr. C. A. Blackburn's epistle to you, in this week's issue, but for what you say in your comments as to your wish to discontinue such trusts, if they are to be misinterpreted, and of no help to your readers.

I for one wish to say that I have found these trusts of great assistance, as they draw one's attention to securities which are sound and attractive to the investor and speculative investor, at the particular time at which they appear, and many of which, otherwise, would escape one's notice, or entail much time and labour in finding out the details of each security.

Mr. Blackburn's letter is, to my mind, most unfair and ungenerous, for, on turning back to the number of the REVIEW in which you commenced these trusts—May 6, 1899—you state that you are reluctant to give these trusts in your paper, and you only do so after being appealed to by a number of your readers. You further state clearly that the mentioning of various securities in these trusts must not be taken to mean that you thereby guarantee them. I see that in this number you give a trust composed of speculative securities—Home Railway Deferred stocks—evidently the one, or one of them, to which Mr. Blackburn refers, but in stating the merits and demerits of the stocks you make it clear, to my mind, that they are speculative, and if a person risks his money in them, he must keep his eyes open, and take a profit when he sees one, if one should come his way, replacing the stock, or stocks, sold with some other of a similar type, which does not necessarily mean that the same type of stock would be a Home Railway Deferred stock.

I don't think it is clear, however, in Mr. Blackburn's letter that he insinuated that you profited from the securities mentioned in your trusts, which on the face of it would be absurd, but rather that, from a sentimental reason, he did not like them to appear in the paper, as I suppose they suggested to him the numerous other kinds of tips which appear in some other papers, and are given with a sinister motive.

With best wishes,

I remain, yours truly,

H. C. HECKLE.

Birkenhead, August 7, 1905.

MITHRA writes:—I am disgusted at the remarks of a subscriber, which you quote in your last issue, on the subject of your "Trusts." They are one of the best features of the I.R., and go far to make it much more interesting than even the *Statist*. My own experience is that you are hyper-cautious, dissuading even Taltal and Albertas when they stood at 4¾ and 32 respectively. But when you do advise anything, it is certain to rise; the best instance of this being, of course, Antofagastas.

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS £597,415.

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED £5,500,000

FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. LOAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coupons, due 15th August, 1905, attached to the Scrip issued by Parr's Bank, Limited, 4, Bartholomew Lane, E.C., The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 31, Lombard Street, E.C., and the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, 120, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., will be paid on and after TUESDAY, the 15th August, 1905 (Saturdays excepted), at the respective banks indicated on the Scrip between the hours of eleven and three.

Coupons must be left three clear days (excluding Saturdays) for examination previous to payment, and be entered in numerical order upon lists, which may be obtained upon application.

Provincial holders should forward Coupons through their Bankers for collection, as they will not be paid through the post.

London, 12th August, 1905.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 2½ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent. on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

All week short credits have been tending upward, and the market, rather to its disgust, has day after day been compelled to go to the Bank and raise a little money on seven day loan at 3 per cent. When business began on Tuesday the open market quotation for day and seven day loans was 1½ to 1¾ per cent., with an occasional 2 per cent. for call money. On Wednesday the rate hardened to 1¾ per cent. as a minimum for seven day loans, and by this morning the quotation was 1¾ to 2 per cent., settling down rather to the higher figure for seven day loans from bankers, with call money all morning 2 to 2½ per cent. As the day wore by, however, supplies of credit seemed to come from somewhere, probably in part from Japanese sources, and the close was easy. The Treasury was also credited with disbursing some of the borrowed money it has recently mopped up, but it will suck in £2,000,000 to-morrow morning on renewed Treasury bills against £1,800,000 paid off. The India Council was renewing and lending fresh credits this morning at 1¾ per cent. for a month.

While loan rates thus fluctuate the discount market has tended to stiffen all the time, and quite rightly, for the autumn is certain to bring many onerous calls

upon the fountains of banking credit everywhere. We are likely to lose considerable amounts of gold on balance, not only to South America, but to other countries standing in the position of sellers of grain and raw materials for manufactures to us, and should peace be concluded between Russia and Japan enormous loan operations will immediately thereafter have to be undertaken involving extensive displacements and locks up of banking resources. Bill brokers are therefore wise to edge discount rates up, and they have succeeded this week in raising the quotation for three months' remitted bills from 1¼—¾ per cent. to 1½—2 per cent. This morning, indeed, some of the leading brokers quoted 2 to 2½ per cent. as their three months' rate and gave 2¾ per cent. as the working rate for six months' paper, but business was still done under 2 per cent. The brokers met this morning to discuss whether they should raise their allowances on deposits, now 1 and 1½ per cent., but the majority was against any change, at any rate until Monday. We hope this decision will not turn out to be a mistake, but 1 per cent. is far below the current market price of call money. Bills have been in good supply all the week, especially American bills, and evidently the creators of credit on the other side are pushing forward their finance paper in anticipation of the autumn shipments of produce, so as to relieve the strain upon the New York market as much as possible. Banks were buying bills from the brokers to-day at 1½ per cent.

The Bank return showed only insignificant changes, the principal movement being an outflow of £567,000 in coin, due principally to the August Bank Holiday. Notes came back to the amount of £133,000, so that the reserve was down only £453,000, and part of this money was supplied by an increase of £317,000 in the Government securities held by the Bank, so that other deposits fell off only £261,000 in spite of an increase of £115,000 in public deposits. The market borrowing was hardly visible in the return, other securities being less than £7,000 higher than last week.

The price for bar gold has fallen back to 77s. 9d., the Bank of England's buying figure, and some, if not all, of the £700,000 due in next week, partly in coin from Australia, seems likely to go into the Bank.

SILVER.

A little Continental buying and some covering by "bears" caused prices to improve to 27½d. per oz. for cash and 27¼d. per oz. for delivery two months' forward, and the market further hardened to 27¾d. and 27½d. on a fair general demand. Business then became exceedingly quiet, and quotations slightly relapsed, but rallied again to the best figures, closing steady. For Rs. 70,00,000 Council drafts on India offered on Wednesday the applications were Rs. 5,85,80,000 in bills and Rs. 93,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. The allotment in bills was Rs. 61,11,000, and in transfers Rs. 8,89,000, tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. 4 1-16d. respectively receiving about 10 per cent.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 9, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	53,043,165	Government Debt ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	34,593,165
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£53,043,165		£53,043,165

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	17,069,815
Reserve	3,428,403	Other Securities ..	29,194,541
Public Deposits (including		Notes	23,103,910
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,704,164
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	9,905,595		
Other Deposits	43,096,343		
Seven Day and other Bills	89,069		
	£71,072,410		£71,072,410

Dated August 10, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Aug. 10.		Aug. 2, 1905.	Aug. 9, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,474,596	Rest ..	3,414,043	3,428,403	14,360	—
6,103,977	Pub. Deposits ..	9,790,370	9,905,595	115,225	—
41,372,023	Other do. ..	43,357,654	43,096,343	—	261,311
105,400	7 Day Bills ..	84,700	89,069	4,369	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
14,234,402	Gov. Securities ..	16,752,444	17,069,815	—	317,371
26,968,235	Other do. ..	29,185,888	29,194,521	—	8,633
24,406,359	Total Reserve ..	25,261,435	24,868,074	453,361	—
				587,315	587,315
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
28,999,700	Note Circulation ..	30,072,720	29,939,255	—	133,465
34,956,059	Coin and Bullion ..	36,884,155	36,297,329	—	586,826
51½ p.c.	Proportion ..	47½ p.c.	46½ p.c.	—	½ p.c.
3 ..	Bank Rate ..	2½ ..	2½ ..	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £10,000 in.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 27.	Aug. 1.	Aug. 3.	Aug. 10.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'13	12'18	12'18	12'18
Do. do.	3 months	12'38	12'38	12'38	12'38
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'36½	25'36½	25'36½	25'35
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'60	20'61	20'61	20'62
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'60	20'61	20'62	20'62
Paris ..	cheques	25'14	25'16½	25'16½	25'16½
Do. ..	3 months	25'30	25'30	25'28½	25'28½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'30	25'30	25'30	25'28½
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'41½	25'40	25'40	25'40
Austria ..	3 months	24'27	24'25½	24'25½	24'25½
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24'28	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'41½	25'41½	25'41½	25'42½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35½	35½	35½	35½
Lisbon ..	3 months	48½	49½	49	49½
Oporto ..	3 months	48½	49½	49	49½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'39	18'39	18'39	18'39
Christiania ..	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Aug. 5.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£3,261,500	£3,261,500

* Exclusive of £55,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £2,671,496.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Tuesday, Malta	Saturday, S. America ..
Thursday, Germany	Thursday, S. America ..
Friday, Paris	
Net Efflux	
Total	Total

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148	94,657,000	—
Week ending				
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
	7,576,693,000	6,439,058,000	1,137,635,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £2,000,000 in six months' Treasury Bills were received at the Bank of England on Tuesday, when the total amount applied for was £8,761,000. Tenders at £91 os. 6d. received 21 per cent., and those above in full; the average rate obtained was just under £1 18s. 3d. per cent.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27	2 2 10
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4½
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000		Jan. 2 ?	
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 20	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	2 11 3
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
20,133,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15	25'17	Antwerp	short	25'19	25'19½
Brussels	chqs.	25'18	25'18	Italy	sight	25'14	25'14½
Amsterdam	sight	12'07	12'07½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'05	110'05
Berlin	chqs.	20'47	20'47½	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	17½d.	17½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'36	20'36½	Valparaiso	90 dys	158½d.	158½d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'45½	20'46	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort	short	20'46	20'46	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna	sight	24'01½	24'01½	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/10½	1/10½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'30	94'30	Shanghai	T.T.	2/7½	2/7½
New York	60 dys	4'84½	4'84½	Singapore	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Lisbon	sight	49½	50½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	33'25	33'25				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market. Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	1½	1½
Berlin	3	February 25, 1905	2	2
Hamburg	3	February 25, 1905	2	2
Frankfort	3	February 25, 1905	2½	2½
Amsterdam	2½	March, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2½	2½
Vienna	3½	February 3, 1902	3½	3½
Rome	3	September, 1904	3½	3½
St. Petersburg ..	5½	February, 1904	7½	7½
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	3½	3½
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	4½	4½
Stockholm	4½	February, 1905	4	4
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4	4
Calcutta	3	July 20, 1905	—	—
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	—	—
New York call money ..	2	—	—	—

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Aug. 7, 1905.	July 31, 1905.	July 22, 1905.	Aug. 6, 1904.
£	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve	46,793,041	46,806,500	47,237,125	48,236,708
Silver reserve	12,723,916	12,860,166	12,971,041	12,563,375
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,763,083	1,759,541	1,730,958	1,736,208
Note circulation ..	66,978,333	68,183,208	64,328,208	69,005,875
Bills discounted ..	13,690,833	14,520,041	11,549,041	12,506,666

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 3, 1905.	July 27, 1905.	July 20, 1905.	Aug. 4, 1904.
£	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion	4,919,920	4,695,040	4,767,640	4,712,000
Other securities	23,282,040	22,701,800	22,506,360	21,796,760
Note circulation	26,441,280	26,699,760	26,417,760	25,028,520
Deposits	3,952,360	2,874,480	2,874,520	3,714,400

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Aug. 5, 1905.	July 29, 1905.	July 22, 1905.	Aug. 6, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Specie	44,420,000	44,966,000	44,038,000	54,634,000
Legal tenders	17,868,200	18,082,400	17,821,800	16,838,800
Loans and discounts	229,240,000	228,960,000	225,280,000	219,100,000
Circulation	9,898,000	9,761,000	9,782,600	7,728,400
Net deposits	239,420,000	239,940,000	235,480,000	240,840,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,433,200 against an excess last week of £3,063,400.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 7, 1905.	July 31, 1905.	July 22, 1905.	Aug. 6, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand	47,462,850	48,042,850	50,268,250	46,033,950
Bills discounted	43,047,950	45,240,000	44,059,900	37,570,750
Advances on stocks	3,061,000	3,461,950	2,723,550	2,706,250
Note circulation	64,717,700	66,001,050	64,903,400	62,306,350
Public deposits	24,204,750	25,929,550	28,588,100	23,254,500

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 10, 1905.	Aug. 3, 1905.	July 27, 1905.	Aug. 11, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	118,242,960	117,455,320	117,334,400	107,926,840
Silver in hand	44,405,160	44,395,600	44,404,720	44,946,560
Bills discounted	19,071,080	26,681,400	23,715,520	20,590,240
Advances	18,861,680	19,160,320	18,863,320	20,131,120
Note circulation	172,255,640	177,107,400	172,442,560	166,462,000
Public deposits	10,376,480	9,005,480	9,945,240	8,511,280
Private deposits	23,754,040	24,437,240	27,711,920	24,703,000

Proportion between bullion and circulation 94½ per cent., against 91½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 5, 1905.	July 29, 1905.	July 22, 1905.	Aug. 6, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	14,894,727	14,879,754	14,872,665	14,749,659
Silver	22,286,288	22,487,212	22,394,925	20,228,131
Foreign Bills	1,750,012	1,729,509	1,744,115	1,571,251
Discount and Short Bills	45,899,437	45,887,293	62,379,127	38,565,261
Treasury Account	21,221,628	21,196,564	21,193,500	21,927,089
Notes in circulation	63,322,991	62,977,204	63,085,999	65,866,427
Current Account deposits	22,870,543	23,015,602	23,094,820	25,942,778
Dividends Interests	3,060,891	3,036,682	2,895,699	2,211,191
Government Securities	4,175,070	4,245,700	4,356,289	3,913,792

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 30, 1905.	June 20, 1905.	June 10, 1905.	June 30, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Reserve	27,435,520	26,263,240	25,956,120	26,106,880
State notes and small change	623,800	742,640	653,320	695,160
Discount and loans	13,828,960	11,492,720	10,953,200	11,391,000
Public stock and State loans	8,420,280	8,318,840	8,376,280	8,449,000
Credits	7,151,400	6,800,920	6,388,320	6,813,960
Note Circulation	37,640,320	34,955,080	34,217,280	34,106,360
Current account	4,569,760	4,312,600	3,804,400	4,159,560
Deposits	2,408,160	2,729,240	2,679,800	2,938,760

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 8/21, 1905.	July 1/14, 1905.	June 23, July 6, 1905.	July 8/21, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	92,090,846	91,895,618	91,475,215	84,470,956
Silver and subsidiary coin	5,847,125	5,908,860	6,014,354	8,634,912
Advances and bills discounted	35,075,157	35,577,019	35,704,714	38,515,287
Securities belonging to the Bank	5,444,058	5,696,976	5,705,089	4,328,250
Notes in circulation	93,418,323	92,396,549	92,733,593	67,504,149
Deposits and current account	55,839,994	53,665,925	53,069,527	48,441,563
Treasury account	7,315,230	9,993,458	11,129,361	30,133,491

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	1½—2
Three months	2—2½
Four months	2½—2¾
Six months	2¾—3
Three months fine inland bills	2—2½
Four months	2½—2¾
Six months	2¾—3

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	2½
" " short loan rates	3
Bankers' rate on deposits	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	1
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	1½
Current rates for 7 day loans	1½—2
" " for call loans	1½—2½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

We really do not know what to predict about the course of stock markets for the next few weeks. Were it not for the peace negotiations now going on it is probable that speculation would have been rather more active than it now is, but as long as the question of peace or war remains undetermined we can have no

activity of gambling in any stock. Assume peace settled and an outburst of buying zeal is almost certain to be with us, but we do not think it can last long, and believe from symptoms visible to those who look under the surface that in some directions the favourable financial effects of peace have already been over-discounted. Russia will require to borrow uncounted millions of money the moment public sentiment has been placated by an agreement to cease fighting, and markets will also have to deal with an unknown multitude of projects that have been postponed in the hope of favourable opportunities for flotation when the war is over.

In the circumstances, therefore, we think that investors may do well to imitate speculators for the time being and hold their hands. There is no excess visible supply of good securities on markets at the present time. Whether they are held off by financiers or actually absorbed by investors, insurance companies and private buyers are points we cannot determine, but so far as the Stock Exchange reveals the position the surplus of good securities has been swept away and in the process quotations have been raised until they have become quite high enough, too high indeed if we have dearish money in the autumn, and higher quotations for floating banking credit we certainly shall have. The indications thereof have already become visible, and we cannot hope to see either our own market or that of New York, let alone the markets of France and Germany, carried through the autumn without an advance in current quotations for loanable credits. So sensitive is the Stock Exchange to any change of this kind that a mere rise of ¼ per cent. in the rate for floating loans always causes the price of Consols to dip, it may only be half-a-crown or even fifteenpence, but back it slides.

We have still nothing to say about the Kaffir Circus. Readers will find particulars of the gold output and everything else relating to the Witwatersrand mining industry in other columns of this issue and may draw their own inferences.

The Week's Stock Markets.

A Bank holiday at the beginning and mining con-tango day to wind up with does not indicate a week of great Stock Exchange activity, and since the re-opening on Tuesday trading has been at a very low ebb. Just at the start the mood seemed fairly cheerful, but absence of business and the knowledge that some time must probably elapse before any news can come concerning the progress of the peace negotiations brought about a rather uncertain tendency towards the close. The sudden tightening in the money market also had a slightly adverse influence, and it can now be taken for certain that those who predicted a summer boom have badly missed the mark. Wearisome in-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	90½	90½
91½	90½	Do. Account (Sept. 1)	90½	90½
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89½	89½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100½	100½
95½	89	Irish Land (2½)	92½	92½
101	96½	Local Loans (3)	100½	100½
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	99	99
99½	98½	Do. Account (Sept. 1)	99	99
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	100	100
308	297	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.) ..	301½	301½
109	105	India 3½ p.c. Stck. red. 1931 ..	105½	105½
99½	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1948 ..	97½	97½
85½	80½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	82	82
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper	66½	66½

activity while the plenipotentiaries at Portsmouth, New Hampshire do their work is a much more likely condition of affairs than a boom. Consols fluctuated within the narrowest margin, and after a very slender business finished slightly worse. Annuities were also a little dull, but other British Funds just rested at previous figures. Declines of 1½ in Leeds 2½ per cent. and of 1 in Cardiff 3 per cent. were the only incidents worth mention in the Home County and Corporation list, while the few movements amongst colonial inscribed stocks were favourable.

Although dealings were extremely small both on this side and on the Continent, Foreign Government bonds kept up well, the only uncertain spot amongst leading issues being Japanese, which at one time were flattened a little by despondent talk regarding the probable out-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	99½	101 Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	101½	101
102½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100½	100
106½	100½	Do. 6 p.c. Funding	102	102
104½	98½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101	101
93½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	92	91½
92	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	90½	90
90½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	90½	90
104	99½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs.	103½	103½
90½	82½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	88½	89
100½	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c.	100	100
106	101½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	104½	104½
89	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902	88	88½
102½	92½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	100½	100½
95	87½	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885	95	95
96½	89½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886	96	96
96	88½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895	95	95
102½	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	100½	101
97½	91½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	94½	95
106½	103½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	105	105
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	104	104
199½	92½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold	99	99½
16	97½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	104½	104
59½	28½	Costa Rica A	56	55
51½	2½	Do. B	47	45
144½	26½	Colombian External	44½	44½
108½	104½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	108	108½
107	104½	Egypt United 4 p.c.	105½	105½
103½	99½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref.	102½	102½
106½	102½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
91½	88½	German 3 p.c.	89	89
54½	47	Greek, 1884	54½	54½
55	48½	Do. Monopoly Loan	55	54½
43½	38½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	43½	43½
54	47	Do. Funding	54	54
100½	96½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	96½	96½
106	102½	Italian 5 p.c.	104½	104½
101½	88½	Japan 5 p.c.	100½	100½
102	88½	Do. New	100½	101½
189½	70½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	88½	88
106½	97	Do. 6 p.c.	103½	103½
105	102½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	104	104
70½	64½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	68½	69
91½	86½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	88	88½
81	76	Servian 4 p.c.	81½	81½
95½	89½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	90½	90½
93	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute	102	102
95	100½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	104	104
89½	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified	89	89½
73½	63½	Uruguay 3½ p.c.	71½	71½
97	86½	Do. 5 p.c.	96½	98
50½	42½	Venezuelan, 1881	49	48½

come of the peace negotiations. Even these, however, picked up with other things at the end, and nearly all bonds dependent upon Paris, such as Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Portuguese, were distinctly firm, especially the first named; a report that Russia is about to issue a further 5 per cent. loan for £20,000,000 attracted no notice. Greeks, however,

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	137	137 Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	135	134
165	152½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.)	157	157
131½	118	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.)	119	119
120	111	112 Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	112	112
83½	77½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.)	79	78½
38½	33½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.)	34	34½
94½	90	91 Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	91
86½	78½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.)	79½	78½
177½	152	158 Chatham Ordinary	158	158
47½	38	39 City and South London (2½ p.c.)	39	39
62	51	51½ Furness (½ p.c.)	52	52
34½	28½	31 Great Central Pref.	30½	30½
18½	15½	16½ Do. Def.	16	16½
93½	89½	84 Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	82½	82½
108½	100½	101 Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.)	100½	100½
42½	34	33½ Do. Def. (4)	33½	34
145½	137½	138 Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	137½	138½
55½	52	53 Highland (1½ p.c.)	53½	53
49½	41	45½ Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.)	45	44
112½	106½	106½ Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.)	105½	105½
100	90½	91 Metropolitan (3 p.c.)	91	90½
42½	35½	36½ Metropolitan District ..	36½	36½
71	65½	69 Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	69½	69½
70	62½	62½ Do. Def. (2½ p.c.)	63½	64½
83½	76½	79 North British Pref. (3 p.c.)	79½	79½
49½	43½	43½ Do. Def. (1½ p.c.)	44½	44½
144½	135	134½ North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	135½	135½
160½	147½	147½ North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	149	151½
94½	86	86 South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.)	86	86
134	123	123½ Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	124	124
58½	48½	52½ Do. Det.	53	53
171	156	161 South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.)	161½	160½
111½	105	109 Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	109	109
60½	52½	54½ Do. Det. (2 p.c.)	54½	55

proved an exception on some profit taking after the recent rise. Chinese issues never stirred, and there was practically nothing going on in leading South

American loans, but Peruvians fell back a little, after being better, and in the Central American division Costa Rica suffered a sharp relapse. Venezuelans were also heavy, but Guatemalans were made the subject of a lively gamble, causing them to close higher along with Colombians.

Speculation in Home Railway ordinary stocks seems to have ceased for the present, so many of the leading operators being away, and since the amount of public

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	87½ Atchison Shares (4)	89½	90½
107½	102	105 Do. Pref. (5)	105½	106
118½	104½	116 Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4)	117½	118½
101½	97½	100 Do. Prefd. (4)	101	101
61½	46½	53½ Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	56½	56½
191½	173½	183½ Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	185	187
38	27½	31½ Denver Shares	32½	33½
93½	85½	88½ Do. Prefd. (5)	89½	89½
49½	37½	47 Erie Shares	47½	49½
89½	77½	85½ Do. Prefd. (4)	86½	86½
76½	58½	74½ Do. 2nd Pref.	76½	77
156	156	173 Illinois Central (6)	175½	179½
158½	140½	151½ Louisville & Nashville (5)	15½	151½
34½	24½	28½ Missouri and Texas	29½	30½
160½	140½	148½ New York Central (5) ..	151	153
90½	77½	88 Norfolk and Western (3) ..	88½	88½
96	94	96 Do. Prefd. (4)	96	96
65½	41½	53½ Ontario Shares	54½	54½
76½	67½	72½ Pennsylvania (6)	73½	73½
55½	40½	52½ Reading Shares	53½	55½
48	46	48 Do. 1st Prefd. (4) ..	48	48
48	43½	47 Do. 2nd Prefd. (3) ..	47	47
74	59½	65½ Southern Pacific	66½	67½
38½	28½	33½ Southern	34½	36½
103½	97½	101 Do. Prefd. (5)	101	102
140½	116½	131½ Union Pacific (4)	131½	135½
102½	98½	100 Do. Prefd. (4)	100½	100½
24½	18½	19 Wabash	20	20
49½	37½	39½ Do. Prefd.	41½	41½
86½	69½	73 Do. Income Debs. ..	73	73
161	133	156½ Canadian Pacific (6) ..	157½	160½
108½	102½	105 Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
111	108½	109½ Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110	109½
23½	19½	22½ Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	22½	22½
102½	99	100½ Do. Guar. (4)	102	102½
114½	107½	110½ Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	111	111½
104½	97	101½ Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	102½	102½
52½	46½	51 Do. 3rd Pref.	51½	51½
109½	107	108½ Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½	108½

support is insufficient to sustain quotations, the market has a rather forlorn appearance. Traffics generally were regarded as satisfactory, although comparison was rendered somewhat difficult by the lateness of the Bank holiday, and prices on the whole may be described as steady. Some little weakness developed at one time, Leeds and North-Western being affected by the possibility of a strike in the cotton industry, but

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
221	128	204 Antofagasta (10)	211½	212
319	144½	— Do. Def. (15)	317½	317½
115½	105	114½ Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	115½	116½
125	113½	122 Do. Prefd. (5)	123	123
84½	77	84 Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	84	84
148½	134½	142 B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7)	142	143
130½	127	129 Do. Prefce (5)	129½	130
130½	117	127 B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7)	129	130
118½	108½	117½ Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	110½	116½
109½	99½	108 Do. do. and Pref. (5) ..	108	108
111½	101½	108 B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6)	108½	109½
108	92½	99 Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	99½	101½
168½	161	164½ Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	166
108½	103½	107 Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4)	108	108½
135½	120½	132½ B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	133½	134½
90	79	88 Central Uruguay (3) ..	88	88
107	101	105½ Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	108	108
94	88	92½ Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	92½	92½
70	58	64½ Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½)	66	66
33½	28½	28½ Costa Rica (1)	28½	28½
7	5	6½ Cuban Central	6½	6½
12½	10½	11½ Do. Pref. (5½)	12	12
107½	104½	— Do. Deb. (4½)	105½	105½
90½	72	86 East Argentine (4)	88	88
5	5	5 Interceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6	5½
68½	50½	68½ Leopoldina (3)	69	69½
96	86½	94 Do. Deb. (4)	94	94
110½	108	— Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	109	109
108	104½	— Do. "B" (6)	106	106
29½	19½	23½ Mexican Ord. Stk.	24½	24½
121½	103½	114½ Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	115	115½
57	36½	45½ Do. 2nd Pref.	46	46½
69½	48½	— Mexican Southern (2½) ..	54	54
14½	103½	14 Nitrate Ord. (5½)	14	14½
198	16½	18½ Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4)	18½	18½
201	178	197 San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	201	201½
176	—	167½ United of Havana Ord. Stock.	173	176

the losses were partially recovered before the close and quotations ended much where they began. The "heavy" stocks were the strongest, perhaps, and Scotch issues attracted a certain amount of support.

Some of the leading Wall Street professionals seem to be making a desperate effort to impart an appearance of activity and strength to the Yankee market, and while we were at play on Monday indulged in a bold demonstration. Gates, Morgan, the Standard Oil interests, and sundry other manipulators were supposed to be bullish, and prices were lifted with considerable vigour, so that when our market resumed on Tuesday a disposition was shown to keep the game up, although the amount of local business passing would hardly provide Bank holiday expenses. New York lent further aid, and after some reaction, due to profit taking, carried values a little higher, investment things like Milwaukee, Illinois, and New York Central, as well as Eries, Atchison, Missouri, Southern Pacifics, and Unions being particularly prominent. Next came a pause pending the publication of the Government monthly crop report, a "bear" raid in New York meanwhile providing a little excitement, but the figures were considered quite satisfactory, and quotations were soon moving upwards once more under the lead of Illinois, which jumped several dollars.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	16½	17	Allsopp Ordinary	21	18
71	44	—	City of London Ord.	46½	46½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	530
27½	22½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	22	22½
27½	22½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
37½	37½	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	38xd	38xd
58½	52	53	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	56	55
35	16½	17	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	20½	18½
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	100	100
78½	56½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	60	60
6½	51½	52	Aerated Bread (30)	52	52
7½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	64xd	62½
6½	51½	17½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6	6
11½	10½	24/9	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
3½	2½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
6½	5	—	Brunner Mond (15)	5½	5½
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	109	108
5½	4½	9/6	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½)	5½	5½
502½	483½	495	Coats Ordinary (20)	5½	5½
1½	1½	14/-	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	495	495
13½	10½	22/-	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1½	1½
4½	3½	6	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1½	1½
11	10	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (5) ..	6	6
111	106	108	Harrold's Telegraph (15) ..	12	12
1	—	26/6	Harrold's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4	4
68½	58	58	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	108xd	108xd
18½	18½	—	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
18½	18½	—	Lipton Ordinary (7)	13½	13½
7½	5½	24/-	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5½	5½
15	13½	—	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	17½	17½
104½	102	103	Russian Petroleum (5)	1	1
77½	49½	68	Savoy Hotel (5)	5½	5½
48½	38½	43½	Sweetmeat Automatic	14xd	14xd
106½	99½	104	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	14xd	14xd
98	88	7	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	11½xd	11½
117½	108	—	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	10½	10½
13	10½	108	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103½	103½
104½	95½	—	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-) ..	69½	71
134½	126½	—	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	44½	45½
37½	37½	3½	Do. Debentures (6)	105½	105½
58	58	3½	National Discount (10)	92xd	92xd
17½	17½	17½	Union Discount (11)	11½xd	11½
117½	108	—	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	7	7
39½	26½	34½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	10½	10½
108½	93½	104½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	100½	102
23½	23½	2½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	131	132
14½	11½	—	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3½	3½
231	214½	—	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	38	38
102	92	—	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	17½	17½
102	92	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	17½	17½
102	92	—	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	10	10
102	92	—	United States Steel Ordinary ..	35½	36½
102	92	—	Do. Preference (7)	106½	106½
102	92	—	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	24xd	24xd
102	92	—	Cunard Steam	12	12
102	92	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	225½	225½
102	92	—	Royal Mail	35	35
102	92	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½	8½
109½	101½	106	Anglo-American Telegraph—	106xd	105½xd
17½	10	13	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	13½	13½
147½	134½	147	Do. Def. Ord.	143½xd & b	143½
147½	132	14	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	14	14
113½	100	108	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	105xd	104½xd
147½	132	14	Western Telegraph (7)	14	14
102	9	9	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	8½xd	8½xd
120	110	8½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	8½	8½
102	92	—	London General Omnibus (8)	125½	124½
			London United Trams Pref. (5)	92	92

Canadian Pacifics were heavy throughout, and Grand Trunks had a drooping tendency until the traffic was published, showing a gain of over £13,000 against the £6,000 looked for, when they revived, but only to a fractional extent. In fact, dealers were waiting for the half-yearly statement, which came to-day (Friday), and as the display was fully up to expectations final

figures were decidedly good. Including balance brought in the available surplus is £291,600, which enables the directors to meet the dividends on the guaranteed and first and second preferred stock with £7,400 to next account.

Dealing was quiet even in the Foreign Railway market and there is nothing of a sensational character to report. Antofagastas, for example, were only 1 or 2 up and United of Havana preference scarcely changed on balance. Rosario ordinary stock was the most active in the Argentine list, but the improvement in price was slight, other issues less freely dealt in showing rather larger gains. North-Eastern preferred and one or two Cordoba Central stocks were exceptionally a little lower. Brazilian securities kept steady or ended a little higher, while Mexicans were dull despite a satisfactory traffic.

Miscellaneous markets were idle and dull and present nothing of particular interest. Brewery issues were all flat again, particularly Allsopp's on the disastrous report, other issues to go down being Watney Combe, City of London, Lion, Parker's, Burslem, and Showell's. Guinness also fell 10 on the further reduction in profits, but Smith, Garret ordinary and Meux preference were exceptionally firmer. Catering things usually held their prices, but Spiers and Pond fell to under 2, Sweetmeat Automatic and Schweppes deferred had a rather better tendency, James Nelson's Meat shares kept steady, and Imperial Cold Storage recovered. Some weakness developed in Textile shares on strike fears, but Iron and Steel things were firm and Nitrates displayed a little irregularity. Hudson's Bays were lifted to 71, closing slightly lower. Chinese Land and Exploration kept dull and Hyderabad (Deccans) just maintained previous figures. Millwall Dock preferred stock further dropped 2, but the ordinary was steady, and London deferred closed rather better. Telephone preferred and deferred were strong on the passing of the purchase agreement by the House of Commons, Gas Light stock again went up, while London General Omnibus was heavy on the traffic decrease and North Metropolitan fell a fraction on the statement in the report regarding the probable return to the shareholders when the County Council takes over the system. London Coliseum shares fell £1 on adverse reports concerning the business, but part of the loss was subsequently recovered.

Hardly any change occurred in stock markets to-day. Some people have been trying to deal in September options in Japanese bonds, but without much success, the truth being that speculation of all kinds will remain paralysed until it is seen what comes of the peace conferences. Some little excitement was caused in the Trunk market by the dividend announcement, which stimulated buying on the theory that since a year ago the directors did not venture to pay anything on the earlier preferences, whereas they now give them the full half-year's dividend with something over, it might be within the bounds of probability that at the end of the year the third preferred would receive 2 per cent. The mining account is being settled in the usual listless way, with prices steady and contangoes unchanged; in fact, all markets were steady to-night, with just another slight decline in Consols due to the further advance in money rates.

Samuel Allsopp and Sons.

It is impossible to peruse the annual report of this terrible derelict without a feeling of despair, sharpened almost to vindictiveness, against the men, late directors, who squandered the company's money by hundreds of thousands of pounds and then deserted it, afraid to face the just wrath of the victimised shareholders. Small wonder is it that in their indignation some of the proprietors are still disinclined to allow the past to be quietly buried, and at the ensuing general meeting a motion will again be brought forward for the appointment of a committee for further investiga-

tion of the affairs of the business from 1894 to 1900, the period during which so much capital was lost, literally thrown away in a policy of reckless waste. Needless perhaps to say the directors deprecate any such action, pointing out that the whole matter was investigated when the present board was constituted in 1900, the conclusion being come to that no legal action should be taken, but the latest report must be very trying to the tempers of those not blessed with such conveniently short memories. The position indeed seems absolutely hopeless, and we have the dismal satisfaction of knowing that our prophetic utterances of a year ago are being borne out to the letter. Apart altogether from the deplorable condition of the finances there is now no doubt at all that business is being irrecoverably lost, the last three annual statements all making mention of a drop in sales, and now the directors blurt out the truth, admitting that the falling off is very largely due to the increasing restrictions in the purchase of Burton beers placed on their tenants by London and provincial brewers. The latest shrinkage made known, 7 per cent., is very serious indeed, and has led to a further decline in gross profits of £18,205 to £318,309, making a loss in two years of over £43,000, while to add to the misery the net interest received is down almost £5,000 to £13,668, on top of a shrinkage shown a year ago of £7,200. Dividends on investments, too, are over £3,000 less at £8,695, despite a large increase in their amount—a matter which requires full explanation—rents gave £37,479 and transfer fees £204, so that notwithstanding a transfer from the guarantee fund and income-tax returned, the two together reaching £6,000, the total revenue drops £24,459 to £348,355. At the last annual meeting some of the expenditure items were very severely criticised. The board now retorts by adding together the general expenses, salaries, advertising, Burton and agency travelling outlay and incidental expenses instead of stating them separately. The whole amount to £186,609, a reduction so far as we can gather of about £11,000, which seems nothing to be ashamed of, and we suppose the idea is to conceal the items in which the saving has been effected. How much less was spent on advertising? Unhappily bad debts written off and reserve for doubtful debts, loans, &c., require £6,200 more at £14,211; loss on houses under management was £2,002, depreciation was allowed to the amount of £12,403, and repairs took £27,374, the outgo under all heads being £273,010, and leaving the net revenue £10,380 worse at £111,345. In two years this net profit has fallen £41,545, the amount for the past twelve months being insufficient by £41,038 to meet the fixed charges, that is, interest on debentures and trust certificates, £2,442 written off expenses of conversion of the latter and £5,851 required as further provision against old loans. This loss added to the debit of £14,889 brought forward brings the total deficiency to £55,928, and, of course, neither the preference stock of £1,100,000, the ordinary stock of £770,000, nor the income certificates of £99,000, issued for unpaid preference interest, receive any return whatever. How is it all going to end? Remember that £2,516 was added to the business premises and plant during the twelve months, making the total £891,423, while the only depreciation allowed was £3,253 written off the lager plant. Freeholds and leaseholds were increased by £40,666 and reduced by £9,149, being the depreciation on leaseholds, leaving the item at the enormous figure of £1,415,472, just a little less than the utterly valueless goodwill still standing at the preposterous total of £1,431,988. That must have meant fine plunder at one time. Mortgages have been increased a little to £82,600, and the total floating liabilities amount to £448,492, including £211,149 borrowed on the security of £345,900 4 per cent. debenture stock. On the other side customers' balances and other debts are somewhat less at £368,172, and over £100,000 of trade loans have been called in, bringing them down to £472,403—against this there is a reserve of £89,887—but sundry

investments, as already stated, are up from £255,725 to £315,980. General utensils are down again to the figure of two years ago, £235,900, a drop of £15,800. Stocks are lower at £386,834, and cash has tumbled from £114,104 to £81,287.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

. *Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.*

Being the fag-end of a nineteen-day account, with carry-over day yesterday (Friday), nothing was to be hoped for in the way of additional business in the Kaffir Circus, either on the part of the public or the professionals. The latter, of course, are only too eager to do something if there were the possibility of receiving the slightest encouragement and support from outsiders, but as the public are as indifferent as ever and nothing will tempt them to buy a Kaffir share of any description the market is in a state of depression and weariness. Dealers seem thoroughly hopeless and dispirited and dejectedly talk of a further decline in prices. At the same time they have been looking forward with a desperate hope to the publication of the Rand output for August, a satisfactory increase being anticipated, but as previous increases have failed to draw in the public, what likelihood is there that they will flock in next week? Professionals themselves see little probability of it, but like desperate gamblers they cling tenaciously even to a forlorn hope. Quotations, therefore, have again weakened all along the line, though in no direction has the decline been other than fractional. It is announced that the number of Chinese employed on the Rand on the 8th ult. was 41,299. Since that date 1,913 coolies have arrived by the *Ikkal*, 59 died during July and 12 were repatriated. The total number in the country at the end of July was 43,141, whilst the steamer *Katherine Apcar* is on the seas with an additional 1,827. In the diamond group conspicuous weakness has been shown by Premier deferred and preferred, though De Beers and Jagers have been steady.

Rhodesians have been neglected and prices have receded in this section also. This market has received another blow in the shape of the circular issued by the directors of the Jumbo Company. In his report Mr. Piper says he is of the opinion that a secondary dyke-intrusion in the Jumbo Extension ground third level has temporarily caused trouble and until the limits of this dyke have been proved the future of the mine in depth must be looked upon as unproved. But six months' prospecting work should indicate something and in the third level some prospecting crosscuts north have already given encouraging indications. Some good assays have been obtained, he adds, in the deepest point in the mine, but the same intrusive dyke is showing in the shaft at present and must be passed through before any definite statement can be made.

In the Egyptian section Nile Valleys continue prominently weak, owing mainly to the impression made by the announcement that Mr. J. B. Robinson has not exercised his option on the unissued shares, which the directors are offering to the shareholders at par. The company's return for July was published on Wednesday evening, from which it appears that the yield, apart from the specimen stone, averaged less than 7 dwts. per ton. Other shares have been weak in sympathy.

Several West African shares have been marked down a fraction or so, but quotations amongst West Australians have been mostly in favour of holders, prices being pushed upwards on the cables from one or two mines showing promising developments at depth, which may greatly prolong the lives of the mines, particularly the Great Boulder Proprietary and the Golden Horse-shoe. On the other hand, Great Fingalls have been dull. A cablegram from the Sulphide Corporation states that, so far, investigation indicates that no damage has been done to the ore body by the "creeps" in the Central mine, but gangways were broken in the working stopes and the mullock pass was cut off. It is hoped, however, that the extraction of ore will be resumed early in September from the new shaft, and that the available working faces will then produce 2,500 to 3,000 tons per week, while the gangways are being opened, and a gradual increase is looked for until the mullock arrangements are completed in about three or four months.

In the miscellaneous group *Esperanzas* have been in demand and *El Oros* have strengthened in sympathy. One or two of the leading Charters Towers shares have also improved. Amongst Indians *Balaghats* and *Ooregums* have moved higher. As a consequence of the continued strength of the metal market *Rio Tintos* and *Cape Coppers* have further risen.

TRANSVAAL GOLD AND LABOUR RETURNS.—The monthly return from the Transvaal Chamber of Mines shows that the gold output for July of the mines on the Witwatersrand amounted to 401,121 ozs. of fine gold, and of those of the outside districts, 18,384 ozs., a total of 419,505 ozs., valued at £1,781,944, against 412,317 ozs., worth £1,751,412 in June, being increases respectively of 7,188 ozs. and £30,532. Though this is a fresh record, it does not show progress, the daily average being 13,532 ozs., against 13,743 ozs., to say nothing of the fact that the Nigel Deep commenced to crush, and gave 2,160 ozs., whilst the Worcester, which evidently made no return for June, contributed 1,432 ozs. Thus, of the increase of 7,188 ozs., 50 per cent. came from two mines. The labour returns show a net loss of

natives of 2,315, at a total of 91,673 "boys." On the other hand, the number of coolies at work was 43,141, compared with 41,299.

WEMMER GOLD MINING COMPANY.—An ominous statement has just been issued from the head office of this famous outcrop company, explaining the decrease in the profits as due to the falling off in the grade of the ore sent to the mill. It is impossible to say, the directors add, whether or not the reefs have permanently deteriorated. This doubt is serious, especially as the directors have decided not to pay a dividend for the half year to the end of June. They desire to husband their resources against possible unhappy contingencies. Such news as this must be considered sensational and is likely to further depress the already dispirited Kaffir circus.

BONANZA COMPANY.—In the mine report for June issued by this company the following note is appended:—"A letter has been received from Mr. Spencer, the late manager, pointing out that certain passages in the chairman's speech at the annual meeting held in March, 1904, are liable to give the impression that the revised figures that were then laid before shareholders dealing with the estimated shorter life and smaller profits were arrived at by the engineers of Messrs. H. Echstein and Co., without the assistance or knowledge of Mr. Spencer. The board, therefore, wishes to make it clear that the drop in the value of the mine was in the first place reported by Mr. Spencer himself to the directors in 1903." As one or two readers have written us asking whether the shares are worth buying, we may recall what the chairman said at the meeting on March 9 last. He then thought it might be possible to do some milling for a few months in 1906, but, of course, past profits cannot be maintained over that period. Not only will lower grade ore have to be dealt with, but only a limited number of stamps can be run. "A time will come," he added, "when the margin of profit will be so small that it will be advisable to consider the question of selling the plant and mining rights to some adjoining property." Borehole tests have been made to see if the low grade main reef in the property can be made payable, for, if so, it would greatly prolong the mine's life, though it would considerably reduce profits. It has, however, been proved that this reef will not on the whole give ore of a payable value. Some work done on this particular reef shows that it is also of a very patchy nature. As the mine can last but a few months longer, this is a company we cannot include in our estimates of the yields of Rand mines, for no sane investor would dream of putting a shilling into it.

LODDON VALLEY GOLDFIELDS.—This concern is a reconstruction of a London company with the same name, but is registered in New South Wales, where the annual meeting was held last May, at which the directors presented their report from the date of incorporation, July, 1903, to the end of 1904, thus covering a period of some seventeen months. Shareholders are not likely to be greatly pleased or gratified with the contents of the document. It informs them that the work has been actively prosecuted at the mine. Acting on the advice of the general managers, the pumping plant has been entirely remodelled, and its capacity increased to about five and a-half million gallons daily. The water bores put in the main channel have shown excellent prospects of gold, and it is about time something was shown, however trifling. Unfortunately, further capital is needed. The defective condition of the pumping plant taken over from the old company, and the unforeseen expenditure rendered necessary to enable it to cope with the amount of water that has to be dealt with, have been a source of considerable anxiety to the directors, and have made it necessary for them to consider the further financing of the company till the wash can be opened up. In a circular accompanying the report they announce that they have been able to make financial arrangements which will enable work at the mine to be carried on for a period of twelve months from May 1 last without asking the shareholders for more cash, which is very considerate of them, to be sure. This has been effected by an arrangement for the creation of £30,000 first mortgage 6 per cent. debentures at par. In part consideration for subscription to these, and on the advice of the general managers that a section of the northern portion of the company's property would be outside the region which can be economically reached from the present workings, the directors have granted a conditional option to the lenders to purchase this section, approximately one mile in length. In the event of the option being exercised, it is intended that this section shall be amalgamated with the "option block," which it adjoins, and that a separate company shall be formed to work it. The new company is to have a subscribed working capital of at least £75,000, and as purchase price would allot to the Loddon Valley Goldfields such proportion of 100,000 fully paid £1 shares as the length of the lead bears to the total length of the lead acquired. The capitalisation of the new company is not to exceed £300,000. It is hoped that the new pump will be at work by the end of August. But who can foresee what measure of success will attend the operations of this company? We are not hopeful shareholders will get any dividends out of it.

MOORLOOT GOLDFIELDS.—This is another deep leads undertaking, and was reconstructed at the same time as the Loddon Valley Goldfields, and is likewise registered in New South Wales. The report of the directors is practically identical with that of the Loddon Valley, and covers a like period. After referring to the reorganisation the report, which was submitted at the meeting at Sydney on May 18, states that the pumping plant has been entirely remodelled, and the capacity increased from two million gallons to about five and a half million gallons daily. But as more cash is wanted, the further financing of the

company till the wash can be opened up is engaging the attention of the directors.

CORPORATION OF WESTERN EGYPT.—The following information is officially issued:—The chemist reports from El Der Kharga Oasis that "phosphates have been found to occur in three parallel beds, close to El Der, and extending north and south. The outcrop has been traced for more than a mile and a small sample brought from the road to Dabadib shows that it continues far to the north. The vast extent of some of the aluminous deposits and the ease with which they are worked renders them a valuable source of aluminium sulphate, the only plant required for the preparation being a series of leaching and evaporating tanks protected from sand storms and dust, and some means of crushing the ore."

BRILLIANT EXTENDED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the six months ending May 24 the output was 12,591 tons of stone, of an average value of £2 8s. 1d. per ton, against 11,388 tons in the previous term worth £2 18s. per ton, thus showing a falling off of nearly 10s. per ton, which the report says occurred in the first three crushings. By the cyanide plant 11,800 tons were treated, of which 10,800 tons were put through for the company for an average extraction of over 8s. per ton. Total revenue from gold was £35,839, giving a net profit of £6,363, the balance brought forward increasing the surplus to £12,911. The directors have completed the purchase of the Enterprise mill and cyanide works, which has resulted in a saving of an average of 6s. 3d. per ton on the treatment of the ore. According to the balance-sheet the sum of £23,750 is owing by way of mortgage on the mill and cyanide works, this representing the total purchase (£25,000) less £1,250 paid on taking over the mill. The second payment of £1,250 was due on June 1 last, and the directors purposed giving three months' notice under the agreement with the mortgagees to make a further payment of £10,000 in reduction, which they estimated the company would be in a position to carry out. As regards the ore reserves, the manager writes that on account of the varying value of the stope faces from day to day, both in the quantity and quality of the stone exposed, accurate figures are unobtainable without a large outlay on sampling and assaying. He does not consider that such expenditure is warranted, as he is convinced the results would be unreliable in the case of a reef somewhat patchy in occurrence and varying in quality.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOLD YIELD.—The gold yield of New South Wales for the month of July amounted to 39,862 ozs., valued at £128,092, compared with 27,169 ozs., worth £102,486 in the corresponding month of 1904. For the seven months to date the output totals 171,140 ozs., of a value of £603,280, against 196,216 ozs., valued at £704,314, in the corresponding period, showing a biggish decline.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

In the half-year ended June 30 last this our premier railway company earned gross £6,940,099 at a cost of £4,448,277 in working expenses. Receipts showed an increase of £5,331, and expenses a decrease of £35,158. It followed that the net revenue was £40,489 up to £2,491,822. This is exclusive of miscellaneous receipts amounting to £79,494 or £7,259 less than in the corresponding half of 1904, which added brings the net income up to £2,571,316, or £33,230 more than a year back. The ratio of expenses to receipts was 64.09 per cent. After meeting debenture interest, chief rent charges, &c., £694,354, or £10,933 more, there was £1,961,495 available for dividend, including £84,533 brought in from the December half-year. As the amount brought in in the corresponding part of 1904 was £14,818 more than this, it follows that the final available balance was only £7,419 up. This, however, enables the directors to meet guaranteed and preference stock dividends and to pay a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, the same as a year back, on the consolidated stock, leaving £74,494 to be carried forward against £74,602 a year ago. Passenger receipts showed an increase of 9,832, but there was a decrease of £9,461 in merchandise, mineral, and live stock receipts. No less than 741,200 fewer passengers were carried in the past half-year, comparing July with July, but there was an increase of 352,042 tons in the weight of merchandise and minerals carried. It is noticeable that this increase in the weight of goods was coincident with a decline of 257,516 miles in the mileage of goods and mineral trains run, whereas the falling off in passengers was accompanied by an increase of 240,526 miles in the running of coaches. Some considerable changes are shown in the items of current expenditure, maintenance of way, for instance, being less by about £24,000 and locomotive power down some £30,000. Carriage and wagon repairs also fell off about £3,000, and traffic expenditure about £10,000, but there was an increase of some £5,000 in general charges, and of about £17,000 in rates and taxes. Steamboat expenses were rather lower, and £5,000 less at £17,500 was put aside to depreciation and insurance of steamboats. What these boats earned is not stated, so that we cannot tell how much the company is gaining or losing by this part of its business. In the past half-year capital expenditure amounted to the

modest sum of £210,590 gross, or, after allowing for the value of surplus lands and other properties sold, £203,872 net. Of this amount £174,089 went into lines open for traffic, but additional working stock was charged with only £105. In the current six months the estimated capital expenditure is put at £530,000, but of this £230,000 will consist in subscription and loan to the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway and additional lands and works on the company's English lines. Working stock is estimated to take £30,000, and besides the additional works allowance mentioned above, £212,000 is to be laid out upon lines open for traffic. According to the balance-sheet the capital account is overdrawn by £2,050,516, but the company is under no immediate pressure to issue further amounts of stock since the trust funds in its hands amount to nearly £3,300,000. Dividends on the guaranteed, preferred and consolidated stocks will be posted on the 21st inst.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

The gross revenue for the half-year to June 30 was £5,838,237, an increase over the corresponding period of £39,259, but the working expenses rose £47,194 to £3,759,212, so that the net income showed a small decrease, much to the surprise and disappointment of the market. Proportion of expenditure to total receipts 64.39 per cent., compared with 64.01 per cent. From passengers the company received an additional revenue of £3,671, involving the carriage of 1,275,332 more travellers, this being the net result of some rather important movements. For example, first-class business gave a decreased revenue from a larger number of passengers, indicating shorter journeys, second-class fell heavily both in numbers and receipts, and third-class did well under both heads. Season tickets, too, rose sharply, a gratifying circumstance in view of the keen tramway competition, and there was an improvement in parcels, horses, carriages, &c., of £4,389, this, with a slight gain in mails, giving aggregate coaching receipts of £2,643,602, an advance of £14,773. Goods contributed £1,445,851, or £11,000 more, and minerals improved £16,438 to £1,583,788, but live stock, dock and harbour dues, wharfage, &c., and the canals all did rather worse. Miscellaneous receipts from rents and transfer fees were almost stationary. The rise in expenditure is directly traceable to two items, carriage and wagon repairs and traffic expenses, up £31,000 and £19,000 respectively, movements which seem rather disproportionate, and we may hear from the chairman that they were due to some special cause. As a partial offset the outlay on maintenance was reduced £8,916, and locomotive power cost £8,548 less, due to the lower cost of coal. Train mileage was up 274,687, due, however, to the big increase from 74,565 to 534,656 in the miles run by passenger rail motor-cars, a small advance in ordinary passenger train mileage being much more than neutralised by a considerable saving under goods and mineral trains. The motor experiment seems to have been a considerable success. General charges were £1,000 or so higher, law charges showed a decline of over £7,000, parliamentary expenses fell about £1,000, and compensation was much the same. Rates and taxes jumped up a further £18,536, and actually exceeded £300,000 for the half-year, a tremendous burden truly, but more easily borne by a wealthy corporation like this railway than by the individual who suffers in proportion just as heavily. Next we have an advance in the steamboat charges of £2,756 to £55,469, the sole information we get regarding this branch of the business, because never a hint is given of the revenue received. We wonder if the service is run at a loss. Happily the capital expenditure is not very heavy at £481,073, and the existence of a depreciation and insurance fund of £294,611 renders the position pretty comfortable. This amount, however, is considerably less than at December 31 last because the additions for the half-year were only £15,865, and the outgoings £50,070, one boat sold which had cost £40,422 realising only £2,103. On the canals the capital outlay was very much heavier, and these we know involve a considerable loss, because the expenditure last half-year was £11,844, and the receipts, as already mentioned, showed a moderate decline at £6,517. Net result of all operations is a balance of £2,079,025, or £7,935 less, in addition to which the sum brought forward was smaller at £45,177, bankers and general interest declined £6,622, and only a little more came in from dividends on shares held. It follows that the actual available credit is down by £16,478 to £2,150,074, so that after providing rather heavier amounts for fixed and prior charges the directors are compelled to reduce the dividend on the ordinary stock by $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum, carrying forward nearly £3,000 more at £28,884. Rather a disappointing display, take it altogether, and the position is not rendered more acceptable by a study of the capital commitments. We know the company is committed to very heavy outlays, but none the less it is staggering to find that £1,260,560 was laid out in the half-year, including almost half a million on lines already under traffic, £375,007 for lines and works in course of construction, £262,579 for new working stock, and £172,605 for subscriptions and advances to other companies. Moreover, the expenditure for the current six months is put at a round million with estimates beyond of 5½ millions, and it seems impossible that money can be poured out in this fashion without seriously endangering the position of the ordinary stock. Fortunately, the financial position is straight enough at present, the debit to capital account being only £125,972, but the company has no large reserve or other funds to draw upon, and must come to the market whenever money is wanted. Probably another appeal will be made should the credit market continue easy, and it is well to remember that every million raised involves about £35,000 a year in interest. Dividend warrants will be posted 21st inst.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

In the June half-year gross receipts came to £4,447,682 or £28,184 less, and working expenses to £2,840,078 or £31,292 less than in the first half of 1904. It followed that the net income of £1,607,604 was £3,108 better than in the corresponding half-year, the percentage of working expenses to gross receipts being 63.84 against 64.13 a year ago. After providing for preferential charges, however, the company had but £787,268 left available for dividend on North-Eastern Consols, and accordingly the directors are able to distribute a dividend only at the rate of $\frac{4}{8}$ per cent. per annum on that stock, which is a decrease of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum upon the distribution of a year back. This will leave £41,349 to be carried to the new half-year compared with £45,538 brought in from the December half-year and £40,875 carried out a year ago. The amount of North-Eastern Consols on which the dividend is now paid is £31,407,121 an increase of £703,000 on a year back. No material increase is shown in the prior charges for the debenture and general interest account, rents, &c., are about £2,000 down compared with the June half of 1904 at £388,950. Preferential dividends, however, are up nearly £17,000 to £459,512, for the amount of the guaranteed and preference stocks has risen within the year by £773,000 to a total of £22,975,608, and the company must undoubtedly continue to add to its charges for an indefinite period of years to come, since it continues to spend freely on capital account, the total outlay for the past six months having been £575,131, of which no less than £144,772 went into the new working stock, £35,722 of it to pay for electric train motors and trailers and £201,284 was spent upon lines open for traffic. Therefore, in spite of the recent issue of new stock, the company's capital account was on June 30 last overdrawn to the amount of £1,679,525, which is just within £200,000 of the total amount held by it as fire insurance fund, savings bank and provident funds and superannuation funds. We therefore infer that a fresh issue of stock will have to be made at an early date, although no mention is made of any such issue in the report of the board, which is strictly confined to the usual items relating to changes in the directorate and the summary results of the half-year. Nothing particular arises from a comparison of the cost of working the line in the two half-years. There was a falling-off of about £32,000 in the cost of locomotive power and of £22,000 in traffic expenses, but maintenance of way, &c., rose by over £3,000, carriage and wagon repairs by nearly £5,000, compensation by about £2,600 and the cost of the electric train working by nearly £11,000. Compensation and rates and taxes were also both up. As usual the summary of revenue and expenditure does not separate out the dock expenses, but they are given under Abstract D and, deducted from the dock revenue shown in the general account, it would appear that the net profit last half-year was about £18,500. This is exclusive of a dividend of £2,039 received on the company's investment in the Sunderland Dock. That dividend is a little more than 2 per cent. on the amount of such investment and the return upon the other docks, the Middlesbrough Dock and Hull Joint Dock, appears to be also little more than 2 per cent. Still this is very much better than the exhibit made by the South-Western Company recently noticed in these columns and the board of the North-Eastern is evidently determined to extend its commitments in this direction, for amongst the items of capital expenditure are £60,000 set down as the company's stake in the Hull and Sunderland Steamship line. In the current half-year the capital expenditure is put at £648,000, of which £44,000 will go into Hull Docks, £38,000 in the extension of Middlesbrough Dock and £57,000 into the electrification of Newcastle suburban lines. The company's system has increased by 25 miles comparing the past half-year with the first half of 1904, the total length of line open being now 1,695 miles. There was a decrease of 396,157 miles in the steam train mileage but an increase of 540,720 miles in the electric train mileage, and no company in the kingdom has done so much to develop electric traction as the North-Eastern. Its capital expenditure in that direction would therefore appear to be most legitimate. The dividends will be payable on the 19th inst.

MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the half-year ended June 30 this company's gross receipts were £5,784,113, or an improvement of £16,014 on the corresponding period, the amount of miscellaneous revenue included in the total being £275,478, or just about £22,000 more so that the actual railway business yielded slightly less. On the other hand, working expenses were practically stationary at £3,506,774, a mere £304 higher, and the ratio of expenditure to railway income worked out at 63.66 per cent., compared with 63.58 per cent. Coaching revenue was down £18,072, consequent upon a decrease in both first and third-class passengers, the latter being down more than 1,000,000, and it may be well to remark that the loss would have been larger still but for increases in season tickets, parcels, horses, carriages, &c., and mails. That shows that all the decline was in passenger income, which, indeed, showed the heavy shrinkage of nearly £24,000. Cattle returned £3,568 less, and minerals were down £3,456, but there was an increase in merchandise of £19,080, the net decrease from the railway being £6,016. That is the figure shown in the accounts, but the actual movement is really concealed, because the revenue this time includes the receipts from the north of Ireland steamboats, an item which finds no separate entry. Steamboat expenses and depreciation and insurance, however, absorbed £41,487, appearing for the first time, and as the increase in total outlay is very slight, obviously some of the other

expenditure items have been drastically cut down. The saving is where we least like to find it, in maintenance of way, and the decrease of £47,953 under this head is rather startling. Locomotive power cost £16,000 less, and there were smaller declines in carriage and wagon repairs and traffic expenses. Compensation for personal injury unhappily showed a large advance, and the inevitable rise in rates and taxes reached as much as £13,333. Including rents, which were more than £10,000 larger, and include the hotel receipts, the railway working showed a profit of £2,097,009, or £4,092 more, and since nearly all the other items of revenue were larger, including the balance of £56,062 brought forward, the sum available for dividend comes to £2,333,401, or an improvement of £16,097. Heavier debenture interest swelled the fixed charges by £11,617, and the guaranteed and preference dividends went up by £11,941, so that the directors must reduce the carry forward from £24,752 to £12,253 in order to maintain the dividend at 4½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock. That gives 1¼ per cent. for the half-year on the preferred and 1 per cent. on the deferred ordinary stock. Capital expenditure was more moderate than usual at £447,100, but £237,574 went into lines already open for traffic and £32,463 went for working stock. Lines in course of construction took another £110,709, and subscriptions to other railways, &c., £60,311. In the current half-year some £550,000 will be laid out, including £72,715 on steamboats, but the debit to capital account of £778,906 is much less than a year ago, and as the superannuation, insurance, and other funds add up to a good 1½ millions, the company is hardly likely to make another appeal for capital just yet. Dividends payable August 26.

NORTH LONDON RAILWAY.

Gross receipts for the past half-year £255,513, decrease £11,638; working expenses £166,671, increase £2,684; proportion of expenditure to income 65.23 per cent., against 61.38 per cent. A further decline of more than 1,000,000 took place in the number of passengers carried, resulting in a drop of £8,613 in the revenue received, a result attributed to the continued general depression in trade, inclement weather at Easter and Whitsuntide, and the competition of the Great Northern and City Railway. Without a doubt the last-named must have cut severely into the Highbury-City traffic, because no one would travel on the North London line if there was a decent alternative route. Parcels, horses, carriages, &c., gave a little more, but again the directors attribute a small shrinkage in the merchandise traffic to the fire at the North-Western Company's Haydon Square depot in April of last year. As the rebuilding of the premises proceeds the business increases, we are told, and should reach its normal condition after completion of the work. Traffic in minerals returned £2,657 less, due to a variety of causes, such as the closing of gas works at King's Cross, a smaller quantity of seaborne coal arriving at the docks for rail transit, and a diminution in the haulage of inland coal owing to the mild weather and the more general use of gas for heating and cooking purposes. The rise in expenditure was largely due to the payment of a heavy sum as compensation to the passengers injured in the accident at Broad Street Station in August last, this item being up £1,305, but rates and taxes, greater by £1,258, also played a big part. Maintenance of way cost much the same, locomotive power rose £1,000, and general and law charges a few hundreds, but carriage and wagon repairs, traffic expenses, Government duty and dock and wharf charges all absorbed less. Balance of net revenue is £88,842, or a shrinkage of £14,322, and for the third time in succession the directors make a withdrawal from reserve. The amount this time is heavy, £7,000, and with the balance of £3,673 brought forward, builds the sum for disposal to £99,515, a decrease against the corresponding period of £12,006 when £5,000 was taken from the savings. Fixed charges were about the same, so that after providing preference interest the directors must reduce the ordinary stock distribution from 6 to 5 per cent. per annum, carrying forward the much smaller sum of £1,453. There was really no capital outlay in the half-year, the account, indeed, receiving a credit of £156, and the present debit of £124,939 need not cause worry because the reserve still stands at £85,000. Dividends payable 19th inst.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY COMPANY.

During the six months ended June 30 £741,158 was spent on this tube railway, practically the whole of it on construction, including engineering, and as only £545,850 came in the debit to capital account is increased to £902,542. This, with a few pounds at bankers, is represented by sundry outstanding accounts or debts of £702,635, and a "contractors' retention fund" of £200,900. Up to date the amount laid out is £3,372,694, the estimate for the current half-year is £750,000, and in subsequent half-years £1,645,305, or £5,767,999 for the eight miles or rather more from Charing Cross to Hampstead, say, £720,000 per mile, everything included. Can the line pay? It is too early to say yet, but £500,000 a year gross—we reckon that much must be taken if it is to do so—is not easily earned. Capital powers and other assets available to meet further expenditure come to £2,395,395.

GRAND TRUNK PRELIMINARY STATEMENT.

For the half-year ended June 30 gross receipts were £2,792,000, and working expenses £1,923,400, leaving £805,600 as net receipts. Net fixed charges took £510,200 of this, so that the free balance, after deducting £10,400, the loss on the Detroit line, was £285,000. To this £6,600 brought forward is added, raising the figure to £291,600, out of which the directors propose to pay the guaranteed and first and second preference stock dividends for the half-year in full, leaving £7,400 to be carried forward.

They add that the Grand Trunk Western Company has earned enough to pay the interest on its first mortgage bonds with about £2,800 over.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

The half-yearly report of this great and costly enterprise speaks of disappointing business during the first two months, but later on the revival in the cotton industry had its influence, trade again became active, and the early loss was much more than recovered. In fact, the sea-borne traffic which passed over the canal showed an increase of 116,067 tons at 1,865,606 tons compared with the corresponding period of 1904, and although this was partly offset by a shrinkage of 26,773 tons to 127,521 tons in the barge traffic, the effect on revenue was very slight as the decrease was in traffic paying low tolls. From all sources the revenue of the Ship Canal was £208,745, being an increase of £10,197, to which merchandise contributed £8,572, minerals rather more than £2,000, and ship dues £949. A rather sharp falling off appears in rents. Against the rise in revenue the expenditure went up £2,094 to £120,449, traffic expenses, general charges, law charges, compensation, rates and taxes, and rents, all showing more or less important advances, while considerable savings were effected in maintenance and parliamentary expenses. The net result is a credit balance larger by £8,103, at £88,296, to which must be added the profit on the Bridgewater Canals £14,700 against £11,688, making a total of £102,996 compared with £91,881. Gross revenue of the Bridgewater Canals was £134,202, or an improvement of £7,395, freight and haulage giving a gain of £7,910, tolls, dockages, &c., £596, and portage, cartage, wharfage, &c., £849. The total expenditure was £4,383 higher at £119,502, despite a reduction of about £700 under the head of maintenance, traffic expenses alone showing an advance of £5,049. Rates and taxes were also slightly higher, but rents showed a small reduction. Net revenue account is the next to be dealt with, and this shows the effect of the capital reorganisation authorised by the Manchester Ship Canal (Finance) Act, 1904. Balance of net revenue as above-mentioned, was £102,996, which provides interest on debentures, debenture stock, and surplus lands, bankers' and general interest, and rent of transit shed, No. 8 dock, with a sum remaining of £53,943 to be paid to the Corporation of Manchester on account of their interest amounting to £80,000, leaving a debit of £26,056 to be carried forward. But there was a deficiency of £932,463 brought into the account, being arrears of interest owing to the Corporation, and this sum, together with a credit to reserve of £19,035, has now been capitalised and paid over to the Corporation in the shape of 3½ per cent. preference stock. The company has power to discharge in the same way the further debit for the past half-year of £26,056, and no doubt the next report will show that this has been done. Actual capital expenditure for the past six months was £74,497, making the total addition to capital account, including the £951,498 preference stock, £1,025,995. Balance of capital still in hand is £240,705.

NORTH METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS COMPANY.

The most interesting part of the half-yearly report of this undertaking is that which refers to the proposed purchase by the London County Council. The matter has already been referred to at length in these columns, and we need do no more than mention that the agreement between the Council and the company provides for the acquisition of the business as from April 1 next instead of at the expiry of the lease in June, 1910. Some such arrangement was urgently called for in the interests of shareholders and public alike, and since the directors estimate that the former will receive from £4 to £5 per share out of the consideration payable by the Council, and the amount which should be realised on the sale of the lines and properties, they will no doubt accept the advice tendered, and ratify the agreement. With a similar number of miles open the company carried just 27 more passengers in the past half-year than in the opening six months of 1904, the total being 64,301,792, but the receipts were less by £2,506, and the revenue from advertisements shrank by £749. Rents and interest, however, showed moderate increases, and from all sources the income was £307,419, or a drop of £2,424. On the other hand, there was a saving in expenditure of £4,145, entirely owing to a big decline of £5,509 in the cost of road maintenance. Thus we get a quick example of the advantages arising from the arrangement with the L.C.C. as the large sum required under this head for the corresponding period included the amount for renewals set aside under the terms of the lease with the Council, but which for the future will not be necessary. Repairs to buildings, plant, &c., running expenses, general charges, compensation and law charges, and L.C.C. and other rents were all on a smaller scale, but traffic expenses rose no less than £3,298, rates and taxes were up just on £1,000, and repairs and renewals of cars cost a few hundreds more. Balance of net revenue shows an advance of £1,721 to £11,895, a sum of £2,579 was received as interest on the debenture holding in the Metropolitan Electric Tramways, fees for registration of horses for bus purposes came to £500, balance brought in was £233, and £3,100 is taken from the revenue reserve, making £18,307 in all. Debenture interest absorbs £2,579, leaving £15,728, from which the directors propose a dividend on the ordinary stock at 3½ per cent. per annum, the same as a year ago, carrying forward £199. The financial position is rather a good one, total reserves being £152,953, and credit to capital account £114,928, represented by cash and deposit with the L.C.C. and £175,000 owing by the Metropolitan Electric Tramways, so that in the final wind up the shareholders should have little to complain about.

REGENT'S CANAL AND DOCK COMPANY.

Revenue for the six months to June 30 was £44,160 or £1,552 more than in the corresponding half of 1904, meaning that the shrinkage in receipts then shown has been in large part recovered. Working expenses, however, went up rather more than £1,000 to £19,084, so that the improvement in the net balance is reduced to £536 at £25,075. Balance brought in was £951, and £45 was received for interest, making £26,072 for division, and after providing rather larger sums for debenture interest and pensions and annuities the directors again propose a dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the capital stock, with a balance carried forward of £1,543. Credit to capital account comes to £4,396 and the financial position seems fair.

BRECON AND MERTHYR TYDFIL JUNCTION RAILWAY.

In the half-year ending June 30 the gross receipts were £52,995, increase £424, whilst expenses were reduced by £197 to £32,679, so there was a gain of £621 in the net revenue at £20,316, to which has to be added £625 brought in, making £20,941 compared with £19,991. There was a slight decrease in the mineral traffic, but in the other classes there were moderate increases. The largest saving was over £1,000 in locomotive power and less was spent on carriage and wagon repairs, but maintenance of way, traffic expenses, general charges and rates and taxes all cost a few hundreds more. The available balance pays fixed charges down to the "B" debenture stock, the balance forward being increased from £237 to £1,137. Amount spent on capital account was only £181, but the estimated expenditure for the current half-year is £6,766. There is a balance at the credit of capital account of £71,823.

ARTHUR GUINNESS, SON, AND CO., LIMITED.

Not at all surprising is the decline of £36,171 in the gross profits of this great business for the year to June 30, compared with the previous twelve months, because when hard times and other causes have a sobering effect on the populace the powerful and wealthy businesses like Guinness must suffer with the decrepit wrecks like Watney Combe, and Allsopps. Including rents and transfer fees, the total revenue was £1,849,385, and we find the company contributed handsomely to the national revenue by paying £934,943 in excise duty. Various small charges raised the total outgo to £974,122, leaving £875,263 as net profit, a decline of £31,808. Two years ago the net revenue exceeded £1,000,000. Add dividends on investments £35,063 net and balance brought forward, considerably reduced at £56,749, and the sum for disposal is £967,075, a decrease of £42,896, but after providing debenture and preference interest there is not the least difficulty in maintaining the dividend and bonus on the ordinary stock at 20 per cent. for the twelve months. Reserve for capital expenditure and contingencies, however, receives £60,000 less at £140,000, another £30,000 goes to the depreciation fund, and the credit to next account is sensibly raised to £67,120. During the year the company spent £122,577 on capital account, raising the outlay to date to £6,233,492, but buildings plant and machinery to the value of £85,716 apparently went out of use, and were withdrawn from the inventory, reducing the item to £6,147,776. There is a further specific depreciation allowance of £511,808, so that including stock of casks valued at £252,932, the property item stands in the balance-sheet at £5,888,900. Other assets are book debts £231,038, stocks £1,425,892, high-class investments £1,378,509, on which there is a depreciation of £96,282, and cash £151,529. With the addition from the past year's profits the reserve for capital expenditure and contingencies is brought up to £1,250,000, making, with the ordinary reserve of £1,000,000, total savings of £2,250,000, a magnificent position probably not excelled by any company of its size in the world. A temporary loan of £200,000 has been paid off within the twelve months, and the total floating liabilities now stand at £381,726 compared with £496,033.

LEYLAND AND BIRMINGHAM RUBBER CO., LIMITED.

So seriously have the profits of this undertaking been affected by the continuous rise in the price of rubber that the directors think it well to issue with their annual report a "market chart" published by the *India Rubber Journal*, showing the prices for "fine para" for the past three years. The persistent advance is really startling and is due, we suppose, to a practically stationary supply in face of the greatly increased demand brought about by the steady growth of the motor-car industry. In 1903 the lowest price touched was under 3s. 6d., and the highest about 4s. 8d., and in 1904 the extremes were 3s. 11d. and 5s. 5d., but in the current year the lowest figure was 5s. 1d., while 5s. 9d. was touched in May, the quotation in the third week of July when the chart was issued being over 5s. 5d. It is easy to appreciate what a great influence this must have on trading profits, because hitherto it has been impossible, for a variety of reasons, to raise selling prices to a level which would compensate for the advance in raw material. Happily, however, the directors think the present year gives promise of better results, not, we should imagine, because of a probable fall in the value of rubber, but "consequent upon buyers generally having become more acquainted with the present state of the crude rubber market." Let us hope the forecast will prove a true one, as profits for the past year to June 30 were only £9,508 compared with £13,789 in the previous twelve months, and £29,940 in the year before that. Balance brought in was £2,600, making £12,109 from which an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. was paid in December last, leaving £6,269. Practically the whole of that, however, £6,010 to be exact, is required for depreciation, reserve for discounts, bad and doubtful debts, meaning not only that nothing further can be paid to the shareholders,

but that the amount already distributed was largely in excess of the earnings. Only £259 is carried forward, and the financial position is not very strong. Additions to capital account during the year were £3,382, while the sum written off was £3,342, or about 1½ per cent. on the total of £204,600, and can hardly be considered adequate in view of the slender reserve of £16,000, practically all in the business, apart from the bad and doubtful debts reserve of £1,647. Trade creditors are rather heavy at £59,195, and £6,299 is due to bankers, but debtors owe £59,105, and stock is valued at £50,811. Only £685 is held in cash.

THRELFALL'S BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

This well-known Liverpool business again had a very successful year, the profit for the year to June 30 showing a trifling advance to a total of £178,696. Deduct £3,084 for depreciation of leaseholds and plant, and add £59 for transfer fees, and the balance is £175,671, from which debenture and other interest, directors' fees and £5,493 written off debenture issue expenses altogether absorb £63,272, leaving £112,399. With the £13,352 brought forward the sum for disposal is £125,751, which provides the preference dividend and 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £13,251. Some big changes have taken place in the balance-sheet items during the year, the whole of the mortgages of £219,324, for instance, having been paid off. Deposits, trade creditors, rents payable, etc., however, have gone up £69,871 to £458,930, while the reserve is less by £20,000 at £480,000, a balance of a bonus payable on debentures redeemed having been withdrawn. This slight drop is of no consequence, because the fund still stands at a handsome figure, and, moreover, when the properties were valued for the purpose of the new debenture issue, an excess value of something like £1,000,000 was brought out. Additions to premises and other assets during the year were heavy, nearly £200,000, bringing the total to £2,480,937, this movement, with the extinction of mortgages, reducing the cash balances from £369,019 to £29,651. Trade debts, loans, rents receivable, etc., £118,932, stocks £140,699, and fixed and loose plant, etc., £62,040, all show very little change, and with the latest deduction the debenture issue expenses will be brought down to £5,500.

NATIONAL BOILER AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

In the twelve months to June 30 the premium income was £59,035, sales of fittings, &c., gave £13,148 and £3,420 came in from interest, or a total of £75,603 compared with £70,242 in the preceding year. Against that salaries, agents' commission, travelling expenses and claims, all lumped together, took the large sum of £48,041, office and general expenses, &c., required £7,935, rent, taxes and insurance £2,410 and directors' and auditors' fees £1,084, leaving a net balance of £16,133, or a gain of £2,211. Add £6,949 brought in and a few shillings gained on a change of investments, and the total net balance is £23,083, from which an interim dividend of 6s. per share has been already paid. The directors now propose a further payment of a similar amount, making 12s. in all, and in addition pay a bonus of 1s. per share. Then £5,000 or £3,000 more is added to the current risk and reserve fund, £750 is written off furniture, fittings and instruments account, and £7,583 is carried forward. Reserve fund is now £63,000, and the capital is £52,500, these items together with sundry liabilities of £2,582 and the undivided profit making a balance-sheet total of £131,665. Nearly £109,000 of this is invested, sundry debtors reach £13,671 and cash amounts to £7,147.

COLNE VALLEY WATER COMPANY.

In the half-year to the end of June the capital expenditure amounted to £5,735, of which over £3,000 was incurred in the extension of mains, including part of the cost of a 10 in. main from Bushey Heath to Elstree to improve the supply in that neighbourhood. To meet further capital expenditure it has been decided to issue in September next 900 £10 new shares, being the balance of the 2,500 shares authorised to be issued at the meeting held in August, 1902. The total revenue in the six months was £17,943 against £16,600 in the same period last year, showing an increase of £1,343, whilst the expenditure was £511 higher at £7,006, so the net balance was £832 better at £10,937. Adding £1,418 brought in, £46 from interest on investments, and £30 from interest on deposits, there is a disposable sum of £12,433. After meeting the interest on the debentures and preference stock, £1,000 is again transferred to the contingency account, and £76 goes to the investments account towards writing down depreciation. This leaves a balance of £9,777, and the directors recommend a dividend of 8½ per cent. on the 10 per cent. maximum dividend shares, and 7 per cent. on the 7 per cent. maximum dividend shares, leaving £1,134 to carry forward. For the corresponding half-year the dividends were 8 and 7 per cent. respectively, £500 was put to the contingency account, and £943 carried forward.

MEDITERRANEAN HOTEL COMPANY.

Though this is a small enterprise, it evidently did not find business very brisk in the year to June 30, the total receipts being £437 lower at £20,274, whilst the net revenue declined £829 to £3,239. Adding £4,434, we get £7,672, and a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. is again paid, the carry forward being reduced slightly to £4,162. The directors issue a very brief report, and do not say a word about the state of business during the year, nor express an opinion upon anything. A good balance-sheet is issued, the company having a fair display of cash and equivalent resources against its not excessive current liabilities. It is to be hoped the present set-back in profits is but temporary.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—Most of the markets closed early last week, and opened late this, and have done little business since. American rumours had not much effect over here, and no material changes can be noted in prices, except that Liverpool took an upward movement on adverse advices from India, which came to nothing. Farmers' deliveries for last week were 5,062 qrs., averaging 31s. 11d. per quarter, against 22,574, averaging 28s. 3d. in the same week last year. The quantities of wheat and flour on passage are given as 2,635,000 qrs. this week, against 2,540,000 last, and imports of wheat were 538,767 qrs. this week, against 406,550 last year. American markets opened easy, and took a bearish turn on a favourable weekly Government crop report, and Bradstreet's estimates of the supplies in sight east of the Rockies at 21,314,000 bushels, against 20,075,000 last week. They rallied later on heavy foreign buying, and reports of damage to crops in Eastern Europe, but went lower again on favourable weather news and the bearish *Prices Current* report, which estimates the total crop at 675 millions, probably 700 millions.

WOOL.—Bank Holiday week is never a very active one, and since markets reopened business has been on a limited scale. But everywhere prices are firm, and much confidence shown in the position of the raw material. Top makers are raising their quotations, and declare that values will go higher yet before the next London sales. Anyway, the struggle is not likely to be settled before then, and though at present inquiries are more numerous, there is little desire to enter into much speculative buying. The piece trade on home account is in a fairly good condition, with an encouraging outlook for the spring, and most of the foreign markets are sending a satisfactory number of orders. The United States market is about the dullest.

LINEN.—Very little movement is taking place in the manufactured end just at present. Neither brown linens, damasks, nor bleached and finished goods, both for home and abroad, doing more than hold their own. But the markets are sound, prices have a hardening tendency, and it is probable that the end of the month will see a burst of activity and a higher range of values. Yarns also are quiet, spinners have plenty of orders on hand, and are asking higher rates for any new contracts. Already medium numbers of weft lines have been sold at an advance of 6d. to 7½d. per bundle. Reports on the Continental crop are more promising than they were, especially in the Russian districts.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—This has been a rather broken week, owing to the Bank Holiday and the general holiday season, which is now in full swing. Apart from this, the wages question has been a disturbing feature. Uncertainty prevails. Something may turn up to prevent a stoppage of the mills, though at the moment there is every appearance of a strike. Outsiders, who, of course, know hardly anything of the merits of the dispute, are rushing in with their more or less interested suggestions. All one can say is, that the Federation Committee know their own business, and they will not be led away by M.P.'s and others, whose game is well known. In the meantime business is, and has been, this month and last, most difficult to arrange. India buyers of piece goods are not operating freely. For one thing, dealers in the bazaar are well supplied with cloth, and just now rather disquieting reports are current about the Monsoon rains, which are hardly so satisfactory as ten days ago. China keeps quiet, and no activity is heard of in the South American and Levant sections. Manufacturers are holding to full quotations. Home trade American yarns are affected by the prospects of a strike. Users are pressing for deliveries towards old orders in order to keep up supplies at the weaving sheds. Shipping counts have presented no fresh feature of moment. Bolton spinnings are held firmly, but it is too soon for the employees' wages movement in that town to affect the market for fine numbers. It is noteworthy that the Fine Spinners Combine is a member of the Bolton Association of Masters.

Cotton in New York opened steady at a slight advance, the cables being generally regarded as encouraging. This was, however, quickly succeeded by a reaction on good weather reports, bearish private crop advices, and bull liquidation. Again prices recovered, only to fall back on the news of beneficial rains and further bear pressure.

In Liverpool, after the holiday, there was a very poor attendance at the opening of American futures, and business consequently was at a standstill, though prices showed an advance of 13 to 15 points. As New York cables gave no support, prices went sharply back. The market has been a trifle steadier since, but irregular in tendency. Egyptian cotton continues in moderate demand, with quotations unaltered. Closing of futures are:—August, 5.74d.; August-September, 5.73d.; September-October, 5.74d.; October-November, 5.75d.; November-December, 5.76d.; December-January, 5.77d.; January-February, 5.78d.; February-March, 5.79d.; March to May, 5.80d.; May to July, 5.81d.

COAL.—Apart from house coal, general business shows a slight improvement. Gas coal is a little brisker, with new contracts occasionally being taken at rather lower rates than the old, but in the north 8s. 3d. is being paid for best f.o.b., and bunkers are 8s. per ton. The improvement in steams is maintained, and production can scarcely come up to requirements. Best is selling at 9s. 6d. per ton f.o.b., smalls at 5s. 6d. More is doing also in the Scotch markets. The shipping branch there is active, manufacturing coals going well at steady prices, and even house coal is doing a very fair trade. Welsh steams have been busier, and shipping from the ports during last week was very heavy

Swansea shipped 61,000 tons coal, and 12,000 tons patent fuel. Newport nearly 90,000 tons. Prices are normal. Best steams from 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d., very best smalls 9s.

COPPER.—There has again been a hardening tendency shown by the copper market throughout the week. Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co. report that the market is free from manipulation, and there are no surplus stocks, as the consumption is outstripping the growing production. Immediately after the holidays business was rather quiet, but the market soon became firmer on further strong advices from the United States, and owing to the fact that very little refined copper is actually offered for near delivery. Closing prices are £69 5s. cash and £69 three months.

TIN.—There was at first a decided lull and reaction in the tin market, following upon the rapid advances of the preceding weeks. Business was quite listless, only a comparatively small quantity changing hands. The lack of animation encouraged bear sales, which helped to force prices downwards. Towards the close, however, the market took a decided turn for the better, and prices were lifted sharply. Quotations are now £150 cash, and £149 three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—The holidays have interfered with business in the Midlands, and most of the works did not resume work until Wednesday night. There is, however, a goodly number of orders on the books of manufacturers, and confidence is felt in the immediate future, a feeling that helps to keep prices firm. Home buyers are stated to be short of supplies, and require early deliveries, whilst foreign custom is of an encouraging character. The output of pig-iron is fully absorbed. In Glasgow pig-iron warrants have been firm in sympathy with the excellent Board of Trade returns, and some 12,000 tons of Cleveland have been sold at good and advancing prices. Local trade reports also continue good. In Middlesbrough, likewise, Cleveland warrants have been steady at a fair advance, whilst the demand is also active for finished iron and steel.

TEA.—No auctions have been held this week.

SUGAR.—The reaction which set in after the collapse of last week made further progress for some days, especially as the August tenders were all taken up, and ordered into store or shipped, thus forcing bears to cover, mostly in Hamburg. After the Bank Holiday our market opened as low as 10s. 8½d., which made Hamburg buyers withdraw, and August fell to about 10s., then improved to 10s. 6d. on better news from America. There is one reassuring feature about the market, according to Mr. Czarnikow, and that is that almost all the June-July Java cargoes have been disposed of to America. Some pressure was expected from these, as the shipments took place earlier than last year, and they might have spoiled both our market and statistics. Should America continue to absorb them the position will be improved, and the much discussed premium on old sugars may continue for some time in spite of exports of French crystals, which we really want. American July imports were 30,000 tons below requirements, the same as last year. The American market has been very firm. Landings were 5,000 tons below meltings, reducing stocks to 201,000 tons, against 81,760 tons. Receipts and shipments in the six ports of Cuba in the week ending August 9 were 1,000 tons and 22,000 tons respectively.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

During July the output of the producing mines of the Colar Gold Field amounted to 51,086 ozs., being a decrease of 467 ozs. compared with the preceding month and an increase of 610 ozs. over the corresponding month of last year. In the Mysore return there is an improvement of 203 ozs., and in the Balaghat of 121 ozs., but there is a decrease of 398 ozs. in the figures of the Champion Reef. The drop of 400 ozs. in the Nundydroog yield is accounted for by the fact that five head of stamps were under repair during the month.

Name of Company.	Apr.		May.		June.		July.	
	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Balaghat	3,920	3,388	4,000	3,401	3,950	3,426	4,100	3,547
Champion Reef.....	18,900	19,587	19,025	18,104	19,150	18,410	19,320	18,012
Coromandel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mysore.....	16,200	16,822	16,500	16,976	16,350	17,051	16,600	17,254
Mysore W. and Wynaad.....	1,972	1,002	2,033	1,010	2,295	1,027	2,162	1,033
Nundydroog.....	6,520	6,027	6,700	6,121	6,650	6,154	6,300	5,754
Ooregum.....	10,119	5,498	10,063	5,483	10,011	5,485	10,200	5,487

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1905 and the previous five years:—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	41,185	42,829	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999
February ..	39,238	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629
March ..	40,674	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629
April ..	40,774	44,038	38,329	48,271	49,991	52,324
May ..	40,021	44,110	28,093	48,628	50,445	51,095
June ..	39,872	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,553
July ..	39,355	44,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086
August ..	42,763	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	—
September ..	41,765	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	—
October ..	41,834	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,031	—
November ..	41,772	41,669	48,334	51,559	50,442	—
December ..	44,089	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,500	—
Total ..	493,342	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	358,315

The Bank of Adelaide has opened a branch at Port Lincoln (Eyes Peninsula) under the management of Mr. C. F. Wreford.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

MINES.

Brilliant and St. George United Gold.—6d. per share.
New Hillgrove Proprietary.—Interim of 1s. per share.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Calgary and Edmonton Land.—Second interim for 1905 of 2s. per share, payable Aug. 17.

Charing Cross, West End & City Electricity Supply Co.—An interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 30th June, 1905.

Fairbairn, Lawson, Combe, Barbour.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the six months ended June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

French Harvey Steel.—Further of 50 francs per share under deduction of tax on shares to bearer in 47.50 francs net, and of 48 francs on the registered shares, payable on the 6,350 shares of the society.

Great Western Colliery.—An interim of 4s. per share on the ordinary class B shares, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended June 30th.

Guaranty Trust of New York.—10 per cent. for the half-year to June 30, placing £100,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £41,963.

Lancashire Wagon.—At the rate of 6½ cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30, carrying forward £2,225.

Maple and Co.—Usual interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Maryport and Carlisle Railway.—At the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

New Zealand Insurance.—Interim of 3s. per share for the half-year ended May 31.

Samuel Fox and Co.—Final of 5½ per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £8,331.

Silverton Trams.—Usual quarterly of 1s. and bonus of 6d. per share.

Stock Conversion and Investment Trust.—Dividends declared by the London and North-Western for the two half-years ended June 30, will, after payment of the dividends on the first charge and second charge preferred stocks, permit of a payment to the deferred charge stock (London and North-Western Railway ordinary stock) for the year of 2s. 6d. per cent.

Tyne Steam Shipping.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

United Carlo Gatti, Stevenson, and Slaters.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the six months ended June 30.

W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Walker, Maynard and Co.—5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year, carrying forward £18,226.

Workington Iron.—The directors, after providing £5,000 for depreciation, and transferring £750 to reserve, final of 6½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8½ per cent. for the year ended June 30, placing £750 to reserve.

MINING RETURNS.

Abosso.—Crushed 2,628 tons (of 2,240 lb.), 2,149 ozs.; 2,063 tons of tailings by cyanide, 487 ozs.; total 2,636 ozs.

African Gold Dredging and Mining Concessions.—138 ozs.

Alaska United.—Crushed 19,020 tons ore, value \$20,807; saved 377 tons sulphurettes, value \$10,427.

Alaska Mexican.—Crushed 19,644 tons ore, value \$27,292; saved 367 tons sulphurettes, value \$24,978.

Angelo Gold.—12,747 tons milled 4,190 ozs.; 9,216 tons of sands, 2,724 ozs.; 2,348 tons of slimes, 394 ozs.; total output 7,308 ozs.

Anterior (Matabele).—Crushed 1,060 tons, 504 ozs.; cyanide 736 tons, 86 ozs.

Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary.—280 ozs., value £1,120.

Ashanti Goldfields.—Obuasi Mill.—Crushed 3,210 tons for 2,810 ozs. Ayeinm Mill.—Crushed 2,130 tons for 280 ozs.; totals, 5,340 tons, 3,090 ozs.

Associated Gold of W.A.—Milled 7,525 tons; 3,735 tons of slimes; £20,838.

Ayrshire.—2,210 ozs. from 10,257 tons crushed; 1,050 ozs. from 6,688 tons cyanided.

Bibiani.—Crushed 4,114 tons, 1,781 ozs.; 2,646 tons of tailings by cyanide; value £2,876.

Bonanza.—Crushed 8,750 tons, 2,773 ozs.; cyanide and slimes, 9,203 tons, 1,694 ozs.; total 4,467 ozs.

Brilliant and St. George.—Crushed 1,866 tons, 1,021 ozs.

Briseis Tin.—Black tin cleaned up 61 tons 6 cwt., in addition to 20 tons 7 cwt. from New Brothers Home No. 1.

Burbank's Birthday.—Crushed 1,830 tons, 590 ozs.; sand cyanided, 479 tons.

Burbanks Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 664 tons, 400 ozs; 740 tons by cyanide, 86 ozs.

Burma Ruby.—128,000 loads washed, producing rubies valued at Rs.91,000. Royalties, Rs.12,000.

Cape Copper.—Ookiep: 1,499 tons of 15 per cent., equal 225 tons fine copper. Nababeep: 4,058 tons of 5 per cent., equal 203 tons fine copper.

Cassel Coal.—Output 15,254 tons.

Chillagoe.—Chillagoe: 366 tons copper ore; Mungana: 1,761 tons lead ore; purchased, 68 tons copper ore and 179 tons lead ore. Total, 434 tons copper ore and 1,940 tons lead ore. Pro-

ducing 23 tons copper matte and 221 tons lead bullion. Containing 20 tons copper, 221 tons lead, and 23,148 ozs. silver in the following proportions:—Chillagoe: 17 tons copper and 1,226 ozs. silver; Mungana: 185 tons lead and 18,925 ozs. silver; purchased, 3 tons copper, 36 tons lead, and 2,997 ozs. silver. Total, 20 tons copper, 221 tons lead, and 23,148 ozs. silver.

City and Suburban.—Crushed 25,000 tons, 9,065 ozs.

Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand.—Progress of New Zealand: Crushed 4,888 tons, value £7,694. Golden Fleece: Crushed 1,180 tons, value £2,547. Wealth of Nations: Crushed 980 tons, value £1,579.

Copiapo.—Output, 740 tons copper ores.

Crown Deep.—Crushed 29,411 tons, 6,910 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 21,200 tons, 4,190 ozs.; slimes, 7,755 tons, 642 ozs.; total, 11,742 ozs.

Durban Navigation Collieries.—Output, 5,300 tons.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Crushed 10,095 tons, 2,998 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 6,840 tons, 1,096 ozs.; slimes 3,011 tons, 241 ozs.; total yield, 4,335 ozs.

Durham Prospect.—Crushed 1,337 tons, 402 ozs.

Elandslaagte Gold.—Milled 2,500 tons, 311 ozs.; cyanided 1,950 tons, 385 ozs.

Ferreira.—Crushed 20,700 tons, 7,337 ozs.; concentrates 1,120 tons, 606 ozs.; sand 12,880 tons, 3,054 ozs.; slime 5,759 tons, 814 ozs.; from dump 238 ozs.; total, 12,049 ozs.

Ferreira Deep.—Crushed 19,800 tons, 7,646 ozs.; concentrates and sands by cyanide 13,400 tons, 3,537 ozs.; slimes, 5,876 tons, 718 ozs.; total yield, 11,901 ozs.

French Rand.—Crushed 14,700 tons, 3,059 ozs.; tailings 9,978 tons, 1,665 ozs.; total, 4,724 ozs.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Crushed 23,930 tons, 6,499 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 15,786 tons, 3,302 ozs.; slimes 7,453 tons, 652 ozs.; total, 10,453 ozs.

Geldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 16,885 tons, 4,203 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide 2,290 ozs., from slimes 698 ozs., from by-products, 32 ozs.; total, 7,229 ozs.

Glen Deep.—Crushed 15,900 tons, 3,624 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 10,620 tons, 1,982 ozs.; slimes 5,288 tons, 427 ozs.; total, 6,033 ozs.

Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 6,829 tons, 3,670.69 ozs. bullion; tailings, average assay value per ton 5.25 dwts. Cyanide, 3,525 tons, 658.11 ozs.; total, 4,328 ozs.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,175 tons, 586 ozs. Cyanide, 1,360 tons, 498 ozs. Slimes 715 tons, 153 ozs. Old slimes, 124 ozs. By-products (slags, &c.), 52 ozs.; total, 1,413 ozs.

Golden Pole.—Crushed 1,830 tons, 2,729 ozs.; 1 ton 9 cwt. slag, 156 ozs.

Golden Horse-Shoe.—Ore treated 18,644 tons (2,240 lb. per ton), 13,220 ozs.

Great Boulder Perseverance Gold.—Treated 15,065 tons of 2,000 lb., 8,975 ozs. gold and 1,106 ozs. silver. Tailing and slimes 11,216 tons of 2,000 lb., 1,146 ozs. gold and 1,000 ozs. silver; total, 10,121 ozs. gold, 2,115 ozs. silver.

Great Boulder Proprietary Gold.—10,871 tons, 12,310 ozs.; tailings, old, 1,764 tons, 168 ozs.; total yield, 12,478 ozs.

Gwalia Consolidated.—Crushed 1,679 tons, 187 ozs.; sands, 775 tons, 118 ozs.; slimes, 1,081 tons, 228 ozs.

Hainault Gold.—Crushed 4,541 tons, 2,023 ozs.

Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Crushed 758 tons, 300 ozs.; royalties from tributaries, £186.

Henry Nourse Gold.—Crushed 10,925 tons, 4,400 ozs.; cyanide, 7,117 tons, 1,396 ozs.; slimes, 3,548 tons, 305 ozs.; total, 6,101 ozs.

Ivanhoe Gold.—Crushed 17,150 tons, 3,386 ozs.; sands, 8,020 tons, 1,743 ozs.; slimes, 8,010 tons, 3,365 ozs.; concentrates, 1,120 tons, 2,141 ozs.; total, 10,635 ozs.

Johannesburg Consolidated.—New Primrose: Treated 17,274 tons, 7,774 ozs. Glencairn Main Reef: Treated 14,910 tons, 4,162 ozs. Ginsberg: Treated 8,503 tons, 3,493 ozs. New Rietfontein: Treated 8,309 tons, 4,007 ozs. New Unified Main Reef: Treated 8,907 tons, 3,324 ozs. Consolidated Langlaagte: 5,124 ozs.

Buffelsdoorn Estates: 2,727 tons, 589 ozs.

Jubilee.—Mill, 1,263 ozs., from 5,967 tons crushed; cyanide, 494 ozs., from 4,020 tons.

Jumpers Deep.—Crushed 16,319 tons, 3,240 ozs.; sand and concentrates by cyanide 11,520 tons, 1,865 ozs.; slimes 5,068 tons, 321 ozs.; total yield 5,426 ozs.

Jumpers Gold.—Crushed 11,100 tons, 2,412 ozs.; tailings by cyanide 1,120 ozs.; concentrates 297 ozs.; total 3,829 ozs.

Kalgurli Gold.—Treated 7,404 short tons for 5,413 ozs.

Kamfersdam.—Diamonds recovered 2,951 carats.

Kelantan Dredging.—85 ozs. gold.

Killarney Hibernia Gold.—Crushed 4,041 tons, 1,578 ozs.

Knight's Deep.—22,500 tons, 8,230 ozs.

Koffyfontein.—2,575 carats of diamonds.

Lake View Consols.—10,026 tons, 3,332 ozs.; old tailings 3,380 tons, 609 ozs.; total, 3,941 ozs.

Lancaster.—Crushed 13,100 tons, 2,747 ozs.; cyanide 9,948 tons, 1,598 ozs.; total output, 4,345 ozs.

Langlaagte Estate.—Crushed 26,141 tons ore, 5,338 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 575 tons, 740 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 18,040 tons, 2,189 ozs.; total 8,267 ozs.

Lancaster West.—Crushed 6,680 tons, 1,686 ozs.; cyanide 5,233 tons, 681 ozs.; total output 2,367 ozs.

Lancefield Gold.—5,332 tons of ore, 335 ozs.; 2,712 tons of sands cyanided, 648 ozs.; 2,423 tons of slimes cyanided, 397 ozs.; 267 tons of accumulated slimes cyanided, 44 ozs.; from slags, 111 ozs.; total 1,535 ozs.

Langlaagte Deep.—Crushed 20,010 tons, 4,021 ozs.; 14,952 tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide, 2,376 ozs.; 4,487 tons of slimes, 365 ozs.; total, 6,762 ozs.

Le Roi.—8,575 tons of ore, containing 2,954 ozs. gold, 2,885 ozs. silver, and 174,000 lbs. of copper. Shipped from concentrator 116 tons concentrates.

Le Roi, No. 2.—Shipped 280 tons, net receipts \$4,294, being payment for 197 tons shipped, and \$2,213 being payment for 60 tons concentrates shipped.

Maryborough Leviathan Gold.—Crushed 914 tons, 205 ozs.

May Consolidated.—Crushed 13,800 tons, 4,012 ozs.; cyanide 9,940 tons, 1,848 ozs.; slimes 3,167 tons, 231 ozs.; total output, 6,091 ozs.

Merton's Reward.—Crushed 2,957 tons, 690 ozs.; cyanided 1,482 tons of sands, 180 ozs.; slimes 1,800 tons, 372 ozs.; total, 1,242 ozs.

Mesquitall.—2,800 tons, 452 ozs.; cyanided 1,700 tons of tailings, 86 ozs.

Meyer and Charlton.—Crushed 11,500 tons, 2,844 ozs.; cyanide, 1,632 ozs.; total, 4,476 ozs.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 754 tons, 352 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons.

Morven (Rhodesia).—Crushed 1,199 tons, 838 ozs.

Mount Boppy Gold.—Crushed 4,440 tons, 1,077 ozs.; cyanide, 2,898 tons, 1,221 ozs.; slimes, 1,170 tons, 626 ozs.; concentrates, 25 tons, 225 ozs.; total, 3,149 ozs.

Mount Morgan (Queensland).—Chlorinated 22,440 tons; tailings 10,736 tons; gold returned, 12,589 ozs.

Mount Zeehan.—Output, 345 tons silver lead ore, containing 280 tons lead and 30,000 ozs. silver.

New Comet Gold.—Milled 14,498 tons, 3,481 ozs.; sand, 11,377 tons, 2,562 ozs.; total, 6,043 ozs.

New Heriot.—Crushed 8,240 tons; 3,836 ozs.

New Kleinfontein.—28,083 tons milled, 7,067 ozs.; 18,499 tons of sand, 2,535 ozs.; total output, 9,602 ozs.

New Modderfontein.—Crushed 9,632 tons, 3,566 ozs.

New Rhodesia Mines.—Ophir.—Crushed 698 tons, 315 ozs.

Niekerk.—Crushed, 916 tons; total quantity treated by cyanide, 611; recovered, 140 ozs.; slimes (not treated), 69 ozs.; lost in tailings, 31 ozs.

Nigel Deep.—2,882 tons, 2,160 ozs.

Nile Valley.—Crushed 283 tons, 91½ ozs. 421 lbs. specimen stone, yielding 1,034 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—1,800 tons of crude ore, producing 375 tons concentrates, containing 69 per cent. lead and 18 ozs. silver.

North Randfontein.—Ore crushed 15,458 tons, 3,137 ozs.; concentrates cyanide 1,410 tons, 467 ozs.; tailings cyanide 8,695 tons, 1,844 ozs.; slimes 5,148 tons, 502 ozs.; total, 5,950 ozs.

North White Feather Gold.—Crushed 1,690 tons, 1,240 ozs.; cyanide 1,150 tons, 143 ozs.; total output, 1,383 ozs.

Nourse Deep.—Crushed 14,870 tons, 4,307 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 10,356 tons, 2,199 ozs.; slimes 4,089 tons, 416 ozs.; total, 6,922 ozs.

Oroya-Brownhill.—Crushed 1,990 tons, 12,747 ozs.

Ottos Kopje Diamond.—25,308 loads washed, 505 carats diamonds won, including stones 11, 15, and 28 carats.

Peak Hill.—5,301 tons crushed, and 6,549 tons slimes and sands by cyanide; yield from battery, 593 ozs.; yield from sands and slimes, 575 ozs.; total, 1,168 ozs.

Princess Estate.—Crushed 6,417 tons, 2,070 ozs.; cyanide 4,307 tons, 640 ozs.; total output, 2,910 ozs.

Rezende.—Milled 1,900 tons; from mill and cyanide, 648 ozs.

Robinson.—From mill, 12,911 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide, 3,818 ozs.; from own concentrates by chlorination, 420 ozs.; from slimes, 1,376 ozs.; total, 18,525 ozs.; from purchased concentrates, 837 ozs.; total yield, 19,362 ozs.

Robinson Central Deep.—Crushed 13,877 tons, 5,382 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 9,600 tons, 2,761 ozs.; slimes 3,751 tons, 340 ozs.; total, 8,483 ozs.

Robinson Deep.—29,066 tons, 15,351 ozs.

Robinson Randfontein.—Crushed 14,456 tons, 3,416 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide 1,360 tons, 372 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 7,770 tons, 1,327 ozs.; slimes, 5,344 tons, 455 ozs.; total, 5,570 ozs.

Roodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,628 tons, 2,321 ozs.; cyanide, 4,855 tons, 929 ozs.; total output, 3,250 ozs.

Roodepoort United Main Reef.—Crushed 9,500 tons, 2,755 ozs.; cyanide, 1,297 ozs.; total, 4,052 ozs.

Rose Deep.—Crushed 24,786 tons, 4,267 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 16,800 tons, 3,362 ozs.; slimes, 7,374 tons, 768 ozs.; total, 8,397 ozs.

Selukwe Gold.—Crushed 6,020 tons, 1,309 ozs.; tailings assay 2.64 dwts. per ton; cyanide, 4,044 tons, 567 ozs.; total, 1,876 ozs.

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—52,080 tons, 19,911 ozs.

South Kalgurli Gold.—Crushed 5,136 short tons, 2,199 ozs.

South Randfontein.—Crushed 14,649 tons ore, 3,827 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide) 1,470 tons, 398 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 7,970 tons, 1,354 ozs.; slimes 4,707 tons, 437 ozs.; total, 6,073 ozs. value £25,823.

Talisman.—Ore 4,150 tons, value £9,865.

Tanganyika Concessions.—Ruwe Mine—Output by sluice boxes, 439 ozs.

Tomboy Gold.—Crushed 9,300 tons, value \$35,000; concentrates shipped 485 tons, value \$37,500.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—Output 38,000 tons.

Um Rus Gold.—Crushed 705 tons, 453 ozs.; 564 tons tailings stored of an average assay value of 4 dwts.

Van Ryn.—Crushed 22,380 tons, 5,791 ozs.; cyanide tailings 15,800 tons, 2,125 ozs.

Village Deep.—Crushed 14,805 tons, 3,351 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 11,700 tons, 2,264 ozs.; slimes 3,446 tons, 388 ozs.; total, 6,008 ozs.

Village Main Reef Gold.—Crushed 25,000 tons, 6,485 ozs.; cyanide, 18,005 tons, 2,354 ozs.; slimes, 6,759 tons, 370 ozs.; total, 9,200 ozs.

Vivien Gold.—Milled 1,510 tons, 446 ozs.; tailings, 1,079 tons, 144 ozs.; current slimes, 430 tons, 107 ozs.; accumulated slimes, 165 tons, 41 ozs.

Vogelstruis Estates.—Quartz milled, 5,200 tons, 1,670 ozs.; tailings, 3,740 tons, 411 ozs.; total, 2,081 ozs.

Wanderer (Selukwe).—Treated 14,694 tons, 2,288 ozs.

Westralia and East Extension.—Crushed 2,741 tons, 777 ozs.; cyanide, 2,180 tons, 120 ozs.

West Rand Central Gold.—Crushed 2,500 tons, 538 ozs.; cyanide 2,025 tons.

Willoughby's Consolidated.—Crushed 2,347 tons, 487 ozs.

Witbank Colliery.—Output 27,500 tons.

Windsor.—Crushed 5,050 tons, 767 ozs.; cyanide 3,923 tons, 743 ozs.; total, 1,510 ozs.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Crushed 21,580 tons, 6,299 ozs.; sands and concentrates cyanide 21,227 tons, 2,679 ozs.; total yield, 8,978 ozs.

Wolbuter.—Treated by mill and cyanide 16,700 tons, 5,845 ozs.

Zeehan-Montana.—Output 270 tons silver-lead ore, containing 125 tons lead and 21,600 ozs. silver.

Answers to Correspondents.

OLIVE.—We did not wire you as a reply was not pressing. You would be taking some risk in buying a security of this kind, because of the frequently disturbed condition of the country, but if you are prepared to face this the shares offer a chance at present prices.

MITHRA.—(1) Existing prices seem quite as much as these shares are worth, even though the dividend named is being earned which is probably right enough. A single bad coffee crop would soon throw the line back. (2) These shares may have a small rise, but the prospect is not very brilliant, and dividends are not to be thought of just yet. (3) Yes, we still look with disfavour upon this stock from a dividend point of view, although after such a severe fall there may be a recovery if traffics continue to improve. (4) We think this has had all the rise it is entitled to on present prospects, but if you are prepared to wait there might be a chance of a further rise. (5) The position of this concern seems to be improving, and providing there is no recurrence of the revolution, further headway may be made. A small purchase may therefore turn out all right. (6) The position of this concern is really deplorable, and we can see no justification for the present price, let alone a higher one. Do not buy. (7) As a long shot this stock presents a chance, but it has already had a very considerable rise and should not go higher on merits. (8) These would stand a chance if the Government met its guarantee, but there seems no present prospect of that. No interest is being earned at present, and we doubt if you should buy save as a long lock up. (9) Might wait for the report, just about due, to see if any progress has been made during the past year. We doubt if a preference dividend is being earned, and if not the shares are hardly likely to rise. (10) It is rather wearisome to keep saying no, but a further rise in this stock seems highly improbable. It seems much over valued even now. (11) Prospects are the reverse of cheering, and the shares do not seem an attractive speculation at present.

D. J. F.—(1) There are several companies bearing this title, the best known being the "Eastern," the preference shares of which should form a very fair business. (2) Our money would never find lodgment in this security, and therefore we cannot advise it for anyone else's. Shareholders would be utterly powerless should anything go wrong, and we look for that one of these days. (3) These should be good enough, as the total debt is not so very burdensome, but the security is hardly in the front rank. (4) Fairly safe as things go. Keep the investment small. (5) For a time perhaps, but not as a permanent investment. What will keep the city going when the gold mines are worked out? We now have 8s. to your credit.

W. P. (1) We think there is no need for you to be seriously disquieted about your security. (2) It is impossible to say what the cause is, but we think hopefully of the prospects of this mine.

W. S. A. (Bournemouth).—We have written an article in reply to your points, but are compelled, owing to pressure on space, to hold it over until next week.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15.

Liverpool Overhead Railway.—Liverpool, 3 p.m.

San Francisco Breweries.—Winchester House.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16.

Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway.—12.30 p.m.

Customs and Bonded Warehouses.—11, Queen Victoria Street, noon.

North Metropolitan Tramways.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

South Essex Water Works.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17.

Allsopp.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Bristol Gas.—Bristol, 12.30 p.m.

Commercial Gas.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway.—Westminster Palace Hotel, 1 p.m.

North London Railway.—Euston Station, 1 p.m.

North Brazilian Sugar Factories.—88, Leadenhall Street, noon.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18.

London and North-Western Railway.—Euston Station, noon.

Midland Railway.—Derby, 1.30 p.m.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and August 5, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to August 5, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to August 6, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	11,525,000	12,387,000
Excise	30,200,000	9,591,000	9,813,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	5,028,000	4,213,000
Stamps	8,000,000	2,787,000	2,467,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,700,000	390,000	510,000
Property and Income Tax	31,000,000	4,634,000	5,028,000
Post Office	16,500,000	4,310,000	4,150,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,300,000	1,220,000
Crown Lands	470,000	140,000	140,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans	1,034,000	674,573	607,244
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	529,025	535,476
*Revenue	142,454,000	40,908,598	41,070,720
Total, including balance		48,338,876	45,334,562
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		250,000	150,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902		191,592	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		410,408	630,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903		35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1900		7,705,000	—
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		—	12,000,000
Total		57,043,876	67,698,552
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	40,908,598	41,070,720
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	48,555	54,304
Excise	5,291,000	1,080,851	1,068,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	1,541,839	1,543,242
Total	9,756,000	2,671,245	2,666,219
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	43,579,843	43,736,939

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Aug. 5, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Aug. 6, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 11,557,674	£ 11,696,806
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	669,750	669,114
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,304,000	35,500,222	38,484,423
Expenditure	142,084,000	47,967,821	51,082,553
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		220,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		90,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		1,200,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		300,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		940,000	855,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		400,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903		105,000	76,000
Under Cunard Agreement Site (Dublin) Act, 1903		—	25,000
Under Finance Act (Money) Act, 1904		135,000	—
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	3,450,000
		51,380,821	65,788,553
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	1905. Aug. 5. £ 5,117,601	1904. Aug. 6. £ 1,338,970	
Bank of Ireland	545,454	571,029	
		5,663,055	1,909,999
Total		57,043,876	67,698,552

Treasury, August 8, 1905.

COMPANY MEETING.

LONDON ROAD-CAR COMPANY.

The forty-fifth ordinary half-yearly meeting of the London Road-Car Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. John Howard Moore, J.P., the chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. J. C. Mitchell) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report,

The Chairman, after expressing great regret at the loss sustained by the company owing to the death of the late secretary, and the directors' belief that in Mr. John C. Mitchell they had a trustworthy and capable official, stated that the number of passengers carried by them in the past half-year was 37,377,896. This constituted the record number the company had yet conveyed in any one half-year, being an increase of 411,343 over the figures of the corresponding period of 1904, while the weekly average traffic receipts per car were £17 3s. 7d., showing an increase of 5s. 5d. Of the total number of passengers nearly 1,000,000 were carried by their motors, and, although the number of motors was relatively small, their greater earning power had had a considerable effect in increasing the figure of the average weekly receipts per car. It was, however, only fair to say that, apart from this, the average receipts of the horse cars were slightly better than in the corresponding half of 1904. As regarded expenses, items under the headings "road," "yard," and "administration" were, practically speaking, normal. Under the heading "maintenance," horse renewals stood at a very small sum compared with the figures of previous years, owing to the fact that, as indicated in the circular received by all the shareholders in January last, the board had not made good a considerable proportion of the number of horses which had been sold. But, on the other hand, under the heading "motor fuel and lubricants" an item would be found which appeared for the first time in their accounts, and it would in future be an increasing one. Under the heading "general repairs," the car and motor repairs showed a considerable increase. The result of the operations of the half-year was a balance at the credit of revenue account of £35,965, but from this sum certain items had to be deducted—namely, £3,000 interest on debenture stock; £650, the half-year's contribution to leases and buildings renewal fund; £394, depreciation of plant, machinery, and office furniture; £350, preliminary expenses, being the total cost of the ninth issue of shares, and £14,490, amounts written off capital account in respect of horses, horse cars, and harness consequent upon their substitution by motor-cars, and in fulfilment of the terms of the circular of January 2 alluded to. He did not know whether the directors were expected to make any lengthy remarks with reference to motors. If so, he feared that the expectation would not be realised, for after the manner in which some words which fell from him on the subject on the last occasion were taken advantage of for the purpose of endeavouring to raise capital for new competing companies, no further information would be forthcoming from him which might be made use of to the detriment of their own company. Generally speaking, however, he might say that although six months ago the directors believed that they could fairly rely on the dates of delivery of the motors for which orders had been placed, their confidence in this respect had not been realised; and although the company had now 28 motors licensed, the number came far short of that which they had been entitled to anticipate would have been working during the present summer. The experience gained by the board enabled them to gauge the situation with tolerable accuracy. Their minds were made up as to the type of motor it would not pay the company to adopt, as well as to that type which was worthy of permanent adoption, and, generally, the outlook was not unsatisfactory. The balance available for dividend was £21,903, of which it was proposed to transfer £2,000 to the general reserve fund, increasing it to £60,000, and to recommend a dividend of 4s per share on the fully-paid shares, being at the rate of £6 13s. 4d. per cent. per annum, and a proportionate amount on the £2 paid shares from the dates of payment of the instalments. This would leave a balance of £6,613 to be carried forward. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and the payment of the dividend recommended. Mr. Paul Henwood (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff closed the proceedings.

MONTGOMERIE AND CO., LIMITED.

Considerable success has attended the foresight and business ability of the directors of this company during the financial year to April 30, the gross profits increasing £1,198 to £14,909, the latter being the largest figure in the company's history. Owing to the fact that extra money has been spent in advertising, and that the whole of the law expenses have now been paid off, the net profits are £760 less at £5,493, and in order to improve the financial position the directors have cut down the dividend on the ordinary shares from 8 per cent. to 6 per cent. In order to have the company's property at Haddington more satisfactorily subdivided, the directors have had a valuation made of the whole works, machinery, &c., with the result that the property is valued at £3,515 above the figure at which it stands in the books. So they recommend that £2,515 of this be employed in reducing the goodwill account, and £1,000 in writing down stock advertising account. Trade balances are considerably in the company's favour, and cash has increased from £1,089 to £2,142. As a result of the more extensive advertising the directors say the sales for the first three months of the current year have increased by 16 per cent.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended August 7, \$3,038.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 7, \$16,143 increase \$3,467; aggregate from January 1, \$480,209, increase \$101,918.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 30, Rs. 1,06,959, decrease Rs. 1,634; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 15,05,416, increase Rs. 1,82,455.

Bengal Central.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 17, Rs. 29,193; increase, Rs. 11,110; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,05,470, increase Rs. 9,482.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 21, \$92,900, increase \$25,200; total from July 1, \$268,400, increase \$72,800.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 8, Rs. 31,251, decrease Rs. 833; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 31,251, decrease Rs. 833.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 15, £435, decrease £162.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of July, \$17,648, decrease \$1,068; aggregate from January 1, \$415,886, increase \$808.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 8, Rs. 14,421, decrease Rs. 3,754; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 14,421, decrease Rs. 3,754.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended July 7 amounted to \$37,470.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending August 5, £1,068, decrease £53; aggregate from July 1, £5,802, decrease £166.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for 8 days ending August 5, £1,082, decrease £160; aggregate from July 1, £5,265, decrease £969.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for May, £4,399, decrease £149.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending August 5, £319, increase £112; aggregate from July 1, £1,426, decrease £182.

Liverpool Overhead.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 6, £1,672, decrease £96; aggregate from July 1, £9,869; decrease £518.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 4, £1,408, increase £295; aggregate from July 1, £7,015, increase £2,342.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 6, £27, decrease £26; aggregate from July 1, £126, decrease £53.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 4, £5,408, decrease £1,600; aggregate from July 1, £27,237, decrease £1,587.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending July 28, £30,318, increase £3,001; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £771,272, increase £60,929; 430½ miles, against 433½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, £1,085, increase £41; aggregate from July 2, £5,684, increase £264.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 6, £176, decrease £20; aggregate from July 1, £899, decrease £66.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 4, £140, decrease £38; aggregate from July 1, £720, decrease £63.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 4, £5,418, decrease £934; aggregate from July 1, £27,956, decrease £434.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, £4,890, decrease £99; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £151,066, increase £12,060.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 4, £283, decrease £66; aggregate from July 1, £1,421, decrease £151.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, £1,464, decrease £896; aggregate from October 1, £21,299, decrease £1,825.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending July 29, £15,716, increase £2,008; aggregate from April 1, £259,523, increase £47,281. Miles 51½ against 46.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, £24,126, decrease £1,681; aggregate from July 2, £132,074, decrease £2,687.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, £7,797, decrease £263; aggregate from July 1, £45,598, increase £92.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 4, £203, increase £7; aggregate from July 1, £1,027, increase £60.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, £12,747, increase £823; aggregate from January 1, £409,077, increase £25,526.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, £2,592, increase £217; aggregate from January 1, £67,696, increase £8,443.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, £306, increase £29; aggregate from January 1, £9,388, increase £1,275.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to June 30, \$903,014, increase \$91,687. Net earnings from July 1 to June 30, \$328,680, increase \$43,638.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £15,277.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, \$42,345, decrease \$3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, Rs. 43,875, increase Rs. 6,493; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 2,09,327, increase Rs. 35,016.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £4,590, increase £1,777. Total to June 30, £26,606, increase £3,852.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of June, \$392,528; aggregate from January 1, \$2,171,470. Net traffic receipts, \$214,675; aggregate from January 1, \$1,131,943.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr	Aug. 6	£ 2,365	+ 80	5	10,968	— 198	
Cambrian	" 6	12,442	+ 140	5	43,964	— 4,980	
Central London	" 5	5,566	+ 100	5	29,609	— 685	
City and South London	" 6	2,263	+ 20	5	11,319	— 232	
Furness	" 6	11,857	+ 512	5	54,401	+ 22	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 6	79,756	+ 10,953	5	360,228	+ 16,427	
Great Eastern	" 6	143,200	+ 2,600	5	602,100	— 33,300	
Great Northern and City	" 5	1,460	+ 469	5	7,312	+ 2,444	
Great Northern	" 5	133,300	+ 8,182	5	609,788	— 25,391	
Great Western	" 6	303,000	+ 40,300	5	1,302,500	— 22,400	
Hull and Barnsley	" 6	9,143	+ 48	5	45,901	— 3,117	
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 6	131,966	+ 4,720	5	614,210	— 1,308	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 5	95,877	+ 3,639	5	375,165	— 24,277	
London & North Western	" 6	362,000	+ 70,000	5	1,542,000	+ 18,000	
London & South Western	" 6	120,700	+ 13,200	5	536,700	— 13,000	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 6	13,735	+ 2,777	5	61,162	— 6,067	
Metropolitan	" 6	17,004	+ 74	5	86,827	— 507	
Metropolitan District	" 6	6,205	— 39	5	32,713	— 2,251	
Midland	" 5	267,877	+ 43,153	5	1,139,189	+ 26,981	
North Eastern	" 5	214,419	— 657	5	971,919	— 18,927	
North London	" 6	8,182	+ 212	5	43,477	— 1,247	
North Staffordshire	" 6	21,749	— 67	5	87,934	— 2,947	
Rhymney	" 6	5,815	+ 1,194	5	28,752	+ 1,979	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 5	127,694	+ 3,644	5	545,913	— 17,103	
Taff Vale	" 6	17,442	+ 1,517	5	87,491	— 2,940	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Aug. 6	90,666	+ 1,305	1	90,666	+ 1,305
Glasgow & South-Western	" 5	42,388	+ 495	1	42,388	+ 485
Great North of Scotland	" 5	11,060	+ 230	1	11,060	+ 230
Highland	" 6	13,386	— 144	1	13,386	— 144
North British	" 6	102,025	+ 2,918	1	102,025	+ 2,918

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Aug. 4	3,657	— 555	5	21,893	— 393
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 4	2,040	+ 78	5	9,976	+ 585
Great Northern	" 4	21,427	— 1,276	11	110,476	— 1,336
Midland Great Western	" 4	12,651	— 87	5	54,627	— 2,945

† From July 1 to date.

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Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

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The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

The Economic Position of Our English Railways.

It is not altogether satisfactory, and those who may now be disposed to join in the campaign for the rise which promises to be the fashion this autumn will have to pick and choose with extreme care if they are to avoid disappointment. At the half-yearly meetings recently held several chairmen dwelt with mingled feelings of anger and sorrow on the devastation already traceable in railway income, as a consequence of the competition of electric forms of traction. They will have to do more than this if the railways are not to suffer far more than they have yet done. Hitherto, apart from the two underground lines, the North-Eastern Railway is the only prominent corporation in this country which has endeavoured to adapt its local service, wherever possible, to the new motive force. Other railway boards have talked about it, and the Brighton Company is said to be about to start a five miles experimental track on an entirely new system of applied electric current, but the day cannot be very far distant when electricity will take the place of steam as the impelling force over all iron roads, and if the existing railway companies are incapable of rising to the height of their obligations in this direction, they will find themselves supplanted. Already in several densely-populated districts up north electric tramways have spread their network far and wide, to the permanent injury of the old steam-driven trains, and every year that passes will see this form of competition grow in effectiveness and extent.

Unfortunately, our railway companies are not in a position to deal vigorously and on an extended scale with the problem the rise of electricity has called upon them to face. For many years we have girded in these columns at the improvident use of the capital account made by all our railways, and no attention has been paid to the warning. Managers have gone on in the old rut, as if it were possible to add capital to capital for ever without in any way injuring the earning power of the money already sunk. The result has been a serious and permanent diminution in the dividends paid on the ordinary stocks, and that diminution is bound to continue until dividends become a memory of bygone days. We may have this year a better average return than in some of the years just passed, but the abiding tendency must be for railway dividends to decline, not only because capital expenditure mounts without pause, or with very little pause, but because the expenses of working the traffic tend continually to increase. How much better would the position of our railways have been if they had, by means of a proper depreciation allowance, provided all their rolling stock out of revenue. They would by this time have had a reserve of something like £100,000,000 through this economy alone. Current dividends would not have been so high—at least, in the earlier years of railway history—but the companies, on the other hand, would have been able now to face the expenditure necessary to transform their lines from steam to electric traction without being at once pulled up by a practically complete inability to find the necessary capital. And we believe that not alone in the matter of rolling stock have the railways gone astray, betrayed thoughtless improvidence and a complete obliviousness to the distant future, for they appear to us to have steadily

drawn upon capital for the purpose of maintaining and renewing many other portions of their property—the permanent way, bridges, station platforms and buildings, sidings, wagon covers, trucks, signal-boxes, and so on. In the past half-year, for example, our English railways have spent about £5,350,000 on capital account, no less than £2,430,000 of it on lines open for traffic, with another £1,088,000 on new rolling stock—a criminal extravagance—and at the date of their balance-sheets their capital accounts were, in the aggregate, overdrawn nearly £14,000,000. Against this they had about £17,000,000 of various forms of trust funds, savings banks, superannuation funds, insurance funds, and so on in hand, all swallowed up in the current capital account, but even so, the margin of available capital resources is pitifully inadequate to meet any such large extra outlay as general electrification would imply. Accordingly, if such work is forced upon the companies, they will have to make provision for an increase in their capital account, not by £5,000,000 in the half-year, but by £50,000,000 or more. They took power in the session of Parliament just closed to raise nearly £10,000,000 of new money, most of which will be devoted to the maintenance and extension of lines worked by steam. It will be possible for them to raise this money, especially if 1905 proves as prosperous as it now promises to be, but it would be an entirely different affair were they to have to go to Parliament for power to raise five or ten times as much, with a view to the transformation of their systems into electric roads. Then the happy-go-smash-it recklessness of railway finance would stand out in its shameful nakedness with disastrous results to all concerned.

In spite of the unpleasant aspect of the capital account, it is only fair to the various companies to point out that their extravagance in laying out new money is not in all instances quite so pronounced as it was some years ago. The North-Western Company, for instance, spent only £204,000 of new capital in the past half-year, the Midland less than £450,000, the Great Northern less than £170,000, and the Great Eastern only about £81,000. The greatest transgressors were the Great Western with £1,270,000, the North-Eastern with £675,000, the Lancashire and Yorkshire with £546,000, and, measured by their size, the South-Western, South-Eastern and Chatham, the Great Central, and, above all, the Metropolitan and District lines. These two last, however, had the excuse of electrification to put forward for their outlay. Nevertheless, the fact that the District Company laid out £637,000 in the six months ended on June 30 is not a comfortable one to contemplate, bearing in mind the helplessly overloaded position of the capital account before electrification was taken in hand. Nor can we be altogether happy over the prospects for the Metropolitan Company, whose outlay of new capital exceeded £374,000. Next to these in weakness unquestionably stands the Great Central, which spent £262,000 of new capital in the past half-year, and whose capital account at the date of the balance-sheet was overdrawn by £4,382,000. Apparently this company has done better in recent years; it is vigorously managed, its London traffic is expanding, and dividends have accordingly been paid on an increasing amount of the preference capital, but as long as the debit to capital account amounts to anything like the total now shown in the balance-sheet, it is impossible to believe that the finances can be sound, and certainly this company, of all the railways, is in no position to face the indefinite outlay necessary to secure the electrification of even its suburban lines. This must be a great misfortune to it, because in the north it ought to be making vigorous progress with such a transformation if it is to continue to share in the prolific local traffic densely populated Lancashire and south Yorkshire provide. But all the companies are in a like position of weakness or helplessness when confronted with the changes which will soon be imperatively demanded from them, and if they continue to jog along

the old ruts, it may soon be a question with the people of this country whether entirely new tracks may not have to be planned and laid out for the electric railways of the future. It might be cheaper to provide fresh money to start the electric routes upon an altogether new basis, so as to draw away the passenger traffic from the old railways without assuming any of their dead capital obligations. The alternative must be to behold the existing capital of the old roads swamped and rendered in great part unremunerative through the enormous outlay necessary to bring them up to the requirements of the latest forms of electrical equipment; for most of the new capital could not only be provided on terms in any degree endurable by endowing it with preferential rights over earnings.

Our Rand Yield Calculations.

NEW PRIMROSE COMPANY.

We have received the letter appended to this article from a correspondent at Bournemouth. But before dealing with his grievances *seriatim* we may as well take the opportunity of clearing up a number of points about which there may possibly be some misunderstanding. Not that we have had any evidence of misunderstanding. Ever since the series started, at the beginning of June, we have received only two letters from readers. The first very kindly drew our attention to an obvious error in our note on the Crown Reef, whilst the second and present letter takes exception to—in fact, we might say umbrage at—our article on the New Primrose. Evidently the writer believes we have done an injustice to this Barnato company, and this delusion of his makes him feel indignant, so we are only too happy to show him how groundless his indignation is. Let us remind readers what we wrote in the first article of the series. "We have deliberately made the assertion more than once or twice that there are, even after the recent heavy slump, scarcely any sound bargains to be picked up in the Kaffir market, for the simple reason that prices are mostly too high." We believe we have demonstrated this to be the truth in all the articles so far published, and think we shall continue to further fortify the position taken up in the calculations yet to be made and published. The investor is the man who looks out for a sound bargain; the one who is content with an unsound, risky purchase is not the individual we write for. We are collecting the data and making our calculations for the help and guidance of men of intelligence and common sense, for men who do not wish to impoverish themselves for the benefit of the mine bosses. We write for the thrifty, prudent investor, the man who wants to see farther than the end of his nose or than the illusion mirrors of the trick-stage financial conjuror. For the gambler and the speculator, the man who buys a share to-day to sell it at a higher price to a "mug" on the morrow, we do not care a jot, and never have particularly cared, and the man who buys and contemplates it is rarely in our power to help on any terms. But such people are probably just as indifferent to our calculations. Their sole concern is to compute, not what dividends a company is likely to pay, not what its life will probably be, but how many greater fools there are than themselves and what, therefore, are the chances of buying cheaply and selling dearly to such human raw produce.

But there are many who buy mining shares to hold for dividends who quite reasonably and sanely look upon them as investments. It is in the interest of such people that we keep asking: Are there any Rand mining shares to be picked up in the market to-day which in all probability will turn out remunerative investments? This is the question we are trying to help readers to answer for themselves. Now some investors will readily face more risks than others. The degree of cautiousness depends upon individual temperament and means, and we cannot be expected to perform the miracle of calculating with mathematical accuracy the value of an investment to every phase of circumstances.

When we give data as far as they are available, surely it is not too much to ask each individual to exercise his own judgment? In the first letter we received the writer suggested a new method of computation, that we should practically fix the intrinsic value of a share at so many years' purchase on present dividends and yields. But how is it possible to fix the intrinsic value of a mining share when no man can calculate what the future profits and dividends will be, or exactly how long the mine will last? Estimates of probable life differ as greatly as estimates of profits, and even Rand reefs fluctuate in value and working costs are never constant. Again, what constitutes intrinsic value? Some may be quite content with 4 per cent., others will sniff at 5 per cent., many will hum and haw at 6 per cent., whilst numbers wouldn't touch a mine share unless it yielded a clear 7 or 8 per cent. Thus intrinsic value is a very elastic term. We may fix the intrinsic value of a particular share at say, 30s. 6d., but at the end of the life of the mine it might turn out to be worth no more than 30s. 5½d., and readers would grumble at us for making them lose the odd farthing. It would be too much of a responsibility for any man and we should run the risk of ending our days in Bedlam. We must, therefore, stick to the methods we have adopted up to the present; they will be found the surest and most reliable in the long run. They err, if anything, on the safe side, and should lessen risks of loss.

And now for our correspondent and the New Primrose. It is true that in the year 1895 the company paid 50 per cent., and in 1898 55 per cent., but the writer overlooks the fact that the capital was much smaller then than now. The best years of the mine, he will not dispute, ranged from 1893 to 1899, up to the outbreak of the war. In those seven years the company paid an aggregate of 265 per cent. In 1893 the capital was £174,600, and it has been increased from time to time until it reached, in 1902, its present figure of £325,000. Is it unfair to say that in the company's best years the dividends were equal to 30 per cent. on the present capital? Again, from 1895 to 1899, 160 stamps were at work; in the future only 120 are to be in operation, for our correspondent is further ignorant of the decision come to by the company's consulting engineer two or three months back to keep 40 stamps permanently idle. The object of tying up so many stamps is to eke out the life of the mine as long as possible. Have we done the company an injustice in calculating future dividends at 30 per cent. with 40 stamps idle and with a larger capital to spread profits over? As for the monthly profits of over £13,000, surely our correspondent knows that directors take fees, clerks look for their salaries, landlords want rents, interest has to be paid on loans, the Government takes its tax, depreciation has to be provided for, and a balance left to carry over. As a matter of fact, the profits in the past financial year were returned at over £142,000, £113,177 was bought in—partly composed of past premiums—and £6,049 was received from sundry sources, yet the directors paid only 30 per cent., and carried £138,262 forward. Why do they keep such a large sum in hand? Do they intend to spend it in prospecting operations? If they are so anxious to keep such sums in their tills it does not look as if they will be over-generous to the shareholders, divide profits up to the hilt and pay higher dividends. Does not "Solly" want the public to put hundreds of thousands in his new amalgamation fake? Surely, in the event of the public not taking it on, he will not "invest" New Primrose profits in it? Anyway, it looks as if the directors are accumulating the money for something. Yet it was only as recent as 1902 that additional shares were issued to provide fresh working capital. For what?

In calculating the life we recalled that the chairman put this at five to six years in 1902, and a year later at about six years. By estimating for a life of eight years, as we did, was that doing the mine an injustice? For according to the chairman it ought to be only three or four years, though it is to be stretched out as long as possible by hanging up 40 stamps. Then as to developments in a neighbouring mine, these are all unknown possibilities, risks and chances. How is a man to com-

pute the value of these? Are the chances worth, say, 15s. a share or only 1½d.? Who is to say? Where is the man, mining expert or layman, who has the vision that can pierce into the bowels of the earth? If the officials of the New Primrose thought there was a likelihood of the reefs in the mine widening and improving at depth, would they hang up 40 stamps permanently? If an investor chooses to buy a share and is willing to run all the chances of an improvement in depth let him face them, but he would not be a prudent man. Are the reefs not as likely to become poorer in depth as richer? Experience has proved over and over again even on the Rand that a rich mine may be surrounded with poor neighbours, and facts are more profitable than visions. We think readers will agree that instead of doing this particular company an injustice we have dealt with it very favourably and leniently, and that there is no ground whatever for our correspondent's bitterness. Here is his letter:—

DEAR SIR,—I did not write about your New Primrose article of July 29, because I expected to see some correction in this week's REVIEW.

Surely some are needed, for one looks to your paper for better information than we can gather casually for ourselves, when you publish special articles dealing with any particular company.

You say, "In the mine's best days dividends only averaged 30 per cent." They averaged 50 to 60 per cent. And unless the monthly published profits are lies (£13,000) the mine is already almost earning 50 per cent. again with 50 stamps standing still idle. It earned £16,000 a month with the whole 160 stamps running before the war.

Then considering how wonderfully the reefs have widened and improved in the Rose Deep immediately below this mine, is there not a fair chance of improvement in the deeper levels of the Primrose?

At all events a little more careful examination such as is commonly expected before writing on a subject would, I think, have given us a different article. The fact of 50 stamps lying still idle is not even mentioned.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE FINANCES OF JAPAN.

An interesting statistical annual, the fifth of a series, was recently issued by the Japanese Department of Finance, and is well worth examination by publicists here and by the creditors of Japan. In time Japanese statesmen promise to be perfect statisticians, but there is a mass of detail in the book before us which occasionally somewhat obscures the more striking lessons to be drawn therefrom. The tables of the budget, for example, although elaborate beyond usual, do not exhibit to the full what the war has meant to Japanese finance. We get the estimated revenue and expenditure for the years ending March 31, 1905 and 1906, ordinary and extraordinary, but the table does not include the greater portion of the outlay upon the war with Russia. As far as they go the figures appear to be satisfactory and suggestive of progress, but they do not go nearly far enough. Ordinary revenue shows an increase of about £1,600,000 at a total of, say, £30,000,000, or 296,938,694 yen. Adding in the extraordinary revenue of 8,728,496 yen, we get a total estimated income for the current year of 305,667,190 yen, or just over £31,000,000, and an increase of 12,166,253 yen on the estimated revenue for 1904-5. But in the explanatory memoranda appended to the budget estimate we are told that the grand total of the extraordinary expenses of the war reaches "the enormous sum of 1,356,000,000 yen or £138,891,734." The budget as tabulated takes little or no account of this enormous expenditure, and we gather that the total represents the outlay only to March 31 last. This may be an error—we are not sure, it is not clearly stated—but the inference appears to be legitimate because the particulars of the borrowings rendered necessary in order to meet this tremendous outlay do not include the two loans of £30,000,000 each issued this year, in fact the total of the public debt, which is put at 994,437,340 yen on March 31 last, does not bring the loans down further than the second 6 per cent. issue.

If we add in the £60,000,000 borrowed since, it would appear that Japan has already had to raise money to the extent of between £160,000,000 and £170,000,000 in order to carry on this war. Assuming the total to be only £160,000,000, and at 5 per cent. all over, that implies a burden of £8,000,000 per annum upon the Japanese people for interest. It may well be more than that, and cannot be less. Now the entire ordinary revenue of the country, as we have just mentioned, is only about £30,000,000. This includes £20,000,000 from taxes, drawn presumably from a remarkable variety of minute internal duties, many of them of a most burdensome description, for land tax, income-tax, business tax, tax on liquors, sugar excise, the tobacco monopoly, and the camphor monopoly are all entered separately below that big item. Without a large increase in the resources thus shown it is obvious that the Japanese people will be dangerously incommoded by this sudden and frightfully onerous addition to the charges of the State.

Whether Japan will be able to stand up and make progress under the dead weight of debt her people are now called upon to carry is not perhaps an immediate question of practical politics, but we decidedly think that it would be risking more than any possible advantages to be secured could compensate her for were the war to continue, and this already cruelly heavy debt to be added to. For we must never forget that the Japanese people, great and most praiseworthy though their progress has been in all branches of modern industry taken up by them since the restoration 35 years ago, and almost unexampled though the patriotism of the masses may now be, their resources and reserves of wealth are still slender indeed compared with those of any first-class European State. We do not gather that the average daily wages of labourers, skilled and unskilled, is much more than threepence a day—often it is less—and the male farm labourer, in spite of the great increase in wages which has occurred within the last ten years, still appears to earn barely £4 a year. It is upon people—the great bulk of the population—whose incomes are thus slender when stated in English money, that the call will have to be made to find at least £8,000,000 extra per annum for the charges of the war debt, and however great economy may be forced upon all branches of internal administration, it is impossible to believe that such an addition to the charges imposed by the imperial budget can be borne without suffering.

Moreover, war, successful or unsuccessful, always entails a great permanent addition to the general and inevitable expenditure of the State. Japan cannot let her navy fall into disrepair or be diminished in strength to any extent for many a year to come. Her army will cost more now than it has ever done before, because it will have wider dominions to safeguard, for the extension, even if but temporary, of her sway over Korea and Manchuria must add to the cost of the civil services, so that it is not alone the addition of the war debt charges which the country will be called upon to meet year by year whether harvests are good or bad, whether trade flourishes or passes through crises more or less acute. Accordingly the argument we found upon the figures before us is that it is as necessary for Japan to seek peace as for Russia. Peace is necessary to her if she is to conserve the fruits of the victories already won, if her people as a whole are not to be forced back upon barbarism, if she is to expand in civilisation, grow in diffused wealth, and develop her commerce and manufactures as they deserve to be developed. Doubtless her progress in the past has been wonderful, and the table of income and outgo embracing all the years since 1867-8 down to the estimates for the current fiscal year shows a growth of revenue which encourages hope for the future, but until 1897-8 the growth was slow, and we cannot yet be sure that the extra taxation imposed because of the war with Russia can continue to be borne after peace has been restored without dangerous consequences to the masses of the people. The extra taxation imposed is only expected to yield about

£7,593,000 in the current year, and it is not yet certain that this expectation will be fulfilled. The tobacco monopoly, for instance, upon which the last two loans of £30,000,000 each have been secured is estimated to give only 32,000,000 yen in the current year or less than £3,400,000. It may develop into greater profitability in years to come, but the contrary result is just as probable for a time, because after the war is over the heroic mood of the nation will suffer abatement and curtailment of expenditure become the rule from the highest to the lowest.

TRUCULENT INSOLENCE FROM JOHANNESBURG.

We should like much to know who the writer in Tuesday's *Times* of the letter signed "Colonial" and dated Johannesburg, June 26, may be. He is good enough to give a testimonial to the gentlemen, or some of them, who condescended to deal so magnificently with our war stores in South Africa, telling us that the officer whose name stands out most prominently in the findings of the Commission is in his opinion, given without the slightest reservation, of all the officers he met the most level-headed man of business. This is interesting, but not very much to the point. What we should like to know is where the £6,000,000 or £10,000,000 or £20,000,000, whatever the sum may be, have gone of which we as humble and much enduring taxpayers in this country have been robbed. The writer tells us that a contractor actually lost £20,000 on a line of goods for which he had paid £50,000. Perhaps, but we should like to see the figures before making sure, and still our millions would be missing. This, however, is not the most interesting part of the letter. It lies in the wind up, when, after confessing that he is perhaps acting "in an irrelevant manner," the scribbler proceeds to tell us that "the patience of us Colonials is gradually reaching a point of exhaustion. We feel that we have for the past few years been the cat's-paw of every political movement, and that to-day all by-elections for M.P.'s more or less turn on points of issue in the conduct of the affairs of these Colonies which are entirely our own concern." "Unless," he goes on, "it is soon recognised that the Colonial Englishman, loyal to the backbone as he is at present, will one day express himself in a more forcible manner than I would now care to suggest, then I take it upon myself to warn the Liberal and Radical politicians that should ever a breaking point be reached the cost leading to the disruption of the British Empire would most assuredly be laid at the door of that party in the British Parliament whom we Colonials, rightly or wrongly, look upon as enemies to England's greatness." This surely is impudence almost sublime. Who are the "Colonials" who thus threaten us, and what do we owe to them? Is the writer speaking for the thousands of hungry and homeless wretches, countrymen of ours, who were drawn into the Transvaal by the glamour of gold and the promises made by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and his capitalist supporters and inciters that a paradise was to be opened up for the British workman when the war was over?—that "miners' war." If not, for whom is this "Colonial" speaking if not for the helots of Park Lane, for the gentlemen who have ruined the gold industry by their manufacture of sham capital, by insisting upon the importation of Chinese slaves—the cosmopolites, who have produced misery and discontent throughout the whole country and whose intrigues are at this very hour tending to destroy the value of the railway property in Cape Colony and Natal, property mortgaged to the British creditor? Really it is difficult to speak in measured language about exhibitions of coarse, arrogant selfishness such as this, and one cannot help regretting that the *Times* appears to be still ready, as it was at the time of the Jameson Raid and all through the South African War, to be the mere mouthpiece of a cosmopolitan horde of unscrupulous adventurers whose depredations have cost the British people something approaching £1,000,000,000, in money lost through gambling in their rotten mining shares, in money

directly spent upon or stolen during the war or lost in the general depreciation of public securities which flowed therefrom. But if this impudently anti-English writer imagines that the people of the United Kingdom are going to be intimidated by vulgar seditious description he will find himself mistaken—he and those he speaks for likewise. Stupid as most of us may be, we have pretty well summed up the moral qualities of those gentlemen by whom we have been misled and robbed; also we have made up our minds to make an end of their domination over the Colonial Government and the Home Government whenever we get the opportunity. The *Times* had perhaps better take note of that fact if it wishes to live long in the land. Mr. Alfred Lyttelton might also note it. We may not always patiently tolerate his open obedience to the orders of the South African share hatching and punting gang.

THE INSATIABLE MINE-BOSS.

In his insatiable greed, Sir George Farrar, the eloquent advocate of Chinese labour, has unconsciously given himself away in his reply to the Treasurer of the Transvaal on the subject of taxation. Coolies, we were told, were absolutely essential to the mining industry if it was to be run at a profit, white and even black labour was too dear. But it appears that even slave labour cannot be afforded by mines paying forty and sixty per cent., such as is distributed by the two leading outcrops of the Farrar Group. Sir George, the patriot, argued that before the war the average ore crushed on the Rand was worth about 41s. 7d. per ton and the dividend 10s. 7d., but to-day the grade is 36s. per ton, and the dividend 6s. 4d. So now he pleads for a reduction in taxation and in railway rates, for as the latter would cheapen the cost of living it would take less to feed the employees. It is an ideal scheme, worthy of our knighted and really English mine boss, who is willing to stoop to ask anyone to make sacrifices for the benefit of his millionaire tribe and the investor. It does not occur to these awesome plutocrats that one way to increase dividends is to economise in directorial fees and other administrative expenses. The companies have local offices and directors, as well as palatial London offices and officials, which are not in the least necessary to efficient administration. But are the mine bosses sincerely anxious to put more money into the pockets of shareholders? Have they ever been known to work the market for the benefit of investors? Have they not pushed prices far too high, and do they not want some excuse to lift them higher that they might sell some of their vast piles of paper at large profits? Or, having sold, may not some of them now and then want to unduly depress prices so as to "strip the louts" both ways? Experience has taught the public that the motives and aims of these men are not purely altruistic and philanthropic. They have miserably failed with their Chinese labour, and are just as likely to fail with any other selfish scheme, because they do not work the mines with economy and intelligence. Mining is only a means to market ends with most of them. Even were the taxes and the freights to be reduced, would the bosses then be satisfied? Would dividends then be ample and sure? Not a bit of it. We are told that many other schemes are hatching in the minds of the magnates, and can well believe it, but they are not labouring their brains to devise economies in the mines. As soon as they get one concession they immediately agitate for another, always with an eye to what they can make out of the market. But this admission that the quality of the ore is deteriorating is so important that it should warn holders of these treacherously-handled securities to clear out while they can, lest they might have heavier losses to face. Why should the general community and shareholders in railway companies suffer for poor ore, the result probably of Chinese labour? Where is the justice of it? Those who invest in the mining industry must face all its risks and chances. If the mine bosses themselves refuse to make sacrifices, why

help them further? Have not the widows and orphans done enough? If they desire sincerely to benefit the investor can they not limit their own share of plunder? Will they promote companies in the future on an equitable capital basis? Look at the case of the Wemmer, too. What can be done for the benefit of the shareholders in this unhappy company? What miracle can enrich the reefs now too poor to pay dividends? If the mine boss could be made honest and just little else would be needed, but that is an unrealisable ideal.

THE MUTUAL RESERVE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Through the courtesy of the Hon. Francis Hendricks, Superintendent of Insurance, Albany, New York, we have received a copy of a report made to him on the affairs of this miserable imposture by Mr. Isaac Vanderpoel, Chief Examiner. It is so emphatic and valuable that we think it advisable to give the substance of this report in our columns. The time has been when people accused us of using too strong language in reference to this Mutual Reserve, and when it became no longer possible to sustain this accusation we were blamed for applying the same epithets to the "company" which are now acknowledged to have been suitable enough when dealing with the Assessment "Association." It is, therefore, well to have an official document to go to, and we think insurance people here will be interested to see what Mr. Vanderpoel has to say, and to note that the Mutual Reserve is still at its old devices—postponing payments, denying liability, cutting down claims, dodging and betraying, and at the same time seeing to it that its officials are comfortably off. The salaries table itself would be interesting to give. It is printed in this report as Exhibit "D," but we need only mention that the president of this company, whose surplus assets are brought out by the Examiner at less than £8,000, received last year \$39,000, or nearly £8,000, as his salary. The vice-president and actuary, Mr. George D. Eldridge, got \$31,000, and George Burnham, jun., second vice-president, \$17,000. Then came Mr. G. W. Harper, treasurer, and J. W. Bodin, medical director, with \$6,500 each, while Mr. William Porter as comptroller had only \$4,160. A secretary and two assistant secretaries absorbed only \$9,060 among them, but they were humble, or perhaps could not help themselves. Altogether nine gentlemen whose energies are devoted to the production of results such as the following statement describes took \$113,160 as their share of the available money in the past year. No wonder sinking funds and reserves had to be given the go by.

The last annual statement of the company filed with the Insurance Department, and now appearing in its published annual report for the year 1904, produces a so-called surplus of unassigned funds amounting to \$359,211.58. The examination just completed fixes this item at \$38,492.16, the difference being due to reduction in real estate values on appraisal, rectification of reserve data from which policy or certificate valuations were made, and further to the reduction in various credit assets by bringing the net amount of same within the respective reserves charged against the policies upon which these credit assets rest. An exception has been made, however, in the case of that portion of credit assets as represented premiums due upon the assessment plan, called on November 1 and December 1, 1904, for the payment of specific claims by death, which had been approved by the company. These due premiums were allowed as an asset to the extent of the sum realised therefrom—viz., \$38,062. Such unpaid premium calls December 31, 1904, were found to be \$61,905, of which \$23,843 were made upon policies since lapsed. They therefore enter into the credits scheduled and allowed as the result of this examination in the sum of the difference between \$61,905 and \$23,843, or, as stated, \$38,062.

In "Liabilities," as they are returned in the company's annual statement for 1904, is an item of \$184,913.25, stated to be a liability on account of "Salaries, rents, office expenses, taxes, bills, accounts, bonuses, commissions, medical and legal fees due or accrued, \$184,913.25." The language quoted is that used in the blank form for annual statement returns of life insurance companies. In making up its statement the company has not hesitated to insert in writing such additions to the printed form as might be necessary to fully describe the nature of any item to be returned by it, and not covered or provided for in the stereotyped or "Convention Blank" at present in use. The printed form, after providing for 21 specific items of liabilities in detail, then calls for the inclusion in the statement (line 22) of "Other liabilities (give items and amounts)," yet notwithstanding this, of the \$184,913.25 reported by the company in its last annual statement as being due or accrued for salaries, rents, office

expenses, taxes, bills, accounts, &c., as set forth above, \$182,757.92 consisted of judgments entered against this company. I am constrained to believe that the return of this item after the manner stated could not have been the result of an inadvertence, and certainly constituted a concealment of facts sufficient to render the company's sworn statement for 1904 materially inaccurate in its failure to return these judgments under their appropriate title.

Further variations, in addition to those appearing in credit assets and policy reserve, as between the figures published in the company's last annual statement and similar items embodied in this report, are produced in the item of unpaid death claims December 31, 1904. They are returned in the annual statement of the company at \$796,704.31. As the result of this examination the amount is shown to be \$831,429.59. The investigation of death claims incurred, and paid, compromised or settled since the prior examination of December 31, 1901, with balance outstanding December 31, 1904, has been a work of considerable labour, involving as it did the review of 3,531 claims incurred, with accompanying evidence and correspondence relating thereto. The result gives the following:—

CLAIMS INCURRED, PAID OR COMPROMISED FROM DECEMBER 31, 1901, TO JANUARY 1, 1905.

The examination December 31, 1901, gave as the total of outstanding claims at that time \$1,125,949.10. The corrected figure representing this item was found during the present examination to be \$13,690 in excess of this amount, or \$1,139,639.10. Of the 3,531 claims incurred since December 31, 1901, 2,353 were paid to the extent of the net liability thereunder. That is to say, after deducting all indebtedness charged against the policies by the company, this number was paid without compromise for the net amount due. The number compromised was 776, leaving 402 incurred claims since January 1, 1902, unpaid on December 31, 1904, to which is to be added one claim then unpaid, incurred prior to January 1, 1902, making a total of 403 claims outstanding on December 31, 1904.

The death claims incurred during this period of three years amounted to \$9,023,747.12 of original insurance represented by the face value of certificates or policies. From this incurred amount certain deductions were made, reducing it to \$7,497,364.38.

Upon the ground of alleged misstatement in applications for reinstatement 244 claims, reduced to a net liability of \$538,934.81, were compromised for \$300,728.86. On account of alleged misstatement in applications for insurance 182 claims, reduced to a net liability of \$312,973.58, were compromised for \$177,078.67. For alleged intemperance of insured 98 claims representing a net liability of \$257,324.16 were disposed of for \$170,286.84. Through alleged misrepresentation in age of insured a net liability of \$106,500.33 was compromised at \$64,198.89 in the case of 91 claims. Lapsed policies to the number of 43, which if in force would have amounted to a net liability of \$161,675.96, were settled for \$53,090. Through misstatement in application and in reinstatement application 36 claims, reduced to a net liability of \$99,015.67, were compromised for \$59,406.61. For alleged intemperance and misstatement in application or reinstatement application 30 claims, on which the net liability was \$67,014.14, were settled for \$34,916.79. The cases of alleged suicide were 17, with net insurance of \$30,546.21. They were settled for \$17,406.08. The balance of 35 claims going to make up the total of 776 compromised claims represented by the exhibit were compromised upon the strength of the various other allegations recited in detail in the exhibit, which shows that these 35 claims representing net insurance to the amount of \$55,360.57 were disposed of for \$29,544. Thus insurance at one time amounting to \$1,923,000.73 finally yields its beneficiaries \$906,656.74, there having been deducted \$293,655.30 on account of an indebtedness ascertained by the company to exist against the assured, with a further deduction of \$722,688.69 retained by the company for the various alleged violations of contract by the insured enumerated above.

Making due allowance for the time it may occupy to thoroughly investigate all questionable death claims, I think that as the result of this examination it is quite clearly in evidence that the company has adopted a settled policy of delay in withholding the approval necessary to constitute an admission by it of the receipt of satisfactory evidence of death in the case of all claims under policies or certificates issued while the company was operating under Article 6 of the Insurance Law. From the date of such approval ninety days is the specified time within which payment is to be made. The average period elapsing between the filing of proofs of death, which were upon "investigation" ultimately found to be valid claims, is so lengthy as to properly subject the company to the severest criticism in its treatment of these beneficiaries, many of whom must be subjected to no little suffering and distress by this seemingly inexcusable procrastination on the company's part in the payment of its just debts to policyholders.

Home office leasehold property, now charged with a cost value of \$483,660.50, originally represented an expenditure of \$408,296.60 from reserve or emergency fund, as per examination to December 31, 1894. The appraiser for the Insurance Department, who appraised the value of the leasehold at that time, recommended in his report under date of February 27, 1895, that "as the lease becomes less valuable from year to year I would advise that the association invest a sum yearly as a sinking fund of a sufficient amount to reimburse the policyholders for the moneys belonging to them absorbed in its erection," and adds that "Thirteen thousand four hundred and fifty dollars (\$13,450)

laid aside at the end of each year, and invested and compounded at 4 per cent. annually, will produce \$400,000 at the end of twenty years," the expiration of the first half of the term of the lease, when a reappraisal of the property was to be made upon the basis recited in the appraiser's report.

Adopting this suggestion, the company inaugurated the accretion of a sinking fund. It appears to have been abandoned some time ago, for in ten years it has reached but \$56,948.76. The sum of \$42,000 has, however, been borrowed from this fund and is charged to mortuary account. The balance therefore after the loan to the latter account reduces the leasehold sinking fund to \$14,948.76 instead of \$165,000, the amount which should now represent it, under the recommendation made in 1895 by the appraiser of the Insurance Department.

In September, 1900, the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association reinsured practically all the membership of an assessment association known as the North-Western Life Assurance Company located in Chicago. In his report for the year 1900 the insurance superintendent of Illinois states that "Concurrently, upon a creditor's petition, a receiver was appointed to take charge of the assets not belonging to the surviving and transferred members and not turned over to the Mutual Reserve Fund and administer the same for the benefit of the claimants and creditors of the company. Subsequently proceedings were instituted by the department which resulted in setting aside the former appointment and appointing Hempstead Washburn receiver under the department's bill, who is now administering the estate."

The premium paid by the North-Western Life Assurance Company to the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association as a consideration for the latter's assuming such liability as may have been transferred to it by the former company was \$390,647.21. Subsequently a commission was paid by the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association of \$277,666.67 to certain parties for delivering to it such portion of the membership of the North-Western Life as the Mutual Reserve Fund took over by way of so-called reinsurance. As this membership has since the date of its reinsurance been placed in a separate class by itself, paying its current mortality as a class, I fail to see what benefit this membership derived by a transfer for which it gave a consideration to the Mutual Reserve Fund of nearly \$300,000.

The commission paid by the Mutual Reserve Fund for securing the membership of this association never seems to have been received by it. The receiver's reports since the reinsurance was effected show no revenue from this source. The commission went to third parties, and I forward you herewith copies of contracts and certain testimony taken during the examination which will lay before you the nature of the whole transaction so far as I am able to present it to you.

NO MADAGASCAR BOOM.

In our last issue we announced that Johannesburg speculators were building hopes, in their despair of creating a Kaffir boom, on a Madagascar boom at the earliest possible date. With that end in view several small syndicates have been formed to take up options and other things, and the shares of such have been rushed up to astounding figures. The big Rand financial houses have also sent representatives to the island, and everything was being prepared to tempt the cupidity of the investor in England and South Africa. But all these fond, ardent hopes have been ruthlessly dispelled by cruel facts, for there is evidently no gold in Madagascar worth the getting. Messrs. Julius Weil and Company, of Gresham Buildings, Basinghall Street—you remember Julius in the Jameson Raid?—have received the following cable from their Johannesburg house: "*Re Madagascar.* (Translation.) Publish through newspapers (with reference to) Sir A. Woolls-Sampson and engineers' reports from Madagascar (that the) results (of) their examinations (of) certain areas (of the) ground of W. and B. Syndicate, Madagascar, do not confirm previous estimated value. This will necessitate further investigation, probably, with regard to *bonâ-fides*." According to cables from other sources unfavourable rumours are in circulation with regard to a certain Madagascar property, a Johannesburg firm announcing that it has received very unsatisfactory reports, and that further investigations are proceeding. It is alleged that some properties have been "salted." In a letter from the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Financial News*, which was published in the issue of August 8, the following particulars were given of the above W. and B. Syndicate: "The capital is £50,000 in 500 shares of £100 each, £25,000 of which is set aside as working capital. Eighteen concessions in the neighbourhood of Fianarantson have been acquired, upon two of which Mr. B. G. Byerley (a Rand mining engineer) has reported

in terms which, according to Sir Aubrey Woolls-Sampson are 'optimistic to an extraordinary degree'; in fact, his estimates are reported to be so fabulous that the directors have decided to refrain from publishing them until they have been either confirmed or contradicted. With this object in view Sir Aubrey is leaving for the island immediately, with a practical prospecting staff, to examine thoroughly the properties and his report, together with Mr. Byerley's, will be made public on his return." According, therefore, to the above cablegram Sir Aubrey does not confirm Mr. Byerley's optimistic opinions. So the speculators are getting rid of their shares in these Madagascar syndicates as fast as they can, and are realising Kaffir shares to meet their losses, the inevitable penalty of all mad scrambles for Aladdin's wealth.

"STANDARD" NEWSPAPERS.

The directors of this journalistic enterprise, aider and abettor of the imperial missionary from Birmingham and controlled by the late chairman of the Tariff Reform League—was it too expensive?—have adopted the singular course of sending out with the first dividend warrant to the preference shareholders a short statement of the present position of the business. Although it is unusual, we are glad the board has taken this step, because ever since the company was formed the air has been full of very strange rumours, some of them malignant, concerning its position. People have gazed upon and talked about that great unfinished building in Fleet Street, next to the offices of the *Standard's* rival in imperial and protectionist adversity, the *Daily Telegraph*, some saying one thing and some another, but we get the truth now, and those who persistently averred that the premises would never be occupied by the paper have scored a triumph. Thus says the circular: "The directors, after the most careful consideration, have satisfied themselves that a large portion of the freehold and leasehold property belonging to the company—including the premises in Fleet Street, which were recently acquired and rebuilt by the late proprietors—cannot with advantage be used for the purposes of the business. Much of this portion is completely isolated from the main building, and would, therefore, be a source of much delay and inconvenience in daily working. Negotiations are now in progress with regard to these premises, which, if satisfactorily completed, will produce a considerable revenue to the company." That is a welcome piece of information, even though it is tempered with a feeling of regret that the company should have bought a lot of property for which it has no use, and it is likewise good to hear that the general work of reorganisation has been steadily, if slowly, proceeded with. Another statement to the effect that every consideration was shown to the employees, many of whom had served the paper faithfully for several years, while they made an effort to adapt themselves to new methods, is in marked contrast to some of the stories circulating, but we must accept the directors' words, and perhaps after all "employees" does not mean "staff." However, the probationary period has passed, we are told, and the editorial and mechanical organisation is now practically complete. Moreover, the progress of the papers is described as satisfactory, the revenue from sales and advertisements showing a consistent increase over last year's figures, and notwithstanding the payment out of capital of considerable amounts in connection with the installation of Linotypes and other additions and alterations, the bank balance on June 30 stood at £76,195. We are thoroughly glad it is so, for everybody's sake.

THE STOCK OF WHISKY.

It has gone down a little in the 12 months ended March 31 last, but not in Scotland. For the entire kingdom the decrease in the quantity of proof home made spirits remaining in warehouses on March 31 last was 1,769,035 gallons, but the total is still 165,386,469 gallons, a really monstrous aggregate, and the stock held in Scotland is up 380,088 gallons to 121,778,039 gallons,

therefore some of the Scotch banks are still swimming in whisky. In Ireland, on the other hand, there has been a decrease of 1,522,168 gallons, the total being 31,760,947 gallons, and in England the decrease has been 626,955 gallons to a total of 11,847,483 gallons, all proof spirits. The Irish and English stocks taken together would be quite enough reserve for the entire country, looking at the enormous development of producing agencies. In the three kingdoms, that is to say, there are 188 distilleries in operation, eight of them in England, 152, or three more than in the previous year, in Scotland, and 28 in Ireland. It is surely odd that the number of Scotch distilleries turning out the raw spirit should have gone up in the past year, especially in view of the decreased consumption.

Some discussion has been going on of late, principally in the *Daily Chronicle*, as to the meaning of the reduced quantity of spirits retained for home consumption in recent years, one set of writers contending that the reduction is more apparent than real because of increased dilution before the proof spirit reaches the consumer; others insisting upon the genuineness of the decline in the drinking habits of the people. We hope, and are inclined, to believe the latter inference to be the true one, and anyway the quantity retained for drinking in the United Kingdom last fiscal year was 945,167 proof gallons less than in the year ended March 31, 1904. The total, however, was still 33,157,944 proof gallons, but it is the lowest total since 1897-98, when the consumption was 32,898,273 proof gallons. In the interval, especially when the South African war madness was at its height, that is to say in 1899-1900, the consumption went up as high as 38,716,733 proof gallons, so that last year's consumption was 5,558,789 proof gallons less than the highest figure previously recorded. All this diminution cannot be due to added water, and we take it as a hopeful sign that the community is really swallowing less of this poison, for to most of them it is poison. The per head consumption of home made spirits has therefore fallen off measured by the proof gallons test from '95 of a gallon in 1899-1900 to '77 in the past year. This figure, however, is still '02 of a gallon above that for 1894-95, but it does not follow that we are drinking more spirits of all sorts now than then, because in the interval there has been a material decrease in the quantities of foreign and colonial spirits imported and consumed here. In 1896-97, for instance, the consumption of such spirits rose to '21 gallons per head, and last year it was only '16. Adding the consumption of the home made and colonial and foreign made spirits all together we arrive at the satisfactory figure of '93 of a proof gallon as the total consumption of all kinds of spirit per head in the past fiscal year. This is '02 of a proof gallon per head below the consumption of 1894-95. There has thus by all tests been a decline in the quantity of spirits drunk by the people of this country, but the total is still enormous—adding the colonial and foreign and the home spirits together no less than 40,000,000 proof gallons. We are a long way from national sobriety yet.

EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA COMPANY.

We had a lot to say about this concern in the autumn of last year when placing on record details of some of the remarkable transactions of which it had been made the pivot. Formed in 1899 to take over certain concessions from the Egyptian Government for the manufacture and sale of salt in Egypt and sundry other assets, the undertaking for a time had rather a chequered career, and for that reason did not attract the attention of the curious group of Egyptian financial magnates headed by Sir Ernest Cassel and fostered by the National Bank of Egypt. Later on, however, when things began to settle down and the business showed signs of profitable development, a nice little plot was hatched to capture the company for the benefit of a venture known as the Huileries and Savonneries Company of Egypt, hitherto quite unsuccessful and in which some of the above-named financiers were apparently deeply involved. They set to work to buy up sufficient

salt and soda shares to ensure a controlling voice, invoking the aid of the National Bank of Egypt in the process, and succeeded in forcing through a resolution instructing the directors of the Egyptian Company to purchase the Huileries and Savonneries Company at the price of 115,000 fully-paid £1 shares. Moreover, directors or nominees of the National Bank of Egypt and this Huileries and Savonneries Company were put on the board of the Salt and Soda, whose independent existence has been sacrificed at the dictation of a financial group having ulterior motives to serve. We shall be interested to see the first report of the undertaking showing the result of the combined working, and no doubt shareholders are wondering what the effect has been of having an unprofitable venture foisted on their successful enterprise. The subjoined list of shareholding gives no hint of how the game was worked, but those share warrants to bearer representing 204,995 shares no doubt cover up much.

HOLDINGS, JUNE 24, 1904.

Brown, A. C...	..	..	..	..	1,000
Leech, Stephen	..	..	..	..	4,000
Musgrave, Alfred	..	..	..	..	2,000
Russell, Cyril..	..	..	..	..	6,550
Wise, J. (Exors. of)	..	..	..	..	1,400
Wagg, Arthur	..	..	..	..	1,200
Weekes, Laura	..	..	..	..	1,000
Behrend, M. ..	..	..	..	..	1,000
Favarger, Henri	..	..	..	..	6,000
Favarger, E. P.	..	..	..	..	1,000
Hudson, N. J.	..	..	..	..	1,005
Gurney, Eustace	..	..	..	..	5,000
Bryce, J. A., and others	..	..	..	..	2,000
Hollings, May	..	..	..	..	1,000
Smart, H. W., and A. D.	..	..	..	..	2,350
Hewat, James	..	..	..	..	1,000
Tagken, I. P. (Bank of Egypt)	..	..	..	..	3,000
Day, E. H. ..	..	..	..	..	1,200
Blue, J. A. G.	..	..	..	..	4,000
Mayhar, J. Bey Gaafar	..	..	..	..	2,000
Paterson, Sydney	..	..	..	..	2,000
Hooker, A. H.	..	..	..	..	5,000
Milton, H. ..	..	..	..	..	1,000
Oppenheim, E.	..	..	..	..	1,000
Share warrants to bearer	..	..	..	..	204,995

THE LONDON ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

One cannot help feeling a certain amount of commiseration for those enterprising German engineers and North of England capitalists over the defeat of their carefully elaborated and beautifully staged scheme to saddle London with yet one more monopoly. Radical newspapers are jubilant over the "victory," but appear to us to ascribe it to the wrong quarter, taking much glory to themselves. It was not the borough councils, nor yet the London County Council, that procured the withdrawal of the Bill. The real victor is Mr. Balfour, our Prime Minister in the Lord Melbourne style, whose unrivalled capacity for avoiding work, at least Parliamentary work, so disorganised the business of the House of Commons in the session just closed as to block the way of the promoters of this Bill at the critical moment. Had the session been prolonged another week it looked to the last not so very improbable that the measure might have triumphantly passed through the House of Commons and become law. This is the reason why we feel sorry for these gentlemen, but happily they can well afford to lose money, whatever it was—£50,000 or more—sunk in the attempt to impose this new yoke upon the necks of the citizens of London. No contradiction was offered to our statement about the German influences behind the Bill, and none could be given, because it is now well known to everybody concerned that the Universal Electric Company of Berlin, together with its Swiss dependency, the Brown-Bovary Company were the real promoters, and they had £6,000,000 behind them, besides what their banks could give. Mr. Brown, by the way, is a Swiss-Scotchman of distinguished abilities and great fame as an electrical engineer, and from the point of view of the quality of material, plant, and so on that would have been supplied by his German company there would probably have been nothing whatever to complain of. This is no reason why London should have to be

afflicted with the necessity of ultimately buying off the dead weight of one more monopoly, and we hope that before another session of Parliament opens the borough councils will have put aside their jealousy of the County Council and cordially united with it to promote a measure conceived in the public interest. It must never be forgotten that the County Council itself has for years past been struggling to get just those powers, or most of them, sought by the monopoly Bill that failed for want of time. Its efforts were blocked on the one hand by the unresting jealousy of the real estate owners of London, the ground landlords, and on the other hand by the carefully-fostered jealousies of the various borough councils, bodies undoubtedly brought into existence under ground landlord auspices for the purpose of weakening the authority of the County Council. If these borough councillors will now rise to the height of their duty, and recognise that their wisest policy is to subordinate themselves to the County Council in all that concerns the well-being of Greater London, they will be able, especially if the old corporation of the City joins in, to bring such pressure to bear upon the next House of Commons as will prevent for ever any repetition of last session's assault by outside or alien capitalists, aiming at a new monopoly at our expense. The monopoly of electric power must be the property of the citizens of London as a whole. We have suffered enough through the want of control of our gas and water, and of our docks and river, to be subjected to another capitalist incubus of a similar description. A public monopoly may not be a perfect instrument of social advancement, but it is by much the less of two evils. So we trust jealousy will be laid aside, and all public bodies in the metropolis unite together in giving expression to what is undoubtedly the sentiment of the people at large with a force that will bear down all opposition. We not only want no more monopolies, but we could do without special boards like the water board, or like this plausible-looking traffic board suggested by the Royal Commission on London Traffic, upon which the ground landlords have seized as one more weapon of offence against the London County Council.

THE TRADE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

By and by we hope that accounts relating to the trade and commerce of certain foreign countries and British possessions so industriously compiled by Mr. Llewellyn Smith and his staff of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade will be brought up to date; but as they stand the figures always present interesting materials for comparison, and in the August number of the returns we have figures of the imports and exports of four countries for the first six months of the year. These countries are Belgium, France, the United States, and the United Kingdom, and the returns from each show progress both on the import and export sides compared with 1904. So far as the United States exports go their totals appear to run us hard at £151,885,000 compared with our £155,706,000. Quality, however, has to be taken into account, and most of the exports of the United States are raw produce, whereas ours are in great part highly manufactured articles upon which the average profit is unquestionably much higher. Indeed, if we take the figures relating to imports the position of the United Kingdom will appear to be incomparably superior to that of the United States. In their case an export of about £152,000,000 worth of goods for the first six months of this year brought back only £123,000,000 of the goods of other countries, but our £156,000,000 of exports brought in £233,300,000, which surely indicates, every allowance made for dependencies and foreign investments, that our trade was far more profitable than that done by the United States. Moreover, the United States exports are subject to frequent violent fluctuations, which is rarely the case with those of the United Kingdom. Our figures have steadily progressed in the last three years, whereas the total exports of the United States dipped in value from £142,187,000 in the first six months of 1903 to £137,506,000 in the same period of 1904.

France and Belgium also show progress in both imports and exports, but their united figures are not equal to those of the United Kingdom alone on either side of the account. Both these countries, however, import more than they export, that is to say, the value of their imports is higher than that of their exports, but the difference in each case is only £5,000,000 to £5,500,000 in favour of imports. Returns are also given for the first five months of the present year for these and other European countries, and for the States, as well as for Egypt, Japan, British India, and Canada; but it is scarcely worth while to go into details for so short a period. The only observation we care to make is that for these five months the imports of the United Kingdom have amounted in value to nearly 60 per cent. of the aggregate figures for Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, and Austro-Hungary all combined. The imports of the United States alone exceeded £100,000,000 for these five months, the figure being £104,238,000, but our import values for the same period came to almost £196,000,000. It is unnecessary at present to go into the influences tending to produce this marked difference between the position of the United States and of the United Kingdom as traders with other countries, but we have no doubt at all that the contrast must continue, and one year with another become perhaps more accentuated than it is now as long as the United States carries on its business on the dog-in-the-manger principle. "The foreigner wants to buy? Welcome him—and cheat him if you can. He wants to sell? Hit him with a tariff and tell him to go to — Mexico."

RAND MINES AND YIELDS—GINSBERG.

The Ginsberg Gold Mining Company is a member of the Barnato group and has been a fair dividend-payer for some years past. But it must not be overlooked that as the profit and loss account has been credited with proceeds from premiums on shares issued, some of the money for the dividend has indirectly come out of capital. It made its first distribution, at the rate of 25 per cent., in 1897, and in the following year it paid its highest dividend—viz., 40 per cent. In 1902 the capital was increased from £160,000 to £175,000 by 15,000 new shares allotted to shareholders at £3 15s. per share. It is possible, of course, that by and bye dividends may again equal 40 per cent., but not for long. Last year the figure was 30 per cent., which at current prices gives a yield of about 15 per cent. It is impossible to estimate with any certainty the probable life of this company's mine. Based upon the reef at present worked it will be a very short one, not more than four or five years. This reef is the South Reef, but there is also the North Reef in the property, hitherto too poor to work. In April, 1902, the chairman said he had recently discussed the question of life with the consulting engineer, who was of opinion that the South Reef would last another six or seven years. As three years have passed, that would reduce it to three or four years. "There exists, however," the chairman added, "a duplication of the reef which has been proved in the adjoining property, and Knight's, as well as in the Balmoral, lying to the north. This reef has been proved in the Ginsberg, and the tonnage, as far as it has been proved, gives an estimated minimum of another four years' life, and if the reef extends, as we have every reason to believe, a further four years' life will be ensured to us—a total in all of 15 years." It will be seen, therefore, there is a great element of risk in the length of life after another four years. This duplication has to be proved payable, and even if it can be worked at a profit, it may only give tiny dividends. Taking the life of the mine, with a continuance of present dividends, at five years, the return would be about £75 per £100 invested, on the basis of the most recent dividend, showing a loss of £25 of the principal. As £18 5s. must be invested annually at 3 per cent. to redeem the capital sunk, the loss in interest would be over £3 per cent. If we calculate the life at 12 years, on the basis of current dividends, the return would be £180, leaving £80 for dividends, or nearly 7 per cent. per annum. As the redemption sum would

be about £7 per annum, the yield would be, say, roughly, 8 per cent. This would be an attractive yield if it could be certain that the mine would last so long, and that the reef spoken of by the chairman would be as rich as the reef hitherto worked. Is it worth facing such highly speculative risks, when the probability of loss looks greater than the likelihood of gain?

AMALGAMATED COPPER.

Quite a pleasant little tale of Amalgamated Copper appeared in the *Financial Times* on Wednesday. Whether it is true or not we cannot tell, because this Standard Oil combination does not publish intelligible accounts. Presumably, therefore, the Boston correspondent of this newspaper has picked his figures up in interested quarters, in quarters obviously hostile to the renowned Mr. Thos. W. Lawson of that city, and they may be worthless. Lawson's attacks have not been well founded, says this correspondent. The information secured by him enables him to say that the Amalgamated Company now controls sub-companies producing on an average 250,000,000 lbs. of copper yearly, and so on. It actually has a reserve of \$9,000,000, or about \$7,500,000 in excess of the sum required to pay the last dividend. Moreover, it owns or controls by far the largest smelting works in the world, works that have actually cost \$3,000,000, and not content with copper it profits largely from the timber and coal industry, the Anaconda division of the Amalgamated group of mines alone producing as much as 375,000 tons of coal per annum, a quantity amply sufficient to supply all the requirements of the smelters, in addition to furnishing a large quantity of fuel for other industries in that portion of the United States. There is a great deal more of the same kind, but we cannot find space for it because we are not sure that it is true. If the Amalgamated Copper Company will oblige by issuing a full and properly certified balance-sheet we shall then be in a better position to say what we think of it. At present we think mighty little.

LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS CO.

Unless our memory completely fails us, a stockholder of this renowned undertaking, whose enterprise is about on a level with the pace of its 'buses, used to express profound satisfaction at the absence of titled men on the directorate, and the sentiment invariably provoked vociferous cheering. But doubtless the incident has faded from the mind ere this, and it would surely be a graceful act if the same shareholder now rose to the occasion and congratulated the chairman on becoming Sir John Pound, Bart., K.C.C., Lord Mayor and for the nonce Right Hon. We know he is all this because it says so on the front page of the report, and most people who study the genesis of titles will admit that anyone who could survive the McNamara revelations and still come up smiling deserves more than paltry honour. Business for the London General last half-year was pretty fair, the revenue from traffic, advertising, &c., reaching £626,880, or a decline of £2,682 against the corresponding period, despite an increase of 7 to 1,414 in the average number of 'buses running and an advance of 667,084 to 1,08,943,691 in the number of passengers carried. Expenses, however, were reduced £3,815 to £580,721, decreases appearing under traffic expenses, yard outlay and general expenditure compared with slightly higher charges for general administration and maintenance. The result is a profit balance of £46,160 compared with £45,027, but while the interest and dividends on investments reached nearly £1,000 more at £10,029 the balance brought forward was down almost £2,000 at £11,297, so that the actual sum for disposal was just £73 to the good at £67,485. Debenture interest comes to £5,700, and against £20,000 added to reserve a year ago a similar sum is now put to the motor fund, leaving £41,785 compared with £41,700. So the dividend on the capital stock will again be at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum with a balance carried forward of £9,528. In view, we suppose, to possible developments in motor

traction the stock of horses is being decreased rather than increased, the number owned on June 30 last being 17,384 compared with 17,513 on the same date in 1904, but 17 new 'buses were built at the coach factory and placed on the road. We are not told if any were withdrawn, but note that the balance-sheet value of the stock-in-trade, consisting of omnibuses, horses, harness, yard, stock, &c., is now £502,517, or a decline of £2,679. Freehold land and buildings remain at the old figure of £277,570, but leaseholds now stand at £390,202 against £396,765, and the revenue department assets, consisting of plant and stores, horses in training, provender, and sundry payments in advance, show a drop of £12,748, owing to the much smaller stock of provender. Sundry debtors owe £16,985, against creditors of £44,721, but cash is £5,351 larger at £47,913, and the investments have gone up from £174,571 to £208,141, consequent on the increase in reserves, which now consist of £135,000 for the general fund, £10,000 for the horse stock fund, and £33,192 for the motor fund, in all £178,192. We suppose this motor fund will be put to use one of these days, but in the matter of mechanical traction the company drags far behind its rivals. Not a word on the subject is contained in the half-yearly report, and while several of the smaller concerns have a considerable number of motor 'buses in more or less successful operation the London General is still "experimenting." Surely it cannot be too hard up to make a beginning.

THE RAILWAYS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

We have received a copy of a little monthly magazine called *Business* which emanates from Sydney. It contains an article by Mr. John Andrew on the railways of New South Wales, and we were much interested in reading it. The contention of the writer is not new to us. We have always insisted that it was impossible to regard the money sunk in these railways, or in the railways of any other colony, as capital remuneratively employed. Until the other year New South Wales had to confess a deficiency on the interest account, but there was a great deal more to be made good than that, and the value of Mr. Andrew's essay lies in the analysis he has carefully made of the whole position of New South Wales railway accounts. He has drawn up a balance-sheet as the result of this analysis, in which a debit balance of £33,618,802 is brought out against the railways, and this, when added to the capital cost of the railways, £42,288,517 as on June 30, 1904, brings the total sunk in these undertakings up to nearly £76,000,000. Part of this deficiency, however, is made up by adding in compound interest, and we cannot think that fair. No doubt, theoretically, it is quite right to add the interest on moneys previously lost to the charge imposed by the fresh losses of succeeding years, but in practical finance, particularly in State finance, this is never wisely done, and it is a mistake to push the argument too far. The deficiency is great enough without this, for it seems to us that Mr. Andrew has no difficulty whatever in demonstrating that there has been no adequate provision made for depreciation upon the rolling stock or on the machinery and workshops of the lines, and that charges have been laid upon capital for maintenance of way, works, buildings, and other purposes which ought to have been met out of revenue. There was an irresistible temptation to deflect money in this fashion so as to facilitate the borrowing industry in London. If the railways of New South Wales had from the first been fully maintained out of their revenue, and if proper provision had been made for the renewal of rolling stock and for the reimbursement of the capital sunk, at the dates when repayment becomes nominally due, there would have been such a heavy deficiency shown every year as would have closed the purses of the British moneylenders. By making it appear that the railways were doing wonderfully well, that in recent years particularly the interest upon the acknowledged capital sunk in them had been provided

out of net income, borrowing was facilitated, the doubts of the State creditor in this country were laid at rest, and the result has been a debt laid upon the inhabitants of the colony which they are certain one of these days to try all they know to wriggle from under.

FREDERICK LEYLAND AND COMPANY (1900).

The directors of this rather prominent business have lately adopted a policy of profound secrecy, applications for a copy of the annual report meeting with no response. Such attitude perhaps is not difficult to understand, bearing in mind the horrible mess the business is in, and after all it matters little whether or not publicity is given to the position of affairs. Ordinary public interest in the undertaking is now largely reduced, practically all the ordinary capital having been acquired by the bloated mass known as the International Mercantile Marine Company, to which lengthy reference was made in last week's issue. Without a doubt the English investor who closed with the Yankee offer has got the laugh, having obtained full value for his preference shares now standing at 60 per cent. discount, while, if memory serves us, the astute Mr. J. R. Ellerman obtained £28 apiece for his ordinary shares, which at the present moment would certainly be dear at £1. In proof just note that during 1904 the gross profit was under £93,000, and since general expenses and fixed charges, including interest on debenture and loans, amounted to nearly £106,000, there was a debit of £13,000. That, though, is mild compared with what is to follow, because there was depreciation to provide of £125,665, calculated on the usual basis, and the book value of steamers sold and lost during the year exceeded the amount realised by sale and insurance by £40,315. This proves conclusively that the wastage allowance is always insufficient, and likewise brings the total deficiency for the year to £179,010. Against this there is the big credit of £334 brought forward, and by appropriating the balance of the reserve fund, £65,000, the debt is brought down to £113,676. But even this is a better display than was made last year, when £269,500 had to be withdrawn from the accumulations in order to cover up losses and make good interest and dividends paid away but not earned. What a glorious bargain Morgan did get. We have not had a sight of the latest balance-sheet, but have no doubt at all that the thing is still smothered in debt, indicating acute impoverishment, and feel a deep sympathy for the few preference holders noted below who did not seize the opportunity and accept good money for their paper, seeing that no dividend has been paid since July, 1903. The combine holds its shares through the International Navigation Company, as shown below—another "acquisition" forming part of this shipping monster.

PREFERENCE SHAREHOLDINGS ON MAY 11, 1905.

John Bibby, 400; Brewery and Commercial Investment Trust, 900; George Reay, 820; James Combe, 500; Debenture Securities Investment, 800; Walter Glynn, 3,255; Mercantile Investment and General Trust, 500; Miles W. Mattinson, 600; André L. Melby and another, 518; Valentine C. Prinsep, 3,200; Florence Prinsep, 3,300; Elinor Speed, 6,120; Francis E. Speed, 465; Sir Wm. H. Tate, 500; United Discount and Securities, 700; Isabella Martin, 500; Frederick J. Harrison, 500; John W. Hughes, 500; Walter W. Vivian, 700; John R. Ellerman, 8,512; London General Investment Trust, 1,532; International Navigation Company, 58,703; John R. Ellerman and others, 525; James Bischoff and Sons, 890; Rt. Hon. Lord Ashton, 1,500 (transferred).

ORDINARY SHAREHOLDINGS.

International Navigation Company, 117,663; Wm. T. Agar, 300; Ezra F. Divek, 900; James Gray, 200; Henry Wilding, 200; Chas. F. Torrey, 200; Wm. James Pirrie, 200.

IRON PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

Complete figures for the first six months of the current year relating to the production of iron in the American Union have been made public by Mr. James M. Swank, the well-known iron statistician. His figures show that in the past six months the production of iron was no less than 11,163,175 gross tons of 2,240

lbs. This is not only the highest total ever produced in the same period of time, but is larger than that of any entire year prior to 1898. In the last half of 1904 the output was only 8,323,595 tons, and in the first half no more than 8,173,438 tons, so that the jump is something we in this country could not well conceive, and it would be interesting to know where that iron has gone. Has it all gone into consumption? Apparently most of it, for the unsold stocks held at the beginning of July amounted to only 539,269 tons. This was rather larger than the stocks at the end of last year, but less by about 16,000 tons than the figure of June 30, 1904. The real explanation of this enormous output and consumption of iron and steel is doubtless to be found, as the New York *Commercial Chronicle* frankly points out, in the facility with which the railroad companies have been able to issue new securities in order to pay for extension, betterments, and so on. During 1903, it says, the railroads were forced to practise extreme economy because the shrinkage in the value of their securities had seriously undermined public confidence and obliged the companies to refrain from attempting to float new issues, but in the second half of last year and in the current year all this has changed, and the railroads are now enjoying great prosperity, with traffic and revenue steadily expanding, so that they can now borrow freely and get the means to pay for the iron and steel they require. Prosperity of this description is naturally liable to rapid ups and downs, but to all appearance there is no immediate indication of a change for the worse in any of the financial conditions visible. We may, therefore, look to see 1905 surpass all previous years in the output of iron within the United States. By and bye—but we need not now trouble with by and byes. The earth has not yet begun to lurch in its spin.

Passing Events.

We are not surprised that anxiety should be felt at Cape Town about the reduction of railway rates from Beira to Gwelo and Buluwayo recently announced. It is vital to the prosperity of the Cape railways that they should not be handicapped in competition with the railways running from any point upon the east coast of Africa into the interior. Already both the Natal and Cape lines have suffered by the preference given to the Delagoa Bay Railway, and now the Beira Railway, which is a creature of the bankrupt Chartered Company, is going to enter into competition with them. There cannot be much trade to Beira in any case, but whatever it is will doubtless be deflected from the Cape and Natal railways to that port, and when the lower rates from Delagoa Bay are also thoroughly established, and that place itself made a free port, we may look to see material decreases in the revenues of both Cape Colony and Natal. Where, then, will the security of the British moneylender be? Neither of these states out of their own resources could pay 1 per cent. upon the capital sunk in their railways. Is this new move at Beira a manifestation of the right of the colonists, who have cost us such uncounted sums of money, to manage their own affairs regardless of the Mother Country, of any Imperial interest whatever? "A strong feeling exists in Cape Colony and Natal," says Reuter's Cape Town correspondent, "against the efforts being made to continue to divert legitimate trade from British colonial ports to Delagoa Bay and Beira." Just so, but the trade will be diverted all the same.

The *Star* is responsible for a pleasant tale of warfare between the Standard Oil Trust and the "Shell" Transport Company. Its correspondent seems to think that the fight may not be such an unequal one as the superficial observer might suppose. No doubt the "Shell" Transport Company's financial position does not look very strong in its balance-sheet, but it is powerfully backed, and has a good many resources not, perhaps, visible there. Then the Rockefeller group is

not so supreme in the United States even as we might think, being seriously interfered with both in Kansas and Texas. There are also competitors against it within the Union, who seem to be able to hold their own notwithstanding the capital power behind the Rockefellers and their black band. A project is afloat, it seems, to build a pipe line from Kansas to the Gulf of Mexico, traversing the Texas oil field on the way, and enabling the refinery at Port Arthur—in Texas, not China—to combine the lighter oils of Kansas with the heavy oils of Texas. If Far Eastern sources are also opened up, and if the Rockefellers are unable to get a monopoly of the great supplies of oil said to exist in the island of Sakhalin, we may see a very pretty fight, and if it ends like the war of the Kilkenny cats nobody will weep much so far as we know.

A disgusting story of cheating is told in this month's *Grand Magazine* by Mr. F. Moir Bussy, editor of the *Tradesman and Shopkeeper*. It is entitled "Tea Traders' Tricks," and instance after instance is given of deliberate swindling carried on by means of packets of tea, generally made up of the most worthless, and, it would seem, occasionally almost poisonous, rubbish, sold at fancy prices to the ignorant poor by means of the bonus bait. "We give to each customer," says one of these gangs of thieves, "a cash gift of £1 in their turn, on condition that they buy not less than one sixpenny packet of tea in each and every consecutive week. We guarantee to give each customer free a cash gift of £1 within a limited period of their first purchase on the above condition." A few people get the £1, and then the knaves pack up and go off with all the plunder they have managed to get together, to commence operations again in another locality. Surely the police ought to be able to put a stop to this form of swindling. What is the Home Office about? Not only is heartless robbery perpetrated on the humbler classes of the community, but the genuine tea dealer is injured in his business, and after a fashion which renders effective retaliation on his part wholly impossible. Where are the police?

An interesting account of the position of the Intercolonial Railway was sent to the *Pall Mall Gazette* the other day by its New York correspondent. We gather from this that the Canadian Dominion is losing heavily by the enterprise, which has always been a dead weight upon its finances. The correspondent says that a conservative estimate brings out the deficit for the past year at £400,000, and the line has no chance whatever, because of its enormous length and its location in the frozen north; above all, because both the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways starve it of traffic. Amid all the glamour cast over us by the patriot vauntings of the Canadian politicians—as distinct, we must always remember, from the people of Canada at large—we should never forget that both their great railways, the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific, are really United States lines; that is to say, their eastern termini are in the ports of the United States. Both of them own railways within the Union, without which they must starve, and it is through the ports on the coast of New England or in the State of New York that throughout half the year the produce carried by these two railway systems finds its way to Europe. In the summer there is a large carrying trade done by ships going up to Montreal, but all through the winter it is to United States ports much more than to Halifax that the goods of Canada are sent for export. Therefore, the Intercolonial Railway is a miserable derelict, and one of these days will probably be partially abandoned, to the great loss of the Canadian taxpayer.

All the way from Washington we have received an interesting pamphlet, reprinted from the Boston *Advocate of Peace*. It is an essay by Mr. Robert Stein suggesting an Anglo-Franco-German alliance as a guarantee of peace. The arguments are ingenious, and Mr. Stein appeals to Mr. Carnegie to put aside \$30,000,000 of his enormous wealth to endow the uni-

versities of London, Paris, and Berlin, apparently with the view that a permanent advocacy of union between these countries might be ensured. We fear that is rather a dream, but we have a fondness for dreamers, and think Mr. Stein nearer practical politics when he suggests the retrocession of, at least, the French speaking portions of Alsace and Lorraine to France as a means of placating French sentiment. Perhaps that would have the desired effect, although we are not sure, but apart from this open sore, the unforgettable humiliation and wrench of the riven-off provinces, there is no reason at all why France, England, and Germany should not be friendly with each other, nor do we see ground for objecting to the development of Asia Minor by German capital enterprises, which is also suggested by the writer of this thoughtful essay.

A summary of the foreign trade and shipping of Japan for the month of June and opening half of the current year has just been issued by the Consulate-General. The items are stated in yen, and continue to indicate a remarkable buoyancy in face of the calamitous conflict raging these eighteen months past, and now, we fervently hope, near its end. Exports of manufactured articles were slightly less in the month compared with the corresponding period, but there is a gain of more than 1,000,000 for the six months, and the further small increase in manufactured articles, half wrought, brings the aggregate advance to 5,679,415. Raw products did very well in June, reducing the net shrinkage to 1,597,433, and making the total under all heads 635,580 better for the one month, and 5,273,548 for the six. Gold exported was only 944,398 in the four weeks, against 8,876,508, bringing the decrease to 74,394,182, while silver shows declines of 286,430 and 268,820 respectively. Imports of gold, however, were up 330,270 and 14,709,410, while the receipts of silver were less by 1,789,607 and 3,344,539. Tonnage of shipping entering Japanese ports was 179,131 greater in the month, bringing up the gain to 1,276,695, while the vessels cleared rose 183,191 and 1,294,439 respectively. These increases, however, were only to be expected, in view of the enormous advance in imports occasioned by the war. During June their value was 48,219,794, an increase of 24,348,467—more than 100 per cent.—and for the six months 286,447,876, an advance of 103,813,004. Excess of imports over exports was 24,867,403 against 654,516, the monthly figures, and 143,708,625 compared with 45,169,169, taking the two half-years.

There is no better authority on all branches of the tea trade than Mr. George Seton and his analytical chart, showing the Indian tea-planting companies' results is always interesting and instructive. That for the season of 1904 dealing with 45 representative companies, whose crop represents nearly 50 per cent. of the entire Indian production, shows that the outturn was 95,745,000 lbs., an improvement of 7,170,000 lbs. over 1903, but while the cost per lb. was reduced 0.40d., the sale price fell 0.82d., so that the profit was down 0.42d. As a result, the percentage of revenue to capital went down rather alarmingly from 5.47 to 4.17, and the return on the capital involved was $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. lower at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., a very small yield surely in view of the heavy risks involved. Total capital of the companies dealt with was £300,000 larger at £10,530,000, but the reserves were advanced £14,665 only to £705,450, their proportion to capital being under 7 per cent.

The directors of Redfern, Limited, the English and foreign tailoring business, seem to have chosen a rather inopportune moment for asking shareholders—themselves really, seeing that the vendors hold all the ordinary shares—to increase their fees. Trade is by no means flourishing, and no ordinary dividend has been paid for five years, but the directors sought to have their remuneration increased to £1,000 fixed, with a further £500 if 5 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, and £100 for each 1 per cent. distributed beyond this amount. A nice little arrangement, truly,

and although the secretary intimated in a circular that no objection to the proposal was expected, seeing that none was taken when it was first mooted at the last annual meeting, the directors dare not throw open the proceedings to the public Press. The special meeting to consider the proposal was held last Saturday in the strictest privacy, our old friend Sir William Treloar presiding, and we do not know for certain if the necessary resolutions were passed or defeated. Doubtless though, they were carried, so immense is the voting power possessed or controlled by the board.

No increase was made in the Canadian Pacific dividend for the past half-year, and it cannot be said that anything above 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for the twelve months, was really expected. Nevertheless, 6 per cent. is not a very lavish return on a stock standing at nearly 70 per cent. premium, even though there may be sparkling potential wealth in the company's lands. Gross earnings for the half-year increased \$4,012,750, the working expenses \$2,750,767, and the net earnings \$1,261,983. The market was rather surprised at the size of the advance in outlay, bearing in mind the heavy expenditure incurred a year ago, owing to the abnormally severe weather, and had also to bear the shock of news that a disastrous landslide had occurred, but the forces behind the present movement were by no means dismayed and seem determined to put prices a lot higher yet if possible. They may succeed, but it is well to remember that after paying the dividend on the common stock the surplus was only \$1,784,553. More revenue was required to maintain this distribution, and also for fixed charges, owing to increases of capital and the income from sources apart from the railway showed a rather considerable decline. Moreover, traffics to date this half-year are certainly not brilliant, and we should hesitate to buy at present prices.

We think some prominence should be given to the details of a dispute between the Brazil Great Southern Railway and the Brazilian Government, because on the facts before us the latter seems to have been guilty of a piece of gross injustice, to use the mildest term possible. This unfortunately is not the first time that the authorities have been accused, and rightly so, of arbitrary and high-handed action when dealing with foreign property owners, in proof of which it is only necessary to call to mind the dishonest treatment meted out to the Espirito Santo and Caravellas Railway, in connection with the acquisition of the warehouse belonging to that undertaking. To return, however, to the latest controversy, which really began several years ago, it appears that the railway company was granted a concession to construct an extension to St. Angelo, certain conditions being laid down calculated to safeguard the Government against breach of contract. Amongst these was a provision that in the event of the works being interrupted for over three months the concession with its guarantee was to lapse except in case of *force majeure*. Now it is a fact that at one time operations were suspended, but the break was entirely due to one of the periodical revolutions for which the Republic is noted, and, moreover, the interruption lasted only seven weeks. But the Government was in a bad way at the time, being anxious, for political reasons, to reduce its guarantee liabilities at all hazards, and therefore seized the opportunity to annul the company's concession, a dishonourable action which has not been righted to this day. Quiet persuasion, protests, petitions, and even recourse to the British Foreign Office were all without effect, the Brazilian Government adopting an attitude of passive resistance so that the case might drag on and at length come within a certain "prescription" law under which claims against the Government must be demanded within five years or not at all. This law, however, was by no means applicable to the company's case, and as a last resource an action was commenced against the Government, first in the Supreme Court, which, after nine months' delay, declared it had no jurisdiction, then

in the Local Court, which decided against the company on the ground of this "prescription" Act. So once more the matter went to the Supreme Court, and as it found the attitude taken up by the lower court quite untenable, a verdict was given unfavourable to the company on the old ground that operations were suspended for more than three months in face of irrefutable evidence to the contrary. That is the company's version. What has the Government to say in reply, or its representatives here, Messrs. Rothschild?

Last week's revenue measured by taxation alone was not particularly brilliant, only £1,488,000, and had it not been that the Post Office gave £600,000 and the telegraph service £200,000, part of its sweepings up, the outgoings would have much exceeded income from the ordinary sources of revenue. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, received £1,145,000 from his April Treasury bills and £200,000 net from re-issued Treasury accommodation bills, so that the total income for the week was £3,633,000, and all outgoings were met, including £723,000 on account of naval works, and £24,586 to the Cunard Company, leaving Bank balances augmented by £975,000. These balances, however, indicate that at the end of the week £370,000 of the borrowed money had already been dispersed.

We hope M. Gaston Dru, the able Petersburg correspondent of the *Echo de Paris*, is accurately informed about the coming rescript of the Tsar, for if what he says is true, it is the best news we have had from Russia for many a day. M. Dru declares that the Tsar, moved by a sense of duty, is disposed to make the imperial manifesto much more liberal than was at first intended. It is a manifesto designed to call into being a national assembly, and the original design was to give this representative body mere consultative powers, but the Tsar is now determined to bestow upon it the right to definitely reject proposed laws. He did not wish to sacrifice his country to the autocracy, and is resolved to summon the representatives of the nation to concert with him the measures to be taken for a renovation—his own word—which is necessary if Russia is to remain a great European Power. He is, therefore, resolved to see "if, among his emancipated people, he cannot find men capable of assisting him in securing for the empire a successful issue from its present crisis." Great as the risk of rebellion may be, we believe this to be a wise decision on the Tsar's part, and trust that M. Dru's forecast will be justified by the event. It is impossible to be quite sure, because Reuter's agent in Petersburg declares that of the eight drafts submitted to him, the Emperor selected that of M. Pobiedonostzeff, and that gentleman has never been guilty of any leanings towards liberalism in any form.

Good news comes from the Australian Commonwealth about the wool crop outlook. The Melbourne correspondent of the *Financial Times* says that splendid rains have fallen, that water is plentiful, and the food for stock in excess of requirements. So a large increase in the wool clip is looked for, and also in the quantity of sheep carcasses available for the meat market. On December 31 last the flocks of sheep in the Commonwealth were computed at 65,038,712 or 8,227,765 more than in the preceding year, and at the end of the current year the aggregate is expected to be about 75,000,000. Upon this basis the wool clip will run to over 1,400,000 bales against 1,219,000 in the wool season closed on June 30.

Most seasonable and apposite was that letter from Mr. James Pryce to Dr. Barth, editor of *Die Nation*. Quite a number of people in this country have lost their heads in contemplating Germany as a formidable rival and potential foe to England. They have raved about it in the Press and in magazines, brooded over Germany's capacity to strike, talked about schemes of invasion, bewailed or cursed over the projected increase in the imperial navy, and in all ways pro-

claimed their silliness in the sight of man. This would not have mattered if certain Germans had not answered in kind. Both sides went at it, slinging ink until the people afflicted with the rabies of patriotism in both countries seemed ready to fly at each other's throats. But the great mass of the English people had no share in all this outcry and clamour. England is not really hostile to Germany or to German progress, has no enmity whatever towards the empire or its people, and Mr. Bryce has proclaimed the truth. "Good relations between England and Germany," he said, "are never in question or should never come into question by a pretension having for its aim to prescribe limits to the German fleet of war. Such a presumption has altogether no place in the head of any normal Englishman." This is perfectly true. True also is Mr. Bryce's statement that "the Liberal party stands to-day firmly upon the ground which it has occupied throughout the last 60 years, the ground of Free Trade, peace, and goodwill among the nations." It is as ready to apply that policy to Germany as to any other country. Can it be true that at the bottom of all this hubbub there lies a personal squabble between our King and the Kaiser? Court gossip says so, and assigns various reasons for the tiff, some of them eminently personal. Whether this be so or not the Germans may rest assured that we as a people have no intention whatever of quarrelling with them.

We cannot subscribe to the sombre views current in most newspapers about the peace negotiations. It seems to us that quite remarkable progress has been made, and that the fight over Sakhalin and an indemnity is almost certain to end in a compromise, in virtue of which Russia will allow Japan to keep the island and Japan will give up her claim to be reimbursed the costs of the war. As we have always insisted, Japan is in no position to compel Russia to give her any money. Russia has been brilliantly defeated on land and sea, but she is not so beaten down as to lie helpless at the victor's mercy, and it would be the greatest unwisdom on the part of the Japanese to provoke the weary Titan to renew and prolong the war. Another campaign is what neither State can wish for or could stand, and therefore we believe the present negotiations will end in peace between them—a peace which may look more advantageous to Russia than the course of the war seems to warrant, or than the desires of the hot-headed fire-eating jingos everywhere will be gratified by, but none the less a peace that may save both countries from many calamities.

Assessments have been raised in Johannesburg, says the local correspondent of the *Financial Times*, to £33,000,000 on lands and £14,500,000 on buildings, an aggregate increase of £8,000,000 on the previous valuation, and "influential owners" state that they will be prepared to sell their properties at 10 per cent. below the ratable valuation rather than pay the increased assessment. Just so. Patriotism illustrated!

It is natural and to be expected that the unfortunate shareholders of Allsopp's Brewery should seize the opportunity afforded by the annual meeting to give vent to their wounded feelings, but we think they were wise on Thursday not to allow their indignation to outrun discretion. From the very beginning the business was loaded down with more capital than it could properly carry, and ever since proprietors have suffered grievously from the misdeeds of the men to whom they then entrusted their interests. Money was squandered in the most ruthless fashion, and the desire for revenge is easily understandable now, but we doubt if good would come from an attempt to reopen old sores at the present moment. The existing board is not responsible, and the brewing trade has been notoriously bad during the past year. Wherefore we counsel moderation until it is seen if better times will bring better luck. It is open to much doubt whether an entirely new set of directors would do any better, and under all the circumstances a helpful advisory committee is more likely to be productive of good than a violent upheaval.

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LIFE OFFICE.

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70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Total Assets exceed - £5,100,000.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $2\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent. on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Throughout the week money rates have been in a minute way unsettled. Towards the close of last week it looked as if short loan rates would harden up, but on Monday bill brokers met and disagreed about raising their deposit rates. They did nothing, so easy did the position look, and a sort of abundance of short credits lasted right over the Stock Exchange settlement payments on Wednesday. Yesterday, though, a sudden demand sprang up, and the discount houses in a flurry met and raised their deposit rates by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Joint-stock banks who had to be content with $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. early in the week on seven-day loans got 2 per cent., and call money rose to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. To-day all this has once more changed, and bill brokers are now lamenting that they put up their rates yesterday, for the Japanese Government agents have thrown £2,000,000 of their balances lying idle at the Bank of England into the short loan market. This swamped rates until call loans were offering this afternoon at 1 per cent. and never fetched more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Week to week money also fell to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. with the banks and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the open market. The India Council, however, got 2 per cent. on some month to month renewals.

Discount has closely followed the ups and downs of short loan rates, one hour hard and the next feeble, but, generally speaking, three months' bank bills have been discounted at from $1\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Yesterday brokers tried to get 2 per cent. and sometimes succeeded, but even amid the fright of scarcity $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was the ruling quotation. Bills are said to have been less plentiful, although the supply of American paper continues unusually good. The flood of Japanese money was availed of this afternoon by holders of bills to try and place them at $1\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., but most of the leading discount houses resisted, and as the banks continue to stand out of the market, while the Paris cheque anew gives them an excuse to refuse to work at fine rates, there seems little probability of $1\frac{3}{8}$ becoming a generally effective quotation. We, however, call the two and three months' bill rate $1\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., as there was certainly no 2 per cent. actual quotation this afternoon.

The French exchange being then well above gold exporting, the Bank of England got all the bar gold that came into the market on Monday, but it may not be able to pick up the £350,000 to be disposed of next week, for the Paris cheque is now weaker, indicating that competition from that quarter may be renewed. We shall doubtless, in any event, see a variety of drafts upon the Bank's stock between now and the end of the year, so that prolonged cheapness in the credit market is not by any means assured. Such incidents as a flooding of the market by Japanese loan balances must not be taken as evidence that steady ease can be reckoned on.

Another £500,000 has been added to the amount of Treasury bills to be renewed next week, £2,000,000 falling due and £2,500,000 being about to be issued. This brings the total of the floating debt in this form back to where it stood before that £2,000,000 was paid off on May 13 last, and what the Treasury is wanting the money for nobody quite knows. Perhaps there will again be competition between the Bank of Eng-

land and the Japanese Government as to which shall pay the highest price for this accommodation paper. The market cannot take six months' bills under 2 per cent., and not with safety at that.

The weekly Bank return gave something to the market to talk about, as it showed an increase of £1,660,000 in Government securities, accompanied by an expansion of £1,783,000 in public deposits. This was taken to mean that the Bank and not the India Council had bought the bulk of the last issue of renewed Treasury bills. It could not have meant investing in Consols or other Government securities, because in that case the increase under this head would have been accompanied by an expansion in other deposits. These were up a little, but only to the extent of £858,000, and that was, thanks to a return of currency from circulation and to a small increase in other securities, through market borrowings.

SILVER.

The market has been very firm, and prices have gone steadily ahead throughout the week, the final figures showing gains of no less than $\frac{1}{2}$ d. at 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for cash and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. at 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for future delivery. In face of very restricted supplies, inquiries have come from all parts, Russia, China, and India, both the Indian Government and the bazaars being in the market. As a result, a fraction has been added to quotations practically every day, to-day's advance being $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for spot and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for two months' forward. It was said that "bears" were freely covering on fears that the Indian purchases would be on an increased scale, but after the sharp rise the market closed rather sellers. Council drafts for Rs.70,00,000 were offered on Wednesday, the applications for bills being Rs.6,30,45,000, and for telegraphic transfers Rs.95,00,000. In bills the allotment was Rs.63,32,000, and in transfers Rs.6,68,000, tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. respectively receiving about 7 per cent. Next week Rs.80,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 16, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	53,233,405	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	34,733,405
		Silver Bullion	—
	£53,233,405		£53,233,405

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	18,675,814
Reserve	3,458,782	Other Securities	29,508,479
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	43,954,016	Notes	23,746,410
Other Deposits	11,688,344	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,795,898
Seven Day and other Bills ..	72,459		
	£73,726,601		£73,726,601

Dated August 17, 1905.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Aug. 17.		Aug. 9, 1905.	Aug. 16, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,503,418	Rest	3,428,403	3,458,782	30,379	—
6,528,913	Pub. Deposits ..	9,905,595	11,688,344	1,782,749	—
40,231,792	Other do. ..	43,096,343	43,954,016	857,673	—
99,251	7 Day Bills ..	89,069	72,459	—	16,610
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
14,234,402	Gov. Securities ..	17,069,815	18,675,814	—	1,605,999
25,049,787	Other do. ..	29,194,521	29,508,479	—	313,958
25,632,185	Total Reserve ..	24,808,074	25,543,308	—	1,734,234
				2,670,801	2,670,801
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
28,589,080	Note Circulation ..	29,939,255	29,486,995	—	452,260
35,771,195	Coin and Bullion ..	36,297,329	36,579,303	281,974	—
54 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	Proportion	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	—	$\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £44,000 out.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Aug. 3.	Aug. 10.	Aug. 15.	Aug. 17.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'13	12'13	12'13	12'13
Do. do.	3 months	12'35	12'35	12'35	12'35
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'36	25'35	25'36	25'36
Hamburg	3 months	20'61	20'62	20'61	20'61
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'62	20'62	20'61	20'61
Paris	cheques	25'16	25'16	25'18	25'18
Do.	3 months	25'28	25'28	25'30	25'30
Marseilles	3 months	25'30	25'28	25'30	25'30
Switzerland	3 months	25'40	25'40	25'41	25'42
Austria	3 months	24'25	24'25	24'25	24'26
St. Petersburg	3 months	24'2	24'2	24'2	24'2
Moscow	3 months	24'2	24'2	24'2	24'2
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'41	25'42	25'43	25'43
New York	60 days	48	48	48	48
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35'1	35	35	35
Lisbon	3 months	49	49	50	50
Oporto	3 months	49	49	50	50
Copenhagen	3 months	18'39	18'39	18'39	18'41
Christiania	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'41
Stockholm	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'41

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended Aug. 12.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement
Suez Canal Drawn Bonds ..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Shares..	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£3,633,000	£3,633,000

* Exclusive of £40,074 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £2,711,570.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148	94,657,000	—
Week ending				
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
	7,813,761,000	6,639,342,000	1,174,419,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England, on Monday next, for Treasury bills to the amount of £2,500,000, of which £2,000,000 will be in replacement of bills falling due on August 27, and £500,000 in further part replacement of bills paid off on May 13. The bills will be dated August 26, and mature six months after date.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 27	2 2 10
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	—	Jan. 27	—
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
20,133,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday, Bars	Wednesday, S. America ..
Tuesday, Bars	Friday, Batavia
Wednesday, Bars	Net Influx
Thursday, Bars	
Friday, Bars	
Total	Total

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'17	25'17	Antwerp	short	25'19	25'19
Brussels	chqs.	25'18	25'18	Italy	sight	25'14	25'15
Amsterdam	sight	12'07	12'07	Constantinople	3 mths	110 05	110 07
Berlin	chqs.	20'47	20'46	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	178 3d.	178 3d.
Do.	3 mths	20'36	20'35	Valparaiso	90 dys	158 3d.	158 3d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'46	20'45	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4 3/4	1/4 3/4
Frankfort	short	20'46	20'45	Bombay	T.T.	1/4 3/4	1/4 3/4
Vienna	sight	24'01	24'00	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/10 1/2	1/11 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'30	94'30	Shanghai	T.T.	2/7 1/2	2/8 1/2
New York	60 dys	4'84	4'84	Singapore	4 mths	2/0 1/2	2/0 1/2
Lisbon	sight	50 1/2	50 1/2	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0 1/2	2/0 1/2
Madrid	sight	33'25	33'23				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

Place.	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Berlin	3	February 25, 1905	2	2
Hamburg	3	February 25, 1905	2	2
Frankfort	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2	2 1/2
Amsterdam	2 1/2	March, 1905	2 1/2	2 1/2
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2 1/2	2 1/2
Vienna	3 1/2	February 3, 1902	3 1/2	3 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	3 1/2	3 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2	7 1/2
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	3 1/2	3 1/2
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	4 1/2	4 1/2
Stockholm	4 1/2	February, 1905	4	4
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4	4
Calcutta	4	August 17, 1905	—	—
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	—	—
New York call money	2	—	—	—

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Aug. 15, 1905.	Aug. 7, 1905.	July 31, 1905.	Aug. 15, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£46,824,208	£46,793,041	£46,806,500	£48,265,625
Silver reserve	12,688,916	12,723,916	12,860,166	12,543,583
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,747,041	1,763,083	1,759,541	1,744,288
Note circulation ..	66,209,833	66,978,333	68,183,208	68,986,083
Bills discounted ..	13,289,875	13,690,833	14,520,041	12,791,708

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 10, 1905.	Aug. 3, 1905.	July 27, 1905.	Aug. 11, 1904.
Coin and bullion ..	£4,724,560	£4,919,920	£4,695,040	£4,569,080
Other securities ..	22,784,020	23,282,040	23,701,800	21,097,560
Note circulation ..	26,654,120	26,441,280	26,699,760	25,388,160
Deposits	3,008,680	3,954,360	2,874,480	2,499,680

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Aug. 12, 1905.	Aug. 5, 1905.	July 29, 1905.	Aug. 13, 1904.
Specie	£44,278,000	£44,420,000	£44,966,000	£55,370,000
Legal tenders	17,624,000	17,868,200	18,082,400	16,532,000
Loans and discounts	227,978,000	229,240,000	228,960,000	219,300,000
Circulation	10,094,000	9,898,000	9,761,000	7,658,800
Net deposits	237,332,000	239,420,000	239,940,000	241,420,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,570,000 against an excess last week of £2,433,200.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 15, 1905.	Aug. 7, 1905.	July 31, 1905.	Aug. 13, 1904.
Cash in hand	£48,174,000	£47,462,850	£48,042,850	£46,864,600
Bills discounted ..	42,741,050	43,047,950	45,240,000	37,490,100
Advances on stocks	3,396,550	3,061,000	3,461,950	2,971,850
Note circulation ..	63,280,150	64,717,700	66,001,950	61,166,750
Public deposits ..	28,180,950	24,204,750	25,929,550	27,352,350

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 12, 1905.	Aug. 5, 1905.	July 29, 1905.	Aug. 13, 1904.
Gold	£14,900,513	£14,894,727	£14,879,754	£14,673,272
Silver	22,318,743	22,286,288	22,487,212	20,260,731
Foreign Bills	1,793,811	1,750,012	1,729,509	1,584,402
Discount and Short Bills	45,957,320	45,899,437	45,887,293	38,431,166
Treasury Account ..	21,188,635	21,221,628	21,196,564	21,936,643
Notes in circulation	63,137,460	63,322,991	62,977,204	65,734,377
Current account deposits	22,991,295	22,870,543	23,035,602	26,045,173
Dividends Interests ..	2,711,495	3,060,891	3,036,682	2,423,288
Government Securities	4,187,144	4,175,070	4,245,700	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 17, 1905.	Aug. 10, 1905.	Aug. 3, 1905.	Aug. 18, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand ..	118,455,600	118,242,960	117,455,320	107,876,520
Silver in hand ..	44,332,680	44,405,160	44,395,600	44,861,120
Bills discounted ..	19,285,760	19,071,080	26,681,400	21,343,360
Advances ..	18,678,720	18,861,680	19,160,320	19,882,120
Note circulation ..	171,308,560	172,255,640	177,107,400	165,870,400
Public deposits ..	11,894,360	10,376,480	9,005,480	8,509,280
Private deposits ..	22,914,160	23,754,040	24,437,240	25,039,000

Proportion between bullion and circulation 95½ per cent., against 94½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 23, Aug. 5, 1905.	June 8/21, 1905.	July 1/14, 1905.	July 23/Aug. 5, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	91,945,165	92,090,846	91,895,618	84,621,376
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	5,740,363	5,847,125	5,908,860	8,625,064
Advances and bills discounted ..	34,613,993	35,075,157	35,577,019	37,909,143
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	5,728,430	5,444,058	5,696,976	4,482,751
Notes in circulation ..	94,182,012	93,418,323	92,396,549	68,801,354
Deposits and current account ..	55,510,305	55,839,994	53,665,925	48,785,394
Treasury account ..	7,425,847	7,315,230	9,993,458	26,597,827

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	1½-1½
Three months ..	1½-1½
Four months ..	2-2
Six months ..	2-2
Three months fine inland bills ..	2-2
Four months ..	2-2
Six months ..	2-2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	2½
" short loan rates ..	3
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	1½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	1½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	1½
" for call loans ..	1-1½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Markets have been wonderfully good this week in every direction short of the Kaffir Circus, and there we can only say that the harvest is being reaped whose ripening we have so long foretold. It is a market falling in upon itself, and one day some of the mushroom finance houses by whom it was brought into being and to whose boundless rapacity its present position is chiefly due will get their reward. We shall see sensational bankruptcies amongst them before all is over, and those shareholders who had the sense and courage to take the advice given by us long ago and clear out will never have cause to regret having done so. Whether the people still in the Maelstrom should try to escape just at this moment or not is a hard point to determine. Inside the Stock Exchange there seems to be a considerable "bear" account open, and there may still be strength enough amongst the controlling houses to so work prices as to punish these "bears." Short of a contingency of that kind, however, there is nothing to lift the market, for it is a plundered market in all senses, and the increase in the output of gold does not mean increased profit in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred. In the hundredth case, moreover, it is the bosses who get most of the profit, not the outside shareholder.

People have been buying Home Railway ordinary stocks recently, even insurance companies, and they are perhaps right on the short view, but they are certainly not right if the purchases are meant as permanent investments. However, as long as money remains cheap, some portion of the people's savings will flow into these stocks, and the purchases may show temporary profit, so we have nothing special to say under that head. Nor can there be much said about the Yankee Railroad market, which sails away into the empyrean as if it would never come down again. It is, however, a satisfaction to us to be able still to testify to the indifference of the speculative British public to what Wall Street does. It is not playing. The game is in the hands of the great houses, principally in the United States, but also here. They buy their tens of thousands of shares where the little man used to buy his fifties and hundreds, and as long as

the gamble affects only such it does not concern us much. An immense wave of prosperity is said to be about to burst over the United States, has already lifted the iron and steel trades to the threshold of a period of unexampled prosperity, and the grain and cotton crops have been mortgaged to European bankers before they have been cut or gathered both in the United States and in Canada. It is all right, however, as long as the financial structure reared upon hopes and expectations of this kind does not break down at any point. The Yankee market is none the less a market in the air, and if we held any of these shares, even such good ones as Pennsylvanias or Illinois Central, we should be unable to resist the temptation to sell on the giddy market. It is a wise rule to let the masters of finance have your scrip when they are exhausting all the devices known to them to persuade you to take theirs at the highest prices ever seen.

The Week's Stock Markets.

"Waiting for peace." That seems a fair description of the Stock Exchange at the present moment. Dealers have apparently quite made up their minds that the plenipotentiaries at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, will finally come to agreement, and not without reason perhaps, and have therefore been in decidedly cheerful mood. Trade, too, was a little more active in some of the speculative sections, and there is still a very fair volume of investment business following the disbursement of the dividends, but really lively markets are not to be expected while the question of peace or war remains in suspense, because professional optimism does not necessarily mean public enthusiasm. Moreover, the settlement of the 19-day account carried through this week had a restrictive influence, although everything was adjusted with the greatest ease. Bankers charged 2½ per cent. as a rule for loans, but, as usual, the rate was sometimes a little above this figure and occasionally rather below. The gilt-edged market can be described as firm, since quotations where they moved were all better. Consols touched 90½ for money closing slightly beneath the best, and other British Funds, like Annuities, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per cent. and India sterling issues ended some fractions higher. In Home County and Corporation stocks little or nothing went on, but Croydon 3 per cent., Leeds 2½ per cent. and Newcastle 3½ per cent. all added 1. On the other hand the Colonial Inscribed list was rather busy, a good deal of dividend money seeking investment, and a large number of stocks were ½ to 2 better.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 ¹¹ / ₁₆	87 ¹ / ₂	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	90 ¹ / ₂	90 ¹ / ₂
91 ¹¹ / ₁₆	87 ¹ / ₂	Do. Account (Sept. 1) ..	90 ¹ / ₂	90 ¹ / ₂
90 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂
100 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
95 ¹ / ₂	89	Irish Land (2½) ..	92 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂
101	96 ¹ / ₂	Local Loans (3) ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
99 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	99	99
99 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	Do. Account (Sept. 1) ..	99	99
101 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
308	297	Bk. of England Stock (9 p.c.) ..	301 ¹ / ₂	301 ¹ / ₂
109	105	India 5½ p.c. Stk. red. 1931 ..	105 ¹ / ₂	105 ¹ / ₂
99 ¹ / ₂	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948 ..	97 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂
85 ¹ / ₂	80 ¹ / ₂	Do. 2½ p.c. Stk. red. 1926 ..	82	82
66 ¹ / ₂	65 ¹ / ₂	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66 ¹ / ₂	66 ¹ / ₂

The Paris and Brussels bourses were closed early in the week, a circumstance which rendered dealing in Foreign Government bonds rather narrow, but the feeling is gradually gaining ground that peace is near, and the market, although quiet, was firm. A rather notable incident was the strength of Argentine issues on a statement that the conversion scheme has been virtually abandoned, and that only the 6 per cent. issues are to be paid off. This led to some little activity in the 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. issues with results decidedly favourable to prices. A helpful influence was the ready sale of a large issue of Treasury bonds, £2,000,000 at 4 per cent. with coupon attached

and repayable at any time. Other South American loans were also hard, including Peruvian Corporation stocks, but the Central American group was rather neglected. Trade was not very free in Japanese loans, but prices were well maintained as a rule, and Continental issues shared the general tendency, Spanish, Turkish, Portuguese and Russians all finishing fractionally better. Norway 3 per cent. added $\frac{1}{4}$ by way of welcome to the decisive voting on the question of separation from Sweden. Chinese bonds rarely moved. Continuation charges were if anything easier than ever, and very little money could be profitably employed in this section. All leading South American things, along with Peruvian debentures and Chinese and Japanese, were carried on at 2 to 4 per cent., and Peruvian ordinary and preferred and Uruguays cost 4 to 6 per cent. as well as the principal Central American stocks like Colombian, Guatemalan, Honduras, Paraguay and Venezuelan. On Turkish and Russian the rate was "even" to 1 per cent., Italian "even" to 2, Spanish 2 to 3 per cent. and Portuguese 3 to 5 per cent. The making-up list again revealed a majority of improvements, but nothing of a very startling nature. The Greek loans did best with gains of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$, Guatemalan advanced $2\frac{1}{2}$, Perus $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{8}$, Portuguese $1\frac{1}{2}$, Russian Nicholas $1\frac{1}{2}$, Uruguay 5 per cent. 3, San Paulo, 1904, $1\frac{1}{2}$, Chilian, 1886, $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Argentine $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Internal, Brazil, 1883, and Cuban 5 per cent. each 1. No other improvement reached the round figure, while the only declines to mention are $2\frac{1}{2}$ in Bulgarian, 1888, 2 in Brazil, 1895, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the Chinese Imperial Railway loan and 1 in Argentine Northern Central Railway and Costa Rica "A" and "B," frequently due to dividend deductions.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	101	101
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	102	102
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
92	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
104	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	89	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	100	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
89	82	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
95	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	95	95
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	96
96	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	95
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	101
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	95	95
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	105	105
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	104	104
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
106	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	104	104
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	53	53	53
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	43	43	43
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$
107	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	104	104
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	89
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
55	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
54	47	54	54	54
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	100
102	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	104	104
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	69	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
87	76	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	100	102	102	102
105	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	104	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90
73 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71
97	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
50 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$

Rather more interest was taken in the Home Railway market, but it was by professionals only, the public still being indisposed to take a hand. The "heavy" stocks were the principal favourites, North-Western, Great Western, Berwick and Midland, as well as Leeds and York deferred all rallying smartly in the middle of the week, but in the absence of outside support top prices could not be maintained. Scotch

stocks, too, were better on buying from Glasgow before the dividend announcements, but the passenger lines were rather flat, particularly Brighton "A," the traffics being considered disappointing. Underground issues were slightly better, particularly the steam roads. Carry-over rates on Monday were light enough, none of the more solid things like North-Western, Great Western, North-Eastern, and Midland costing more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In many other cases the charge was 4 per cent., and occasionally as little as 3 per cent., but stocks like Caledonian and South-Western deferred and District paid from 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. That, however, was quite a top figure, and it is evident that there is no extensive account open for the rise in this department. Changes during the 19 days, indeed, were never very large, and frequently the wrong way, but the declines were nearly always due to dividend deductions. Brighton ordinary and preferred fell 3 and $3\frac{1}{2}$, Great Eastern $2\frac{1}{2}$, Hulls and Leeds $1\frac{1}{2}$, Central London deferred, Chatham seconds, City and South London, and South-Eastern ordinary 1, and a good half-dozen others $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$. On the other hand, Brums added $2\frac{1}{2}$, Midland deferred and North British ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$, and North-Eastern and Taff Vale 1. There were a few further gains of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	137	134	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	134
165	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	156	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	156
131 $\frac{1}{2}$	118	119	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	119
120	111	112	Caledonian Ord. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	112
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (3 p.c.) ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	91	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
17 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
62	51	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
34 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	34	Do. Def. (1) ..	34
145 $\frac{1}{2}$	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	138	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	138 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	52	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	44
112 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
71	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
70	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	64	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	64 $\frac{1}{2}$
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	135	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Eastern (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	135 $\frac{1}{2}$
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	147 $\frac{1}{2}$	151	North-Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	151 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	86	85	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
134	123	123	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	124
58 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	53	Do. Def. ..	53
171	156	161	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	160 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	109
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	55

Unlike our own the American public is said to be showing an increasing interest in Yankee railroad shares, and, needless to say, the professionals are not slow to seize their opportunity. Manipulation of a particularly clever kind is going on just now, profit taking in one direction being invariably covered by demonstrative buying in another, so that the market always appears buoyant, and prices are steadily moved forward in the most tempting fashion. Should unfavourable reports come along of the yellow fever outbreak in the south, then Louisvilles are vigorously bid for, just to show that these things are of no consequence at all, and the public can always be trusted to forget anything disagreeable if a dollar rise is placed alongside it. Besides, it is confidently whispered that all the "big" people are on the "bull" side, certain to put things higher, crops being splendid, and peace assured. With slight variation the same kind of story is circulated when any collapse takes place, "bound to rally, you know, after such a fall," and as a section of the public is evidently in the mood to have a flutter despite the giddy height prices have already attained, they may as well be left alone to risk their money and probably lose it. It is not worth while to follow the ups and downs, which day's prices opened strong or dull, what Wall Street did in the afternoon, or how the street market behaved itself, and we will content ourselves by mentioning some of the prime favourites.

of the week, such as Missouri, Unions, Southern Pacific, Reading, Eries, Chesapeake, Illinois, and New York Central. These may be among the first to react when the time comes, and we are confidently assured that most of the professionals here are very anxious to go on the "bear tack," but are deterred by the possibilities of peace, which, if it comes, would doubtless be used as a lever to bulge prices out a bit further. A dangerous market to touch just now, without a doubt. The violent rise at the end of last week caused the making up list to record some rather sensational improvements, Great Northern preferred stock taking the lead with a gain of 20. Illinois was up 10½, New York Central and Northern Pacific 9 each, Milwaukee 5½, Union Pacific 5, Atchison common 4½, Steel preferred 4½, Missouri 4½, Chesapeake 4, Reading 3½, New York Ontario 3½, B. and O. 3, Louisville and Southern 2½, Erie common and second preference 2½, Pennsylvania, Southern Pacific, and Steel ordinary each 2½, and a host of others from ½ to 2. Naturally enough such advances could not have been brought about without a considerable increase in the "bull account," and a good deal of money was wanted to carry the load, the general contango rate ranging between 3 and 4 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4)	90½	93½
107½	102	Do. Pref. (5)	106	107
118½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	118½	117½xd
101½	97½	Do. Pref. (4)	101	100½xd
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1)	56½	59½
171½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7)	187	191
38	27½	Denver Shares	33½	36
93½	85½	Do. Pref. (5)	89½	92½
49½	38½	Erie Shares	49½	49½
87½	77½	Do. Pref. (4)	86½	85½xd
78½	56½	Do. 2nd Pref.	77	77
176½	156	Illinois Central (6)	179½	183½
158½	140½	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	151½xd	155
34	24½	Missouri and Texas	30½	34½
169½	140½	New York Central (5)	153	160½
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3)	88½	89
96	94	Do. Pref. (4)	96	94½xd
65½	41½	Ontario Shares	54½	57½
76½	67½	Pennsylvania (6)	73½	75
55½	40½	Reading Shares	55½	58
48	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4)	48	48
48	43½	Do. 2nd Pref. (3)	47	47
74	59½	Southern Pacific	67½	70½
38½	28½	Southern	36½	36½
103½	97½	Do. Pref. (5)	102	102
140½	116½	Union Pacific (4)	135½	140½
102½	98½	Do. Pref. (4)	100½	100½
24½	16½	Wabash	20	22
49½	37½	Do. Pref.	41½	45
86½	69½	Do. Income Debs.	73	75
161	133	Canadian Pacific (6)	160½	164½
108½	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	108	108
111	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	109½	109½
23½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk.	22½	23½
102½	99	Do. Guar. (4)	102½	102½
114½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	111½	112½
104½	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	102½	104½
55½	46½	Do. 3rd Pref.	51½	55½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	108½	109

The Grand Trunk dividend announced at the end of last week clearly satisfied all parties, and the improvement in prices which followed the announcement has been easily maintained. Traffics for the second week of August were not quite up to expectation, showing a gain of £6,300 against the estimate of £8,000 to £10,000, but quotations merely advanced further when the figures came out, and evidently the "bull" party is a strong one. Canadian Pacifics, however, have shown some hesitation. They were strong at the start, being run up to 165½, but although no one really looked for a higher dividend than the 3 per cent. announced, the revenue statement did not appear altogether pleasant, and the market seemed rather out of heart. There was news of a bad landslip to face as well, but after being knocked back to 164 the quotation rallied again, and may yet see some of the fabulous figures predicted for it. Are we not assured that the company's land alone is equal in value to the ordinary capital? Quebec Central income bonds received some attention this week, going to par on the prediction that 5 per cent. will be paid for the current year, and also on a story that both the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific are after the line. That is improbable, at any rate for the present, but the Canadian Pacific is supposed to have been a buyer of the shares lately at

about 6. They are now 8½. Quebec and Lake St. John income debentures and prior lien bonds were also in some request. Thanks to the good dividend announcement previously referred to making-up prices for Grand Trunk securities were all better, the thirds being up no less than 3, with gains of 2½ in the seconds, 1½ in the first, 1 in the guaranteed, and ¾ in the ordinary. Canadian Pacific shares, however, topped all these with a jump of 6½, although in this case it is dollars as compared with pounds in Trunks, and under the circumstances contango rates could not be considered excessive at 4 to 4½ per cent., the higher figure prevailing on Trunk ordinary.

Foreign Railway stocks are all the rage just now, and considering the time of year the market was decidedly active. Practically everything of a leading kind went up in the Argentine group, the principal advances being seen in Argentine Great Western and Pacific ordinary stocks—an amalgamation story, by no means improbable, helped these two—Rosario ordinary and deferred, and Great Southern and Western ordinary issues, while amongst the lesser lights Transandine debenture stock, Cordoba and Rosario, and Villa Maria preference and Entre Rios ordinary and preference all had substantial gains. In other directions old favourites like Antofagasta ordinary and deferred, United of Havana ordinary, and Leopoldina, the last helped by an excellent traffic, all went steadily forward, and nothing of the slightest importance ended lower on the week. Mexicans were firm but rather neglected.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
221	128	Antofagasta (10)	212	218½
319	144½	Do. Def. (15)	317½	319½
126	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6)	116½	126
130	113½	Do. Pref. (5)	123	130
84	77	Bahia Blanca Pref.	84	84
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	143	143
130½	127	Do. Pref. (5)	130	130½
134	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	130	134
115½	108½	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	116½	116
109½	99½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	108	109
111½	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	109½	111½
108	92½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	101½	103½
169	161	Do. Deferred (6)	166	169
109	103½	Do. Pref. Stk. (7)	108½	109
137	126½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	134½	137
90	79	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6)	88	86
109	110	Central Uruguay (3)	108	109
94	88	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	92½	93
70	58	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	66	67
35½	28½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	28½	29½
7	5½	Costa Rica (1)	6	6½
12½	10½	Cuban Central	12	12
107½	104½	Do. Pref. (5½)	105½	106
90½	72	Do. Deb. (4½)	88	87
62	5	East Argentine (4½)	5½	6½
75	50½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	69½	75
96½	86½	Leopoldina (3)	94	94½
110½	108	Do. Deb. (4)	109	109
108	104½	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	106	106
29½	19½	Do. "B" (6)	24½	25
121½	103½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	115½	116
57	36½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	40½	48½
69½	48½	Do. 2nd Pref.	54	54
14½	10½	Mexican Southern (2½)	14½	15
198	164	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	18½	19
204	178	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	201½	204
181	122	San Paulo Brazilian (12)	176	181
		United of Havana Ord. Stock ..		

Antofagasta ordinary stock led another long list of improvements during the account, the gain being no less than 16, and further advances have occurred since, as already intimated. United of Havana ordinary stock had a rise of 8, San Paulo rose 6 along with Argentine Great Western ordinary and Cordoba and Rosario income debentures. Buenos Ayres and Pacific was 4 higher, Buenos Ayres Western ordinary, Central Uruguay of Monte Video, Cordoba and Rosario 6 per cent. debentures, Uruguay Northern, and Costa Rica second debentures all added 3, and Entre Rios preference put on 2½. Other gains which might be mentioned were 2½ in Mexican first preference, 2 each in Argentine Great Western first debentures, Buenos Ayres and Rosario deferred and Uruguay Northern preference stock, 1½ in Guayaquil and Quito bonds, and 1½ in Argentine Great Western preference, Rosario 4 per cent. debentures, Buenos Ayres Great Southern preference, Buenos Ayres Western debentures, Cordoba Central first and second preference and income debenture stock, East Argentine stock, and

Leopoldina ordinary, the rest following with improvements of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$. The only notable decline was one of 2 in Buenos Ayres and Pacific first preference, due, however, to the payment of the dividend. On all South American stocks and shares the contango was 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and on Mexicans just 1 per cent. more.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	Allsopp Ordinary	18	17
71	44	—	City of London Ord.	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20)	530	530
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20)	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	51	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	52	49 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
35	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	100	100xd
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$)	60	64
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aerated Bread (30)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	24/6	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
39	28	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6
112	99	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12 $\frac{1}{2}$)	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
52	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	10/3	Calico Printers Ordinary (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
502 $\frac{1}{2}$	483 $\frac{1}{2}$	495	Coats Ordinary (20)	495	495
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	13/3	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	495	495
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	20/6	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nill)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	Henley's Telegraph (15)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	26/4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
111	106	108	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	108	108
1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	20/9	Do. Debenture (42)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
63 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lipton Ordinary (7)	58	58
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	23/6	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Russian Petroleum (5)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
15	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	8/6	Savoy Hotel (5)	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sweetmeat Automatic	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Short's Deterred Ordinary (10)	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/1) ..	71	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (12)	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Debentures (6)	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Discount (10)	9xd	9
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Discount (11)	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	102	100xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	132	130xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7 $\frac{1}{2}$)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3)	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	United States Steel Ordinary ..	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	Do. Preference (7)	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
128 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers Ordinary (12 $\frac{1}{2}$)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Cunard Steam	12	12
231	214 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	225 $\frac{1}{2}$	226 $\frac{1}{2}$
35	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Royal Mail	35	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	—	—
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ordinary (5)	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
178	10	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Anglo-American Telegraph—	—	—
247 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	144	Do. Pref. Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	105 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	106
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	Do. Def. Ord.	138	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	106	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	143 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	147 $\frac{1}{2}$	Eastern Extension (7)	14	14
104	—	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
87 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Western Telephone (7)	14	14
129	110	—	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	84xd	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	84	82
—	—	—	London General Omnibus (b)	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	124 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	—	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	92	10

Rather more trade went on in the Miscellaneous markets, and with few exceptions prices showed a disposition to improve. Hudson's Bay shares were once more taken in hand, and advanced steadily to 74 $\frac{1}{2}$, but profit-taking sent the price back again before the end. Argentine land shares of all descriptions, too, again came into favour, and the various Chinese land and exploration things marked moderate advances. London Docks preferred and deferred steadily recovered, Royal Mails were good in the Shipping list, and South Metropolitan Gas had a sharp rise. Gas Light stock was likewise in some request, but the deduction of the dividend again sent the quotation below par. Anglo-American Telegraph deferred attracted a good deal of speculation, and Telephone preferred and deferred readily responded to moderate inquiries. London Road Car shares continue a good market, and London United Tramway preference shares again reached par, but London Generals rested as before and British Electric Traction continue heavy. Catering companies' issues on the whole were steady, with Aerateds rather good; but

in the Brewery section it was almost impossible to sell Allsopps' stocks, and prices tumbled violently all round. Associated Cement preference rose rapidly, but soon fell back again, and a good deal of uncertainty is still felt regarding the forthcoming dividend announcement. Iron and Steel descriptions were firm and Textiles steady, Calico Printers being but little affected by the dividend of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with £50,000 to capital reserve, £12,500 for extra depreciation, and £131,400 carried forward. Nitrate shares were higher when they moved, and there were small improvements in Brunner Mond's, Bell's Asbestos, and Dalgetys. Spratts' Patent and Schweppes deferred ended lower. Carry-over charges ranged from 5 to about 8 per cent. as a rule, and the making-up list revealed few very striking movements. Declines of 3 and 6 were noticeable in Allsopps preference and debenture stocks, 2 in Watney Combe preferred, 3 in Eastern Telegraph ordinary stock, and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 in National Telephone preferred and deferred. On the other hand, Watney Combe first preference and debentures rose 2 and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, Hudson's Bays 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Pekin Syndicate 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Continental bourses keep strong amid the wobbings of some parts of the London market and of Wall Street. This may be taken to signify unshaken belief in the certainty that peace will ensue from the negotiations now going on in Portsmouth, N.H. Our Home markets have also been steady enough to-day, and the new Japanese scrip left off about the best, but as tomorrow is a Stock Exchange holiday the amount of business done was quite insignificant everywhere. Kaffir shares were firm at one time in the morning, but closed dull, the continent being disposed to sell, and the news about the Wolhuter mine being anything but pleasant. The public, too, unloads, and the weakness extended to-night to all parts of the Mining market. Yankee railroad shares also weakened a bit at the close. It cracks the muscles of the neck to look up at them.

No internal convulsions, we trust, will follow the disclosure that the National Government of Argentina has for years hid away a debt of upwards of \$50,000,000 paper owed by it to the National Hypothecary Bank, whose assets and liabilities it assumed. The Buenos Ayres correspondent of the *Financial Times* says the disclosures connected with the discovery of this hitherto concealed and unadmitted debt "compromise the Government very seriously." We hope not. After all, the Government is able to pay, although the La Plata lands mortgaged by the Provincial Government to the National Bank may be worthless.

Mather and Platt, Limited.

This powerful and progressive business probably suffered a little last year from the general trade depression and the acute competition in the electrical engineering trades. These influences forced back the profits by some £20,000, but they were still excellent at £95,537, and the financial position is so strong that there is no occasion to make shareholders suffer for what we hope is merely a temporary set-back, due to the "backwash" of the war, and a general depression, only now beginning to give indications of passing away. Moreover, it can be recalled that a year ago the directors reported an improvement in profits of £31,245, so that last year's achievement easily maintains the average. Balance brought in was £15,701, making £111,239, of which the directors distribute just £60,000 in providing the preference dividend, and giving the ordinary shareholders a 7 per cent. dividend and a 3 per cent. bonus, or 10 per cent. in all, the same as for 1903-4. Then £30,000 or £20,000 less is added to reserve, while the carry forward is lifted substantially to £21,239. The balance-sheet is pleasant to contemplate, and can be said to be without a weak spot, which is the kind of certificate we are able to give to very few companies. Capital outlay in the year was fairly important, and after allow-

ing for depreciation, the property account stands higher by £20,463 at £619,443, a very modest sum surely considering the fine profits earned. Not only that, but the reserve account now reaches £230,000, practically the whole of it accumulated from profits, and largely represented by first-rate investments and cash, which amount to £48,976 and £71,919 respectively. The position of the trading account is just as satisfying, creditors being only £83,967, against debtors of £304,062, and the stock-in-trade of £128,805 completes a balance-sheet total of £1,173,205.

More Frenzied Finance.

Mr. T. W. Lawson has always been strongest on gas. His long-drawn-out tale of Amalgamated became wearisome now and then, in spite of the squib and cracker qualities of much of Mr. Lawson's rhetoric, and at several critical junctures when a piece of questionable or downright bad morality had to be explained away or neatly phrased over, the writer's tendency to grow unctuous induced a feeling in the reader's mind akin to nausea. Again and again the plans of the Rockefeller-Rogers knot of financial *condottieri* were altered in order to secure for them larger and still larger "piles" of dollars, charmed out of the pockets of the public by fraudulent expedients framed with a perfect freedom from moral scruples, and again and again the true, manly, righteous, straightforward Lawson acquiesced and submitted even to the carrying out his part in the plot. In reading such episodes as the substitution of one group of properties for another, or the devices fallen upon to falsify the subscriptions to the share capital of the Amalgamated Copper Company, one felt nearly always that there was a true truth somewhere hid away which Mr. Lawson's epithet-slinging half-truths served, perhaps, to suggest now and then, but really to conceal. He would perhaps reply that being among thieves he had to do as they did or perish, and there is validity in the plea doubtless.

This would certainly appear to be a valid excuse for his dealings with Boston Gas. He is at home there, though, and by testimony other than his own, is admitted to have done no small service to his moneyed fellow citizens in exposing more than one impudent swindle. The latest of these swindles dealt with consisted in an attempt of the Standard Oilers, led by H. H. Rogers—an individual to whom "business is war," as a eulogist of the man explains in the August issue of the *World's Work*—to convert sundry gas undertakings in Massachusetts, whose securities had never sold on the market for as much as \$14,000,000 into a company with a capital of \$35,000,000. About this, by the way, there seems nothing remarkable to us; rather are we impressed by the Standard Oily modesty. The band might have blown out the bubble—mere gas at best—to \$50,000,000 while they were about it. That they did not was, perhaps, due more to the narrow selfishness of the immediate object in view than to any virtue of continence in rapacity. Rogers had advanced \$4,000,000 on securities belonging to the Boston Gas companies and the Brookline Gas Company, or held securities belonging to these companies of that nominal value, against money advances of a smaller amount, and it had been arranged or understood, when the advance was negotiated, that he should hand back the securities to the companies when money had been found to pay off the Standard Oil loan. A better way occurred to Rogers, and, with the assistance of H. M. Whitney, a company was organised, whose primary reason for being was that it should buy these pledged securities from Rogers and give him \$12,000,000 for them. As a secondary function it was further to bestow \$2,000,000 on Whitney in payment for a worthless "Pipe Line Charter" and tailings he possessed. All the remaining portion of the capital of \$35,000,000 was divided up among friends until only \$3,500,000 was left to be endowed with the engaging label "cash business capi-

tal," and the first haul from this small residual heap went to the Central Trust Company of New York, which was to have \$600,000 in cash and "a large block of stock for good measure," on condition that it took up the "bag of securities" held by Rogers, and promptly gave him \$12,000,000 for it—no questions asked. The new company was duly capitalised with \$17,500,000 in bonds and \$17,500,000 in "stock" or shares, and the stock was divided up as plunder among the eminently respectable bankers and financiers who helped Rogers and Whitney to hatch the plot and manage the raid and carry it through. The bonds alone were publicly offered for subscription.

Enough has now been said by way of introduction to enable readers to follow the story in Lawson's own words, which will be found unusually graphic and picturesque, even for him. But he knows his subject thoroughly, and has, moreover, a good, and to himself eminently creditable, story to tell. He discovered some days before that on the succeeding Tuesday a public issue of the bonds was to be made by the Oily thieves, and determined to destroy its chances of success. How he fared, and how Rogers and his fellow bandits manoeuvred to make it appear that Lawson had accepted a bribe of \$1,000,000 from them, and then rounded on his "pals," the following narrative will vividly reveal. It reads with a swing and go few novelists of any age have been able to excel:—

On the Friday afternoon preceding the fateful Tuesday I sent word to Whitney that I was in possession of all the facts about his scheme and proposed seeing to it that the public bought no bonds, and that any attempt to resume his old operations at the State House would surely land some one behind the bars. Whitney, panic-stricken, returned word to me that there must be some mistake and that I had better see Mr. Rogers at once. I replied that I did not know Mr. Rogers in the affair; that I was notifying Whitney on behalf of the Bay State Company that he was disposing of property belonging to it; that it was a plain business affair which called for a quick court proceeding and injunction. Whitney worked upon my representative until eleven o'clock that night and returned him to me with a promise of one-half the swag that was to come from the Pipe Line, provided I stood in. I returned word that not for all the millions involved would I forego the opportunity of getting even with him for his treachery. Whitney took the midnight train for New York, and next day I received an urgent request from Mr. Rogers to come over at once. I flatly refused with: "Mr. Rogers, this is an affair between Whitney and myself, and no power on earth can prevent me from doing what I have mapped out, and besides it cannot possibly affect you, for you have repeatedly shown me that you have no part in the sneak thievery I have uncovered."

It was indeed a blissful privilege to characterise properly his mean attempt at deception while pretending conviction that he had no part therein.

"I cannot talk this over the wire, Lawson," he replied, "and it is impossible for me to come to Boston to-night, yet this is of such urgency you must hear what I have to say. I will have (naming his private counsel) with you to-morrow, and then you will see things in a clearer light."

At 9 o'clock in my rooms at Young's on Sunday morning I sat down with his counsel, and what a day it was! Explanation, pleading, threats; then Rogers on the wire, and more threats, explanations, pleadings. Until 5 o'clock in the afternoon we kept at it, and although his arguments reached, on one side, the extreme of threats to drop all their dealings in the copper affair and take to the warpath against me, to the offer of \$1,000,000 of swag on the other, I held my ground and absolutely refused to budge a hair. At five, after a particularly trying ten minutes on the wire with Mr. Rogers, I consented to go over on the midnight, and early Monday morning we went at it at the Murray Hill Hotel.

This was the first of the strenuous and fiery interviews that mark the crucial stages of my connection with the master of "Standard Oil." The others related to Amalgamated, and are already before my readers. They were bitter ordeals for both of us; in each I upheld the public right and the cause of fair dealing against his all-pervading greed for dollars. That I prevailed in any of these contests I cannot claim, for in each I permitted sentiment to outweigh the claims of right and reason. In the battle of wills I held to my cause; but when Mr. Rogers, dropping argument and threat, appealed to my feelings, to the personal regard he knew I had for him, then I allowed myself to be overcome. It is slight consolation, in looking back over the past, to realise that perhaps I am the one man alive to whom this all-powerful financier has had to humble his pride in a dollar-and-cent affair, but it is with a feeling of degradation that I remember how richly he profited by my sentimental surrenders to his pleadings.

I shall not attempt a transcription of all that happened on this occasion. I began by expressing surprise that he should be interested in the gas ventures of Whitney. Had he not repeatedly assured me he knew nothing about the affair? Mr.

Rogers allowed but little of this line of talk. Why should he consult me about selling his own property unless he had a mind to? Admitting his argument to be just, I contended that I was simply taking care of my own and my associates' interests against men who had tried to rob me and them, and that nothing on earth would deter me from doing what I had set out to accomplish. Back and forth we had it—threats, pleadings, and common-sense business arguments. Rogers promised that Whitney would give me half of his profits; he, too, would turn over to me from his own profits what I thought was fair, but he must carry his trade through—he simply must.

"How about Addicks and the Bay State?" I put in two or three times, and got always the same response: he would see the whole affair in Hades before either of them should have a penny. After hours of wrestling he saw it was useless to argue further. I would not be moved; and then he changed; Rogers the steely financier melted, and Rogers the man took his place. All the stern dominance and crushing force of the master of "Standard Oil" gave way, and in their stead I listened to a heart-square, fair, manly appeal to my good nature and friendship.

"Lawson," he said, "I have been carrying this load so long now that I am sick and tired of it. I don't care so much for my own pocket, because I can stand carrying it longer, but William Rockefeller has relied upon me to get him out of it, and it hurts me more with him and the building (26, Broadway) than I can tell you, that I am stuck in and cannot get out. I suppose all this Boston scandal has injured William Rockefeller and myself more with John D. than anything that ever happened before, and I have made up my mind to expect scandal as long as we stay in Boston Gas. There are lots of things in the early history of this business that I won't rest easy until I get buried, and I know this is the only chance. That is what, more than anything else, made us go to Whitney. Now if you come out against us publicly when William Rockefeller and, in fact, all the others, think we are very close on copper, I shall be humiliated beyond words. What you do to Whitney, after I am free from this affair, Lawson, I don't care, but it does seem as though you might find a way to get at him without grinding William Rockefeller and myself."

What is the use of denying that this plea from the master of "Standard Oil" affected me on the sentimental side?—for it did. How specious and insincere his arguments seem after all these years! Yet I allowed myself to be overcome by them. The flattery of the appeal, I suppose, did affect me, but it was more the pleasure of doing Henry H. Rogers, the man, a favour that softened me. I compromised.

"Mr. Rogers, I will do this and only this: I will not say a word to anyone until you have your twelve million dollars, and are out, and the others in beyond getting out, but I am not to benefit a dollar from you, from Whitney, nor anyone. Then, before the public have parted with a dollar, I will yell, and yell so loud that the world will hear and all that gang will pay the penalty. I'm doing this mainly to please you, but also I want to teach Whitney and some of the others a lesson. I think I can make this new scheme of yours a living and lasting illustration of the dangers of double-dealing."

Mr. Rogers looked the relief he felt. He said to me:

"Lawson, I need not tell you how I appreciate what you are doing, and you know I shall not forget it, but let me say one word before we call it finished. You should take part of the profit on this deal. You have been working on this Boston gas affair for years without return, and there is no reason why you should not take Whitney's offer to give you your share of the Pipe Line money, even if you start in to get even with him afterward."

"You cannot think, Mr. Rogers," I said, surprisedly grasping the obliquity of the transaction suggested, "that I could possibly take profit out of this thing and then go ahead and blow it to pieces? Even if I had no sentiment about doing such a thing, do you think as a matter of policy it would be wise? Starting thus, what sort of a battle could I put up for my associates?"

I must have looked the disgust I felt, for he hastily interposed:

"All right, Lawson, if you feel that way about things, you must go your own way, but where do you think you are coming out after you begin?"

"I'll bust the whole scheme," I replied decisively, "and I'll keep at it as long as I have a dollar left, or until the Boston gas affairs are settled on a fair basis and all those I've been instrumental in getting into the stock and bonds have had what is fairly coming to them."

There was no mistaking either my meaning or the sternness of my purpose. Mr. Rogers grew very sober, as I continued:

"It is presumption on my part to offer advice to one who has had so much more experience of life and affairs than I, but you will agree I've won the right to say a few words about this matter. Don't do what you are going to. I see endless trouble ahead if you do. Some one will lose every dollar of that twelve millions you get, and it will put the iron into more souls, and no one can tell but some of those you hurt will strike the trail and hold it as I would. I deeply and strongly believe that you will live to regret this thing bitterly—live to see the day when you would give twice the millions you are to make, to get back in this affair to where you are to-day. Why not give Bay State a chance to redeem its properties? Think of the satisfaction it will be to you to feel you have done a good turn to a lot of decent people who will henceforth bless 'Standard Oil' instead of cursing it. You will pardon me for saying it, but, Mr. Rogers, I would not do what you are going to do for all the money on earth. It isn't worth it. These men who will lose I'll admit are not saints,

and they might do the same to you, but they are going into this thing on their confidence in you. You know that; and you know they will lose it when you take that money, for as surely as there is a God in heaven, I'll battle this thing to a finish."

I had warned to the subject and spoke with all the emphasis and fire that were in me. At once I saw I had irritated him and that he was restraining himself with difficulty:

"All right, Lawson, I have heard what you say, and if you are through we will call the matter closed." He said this with an effort and almost between clenched teeth. He paced the room once or twice and then squared himself in front of me.

"Lawson, every man is his own judge in such matters. I have always taken the responsibility for my decisions, and no man ever heard me whimper if I found I had made a mistake, and no man ever will. These men, Whitney, McMillan, Widener, Elkins, and the rest, are all in the game for dollars, and they have to take the same chance I take. You know I have tried to do all in my power to make the thing a success. If you would come in, there would surely be success and profit for every one, but you won't, so I must do the next best thing, and I am going to do it. You may think I should do something different, but I will do as I always do, and as I believe all successful men do—the best thing they can for their own interests."

He said this bitterly.

"All right, Mr. Rogers," I answered, "we understand each other. As soon as you get your money to-morrow, I am going to open fire, and keep it up until the end; you agree that this is satisfactory and you will not ask any more of me, never mind where my fight leads or who is hurt?"

"That is as I understand it," he replied, "and from now on I shall not ask anything more of you in connection with this affair."

We parted right there, he doubtless chuckling over my easy compliance, I full of apprehension for the future, for the affair was a warped thread in fate's skein and would surely mar the fabric. Henry H. Rogers's decision that Monday deflected the currents of both our lives, and, like the treachery of Addicks and Whitney, when they took advantage of my illness two years before to betray the fair plans for Bay State I had perfected, helped to create the bitter situation that compelled the writing of "Frenzied Finance," with its consequences of everlasting shame and dishonour to both these eminent financiers. The immediate efforts of Mr. Rogers' greed may be passed over. It doubtless broke some hearts, blighted hopes and maimed careers, and the end is not yet. As I write these words, Henry H. Rogers is being sued in the United States Court sitting in Boston for the vast sum of which he deprived the Bay State Company, and he makes no secret of the fact that he would willingly give over the millions representing his profit in that *coup*, together with many another million from his huge store of gold, if he might but undo the wrong and blot out the harm consequent on that most misguided and unfortunate deed.

(To be continued.)

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Prices of Kaffir shares have been falling heavily all the week, under a general pressure of selling from all quarters, and so deep is the depression that only the word demoralisation befits the condition of things in this gloomy spot. The Cape has been a large seller, accompanied by rumours that a big operator there is in difficulties. Paris was closed for a couple of days, but, all the same, it has been a source of weakness, for speculators and investors there have unburdened themselves of a goodly quantity of stuff. Much of this has had to be taken over by the big houses, who are anything but willing buyers, their chief fear being that the market will go to pieces unless they can temporarily stop the fissures. They already hold huge piles of paper, far more than they can comfortably carry, but what can the poor fellows do if the public refuse to buy? The decision of the Wemmer directors to pay no interim dividend and their inability to hold out any hopes of an improvement in the value of the ore has come as a great shock to nervous and anxious holders, and has made the public more cautious than ever. They now look more closely into the intrinsic values of individual shares and the lives of mines, and this is what the bosses do not wish them to do. Reports of impending trouble are numerous, and doubtless have sound bases for them. In Johannesburg, too, the wild speculation in the Bushveld tin discoveries and in Madagascar promoting syndicates has landed lunatics in heavy losses, and in order to cover them it is declared that Kaffir shares have been thrown over wholesale. It is said that the shares of one syndicate, which had acquired no less than seventeen mining concessions in Madagascar have fallen from £300 each to less than £40, whilst the scrip of another has depreciated from £12 to £3 and under. With this Madagascar mania we deal at greater length in a note on another page. Now that the public are less inclined than ever to support the Kaffir market, it is admitted that the Rand output for July, though showing an increase, did not indicate progress, but retrogression, and therefore was not a stimulating influence. On the top of all this is the feeling of pessimism in regard to the probable outcome of the Peace conference, which dealers profess to fear will prove abortive. Chinese coolies, too, continue to

give much trouble and annoyance. Fourteen of them who had deserted from the mines broke into a farmer's house on the East Rand with the intention of committing a robbery. Although the farmer fired several shots from his revolver, they forced open the door, and made their way to his bedroom. Here the farmer wounded three of the assailants, who speedily decamped. Yet we are told the coolies are peaceful and gentle!

Rhodesian shares have also slumped further, for what encouragement is there to buy the rubbish in this market? Elsewhere we give the gold output for July, 34,693 ozs. against 35,256 ozs. for June, so what becomes of all the Chartered enthusiasm as to the wonderful progress of the mining industry in this dreary wilderness?

In the West Australian section Great Boulder Proprietary have continued to show some strength on the further cable with regard to the development at the 1,900 ft. level. For the last nine feet of driving the ore is stated to be 7 ft. wide and to assay 43 dwts. per ton. Great Fingalls have also shown an improving tendency, but Associateds and others have been weak.

There has been no movement worth recording in either the Egyptian or Jungle section. In the Miscellaneous list Ooregums, Champion Reefs, and Balaghats have developed strength, Broken Hill issues are slightly higher, Rio Tintos have been better on the favourable condition of the metal market, and Esperanzas have continued to advance.

DOLCOATH MINE.—This company has greatly benefited from the exceptional strength of the tin market during recent months, but in other respects the results of the first half of 1905 leave much to be desired. For instance, the quantity of ore raised and treated was 379 tons less than in the previous half-year, though it was greater than in any half-year previous to that ending December 31, 1902. The quality also was lower by 2.59 lbs. per ton of ore raised, bringing it down to less than 1 2/3 per cent. Nevertheless the directors think "it is a subject for congratulation that the company has been able to realise a profit of £12,340 on ore of such low quality." It certainly is pleasing as far as it goes, even though the circumstances were none of the directors' creating, but the rise in the price of tin may only be temporary, though it is to the credit of the management that working costs were slightly reduced. The average price realised for the company's black tin was £81 2s. 1d. per ton, or £3 16s. 8d. better than in the latter half of 1904, and the highest obtained in any similar period with the exception of that ending June 30, 1900. From the manager's report it appears that in order to provide a safe outlet from the stopes west of the eastern shaft extensive driving operations in unproductive ground were carried out, and the falling off in the returns was due to this, likewise to the closing of some of the stopes during the carrying out of the necessary work. Working costs include £4,341 spent on development. If these are deducted for the sake of comparison with past years prior to the last half of 1904, the working costs would be reduced to £49,008, the gross profits would be £18,926, and the net profit £16,682, the highest figure since 1901. Wages paid were increased by £1,154, while the payments to tributaries were less by £328. Coal cost £474 less, but freight and carriage was higher by £178. There were savings of £483 and £251 respectively on materials and repairs and renewals. As already stated, the profit for the half-year was £12,340, compared with £8,009, and £15,935 was brought forward, making £28,276. After deducting directors' fees, income tax, &c., the dividend is again 5 per cent., leaving £7,480 to carry forward.

CARN BREA AND TINCROFT MINES.—The accounts of this amalgamated Cornish company for the half-year to June 30 show a profit of £1,012, which compares with a loss of £2,818 for the previous six months. This is mainly the result of increased sales of tin, together with better prices obtained for the company's products. The average price realised was £73 8s. 7d., compared with £70 7s. 5d. per ton in the December half. This profit enables the directors to reduce the deficit in the balance-sheet to £18,491. Should the price of tin be maintained at its present high figure the directors are hopeful that the receipts will still further exceed the expenditure in the current six months. But even with such good fortune as this how many years will it take the company to wipe out its huge deficit? And what are the prospects of a dividend ere the millenium?

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—A cablegram has been received from the head office at Melbourne summarising the financial and mining results of the six months of working to May 31. The profit is returned at £147,671, whilst there is now a balance to the credit of the profit and loss account of £580,470. A sum of £16,278 was spent on construction, £5,499 of which was on account of zinc concentration plant, and sulphuric acid plant. As a result of modifications in the furnaces at Port Pirie there has been a better recovery of metals. The zinc concentration plant has been in work only three months and has operated satisfactorily, producing 12,851 tons of concentrates in the half-year. Contracts are signed for the sale of concentrates at the rate of 40,000 tons per annum, extending to the end of 1907. The erection of the necessary plant for the manufacture of spelter, definitely decided to be at Port Pirie, is being pushed ahead as much as possible. Since reporting in February, 1903, the estimated quantity of ore in sight as 4,250,000 tons, there have been extracted 1,400,000 tons. In view of latest developments a fresh survey has been made, and according to recent computations the quantity of ore in sight amounts to 3,200,000 tons, of the usual quality. The average prices obtained during the half-year were:—Lead, 12s. 3d. per ton, and silver 49-64d. better than in the previous half-year. The past six months completed the twentieth year of the company's existence and it is interesting

to learn that during this period 7,747,306 tons of ore have been treated, producing 733,025 tons of pig-lead, 4,576 tons of copper, 7,201 tons of antimonial lead, 129,740,728 ozs. of fine silver, and 82,933 ozs. of gold. The total amount received by the company was £27,384,743, which includes £576,000 from the British Broken Hill Proprietary for the sale of blocks 15 and 16 to that company. General expenses have taken £17,123,744, dividends and bonuses £8,576,000, depreciation has absorbed £938,999, there is a reserve fund of £165,500, and the above-mentioned credit balance of £580,470. We must await further particulars till the report reaches England.

WOLHUTER GOLD MINES.—Serious news comes from the Wolhuter Mine to the effect that a fire has broken out, which has destroyed the battery and machinery, and will probably involve a year's cessation of profit-earning during the rebuilding of these. The fates certainly seem to be conspiring against the Rand, for its woes and troubles are multiplying daily. This particular company has never been a big payer of dividends, one reason being that of its huge capital of £860,000 in 215,000 shares of £4 each, about three-quarters represents the water freely poured into it by means of the reconstruction scheme of 1895, when the £1 shares were made £4 shares. Its aggregate payment to date is only 20 per cent., distributed in 1897 and 1898, since when it has paid nothing. Present profits are devoted to a wiping out of past deficits, the debit in the last balance-sheet, dated October 31, 1904, amounting to £14,007. It is estimated that the mine will have a life of some 40 years. Is it the work of Chinese incendiaries? And how many gallons of petroleum did it require to set so large a mill on fire?

MOUNT MORGAN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—A longer report than usual is issued by the directors of this famous Queensland company, dealing with the financial period to the end of May last. They inform shareholders that the improvement in the quality of the ore referred to in Messrs. Seale and Bohm's reports cannot be regarded as permanent. It is largely due to the better grade of ore unearthed by the steam shovels, the quantity of which is limited. With the oxide and mundic ores the tendency is generally to lower grade, partly compensated for by an increased output and reduced cost of mining and treatment. Satisfactory progress has been made in the erection of the smelting and Bessemerising works, and it is probable that these will be completed by the end of the present year. The inclined shaft and all other works on which smelting operations depend are expected to be ready at the same time. Limestone necessary for flux is to be brought from Toonda, a distance of 53 miles, where a lease of forty acres of Government land has been applied for. Important work is being carried on at the lower levels of the mine, to provide for the output of the copper-gold ore, which will be treated at the new reduction works. The open-cut is being further extended and widened, with a view ultimately of carrying it down to the 450 ft. level. Prospecting with diamond drills has been discontinued. The position of the ore has been located, and its quantity and value proved, but recent work has not disclosed any great addition to the ore bodies hitherto discovered. Altogether about £81,000 has been expended during the past two years in development work. A further extension of the scheme for the recovery of copper by precipitation has been carried out, with a consequent increased return from this source. It has been decided by the directors to offer for sale all the town allotments, including the land now held under lease, all mineral rights to be reserved below a depth of 70 ft. The quantity of ore treated in the twelve months was 243,731 tons, and the fine gold obtained therefrom 122,281 ozs. In addition 34,400 tons of tailings were retreated for a yield of 1,305 ozs. The average grade of all ores treated was 9.71 dwts., or over 41s. per ton, an advance of over 3s. per ton on the ore treated in the previous year. Revenue totalled £545,880, and the net profit was £135,604, out of which a dividend of 15 per cent. was paid, the balance forward being reduced from £33,168 to £18,771.

DURBAN ROODEPOORT DEEP.—It is announced by the directors of this Wernher, Beit deep level concern that a special general meeting of the shareholders is to be held in Johannesburg on the 13th prox., to pass resolutions increasing the capital to £450,000 by the creation of 100,000 new shares. Of these 90,000, together with 20,000 reserve shares, are to be offered at a date to be fixed by the directors at £2 per share, which will, therefore, give a fairly substantial bonus to the shareholders, unless the price falls heavily in the meantime. The balance of 10,000 shares is to be held in reserve for future issue. At the above figure the whole issue has been guaranteed by some persons at 5 per cent. commission on the total amount realised, less the *pro rata* proportion subscribed for by the Rand Mines, Limited. The increase is to provide for the liquidation of the current liabilities, with the exception of the debentures, and to enlarge the mill to 100 stamps, with the necessary addition to the cyanide works, &c. Messrs. H. Eckstein and Company have agreed to abandon their option on the 20,000 reserve shares in consideration of the repayment of their loan. At the end of 1904 the debenture debt amounted to £119,900, and advances totalled £25,411. The company has never paid a dividend, and it will be a long time before it can do so. Last year's working profit was all absorbed in various ways, and there is no credit surplus in the balance-sheet.

WEMMER GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Last week we briefly announced that the directors of this Rand company have decided to pay no interim dividend, an intimation that must have created much consternation amongst the shareholders, for the Wemmer, having a small capital of £80,000, has been one of the large

dividend distributors for many years past, last year's figure being 125 per cent., but prior to the war 150 per cent. was paid. We dealt with this company in our issue of June 17 and there argued that an investment in Wemmers would not be remunerative even on a maintenance of the past year's distribution. So a big loss would now be practically certain. For the mine will not only have a very short life, but the directors have to admit that there has recently been a heavy decline in the value of the ore, which has accounted for a big drop in the profits. "It is impossible to say," they add, "whether or not the reefs have permanently deteriorated." Anyway, even if the deterioration be but temporary it is a serious matter, for the mine will not last any the longer, and future dividends will be very uncertain.

ZOROASTRIAN, LIMITED.—Gross revenue from gold, crushing fees, hire of plant, &c., amounted to £3,603 in the financial year ending April 30, whilst expenses in Western Australia came to £3,312, showing a small working profit, but as administration outgoings absorbed £1,166, there was finally a balance on the wrong side of £875. During the year a small portion of the surplus plant at Hope's Hill was sold for £3,221, payable as to £3,000 in 30,000 fully paid 2s. shares of the Jacoletti Gold Mines, Limited, and the balance in cash. Although development work below the 400 ft. level in the main workings has so far failed to establish the existence of additional reserves of payable ore, a new make of stone yielding good values has been located, it is said, in an adjoining property, and as this reef, according to present indications, traverses the Golden Bardoc lease, of which the Zoroastrian has hitherto held only the water rights, the directors have thought it desirable to enter into negotiations for the purchase of the mining rights of the lease, acquiring it for £6,250, payable in 25,000 fully paid shares of 5s. each. Steps are to be taken forthwith to prove the value of the new discovery. A considerable amount of public crushing has been done, the report says, on terms yielding a profit to the company and the cyanide plant has been constantly employed in the treatment of the accumulated slimes and tailings.

BROOMASSIE MINES.—A lengthy progress report for the month of June is issued by the directors of this jungle company, and on the whole it records promising progress. It was found impossible, owing to the pumping difficulties, to resume sinking the main shaft until the installation of the new air-compressor was completed. This plant, however, is now said to be working satisfactorily and the erection of the mill is being pushed on. A considerable amount of prospecting has been done by means of Richards' tunnel to the north-east of the Maxwell shaft workings. Numerous quartz veins have been intersected here, but the values do not appear to be high. From the general characteristics of the country it appears doubtful if the Main Reef has yet been located. It is admitted that it will be necessary to sink below water level to prove this section of the ground, as presumably the natives have already removed all payable stone down to this point. During the month the old mill crushed 498 tons for a yield of 914 ozs., averaging over 36 dwts. per ton. The bullion produced realised, after deduction of transit and refining charges, £3,476. In addition, some 5,000 lb. weight of concentrates was recovered of an assay value of £37 per ton.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

*. The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

UNITED INDIGO AND CHEMICAL CO., LIMITED.

The doleful career of this Yorkshire combine, brought into existence along with the other failures half a dozen years ago, shows small sign of changing for the better, and shareholders have just had the misfortune to receive another disheartening report and statement of accounts. The period covered is twelve months to June 30, and in that time the trading profits and income from investments, including profits of all subsidiary companies and branches, and after providing for depreciation, bad debts, and remuneration of the directors as managers of these subsidiary companies, reached the wretched sum of £12,028, a mere £429 more than in the preceding year. Transfer fees came to £12, indicating brisk dealing in the company's securities, making the total revenue £12,040, from which general and other charges absorbed £2,013, income-tax £391, and expenses in connection with the shareholders' committee £58, while a final sum of £778 is written off closed works account, leaving £8,799 compared with £8,034. This committee was appointed some two years ago to have a look into things, but unfortunately did not possess plenary powers, and the board has shown its contempt for the recommendations, all sound and businesslike, by ignoring them altogether. But the fact remains that honesty of purpose was conspicuously lacking when the venture was being got ready for the public—who were combine mad at the time—and only the actual knowledge that it is so would make one believe that no less than 56 per cent. of the so-called assets handed over consisted of goodwill. This item indeed represents £140,000 out of £174,860 standing in the balance-sheet for land, buildings, water rights, plant, machinery, horses, carts, office furniture, and goodwill. No wonder the preference dividend is in arrear, and the alleged profits set out in the prospectus have faded like the mists of the morning. The whole of that £140,000 the vendors ought to be compelled to disgorge, because, to put the matter plainly, it was not fairly and honestly obtained. Other assets consist of stock-in-trade

£27,106, sundry debtors and bills receivable £25,654, cash £16,375, and £1,000 owing by a director. There may be nothing in the last-named, but it does not look well, and ought to be fully explained. What security does the company possess against the debt so as to be on the safe side should the unforeseen happen? An investment in Consols of £5,548 is entered at the cost price of £5,000, but the final entry on the credit side is not quite so good, consisting of formation expenses £2,340. It seems about time these were written off, but as shareholders would probably say, where is the money to come from? It is probably quite unnecessary to state that no reserve is possessed and the only item on the debit side to be mentioned is sundry creditors, modest enough at £3,285. Returning to the question of profits, we find that the balance brought forward was a good deal larger at £2,170 building the available sum to £10,969. Already a complete year's preference dividend has been paid, and the directors propose a further six months' distribution, making eighteen months in all, and bringing the payments up to December 31, 1904, leaving one half year in arrear. To do this, however, it has been necessary to disburse a good deal more than was earned, and the carry forward is therefore heavily reduced to £709.

COPE BROS. AND CO., LIMITED.

Shareholders of this wretched Liverpool tobacco business must always contemplate the present month with gloomy forebodings. It invariably brings the annual report, and experience has taught them what kind of document to expect. The latest example of directorial skill is just to hand, and shows that the lamented death of that unfortunate Jubilee Knight, Sir John Willox, has not brought a change for the good. Profits have once more begun to slide back, the trading revenue for the twelve months to June 30 being no more than £10,663 a shrinkage of £1,551 against the preceding year, but this time £1,214 was brought forward against nothing last, the year before that having produced debits, so that with income from investments £529 and transfer fees £14, the total revenue is £12,420. Directors', trustees', and auditors' fees, after deducting £400 graciously handed back, require £1,462, still a formidable sum, and debenture interest £2,184, leaving £8,773, an improvement of just £59. So proprietors are once again given a dividend of a couple of shillings a share, or 2 per cent., and £1,273 goes to give a helping hand to 1905-6. In the balance-sheet there are some curious changes not referred to either by the directors or the auditors. For example, Richard Lloyd and Son's branch, one of the company's "acquisitions," formerly entered at £16,417, now disappears, having been added to goodwill, which has thus been raised from £28,552 to £44,968. What does this mean? Surely not that the branch has been closed, because it was only obtained quite recently. The chairman must be asked at the meeting. Another purchase, that of Robinson and Barnsdale, Limited, on the usual "advantageous terms," does not yet find a place in the balance-sheet, but "the board has every expectation that this acquisition will prove beneficial to the business of the company." Yes, yes, of course, but why not tell us the purchase price? On whose authority are these purchases made? So far as we know the shareholders are never consulted. One good point is a reduction in stocks of £19,406 to £154,642, leading to a decline in floating liabilities of £23,112 to £19,781, and a small increase in cash to £18,619, sundry debtors at the same time having been reduced £5,385 to £75,463. An investment remains at £7,648 and buildings and land at £84,847, while the plant and machinery has actually increased a few hundreds to £72,839, despite depreciation allowance. How much?

MITCHELLS AND BUTLERS, LIMITED.

The directors of this big Birmingham business have no occasion to use the doleful language now so freely indulged in by other brewers when describing the condition of trade, the past year's operations having proved eminently successful. No profit and loss account is published, but the report tells us that the profits amounted to £208,469, or a few hundreds more than in the previous twelve months, and with the addition of the fine sum of £109,832 brought forward the balance for disposal is no less than £318,301. Interest on mortgages, loans, and debentures absorbed £47,184, managing directors' salaries and directors' fees £6,900, interim dividends £50,471, and premiums or debentures exchanged £13,812, in all £118,367, leaving £199,934. From that the board proposes to complete the preference dividend and pay a final 13s. on each ordinary share, making 20 per cent. for the year, adding £1,000 to the employees' superannuation fund, and carrying forward £113,786. In response to a circular issued in November last a large part, not all apparently, of the 5 per cent. and 4½ per cent. debentures were exchanged for "A" 4 per cent. debentures, in addition to which a further issue of the last-named was made in January last. As a result, the present debenture debt consists of £94,400 5 per cent., £136,300 4½ per cent., and £366,900 4 per cent., besides instalments amounting to £27,720 on the new issue just noted, an aggregate of £625,320. That seems rather a heavy sum, but the mortgages are being steadily reduced, the considerable amount of £83,850 having been paid off within the year. Not only that, but the directors have in hand £50,518 available for a similar purpose, and this, with the further instalments of £64,680 due on the debentures, will enable them to lower this class of debt by £115,817 to £374,817. Then there is the mortgage and debenture redemption fund of £76,334, including £20,000 now to be added from the cash balance, so that before very long the mortgages should be nearer £300,000 than £600,000, at which they stood twelve months back. That is satisfactory, and the existence of a general reserve of £400,000 should render the position fairly secure, even though the brewery

and all other fixed property stand at the high figure of £2,229,351. No mention is made of the allowance for depreciation, but we hope it is on a liberal scale. Rolling stock, loose plant, and stores are valued at £58,882. Stocks come to £175,594, and cash is £185,544, apart from the sum representing the mortgage and debenture redemption fund, so that it is of no consequence at all that the book debts, loans, rents receivable, &c., come to only £34,266, against floating liabilities of £105,390, including loans and deposits of £12,480.

OLD ALBION BREWERY, LIMITED.

This company's profits slipped back a bit further during the year to June 30, the total, including £122 brought forward and after providing for depreciation, bad debts, and directors' remuneration, being £10,903 compared with £10,939. Debenture and loan interest absorbed £3,332, and preference dividend £1,075, and the board thinks it well to reduce the ordinary dividend from 9 to 8 per cent., carrying £977 to property reserve and £639 to next account. The credit carried over is increased because demands will shortly be made on the company in connection with the new Licensing Act. Twelve months ago the property reserve account stood at £5,500, but £477 was written off for the costs and expenses in connection with the "Pack Horse" property at Rotherham, so that the £977 added from last year's revenue increases the fund to only £6,000. General reserve remains at £2,500, and the balance-sheet items generally do not show much movement. The bankers and other loans have been reduced £1,366 to £17,398 but sundry creditors and rents are about £1,000 larger at £6,464 and book debts, loans, valuations, and rents due show a small reduction to £8,034. Investments, too, are less by £250 to £1,500 and the cash balance has been further lowered to the trifle of £132. No mention is made of the actual allowance for wastage, but the brewery and other properties stand a little higher at £160,866.

MILFORD DOCKS COMPANY.

The business done in this company's docks again improved during the half-year to June 30, the tonnage of vessels entering being 384,830 against 346,191 in the corresponding period, due, we suppose, to the encouragement given to the mackerel fishermen to use the premises. Revenue benefited to the extent of £1,127, although the amount is still deplorably small at £11,653, and after providing all charges, together with interest on special mortgages, the sum remaining is £4,133, or an improvement of £442. Adding £3 brought forward, and the sum available is £4,136, which provides interest of 20s. 6d., or 2s. 2d. more on the "A" debenture, stock warrants for which have been already posted. The moratorium, however, applying to interest on the debenture stocks will expire in 1907, and in order to provide for its continuance, subject to the approval of holders, a Bill must be promoted in Parliament during the ensuing year. Other matters will also be included, the provisions of which will be submitted to proprietors for consideration in due course. Land to the value of £4,659 was acquired during the half-year, increasing the total holding to £42,560, and £150 was spent at the docks on the new wharf and other works previously referred to, raising the outlay to £639,448.

SOUTH SUBURBAN GAS COMPANY.

This company used to be known as the Crystal Palace District Gas Company, and in the half-year ended June 30 earned a total revenue of £111,174 or £982 less than in the corresponding period, due to the further reduction of 1d. to 2s. 5d. per 1,000 cubic feet, as the amount of business again increased. From private lighting the revenue was £78,603, public lighting produced £2,553, meters and stoves £5,588, residuals £24,359, and rents £69. Thanks to a further increase of £2,481 at £68,186 in the cost of manufacture, the total expenditure went up £1,397 to £89,935, leaving the net revenue down by the rather considerable sum of £2,740 at £21,238. Sum brought forward was £4,942, making £26,180, and after providing interest on temporary loans, deposits, and debenture stock and transferring £2,200 to insurance fund, the directors again propose a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £3,522. There is a small debit of £4,354 in the capital account, but that causes no trouble because the company has reserve and other funds of about £65,000.

DUBLIN AND LUCAN ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

In the six months to the end of June this small railway earned a gross revenue of £3,040, or £18 more than in the corresponding half of last year, the expenses going up £4 to £1,691. Thus the net revenue was merely a trifle higher at £1,349, and as £276 was brought in, the available surplus is £1,625. Debenture interest takes £375, the dividend is paid on the 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares, £400 goes to electrical equipment account, and the balance of £137 is carried forward. The debit to capital account has been reduced from £5,131 to £2,531. Dividend warrants are payable on September 15.

MARBELLA IRON ORE CO., LIMITED.

A half-yearly report, recording the result of operations up to June 30, shows that the output was 21,730 tons compared with 20,794 tons for the opening six months of 1904. Shipments averaged fairly well, but tonnage in the earlier months of the year was somewhat scarce, and it is satisfactory to hear that shipping is expected to be more active during the remainder of 1905. An improvement is also expected in the condition of the iron ore market, which may make up for the recent decided dulness. Net profit is returned at £3,041 and with £555 brought in the disposable balance is £3,596. It provides an interim dividend of 2s. per share with a balance over of £1,096.

Letter to the Editors.

THE ROYAL WATERLOO HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN.

SPECIAL APPEAL COMMITTEE.

SIRS.—The Special Appeal Committee of the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women, Waterloo Bridge Road, London, S.E., venture to ask for the hospitality of your columns in order to enable them to appeal to your readers on behalf of the above hospital.

The hospital was founded in 1816 and since then has afforded relief to over one million poor patients, both children and women.

A hospital was erected on the present site in 1823 and was subsequently enlarged, and though no doubt it was originally designed in accordance with the best knowledge then available, it is not surprising that in 1902 the building had become not only out of date from an architectural and sanitary standpoint, but also in some cases an actual danger to the patients from the impossibility of keeping an old building, largely constructed of wood, free from injurious germs.

This state of things was brought forcibly to the notice of the board of governors by their medical staff, who declared that it was absolutely necessary that immediate steps should be taken to rebuild the hospital.

In these circumstances the board had obviously no alternative but to put the work of rebuilding in hand at once.

The greater portion of the new hospital has now been completed, and is believed to embody the latest improvements required by sanitary science. The building is designed to contain 200 beds when the whole hospital is finished, and the total cost, including furniture and apparatus, will exceed £50,000.

Towards this rather over £20,000 has at present been obtained. The cost of maintenance of the hospital when completed will probably be not less than £12,000 per annum, towards which there is only £770 per annum assured income available, apart from subscriptions, &c. Although the provision of the best means of recovery for the sick must be the first consideration with the board, economy in administration has been, and will be, studied, so far as is compatible with that condition.

On these facts we confidently appeal to your readers, in the name of suffering children and women, for liberal donations to the building fund and increased or new annual subscriptions to the general fund.

We ought to add that an influential ladies' association, headed by H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany, is instrumental in collecting much help for the hospital, and the ladies have recently formed sub-committees for supplying linen, vegetables, and other useful articles.

Further information may be obtained from the hon. secretaries of the Special Appeal Committee, at Belfast Chambers, 156, Regent Street, and cheques should be similarly addressed and made payable to the Special Appeal Fund, Royal Waterloo Hospital, and crossed London and Westminster Bank.

We are, yours faithfully,

ARGYLL, Vice-President
DERBY, Chairman.

LISTOWEL, Vice-Chairman.

CARDIGAN, Vice-Chairman.

O'HAGAN, Vice-Chairman.

DENMAN, Vice-Chairman.

R. KINCAID SMITH.

Belfast Chambers, 156, Regent Street, W.

Special
Appeal
Committee.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—There is little or no animation in the cargo market, and buyers are apathetic. In fact, holders would probably accept less money were purchasers to come forward. After being extremely dull, the Liverpool market revived a little towards the close on American advices. Reports of locusts in the River Plate also helped prices to firm up. "Dornbusch" estimates the quantity of wheat and flour on passage as 2,455,000 qrs. this week, against 2,635,000 qrs. last week. In America the market has been dull on increased receipts and weaker interior markets. There has also been a disappointing response from European markets, with considerable selling by professionals. There was a slight rally at the close. Visible supplies are put at 13,899,000 bushels, against 13,745,000 bushels last week. Bradstreet's estimates the quantity of wheat in sight east of the Rockies at 22,406,000 bushels, compared with 21,314,000 last week, and 20,008,000 a year ago.

WOOL.—An all-round improvement is at last perceptible. The stronger tone in crossbreeds has been maintained, and some of the topmakers have secured 1¼d. advance, which they recently quoted for forties. There are signs of growing confidence in a maintenance of values under ordinary conditions of trade, especially in the provinces. At the same time, there are reports of rather heavy losses and financial embarrassments here and there. In fact, it is regarded as a remarkable circumstance that prices of all ordinary descriptions of home-grown produce are relatively dearer in country districts than at the great centres of consumption, a condition of affairs that induces sellers to try by pressure to recover some of the lost ground. Dealers are still making numerous inquiries, and operate freely. At the Wool Exchange on Thursday about 4,000 bales of woolled sheepskins were offered for auction, compared with 3,000 at the previous sale on July 29.

LINEN.—One week follows on the other at present without much change. There is nothing to complain of generally speak-

ing. Spinners with large orders in hand can stand firmly to their prices. Values in manufactured goods are undoubtedly going up, and buyers are showing more willingness to submit to the inevitable rise, knowing that once the dull season is over they will have to pay more still. Damasks, hollands, hand-loom, and housekeeping goods have all done a larger trade, and unions with the threat of a Lancashire cotton strike in view have had a lively time. Home markets in the bleached and finished end of the trade keep quiet, and more or less dull, but outside markets are steadily improving, particularly the United States.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Raw American cotton during the week under review has been generally on the easy side, values being lower as compared with seven days. Lancashire spinners have again bought sparingly, and, on the other hand, Liverpool spot has been freely offered, and the basis of "futures on" has been lowered. Prospects of the growing crop continue on the whole not unsatisfactory. Our market in most directions has been unsettled, owing to the wages question, which at the time of writing is being discussed by the masters and men in conference at the Town Hall. The workpeople's notices to leave work expire on Saturday, the 19th inst. In the meantime, piece goods for India have been dealt in very sparingly, few lots of magnitude having changed hands. Moreover, news from certain parts of our dependency is not satisfactory. Some shippers to India are getting a little anxious. Stocks in Bombay are said to be getting heavier, owing to continued large exports from this side. China is moving quietly, the aggregate transactions being small. The nearer and minor outlets are unchanged. Lancashire manufacturers are for the most part firm in price, and are not pressing for business. Home trade American yarns have been unsettled in view of the crisis. Spinners have hardly known which way to act. Some have declined to sell. Others have sold a little under the terms of a "strike" clause. Users of cop twist and welt have kept up supplies at the weaving sheds in order to be prepared for a stoppage of the spinning factories. Prices have been slightly irregular. Shipping bundles remain quiet in most counts and qualities. Bolton spinnings have been well held, and again a healthy demand has been experienced. Happily, a settlement of the dispute has now been arrived at and a strike averted.

The market in New York has been very erratic and irregular throughout the week, and prices have moved up and down almost from moment to moment. On the whole, however, the tendency has been to weakness, bear pressure proving somewhat stronger than bullish manipulation. In fact, manipulation has been more in evidence than genuine business.

The Liverpool market opened very quietly, dealings being on a limited scale, and quotations appreciably weakened. Later more firmness was exhibited, and quotations recovered from their early fall, but business is at a low ebb. Egyptian has been quiet and dull, practically without change. Futures are quoted:—August, 5.73d.; August-September, 5.72d.; September-October, 5.74d.; October-November, 5.76d.; November-December, 5.77d.; December-January, 5.78d.; January-February, 5.7d.; February-March, 5.80d.; March-April, 5.81d.; April to July, 5.82d.

COAL.—The coal trade is slowly improving, and in places the demand is quite active, the best qualities of steam and gas coal not being very readily obtainable, as most of the collieries are well sold for this month and the greater part of next. Some buyers show a disposition to purchase for delivery next year. Coal owners are showing firmness, with no inclination to make concessions in prices to get business. Trade in domestic fuel is rather languid. Good silkstone is still quoted 10s. 6d. to 11s. per ton; best steam, 12s. 9d. to 13s.; best seconds, 12s. 3d. to 12s. 6d.

COPPER.—Another active copper market has been witnessed, and the price has advanced as a result of this, together with stronger advices from America. According to Messrs. H. R. Merton and Company's statistics, the visible supply on August 15 was 18,653 tons against 17,441 tons on July 31. Supplies for the fortnight were 12,336 tons, and the deliveries 11,724 tons, whilst the stocks in England and France total 12,453 tons against 12,341 tons. Closing prices are:—£69 10s. cash and £69 7s. 6d. three months.

TIN.—The strength of the tin market has not been sustained, and prices have dropped from the high levels reached in the preceding week. In fact, business has been dull in London, though it has been rather brisk in the East. Towards the end of the week, however, there was a slight improvement in both places and prices recovered. Including a boat which just missed sailing in July, shipments from the Straits for the first fortnight of August were 3,175 tons, against 3,300 tons estimated. Of the total 2,025 tons were shipped to England, 860 tons to America and 290 tons to the Continent. Closing quotations are:—£149 12s. 6d. cash and £149 5s. three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—In the Midlands there is an improvement in the volume of fresh business, manufacturers stating that there are more orders on hand, and that advices promise an increasing demand. Works are in full operation and customers ask for prompt delivery, as they have no working stocks. There is more activity in home consumption, with less hesitation shown in placing orders, and several makers are quoting higher rates. Steel makers are busy and orders are increasing. Pig-iron is also in good request, and some manufacturers and brokers refuse to book orders at current rates. In Middlesbrough, too, the iron market is firm, with a steady business going, and Cleveland warrants are well maintained at higher prices. There has been a good inquiry for G.M.B., and the demand for hematite is stronger. In finished steel and iron an active business

has developed. At first trade in Glasgow was slack and weak, but has gradually become firmer at steady prices.

TEA.—Auctions were resumed this week with considerable vigour. New season's tea is now coming into the market in larger quantities, and the quality of it can be better judged. 11,416 packages offered from the Assam district showed a better quality than for some seasons past, and obtained an average price of 10½d. per lb., the highest weekly average, Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton's circular tells us, since September, 1901. The quality of samples from other districts is also better than usual, and with every probability of improvement. The total offerings of Indian for the week comprised 33,791 packages, and obtained an average price of 8.27d. per lb., against 7.22d. in the same week last year. Ceylon auctions amounted to 35,081 packages, and demand was good for all except liquoring teas of poor quality. The average obtained for the week was 7.22d., against 6.69d. in 1904.

SUGAR.—The tendency in the sugar market has been towards dullness. Sales to the United States caused but a momentary improvement, as holders allowed "bears" to cover many of the outstanding August sales, the quotation for which weakened appreciably. Crop reports continue to be good. There is still a want of moisture in Hungary, but prospects elsewhere are favourable, roots in Germany and Bohemia making good progress. The richness is still rather behind last year's, but this is a question of September-October weather and everything, of course, turns on this. Mr. Czarnikow says the European situation is largely in the hands of French holders, who need not press sales as long as they can get a premium for the next crop. As there is no competition of Javas we shall have to attract French sugars by fair prices, because the Hamburg store and moderate quantities from Germany, Austria, and Belgium would apparently not cover our wants, and leave a fair working stock, except with an early advent of new sugars. The American market is steady and unchanged. Landings are 10,000 tons in excess of meltings, raising stocks to 212,000 tons, but lowering afloats by 17,000 tons and Cuba by 18,000 tons.

RHODESIAN MINING RETURNS.

Like the Rand, Rhodesia is not making progress with her gold output, for though July was a longer month than June, the yield was 563 ozs. less at 34,693 ozs., and it was also beaten by the March production of this year. This is not surprising in face of the increasing number of mines being let on tribute. The output of other minerals was, silver, 7,419 ozs.; lead, 47 tons; coal, 7,937 tons.

Name of Company.	Mar. Ton.	Mar. Ozs.	April. Tons.	April. Ozs.	May. Tons.	May. Ozs.	June. Tons.	June. Ozs.	July. Tons.	July. Ozs.
Anterior (Matabela)	1,190	853	905	628	1,198	678	1,200	768	1,060	590
Ayrshire	8,828	3,439	8,606	3,337	9,096	3,440	10,077	4,005	10,257	3,260
Beatrice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dumbleton	1,000	195	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Globe and Phoenix	6,369	4,037	6,247	4,141	6,696	4,326	6,757	4,194	6,829	4,328
Golden Valley	650	451	804	583	703	514	714	396	806	413
Killarney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hibernia	3,473	1,713	2,875	1,625	3,599	1,735	3,577	1,755	4,041	1,578
Morven	1,484	1,008	1,546	915	1,317	921	1,165	705	1,199	838
Penhalonga	6,600	1,380*	6,300	1,336*	6,300	1,351*	—	—	6,840	1,456
Red & White	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Revue	904	241	627	279	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rezende	2,850	944*	2,900	934	3,025	1,034	3,000	1,167	1,900	648
Rhodesia Consolidated	2,148	989	2,212	1,176	1,893	1,113	1,250	1,174	1,350	1,366
Rhodesia Mines	—	—	740	293	650	273	720	310	698	315
Selukwe	5,420	2,447	5,275	2,092	5,850	2,220	6,100	2,245	6,120	1,876
Surprise	3,160	1,577	2,779	1,553	2,618	1,490	2,842	1,550	2,857	1,563
Wanderer	12,462	1,712	12,783	2,304	13,206	2,405	14,136	2,276	14,694	2,288
Wareleigh	550	308	752	456	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Fine Gold.

The following table gives the total monthly return since the commencement of crushing:—

	1901. Ozs.	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.
January ..	10,787	15,935	16,245	19,359	32,531
February ..	12,237	13,204	17,090	18,673	30,131
March ..	14,280	16,891	19,626	17,756	34,927
April ..	14,998	17,559	20,727	17,862	33,268
May ..	14,486	19,698	22,137	19,424	31,322
June ..	14,863	15,844	22,166	20,402	35,256
July ..	15,651	15,226	23,571	24,339	34,693
August ..	14,734	15,747	19,187	24,669	—
September ..	13,958	15,164	18,741	26,029	—
October ..	14,503	16,849	17,918	24,919	—
November ..	16,308	15,993	15,714	26,183	—
December ..	15,174	16,210	18,750	28,100	—
Total ..	172,060	194,268	231,872	267,715	232,188

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21.

Milford Docks.—63, Cornhill, 2 p.m.

New Zealand Agricultural Inst. of Chartered Accountants.—3.15 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22.

Old Albion Brewery.—Sheffield, noon.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23.

Flax Pulp.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24.

London General Omnibus.—Salisbury House, 3 p.m.

Pearks.—Winchester House, noon.

Southgate and District Gas.—5, Great Winchester Street, 3.45 p.m.

United Indigo and Chemical.—Manchester, noon.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25.

Bath Gas Light and Coke.—Bath, noon.

Birmingham Canal Navigations.—Birmingham, noon.

South Hetton Coal.—39, Lombard Street, 1 p.m.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Canadian Pacific.—3 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 on the common stock.

Cockermouth, Keswick, and Penrith.—At the rate of 2 per cent. per annum for the past half-year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bolckow, Vaughan, and Co.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the year ended June 30; expenditure of £56,196 on extension of plant; and carrying forward £44,224.

Bradford Dyers.—Interim for the half-year to June 30 at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Bristol Waterworks.—Intermediate for the half-year to June 30 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, and at the rate of £5 12s. per cent. per annum on the 7 per cent. maximum consolidated ordinary stock.

Calico Printers.—Of 6d. per share on the ordinary shares, being at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, placing £50,000 to reserve, £12,512 for depreciation, and carrying forward £131,437.

Canada North-West Land.—3 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 on the preferred capital stock.

Carnforth Hematite Iron.—Final of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £3,732.

Fletcher, Russell, and Co.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the current half-year.

Fraser and Chalmers.—Interim of 3 per cent on the ordinary shares.

Harrod's Stores. Interim on the ordinary shares for half-year ended July 31, at the rate of 10 per cent per annum.

Harrod's Stores Founders' Shares.—Interim for half-year ended July 31, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Ionian Bank.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended July 31.

Leopold Schwabacher.—Further on the ordinary shares, making 12½ per cent. for the year.

Mather and Platt.—Final of 3½ per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent., making a total of 10 per cent. for the year ended June 30, placing £30,000 to reserve, increasing it to £230,000, and carrying forward £21,238.

No. 2 South Great Eastern Gold.—9d. per share.

Peark's Stores, Africa.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £1,149.

Steel of Scotland.—5 per cent. for the past year, placing £5,000 to reserve, increasing it to £80,000, and carrying forward £4,265.

MINING RETURNS.

Akrokerri (Ashanti).—Crushed 2,830 tons, 2,689 ozs. by amalgamation; assay of tailings, 6 dwts.; cyanide plant treated 1,379 tons of sands, 167 ozs.; total output, 2,856 ozs.

Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso).—Development, 243 ozs.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—Refinery products: fine silver, 392,927 ozs.; soft lead, 5,020 tons; antimonial lead, 49 tons.

Broken Hill Proprietary, Block 10.—Treated 11,584 tons, producing 1,753 tons of concentrates.

Chinese Engineering.—Output, 18,000 tons; sales, 17,000 tons; consumption, 1,350 tons.

Clitters United.—Ore, 1,962 tons; mineral sold and on hand, tin and wolfram, 16 tons 18 cwt.; arsenic and copper, 63 tons 14 cwt.

De Lamar.—Crushed 2,750 tons, yielding \$20,800. Miscellaneous \$700. Total, \$21,500.

Driefontein Consolidated.—Milled 23,934 tons, 5,385 ozs.; sands 18,656 tons, 4,151 ozs.; slimes 5,957 tons, 699 ozs.; total, 10,235 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort.—Quartz milled 11,390 tons, 4,008 ozs.; tailings 8,035 tons, 1,196 ozs.; total, 5,204 ozs.

East Gwanda.—Crushed 5,040 tons, including 1,291 tons waste rock, 1,343 ozs. Started Valley tailings produced 109 ozs.; Geelong, tributed, produced 985 ozs.; Eagle-Vulture tailings, tributed, 74 ozs.; total, 2,511 ozs.

Golden Blocks (Taitapu).—Crushed 170 tons, 148 ozs.

Himan Concessions.—Bogoso: crushed 580 tons, 448 ozs.

Lisbon-Berlyn.—Milled 1,729 tons; cyanide 1,211 tons; from mill 38 ozs.; cyanide 280 ozs.; total, 318 ozs.

Mills Day Dawn United Gold.—Crushed 1,120 tons, value £3,000.

Mitchell's Creek.—705 tons crushed, 340 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons, value £300.

Mungana.—Output 1,543 tons, containing 24½ tons of copper; 21,053 ozs. silver and 191 tons of lead shipped.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 1,701 tons of ore, yielding £4,524.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—Crushed 5,050 tons for 2,728 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—1,850 tons of crude ore treated, producing 385 tons concentrates, containing 69 per cent. lead and 18 ozs. silver per ton.

Palmarejo and Mexican Gold.—Zapoto Works.—Crushed 3,731 tons, treated 3,400 tons producing \$26,290 gold, \$45,689 silver.

Queensland Copper.—Ore treated, 1,033 tons; production, 232 tons matte, containing 184 tons fine copper.

Queensland Menzies.—Crushed 617 tons for 517 ozs.; cyanided 480 tons for 161 ozs.; total, 678 ozs.

Raub Gold.—640 ozs. from 5,520 tons of ore crushed.

St. David's.—Crushed 1,544 tons, 552 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £7,750; yield per ton, '57 of an ounce tray.

Salisbury.—Crushed 5,500 tons, 1,740 ozs.

San Miguel.—Breakage of ore, 3,404 tons; production fine copper, 46 tons.

Sulphide.—Milled 15,759 tons of ore, producing 2,870 tons lead concentrates, also 2,731 tons middlings and 3,183 tons tailings treated, producing respectively 972 and 1,270 tons of zinc concentrates; 2,847 tons lead concentrates, 154 tons residues, and 1,612 tons purchased ores smelted, yielding 1,728 tons lead, containing 108,864 ozs. silver and 5,443 ozs. gold.

Theta Gold.—Crushed 1,235 tons, 693 ozs.; cyanide 1,000 tons, 151 ozs. Total yield, 844 ozs.

Tyee Copper.—Smelted: Tyee ore, 1,793 tons; Customs ore, 262 tons; matte produced, 277 tons.

Tyne Valley Colliery.—Output, 8,104 tons.

Wemmer.—Crushed 8,420 tons, 2,611 ozs.; sands 5,460 tons, 550 ozs.; slimes 2,220 tons, 123 ozs.; concentrates 196 tons; total 3,852 ozs.

Westralia Mount Morgans Gold.—Crushed 4,880 tons, 1,131 ozs.; cyanided 2,992 tons for 651 ozs.; slimes, 171 ozs. from 1,148 tons; guests, 94 ozs.

Willoughby's Consolidated.—North Bonsor crushed 2,835 tons, 628 ozs.; cyanide 1,863 tons, 252 ozs.; Bonsor crushed 2,146 tons, 492 ozs.; cyanide 1,337 tons, 223 ozs.; Dunraven crushed 445 tons, 140 ozs.; cyanide 2,618 tons, 172 ozs.

Witwatersrand.—9,540 ozs.; 28,750 tons treated.

Ymir.—Crushed 1,700 tons, 321 ozs.; 153 tons of concentrates shipped, value \$8,700; cyanide plant 1,330 tons tailings, value \$1,325.

Answers to Correspondents.

H. B.—(1) Do not sell in midst of present demoralisation, but seize your opportunity should the price recover a little later on. (2) Yes, as a speculative investment they offer a chance to a small amount. (3) Good, and with fair prospects. (4) Chances rather remote, but might be worth trying a few of on a depressed market. (5) We do not trust this company much, past experiences having been cruel, and think this stock quite full priced now, though the market says it is going higher. (6) Not to be touched.

B. W. S.—This is the kind of security not likely to be appreciably influenced by money market movements, and although there is no reason to anticipate much improvement in the country's credit in the immediate future, there is equally no reason why it should grow worse. Keep the bond.

Nomen.—This company possesses a very fine business, and is very strong financially, but the increase in capital you mention raises doubts whether the shares are worth the present figure. Last year business was very good owing to a big foreign order, which is hardly likely to be repeated, at least not for a time. (2) We are disposed to think that this company's profits will show some recovery for the current year, and a small purchase of the shares at present prices would be a fair risk. Competition though is becoming increasingly severe.

J. W. B. M.—(1) We doubt if these shares will have much further rise, but there need be no hurry to sell. Wait a little longer. It is impossible to give a satisfactory answer to the second part of your question at present, but we do not anticipate anything very detrimental to the railway interests. (2) A very good security, but very dear now. You have allowed the rise to go too far. 111, Gresham House, London, E.C. (3) No occasion to sell unless you want the money. Security quite good. Thanks for hints, which shall be attended to.

G. W.—We fear the company will never do well, and if you can sell your shares at a decent price you might realise, lest you might have a bigger loss to face later on. Thank you for your kind offer.

E. M. (Hackney).—If you can get your original price for the shares sell out; otherwise hold, in the hope of realising without loss—maybe at a small profit, should the bosses combine to push prices a little higher. They may attempt something of the kind to save the market from going to pieces.

Ascot.—(1) It would be taking too great a risk to buy these shares at present prices. They may be pushed up a little further, but should peace not come and money on the other side be scarce in the autumn there might be a nasty shake out. (2) We hesitate to recommend a thing with a history so disastrous, but the price is low, and if you are prepared to take the chance a small purchase might show a profit one day. (3) No, we think very poorly of this concern, and fancy the company has a considerable struggle to meet the debenture interest. Besides, the debentures are near par and anything but cheap looking. (4) These ought to be all right for the sum you name. (5) Terribly over capitalised, as we have often pointed out, and doubts have been expressed whether the full preference dividend will be forthcoming this time. We rather think it will be met though, and you might take the chance. (6) This enterprise is not doing so well as expected, and we think you should wait a little before buying. (7) Quite enough, as the business is rather uncertain. (8) Decidedly risky, the margin against partial default on the seconds being very trifling. Eastern business, though, is pretty good just now, and you might put in the mentioned amount. (9) Very second rate, of course, but the high yield looks attractive. Keep the investment small. Balance put to your credit. Your suggestions are good.

G. S.—The company should not pay a dividend this year, but it may, and its trade is said to be improving, so the shares may go up a bit, but there are no genuine assets behind them.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and August 12, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to August 12, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to August 13, 1904.
Balances, April 1:	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	6,352,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	12,120,000	13,074,000
Excise	30,200,000	10,087,000	10,169,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	5,278,000	4,373,000
Stamps	8,000,000	2,902,000	2,662,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	390,000	510,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	4,666,000	5,056,000
Post Office	16,500,000	4,910,000	4,290,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,500,000	1,400,000
Crown Lands	470,000	140,000	140,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	674,573	607,244
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	529,025	535,476
*Revenue	142,454,000	43,196,598	42,756,720
Total, including balance		50,626,876	47,020,562
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	250,000	250,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..	—	100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..	—	—	230,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	410,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..	—	—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1903 ..	—	8,850,000	—
Temporary Advances, Deficiency	—	—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..	—	—	12,000,000
Total		60,476,876	69,984,552
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	43,196,598	42,756,720
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	58,629	65,155
Excise	5,201,000	1,080,851	1,068,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	1,571,839	1,632,242
Total	9,756,000	2,711,319	2,766,070
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	45,907,917	45,522,790

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Aug. 12, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Aug. 13, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	28,000,000	11,576,789	11,696,806
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	669,750	669,114
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,304,000	37,399,283	39,790,423
Expenditure	142,084,000	49,877,997	52,388,553
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	220,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	90,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount) ..	—	1,000,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..	—	—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..	—	300,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..	—	1,663,000	855,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	400,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	105,000	76,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	159,586	—
Deficiency Advances repaid	—	—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—	—	3,450,000
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Aug. 12, 1905.	£	£	£
Bank of England	5,960,838	2,242,970	—
Bank of Ireland	677,455	627,029	—
Total		6,638,293	2,869,999
Total		60,476,376	69,984,552

Treasury, August 15, 1905.

COMPANY MEETING.

SAMUEL ALLSOPP AND SONS.

The 19th annual general meeting of Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. C. J. Stewart, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Hartshorn) read the formal notice and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said that when he last met them he had to express his disappointment that the results obtained in the former year had not been maintained. In 1903 the company were able to meet the whole of their standing charges, and to place £10,000 to the credit of profit and loss account. He entertained the hope twelve months ago that on the present occasion the depression which had so long existed in the brewing trade would have passed away, but, as they were aware, trades of all kinds had had a worse experience in the past twelve months than in the previous year, and this was especially so with regard to their own business. The Inland Revenue returns indicated that the consumption of beer per head was lower last year than in any twelve months during the past eleven years. The question naturally arose as to how the falling off in the company's sales had occurred. It had not been in their bottled ale business, which had gone on increasing satisfactorily. The decline had been in their bulk business—in the trade done by the licensed victualler on his own premises. Many causes have been given for this reduction of trade. They were told, for instance, that a wave of temperance was sweeping over the country. If that were the case, he was sure that no one truly interested in the brewing industry would object to it, for the intemperate person was the worst enemy the brewer had. The working man, whose club was the licensed premises, was the man who was the real backbone of the brewer; he was the man who, if his earnings were less, caused the brewer to suffer. They had ample proof that that was the case, and that the working man's earnings were less. With a return of good trade, he had very little doubt that there would be a magic effect on their sales. If they had the trade they had in 1903, he had no hesitation in saying that they would be paying now the greater part, if not the whole, of their preference dividend, because over a certain point, after materials, &c., had been provided for, all was profit. They had spent less in advertising, and in this respect they were open to criticism. As regarded the financial position, the Chairman observed that when he joined the board they had many liabilities, and that the position now was that though they had increased their debentures by £305,000, as compared with 1904, on the other hand, they had decreased their liabilities to the extent of £882,000, so that there was a net reduction of liabilities to the amount of £500,000. He felt that the shareholders had had to exercise a great deal of patience in the past, and he could assure them that no efforts had been lacking on the part of the directors to improve the business.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was seconded by the Hon. Geo. Allsopp, when there ensued a long and rather noisy discussion, in the course of which the general policy and management of the undertaking were severely criticised.

Mr. Maybury moved an amendment to the effect that the report should not be adopted, but that a committee composed of one-third directors and two-thirds shareholders should be appointed to inquire into the management of the company, the meeting being adjourned to receive their report.

This was seconded by Mr. Yeomans, who said that the net profit had fallen enormously, and as they were losing at the rate of £1,000 a week, an inquiry ought to be made. (Cheers.)

On the amendment being put to the meeting, it was carried by a very large majority, but the Chairman demanded a poll, and while this was being taken Mr. Herbert Allsopp, who said he had lost £20,000 in the company, suggested a compromise—that the report should be adopted, and that an advisory committee, as suggested by the Chairman, should be adopted.

This was agreed to, the Chairman stating that he would accept it if there was no censure upon the board, and Mr. Maybury saying he would agree if it would tend to peace.

Mr. Bailey then proposed a resolution to discontinue the pensions over £1 a week, but on the advice of the solicitor, who said they were a matter of contract, this was not proceeded with, the committee being left to consider the question.

Mr. Bailey then moved that an investigation should be made into the sales of shares by the late chairman of the company and other members of the family at the time when the company was supposed to be successful.

The resolution was lost by a large majority, and the proceedings terminated, the retiring directors having been re-elected.

UNITED RHODESIA GOLDFIELDS.—A lugubrious interim report is issued by the directors of this parent Rhodesian concern, tears being copious. They are still struggling and striving to bring their various subsidiaries to the payable stage, but regret they have not achieved the success they were led to anticipate. Nor are we surprised to hear it. Nevertheless, operations have been pushed forward on the various properties of the subsidiaries as rapidly as circumstances have permitted, but no active work has yet been done on the parent company's own mines. Arrangements are now being made to do something, however, "in order to avoid the payment of the increasingly heavy fees charged by the Chartered Company for the protection of claims." Yes, the Chartered Company will have its pound of flesh, but who can be hopeful of the prospects of the United Rhodesia Goldfields?

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended August 7, \$3,038.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 14, \$15,643, increase \$5,825; aggregate from January 1, \$495,852, increase \$107,743.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 15, Rs. 56,095, increase Rs. 2,154; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,18,701, increase Rs. 325.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 7, \$79,200, increase \$13,400; total from July 1, \$474,300, increase \$104,600.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 15, Rs. 21,509, increase Rs. 1,272; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 52,760, increase Rs. 439.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 15, \$435, decrease \$162.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of July, \$17,648, decrease \$1,068; aggregate from January 1, \$415,886, increase \$808.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 15, Rs. 14,060, increase Rs. 1,708; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 28,481, decrease Rs. 2,046.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended July 14 amounted to \$64,278.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending August 12, £1,124, decrease £48; aggregate from July 1, £6,926, decrease £214.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for 8 days ending August 12, £1,223, increase £74; aggregate from July 1, £6,488, decrease £895.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for May, £4,399, decrease £149.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending August 12, £96, decrease £251; aggregate from July 1, £1,522, decrease £433.

Liverpool Overhead.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 6, £1,672, decrease £96; aggregate from July 1, £9,869; decrease £518.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 11, £1,678, increase £860; aggregate from July 1, £8,693, increase £3,202.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 13, £54, increase £19; aggregate from July 1, £180, decrease £34.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 11, £6,493, increase £1,281; aggregate from July 1, £33,730, decrease £306.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending August 11, £37,000, increase £9,674; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £838,102, increase £71,346; 430½ miles, against 433½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £1,270, increase £35; aggregate from July 2, £6,954, increase £299.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £142, increase £45; aggregate from July 1, £1,141, decrease £21.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 11, £188, increase £47; aggregate from July 1, £908, decrease £16.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 11, £5,998, increase £620; aggregate from July 1, £33,954, increase £167.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £5,071, decrease £136; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £156,137, increase £11,924.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 11, £317, increase £40; aggregate from July 1, £1,738, decrease £111.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 10, £899.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £1,975, decrease £97; aggregate from October 1, £23,274, decrease £1,922.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 5, £15,556, decrease £362; aggregate from April 1, £275,079, increase £46,919. Miles 314, against 46.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £24,001, increase £860; aggregate from July 2, £156,075, decrease £1,868.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £7,683, increase £443; aggregate from July 1, £53,281, increase £566.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 11, £202, increase £8; aggregate from July 1, £1,229, increase £69.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £13,057, increase £908; aggregate from January 1, £422,134, increase £26,434.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £2,484, increase £208; aggregate from January 1, £70,180, increase £8,651.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £297, increase £26; aggregate from January 1, £9,685, increase £1,301.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to June 30, \$901,014, increase \$91,687. Net earnings from July 1 to June 30, \$328,680, increase \$43,638.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £15,277.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, \$42,345, decrease \$3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, Rs. 44,835, increase Rs. 7,876; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 2,54,162, increase Rs. 42,892.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthagenas and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £4,500, increase £1,777. Total to June 30, £26,606, increase £3,852.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of June, \$392,528; aggregate from January 1, \$2,171,470. Net traffic receipts, \$214,675; aggregate from January 1, \$1,131,943.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	£		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	£
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Aug. 13	2,195	+	31	6	13,163	—	167
Cambrian	" 13	9,783	—	325	6	53,747	—	5,395
Central London ..	" 13	5,312	—	74	6	34,921	—	759
City and South London ..	" 13	2,174	—	40	6	13,493	—	272
Furness	" 13	12,475	+	897	11	66,876	+	919
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 13	72,248	+	4,709	6	432,476	+	21,136
Great Eastern	" 13	133,000	+	14,200	6	735,100	—	19,100
Great Northern and City ..	" 12	1,334	+	350	6	8,646	+	2,794
Great Northern	" 12	128,100	+	5,432	†	737,888	—	19,959
Great Western	" 13	264,700	—	1,600	6	1,567,200	—	24,000
Hull and Barnsley	" 13	9,121	—	1,526	6	55,022	—	4,643
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 13	129,605	+	3,199	11	743,815	+	1,891
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 12	85,568	+	10,982	6	460,733	—	13,295
London & North Western ..	" 13	309,000	—	17,000	6	1,851,000	+	1,000
London & South Western ..	" 13	117,100	+	7,400	11	653,800	—	5,600
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 13	16,796	+	3,356	11	77,958	—	2,711
Metropolitan	" 13	16,846	+	532	11	103,673	+	25
Metropolitan District ..	" 13	6,210	+	127	11	38,923	—	2,124
Midland	" 12	226,774	+	956	6	1,365,963	+	27,937
North Eastern	" 12	212,255	+	30,189	11	1,184,174	+	11,262
North London	" 13	7,770	—	314	11	51,247	—	1,561
North Staffordshire ..	" 13	21,499	+	1,684	11	109,383	—	1,263
Rhymney	" 13	5,115	—	516	6	33,867	+	1,463
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 12	113,798	+	8,210	†	659,711	—	8,893
Taff Vale	" 13	17,135	+	592	6	104,626	—	2,348

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Aug. 13	92,836	+	1,081	2	183,502	+	2,386
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 12	46,102	+	81	11	88,490	—	404
Great North of Scotland ..	" 12	10,875	—	295	6	21,935	—	55
Highland	" 13	14,393	—	419	2	27,779	—	563
North British	" 13	102,792	—	1,383	2	204,817	+	1,535

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Aug. 11	3,648	+	169	6	25,541	—	224
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 11	2,036	+	217	6	12,012	+	802
Great Northern	" 11	22,238	+	1,015	6	132,714	—	321
Midland Great Western ..	" 11	11,268	—	739	6	65,995	—	3,684

† From July 1 to date.

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The Investors' Review.

Indian Accounts and Estimates.

It is most difficult to interest the people of this country in the financial affairs of India, vital though these affairs are to our material well-being. If the management of our great Indian estate is not prudent and thrifty the consequences of mistakes must ultimately recoil upon the people of this country quite as much as upon the natives of India themselves. It is not easy, however, to determine at all points whether our irresponsible Indian bureaucrats are behaving with wisdom or the reverse, at least in matters of finance. The accounts presented every year to Parliament are full of perplexities and pitfalls, the product not necessarily of dishonesty on the part of the officials, but of an excess of ingenuity. Compilers of statistics relating to the income and expenditure of the central Government are always endeavouring by means of readjustments of figures to demonstrate how lightly India is burdened, and in doing this they generally obscure the facts so as to make the picture presented to the mind of the British citizen desirous of getting at the truth a more or less unreal one. Take the position of the debt. The other week a Blue-book was published setting forth the net income and expenditure of British India under certain specified heads for the 11 years ending with March 31, 1904, and under the head of "debt services" in this table we find the net expenditure for interest chargeable upon the revenues of the State put down at £2,131,267 in the year ended March 31, 1894, while 11 years later—viz., in the year ended March 31, 1904—the net amount chargeable for interest on the revenues of India was brought out at £801,565. All the time it must be remembered the debt of India, in one form or another, has been steadily increasing, as even these tables show, since the total amount paid away as interest is set down as having risen from £6,569,000 at the first date given to £7,128,000 in the year ended March 31, 1904. How is the favourable difference in the net charge brought out? By setting forth the interest chargeable to railway capital and to the capital spent on irrigation works as something altogether distinct, not drawn from the revenues of India. The figures are all there in a fashion, but are not all treated as dead weight, and we contend that this method of setting forth the public obligations and burdens laid by us on the people of India tends to mislead, and that it would be better to give the gross amount of the debt charges always, although it may be split up into its component parts afterwards. In all probability the net revenues of the Indian railways and of the irrigation works are to a large extent the product of taxation, of high rates and rents, and it is just as well that we should know these in their true character. They mean a drain upon the product of Indian labour, no matter how classified, and the interest paid here is as a mortgage on that labour.

But the figures given in these returns do not seem to us to set forth the full facts; that is to say, the debt of India appears to us to cost very much more every year to the Indian people in interest and other charges than even the highest of the figures named above indicates. There may be doubt on the point, and we are not going to dogmatise, but just to set forth the facts as we find them. In another return, called "Estimate of revenue and expenditure of the Government of India for the year 1904-5 compared

with the results of 1903-4," we find details given as to interest charges which point to a much more severe draft upon Indian revenues than any set forth in the Blue-book quoted above. Thus we get the net amount chargeable on the revenues of India for ordinary debt put down in the estimates for the current year at £1,638,465, this figure being arrived at after deducting the interest upon the debt created for railways and for irrigation works, and not charged against revenue. Well, let us accept this amount as it stands and then add in the other burdens specified in the return, viz., the railway debt interest, £4,627,639; railway annuities, some undefined portion of which is no doubt capital refunded, but which all, none the less, comes out of the railway income, £3,009,284; interest charged against the railway companies for advances, and, therefore, presumably paid out of their receipts, £455,907; interest on capital deposited by the railway companies, £1,268,272; interest on the borrowed capital of the guaranteed companies, £1,063,643; and finally the interest on the irrigation capital, £1,015,900. Add these various items together, and we arrive at £13,079,110 as the aggregate amount of interest, together with a little capital refunded in the railway annuities, borne by the people of India, met out of their current earnings, and transmissible in great part to this country in the course of the present financial year. It may be that some of these items neutralise each other, although we do not see how that is possible, but they are not so set forth in the tables. We are, therefore, compelled to look upon this £13,000,000 odd as the present weight of the burden laid upon the people of India by the British capital invested in their country. Taking the figure at £13,000,000, and converting it on the conventional basis of Rs. 15 to the £, it is equivalent to the income of nearly four millions of natives at Rs. 50 per annum, and how many natives of India can count upon an income of that amount? The average income of the worker in India is much more like Rs. 35 per annum, is certainly not more than Rs. 40, so that the total earnings of from five to five and a-half millions of native labourers would appear to be swallowed up in debt interest alone, and that is no light thing.

But the tale does not end there by any means. If we turn to the explanatory memorandum of the Secretary of State put forth in illustration of the Indian Budget statement, we find that in addition to the debt burdens set forth therein, there are an enormous number of other revenue charges which have every year to be transmitted to this country. For the current year the estimate of these charges is £19,263,000, as against £18,801,000 in the past year, and £17,400,000 in the year ended March 31, 1904, but only £9,676,000 is included in this aggregate for interest and other charges on State and company railway capital accounts, so that if our inference is accurate these figures are understated by nearly £3,500,000, compared with those of the other official paper. Take them as they are, however, we find that nearly £200,000 is absorbed every year by the India Office staff in London, and some £4,000,000 under one guise or another on account of the army. But these are all net figures, and what we should like to see is an intelligible account of the gross charges payable in this country together with a full exhibit of the total amount of the debt in every form raised in India and here on the authority of the Simla Government or with its sanction, together with the gross interest charge thereon, all found by the labours of the Indian people. By splitting the account up, as is now done, dividing and subtracting, it is almost impossible to get at the truth. Thus, for instance, in the matter of debt, the Secretary of State's explanatory memorandum says that on March 31 last the debt of India amounted to £214,416,726, converting the rupee portion thereof into sterling at 1s. 4d.; but this, he proceeds at once to show, does not include £17,206,551 representing other obligations of the Government, such as money due to the savings banks, judicial and departmental deposits, balances, and surplus funds, &c., nor does it include the capital

spent upon the railways not directly built by the Government. We, indeed, get no complete account of the railway capital in any return, because whenever a railway is bought up by means of an annuity the capital for which this annuity is substituted is deducted from the total of the railway capital outstanding. We are told in this memorandum, for instance, that the Government has purchased six railways on which £85,219,000 had been spent at the date of purchase, but that does not give us any clue to the actual amount paid for these railways, all of whose capital stock has been bought back at a high premium. What we want to see, therefore, is a full statement of the capital account of the railways showing the money they have cost from first to last, the amount of their direct debts, the sums at which those bought back by the State, i.e., really by the Indian taxpayer, have been acquired, and every other capital item relating to this important portion of the burdens of India. To split up and classify and sub-classify after the fashion now followed is to befog the mind of the ordinary citizen, and to conceal even from expert officials themselves the true state of British finance in India.

We have another example of the same character in the treatment of profits made by currency sweating—for we must persist in giving the system of base coinage now in vogue that name. Every year, or every other year, the Government buys so much silver at the market price, mints it, and turns it out upon the people as coins at an altogether artificial price, and in this way it made a profit in 1900-1 of £3,031,294. In the succeeding year this profit fell to little more than £415,000, but for the whole period between 1900-1 and 1904-5 inclusive there was a "profit" through this debasing of currency amounting to £8,077,000, and none of this is taken into the Budget. It is not treated as revenue, the officials graciously explain to us, but is put aside as a special reserve and sent to England for investment in sterling securities. For the life of us we cannot see the wisdom or economy of this proceeding. No doubt the time is approaching when every penny of "reserve" that can be accumulated may be demanded to uphold the credit of the British raj thus undermined; but, meantime, this investing of profits is useless to India, and, at any rate, let us have the full figures every year set forth in the income and outgo. Thanks to these assignments of money disreputably come by the total "gold reserve fund" on March 31 last, including interest invested, was £8,362,616, of which £6,043,758 was in Consols, £528,034 in Khaki stock, £434,511 in Local Loans stock, £727,736 in Transvaal guaranteed stock, and £1,200,000 in British Government Treasury Bills. The Indian Government has to face the fluctuations of the market in these purchases, but there can be no question that its investments must have powerfully contributed to prevent the price of Consols from sinking below 85.

Assuming that the net charges payable in England in the current year are only £19,263,000, of which £3,312,400 is for stores and £4,340,000 or thereby for pensions principally and home allowances, then the excess export balance on the over-sea commerce of India barely suffices to cover this charge. In the year ended March 31 last, for example, the net excess of exports over imports was just £20,143,728. This is after allowing for the transactions in gold and silver carried on by the Indian Government on behalf of its system of debasing the currency. The net excess export of merchandise alone was £35,530,000 in round figures, which was about £5,000,000 less than the net excess in the previous year, but one year with another, taking all things into account, there is very little margin to come and go upon; indeed, were we to add in the charges upon this commerce, which do not come within the scope of a Government Budget, and the private financial obligations discharged, we should probably find that year by year there was no free export surplus at all on the foreign trade of India, and that the credit of the Indian Government can, most years, only be sustained by steady and systematic borrowing. This

borrowing certainly goes on without intermission on a variety of pretexts, and amounts, as Mr. Brodrick said in the House the other day, one year with another, to about £8,000,000. In the Budget for the current year the total is put down at £9,136,200, and in the "revised estimate" for the year ended March 31 last it was £8,382,300, but in the previous year only £6,691,000. Nearly the whole of this money goes into railway extensions, many of which are of more than questionable benefit to the Indian people. That railway extensions assist the foreign trade of the country which is in the hands of the British people for the most part may be beyond question, but much of the new railway mileage is strategic and not designed to pay. Yet the return of capital laid out on these railways is given at £237,232,194 on March 31, 1904, while on irrigation works only £25,291,000 has been spent from first to last, and we must never forget that the whole capital outlay, the whole burden of capital laid by railways like the East Indian or the Great Indian Peninsula lines is not set forth in the return. The question—what is the total debt of India? How much, in other words, has the Indian population been charged with in the shape of British capital lent to it under one guise or another? is nowhere fully answered.

The Secretary of State in his memorandum bravely declares that a sum of not less than £1,000,000 is annually appropriated for the purpose of "famine relief and insurance." "When the outlay in direct famine relief is less than this sum the balance is used for the construction or maintenance of protective railways or irrigation works, and for the construction of ordinary public works which would otherwise require additional borrowing." Just so, and we should like to know to what extent the next famine, a famine threatening India at this present hour, will be mitigated in its ravages by this kind of outlay. Has a single bag of grain been stored so that the State may be in a position to feed the hungry when the crop in the Punjab, or in Madras, or in any part of India now crying out for rain, fails? Is it not mockery to describe money laid out in this fashion as a "famine insurance fund"? What does it insure if not an increase in the sufferings of the people when the harvests fail? In a sense India has prospered these last few years, thanks to better crops and better prices for its cotton, but the prosperity can only be transitory while the permanent burden laid upon the population steadily increases without corresponding benefit to those upon whom it is imposed. Look at the load of the army—nay, but that must be for another day.

United States Deficits, Currency Inflation, and Trade Balance.

Many interesting points emerge in the finances of the Federal Government of Washington when they are looked at closely. In the past twenty-seven years, for instance, the total revenue has grown from about \$274,000,000 to nearly \$543,500,000, and in the same time the expenditure has advanced from \$267,000,000 to upwards of \$567,000,000. During the period something like \$1,268,000,000, or say £254,000,000, has been absorbed in debt interest, but pensions in the same time have taken quite \$2,900,000,000, or nearly £600,000,000. As intimated last week, the financial year closed on June 30 ended with a deficiency of upwards of £4,500,000, but that is nothing to this great country, and instead of curtailing expenditure there are plenty of signs that it will be increased, the big navy for one. The resources of the country, moreover, are undoubtedly expanding, at any rate in the matter of paper money and other means of stimulating prosperity, for the total money in circulation on June 30 last was about \$145,000,000, or say £15,000,000, more than at the end of June, 1904. Of this increase about \$50,000,000 came from expanded bank note issues, the actual increase in the provision of such having been about \$56,000,000. As the New York *Commercial Chronicle* remarks, Secretary Shaw has made special

efforts to get the banks to take out additional notes and in this "has been very successful," the total bank note issue being now \$462,669,000.

When we remember that in addition nearly one-half or 46 per cent. of the national currency consists of silver certificates and Treasury notes issued against the silver dollars of 1890, it will be understood that the inflation which emissions of currency are producing might be sufficient by itself to account for the steady and almost uninterrupted cheapness of money in all United States centres of business, and that in addition to the sales of paper put forth and called money we have the banks manufacturing credit at an officially spurred on pace we may well cease to trouble ourselves about the probability of an early collapse or set-back in the movements of prices on the Wall Street or any other Yankee market. The financiers have simply to imitate the Government, which makes "money" out of nothing, and create new securities to hand over to the banks, which forthwith in turn create new credit against them and put it upon the market as money to balloon things by. When the banks do not take this course directly, they can manage it through the trusts, as Mr. Thos. W. Lawson, of Boston, illustrates in his latest chapter on "Frenzied Finance," published in the August number of *Everybody's Magazine*. He there relates how the redoubtable Mr. Henry Rogers, of the Rockefeller Standard Oil Trust, turned over certain securities, alleged to be held in trust by him and belonging to the Boston Gas Company, to the Central Trust Company in New York, said securities being worth something like \$4,000,000, and obtained \$12,000,000 of the trust's cash in exchange, which money according to Mr. Lawson went into Mr. Rogers's own pocket or into his and those of his associates, John D. and William Rockefeller, so much banking credit created and absorbed. There is no end, in short, to the capacity for creating wealth out of nothing, as finance is now understood and practised in the American Union, and such increases in the bank note circulation as we have just instanced are only one of the instruments by which inflated markets are sustained. Given an extravagant expenditure on the part of the Government, always stimulating to trade for a time, and a multiplicity of credit manufacturing agencies for creating appearances of prosperity in all the industries of the country, and there would seem to be no limit to the ability of the organisers to keep the game up. One day, we suppose, the truth will come home to the American people—viz., when they discover that their wealth has been devoured, wasted—but that day may still be a long way off.

In this connection it may be well to glance at the position of the foreign trade of the Union, as illustrated in the summary figures that have reached this country. There was, according to these, a shrinkage last year in the excess of exports over imports, due mainly to the fact that imports increased by no less than \$126,420,000, the total for the year ended June 30 being nearly \$1,118,000,000. Turned into sterling this was about £223,500,000, showing an increase of £25,300,000 on the import values of the preceding year. Exports of merchandise were larger by only about \$57,000,000 at \$1,518,463,000. The excess of exports over imports was thus brought down to little more than £80,000,000 or a decrease of about £14,000,000 on the excess for the preceding year. As usual the United States statisticians bewail themselves over this decline, whereas to us it would look like some turning of the tide of United States business towards profitableness. Even £80,000,000, however, is an enormous price to pay for the kind of prosperity over which United States publicists gloat. To do a one-sided, losing trade, the result of which is that £80,000,000 worth of goods goes out of the country bringing nothing whatever in return, cannot possibly conduce to permanent prosperity, and must in the long run mean exhaustion to a country, be it never so rich. To some extent there was a set-off to these figures in the movements of bullion, but the fact that exports thereof went up to \$92,594,000 last year

as against imports of only \$53,638,000, and thus slightly raised the aggregate excess value of the exports under all heads, does not indicate prosperity any more than the excess exports of merchandise itself. It shows that the United States had no more gods to send, or had no markets to which to send them. They had exhausted their exporting power in commodities other than bullion and had to supplement their ordinary or live exports by mere dead gold in order to meet their debts abroad.

It is impossible to get the public of the United States to see things in this light, and we need not stay to argue our view out. There the fact stands. United States prosperity consists in a steady excess of exports over imports, such excess to our mind representing if not the entire actual loss upon the trade done, at the very least direct loss and the demands of foreign debt obligations combined. It is the trade of a people who sell cheap and buy dear. That the margin between exports and imports has somewhat narrowed last year towards a more favourable position for the Union is so far a hopeful sign; but we do not believe that under their present system of conducting business the United States can ever attain to true prosperity—the prosperity illustrated by the statistics of British foreign trade. We sell abroad at a profit and grow in wealth by our selling, as is proved by the splendid invariable excess of the value of our imports over that of exports. The United States pushes an enormous trade abroad, and does it at a loss in order to sustain a system of finance ruinous in its consequences to the inhabitants of the Republic. Were it an exhausted, worn-out land like British India it would have been famine-ridden in consequence of its folly long ago. As things are, the people are only dissipating as fast as they can a fat and fair inheritance. When all is devoured, scattered to the winds, there will be plenty of paper left, for Mr. Secretary Shaw is not the only one who has been "very successful" in creating wealth-consuming forms of money.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE TRIUMPH OF KITCHENER AND BRODRICK.

Lord Curzon has resigned, or, rather, has been driven from his post by the ineptitudes and subservience of Mr. St. John Brodrick, Secretary of State for India, and one of the least statesmanlike men who ever occupied that exalted position. But the real victor has been Lord Kitchener, also in his own line one of the poorest magnificences of our time. Compared with these two Lord Curzon is indeed a man of parts and worthy to lead. We say this not from any love to his lordship, but because it is the barest justice. Until his last fight with the military faction—most purblind and dangerous of all factions in a State, worse even than the clerical faction when it gets the upper hand—Lord Curzon, in our view, did little but unrelieved mischief in India, but he did it always with decided ability. Not the superlative Milner himself could have got up a sham case for war with greater smartness than Lord Curzon did when he went about inveigling us into Tibet and as a showman he beat our German satrap all to bare flagstuffs. The Delhi Durbar as a kind of apotheosis of Curzon was the finest thing in shows—and for our Indian Empire the most deadly—ever staged. His lordship was all jingo, too, and acquiesced without a murmur, so far as we know, in the steadily augmenting demands of the military party in India—demands the intolerable oppressiveness of which will surely be revealed to us when the next great famine comes if not before. But a day came, a point was reached that forced his lordship to choose between an appearance of Civil Government and open military dictatorship in India, and he made his stand for the supremacy of his own office. The sacrifice was most creditable to him in all ways, for he must have resisted Lord Kitchener

with his eyes fully open to the consequences. A ministry such as Mr. Arthur Balfour shepherds, or drives, could not be expected for one moment to resist the military cormorants, and it did not. Make-believe resistance it made, leading to much word-mist raising by Mr. Brodrick, the ever-immaculate and futile; but it was obvious from the first that if the headstrong and, on all Indian and most other affairs, crassly ignorant Lord Kitchener had made up his mind to be obeyed, the Secretary of State and all the lot would bow the knee before him and do his bidding, come of poor forsaken Curzon what might. The final row arose over the man to be appointed as Lord Kitchener's spokesman and will-expressor in the vice-regal council. "I must appoint him," said the Viceroy. "No you shan't," retorted Lord Kitchener, and as there was no gainsaying this refusal Lord Curzon "chucked the whole job up." He gives place to a jingo Chamberlainite of the most ordinary capacity, for the Earl of Minto—his successor—has never betrayed the possession of any of those gifts of statesmanship his ancestor, the second Earl, displayed. When Governor-General of Canada he did not a little to foster the most demoralised form of Protectionist jingoism there, and he will probably be a willing tool in the hands of Lord Kitchener, that great man who has more than once proved himself to be incapable of handling an army in the field, whom our decadents of the Press and society worship as coming war god, tool likewise of the tariffites of Birmingham. Lord Curzon, though, may come out on top in the end for all his defeat now. What is to hinder him from coming home, with the prestige of his wrongs to help him, and succeeding to the headship of the Tory party? If he lays aside some of his offensive mannerisms and cultivates suavity he might attain to the dignity of Prime Minister just when the unemployed are proceeding to "divide up" in order to equalise things for the "multi-millionaires" so much in evidence at present.

THE RUSSIAN "CONSTITUTION."

It is as we feared, not as we had tried to hope. The Tsar has not risen to the height of his opportunity. What he has offered to his people is a mock constitution, not true liberty in any form. From a man so feeble and irresolute—and how weak he is anyone may judge who cares to look at that snapshot of him and the Kaiser on board the latter's yacht which first appeared in the *Sphere* a fortnight ago, and then a week later enlarged in the *Graphic*—a bold and generous measure of freedom was not to be looked for, but we did hope that he might have instituted such a representative body as might have ensured progress in civil liberty, free from internal convulsions in years to come. The Tsar has not been man enough to take this course. All he and his absolutist tools have done is to try to invent, fabricate, or dress up something which, while giving a semblance of representative government to the nation, might, in reality, serve to rivet the power of the bureaucracy upon the people's necks. Ministers are not to be accountable to the new assembly; the educated and propertied classes are to be swamped in it; it has no stability of a substantial kind, and if ever it meets, which seems improbable, need not conduct its debates in public—will probably not be allowed to do so without a struggle. The finances of the country are not put under its control; it cannot initiate legislation, nor stop the promulgation of bad laws from above. In all its essentials the autocracy, upon which the bureaucracy feeds and grows, is left untouched. Why, then, did the Tsar and his councillors take the trouble to elaborate and publish a sham so pitiful? Ah, in the answer to that question still rests our hope. They were impelled by fear. All around them the signs of coming revolution multiply, before which the powers that be are terror-haunted, like travellers chased by wolves. In their feverish dread they try first this expedient and then the other, so as, if possible, to check or stop the onward rush of their foes. This illusory constitution is the latest sop flung to the multitude becoming ever more clamorous for deliver-

ance from the hell of corrupt, vengeful, brutal and incompetent officialism in which they now waste their lives. From this point of view the manifesto is really a great victory. Absolutism has been moved from its cold impassivity, and compelled to admit—lamely, maladroitly, it may be, but still to admit—that the people have rights of a sort. It is for the party of freedom in Russia to accept the gift, and press on. Whatever the restrictions, however narrow and arbitrary the franchise, the new assembly should be accepted, and from the narrow ledge of vantage it gives the reformers must work on until Russia is completely free. To wholly reject the proffered "reform" would be a mistake, were it for no other reason than that the door of pacific development would thereby be shut, leaving no way open to reformers save the way of open revolution. Russia is, we suspect, nearer open civil war now than observers at a distance can have any idea of, and the utmost self-restraint and wariness will be required to prevent it from breaking out. Had the Tsar a remnant of the greatness of some of his forbears left in him, he might have saved his country, but he has nothing about him of the hero, and the nation must, therefore, look to itself. That is the lesson to be drawn from his Imperial Majesty's latest attempt to satisfy the hunger of his people by spilling a little ink.

But to have the most transitory chance of success the hoodwinking game of the autocrat should have been properly played. To promulgate a skeleton constitution, and then pounce down upon the Liberals and carry them off to jail is not the way to make the trick work. That is what the Russian bureaucrats have done. Because a number of peaceful citizens assembled in the suburban home of M. Milukoff, professor of Russian history in the University of Petersburg, with a view to concerting measures to secure a return of Liberals at the coming elections, they were all arrested and clapped in durance vile. This likewise is a sign of fear, of the utter demoralisation of the powers that be. So great is the dread of light in any form that the bureaucracy must try to extinguish the fire before it has had time to kindle. Had they possessed any spark of wisdom, the Tsar and his governors would have played with the aspirations of the people, using fine swelling words, after the manner of party politicians in England, promising old age pensions, the triumph of democracy over privilege, work for the unemployed, wealth through augmented taxation, and an era of universal happiness—all to be attained through trust in the Tsar and his myrmidons. To go brutally clapping patriots in prison mars everything, and proclaims the rulers of Russia to be mere panic-struck bunglers, whose defeat is certain. They think to stop the growth of the nation's soul by these acts of tyranny, and the more they compress, the greater will be the devastation that will overtake them when the pent-up forces develop energy enough to explode. Already in Warsaw, the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says, Russian authority is at an end—the very Cossacks afraid to move out, except in large bodies. Soon it may be thus all over the Empire; work stopped, payment of taxes refused, passive resistance to oppression, the law of life from one end of the Tsar's dominions to the other. Then where will repressive measures and the abstraction of the enlightened leaders of the people land the bureaucracy? It is madness, all this manifesting and arresting; only men bereft of reason would dream of acting thus. But their abject fear should give courage to those who fight for the people's deliverance.

THE MADAGASCAR FIASCO.

In spite of last week's revelations there are signs and indications that Johannesburg speculators and finance houses are not despairing of engineering a Madagascar boom, but that further efforts are still to be made to stir up public interest and enthusiasm. A cablegram, for instance, says that with regard to the unfavourable rumours circulated concerning a certain

Madagascar property, reports have now been received from a mining engineer giving better accounts of the district in question. Is that so? How brief and vague it all is, however, as though it were perilously risky to say one word too many. Another cable communication states that the many conflicting rumours relative to Lecomte Madagascar Concessions have been finally settled by the arrival of Mr. Pope's report, which describes the ground inspected and sampled as enormously rich in alluvial gold. Full particulars are to follow. How eager we shall all be to read them! "The shares of the syndicate have advanced to £15, with excited dealing." Good gracious! But the public on this side no longer enthuse over spurious excitement worked up in Johannesburg. In connection with this latter news it is interesting to learn from the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Financial News*, in his letter dated July 31, that "Madagascar and her possibilities continue to almost entirely absorb the interest of mining people here and the speculating public, and the news which has leaked out during the week, that the Lecomte Madagascar Gold Concessions, Limited, has received offers from leading financial houses here to refloat the syndicate on a capital basis of £750,000 has caused dealings in the shares to expand considerably. No details of the scheme have yet been made public, but it is understood that the new company will be provided with a working capital of £150,000. The capital of the present syndicate is £20,000 in £1 shares." He adds that the now famous W. and B. Syndicate, to which we referred last week, whose capital is £50,000 in £100 shares, was to be floated into a company with a capital of £500,000 in £1 shares. Then he refers to rumours of other syndicates about to be formed, and adds: "With these important developments in the air, the report of Mr. Pope, or a cabled summary of it, is naturally being awaited with no little anxiety." Well, all we know so far is that full particulars are to follow, but whilst they are leisurely following the shares can be rigged to tempt the fools to buy. Last week's news should be quite enough to teach the public wisdom and caution, as well as warn them to have nothing to do with Madagascarian company promotion. The *Liberté*, referring to recent reports, remarks that "as these manoeuvres might be very prejudicial to our colony, the Government has decided to publish very shortly the new decree concerning the conditions of exploitation of mines in Madagascar," which is to appear within a fortnight at latest. But if the colony is poor in gold decrees will not make it rich, and we do not think it is worth exploiting.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL DAIRY PRODUCE IN 1904-5.

The growth of the trade in butter exports from the Continent to this country received a serious check in the year ended June 30, owing to the severe drought which visited most European countries in the late summer and autumn of 1904, and the injury done seems to be more than a temporary one. Failure of the grass crop and of the second hay crop not only caused a falling off in the production of butter, but forced farmers in the districts chiefly affected to reduce their milking herds in the winter to an extent which will take a considerable time to make good. One result of this has been that supplies which in normal conditions would be available for our market have been diverted to other European countries, and Messrs. W. Weddel and Co., in their annual review of the trade, show that the imports for the twelve months from the four largest producers fell off by 16,000 tons. France sent us 5,168 tons, Holland 4,961 tons, Denmark 4,631 tons, and Sweden 1,162 tons less, and if we count in Russia and Siberia the decrease from the five countries reached a total of 20,773 tons. Imports from Germany have been dwindling for some years, and last year dropped to the insignificant figure of 89 tons, compared with 15,000 tons about 20 years ago. Argentine supplies at the same time were 860 tons down, and with trifling increases from the United

States and other countries not enumerated, the total foreign butter coming into this market was 152,015 tons, against 173,573 tons in the previous twelve months. Part of this deficit was made good by an advance from 45,370 tons to 51,882 tons from the colonies, but even so there was a shortage of 15,046 tons at 203,897 tons. In 1903-4 Australian imports, thanks to the break-up of the drought, jumped from 1,053 tons to 19,655 tons, and during the year just ended a further increase to 23,368 tons was recorded, most of which came from Victoria and Queensland. Canadian imports, too, showed a fair improvement of 2,968 tons at 12,847 tons, but New Zealand shipments were much about the same as a year ago at 15,667 tons.

Although the Australian supplies were so much larger, there is still a good deal of grumbling about the quality, and but for the reduction in European supplies more might have been said on the subject. This scarcity, however, ensured a keen demand for butter to sell at 1s. per lb., and the question of quality became of minor importance; but such fortune may not occur again, and Australian manufacturers would do well to follow the methods of their neighbours in New Zealand. In that country makers are stimulated to do their best by the Government method of grading all butters, and factories naturally strive to get their produce into the first class with the result that a high standard of quality is reached. The only complaint against New Zealand butter appears to be that its dryness renders it less economical to use than Danish or other butter containing more moisture, and Messrs. Weddel, who thoroughly understand the market, are urging the makers to try the experiment of leaving an additional 3 per cent. or so of water in the butter. New Zealanders boast of the high position their butter has attained in the market and ascribe the better flavour and superior keeping qualities to this same dryness, but this contention does not seem to have been proved, while it is certain that Danish butter, which contains more moisture, continues to bring a much higher price in the market. With New Zealand butter standing so well, it seems strange that the imports last year should have fallen off slightly, but in this connection it must not be forgotten that in 1903-4 the shipments rose from 9,575 tons to 15,836 tons by the diversion of a large quantity from the Australian market owing to the import duty of 3d. per lb. imposed by the Commonwealth. Canadian butter falls very much below Australian in quality, partly because the industry comes second to cheese-making and partly because the methods adopted are antiquated and full of defects.

With regard to cheese, Messrs. Weddel state that imports during the last six years have been practically stationary, and as the home production is in much the same condition, they draw the conclusion that this article is being ousted from the British dietary by the plentiful and cheap supplies of frozen meat. Supplies from foreign countries, with the exception of France, are steadily dwindling and last year only 25,718 tons were received against 33,342 tons and 39,099 tons in the two previous years. Colonial imports, too, fell to 96,380 tons compared with 102,435 tons in 1903-4, but were still substantially higher than in the preceding twelve months. Of this total Canada sent us nearly 96 per cent., New Zealand shipments being only 4,072 tons, while Australia was quite out of the market. If Canadian butter leaves much to be desired in the way of quality the reverse is true of the cheese. Both quality and condition were regarded as most satisfactory, and the improvement over the previous year is ascribed to less being made while the cows were still being fed on dry fodder, and to the new arrangements by the shipping companies for carrying the cheese in cool air chambers. Although in New Zealand cheese-making is of minor importance compared with the butter trade, the increase in imports since 1895 having been only 160 tons against nearly 13,000 tons in butter, manufacturers are equally careful and persistent in their efforts to improve the quality, and last year's shipments were better than in any previous period.

A decided improvement has taken place in the shipping arrangements from Australia as the result of the Royal Commission on the butter industry in Australia, and it seems probable that supplies will now come forward in a manner rendering them more easily handled. At one time the two mail companies had what was virtually a monopoly of the carrying trade, but last year several outside lines entered into competition and by reducing the freight 50 per cent. have now secured the bulk of the business. This means that instead of one ship a week bringing large quantities there will be several vessels with smaller quantities, and the distribution will consequently be more readily dealt with. In this matter of shipment and delivery the New Zealand agents have need to take a leaf out of the Australians' book, as, judging by the examples given, their system would appear to be decidedly faulty. For instance, two Australian vessels in December last discharged over 75,000 boxes in an average of four days each while three New Zealand vessels took the same number of days to discharge 9,500 boxes, and the other cases quoted by Messrs. Weddel are even worse. Five Australian ships discharged over 185,000 boxes in an average of four days each, and four discharged 87,700 boxes in an average of three days each, against seven days each for 14,600 boxes and 8½ days each for 18,000 boxes by New Zealand boats.

In home production there would seem to be indications that the British farmer is turning his attention more and more to pastoral farming, and the milking herds in the United Kingdom on June 4, 1904, according to the Agricultural Returns, showed an increase of 93,241 to 4,193,721 in the number of cows and heifers in milk or in calf. Increase in herds, however, is only the first step, and if the farmer in this country intends to compete successfully with dairy produce from abroad he will have to go very much further. Only by co-operation with his neighbours can he hope to produce butter or cheese in such quantities as will enable him to hold his own, but as soon as that principle is adopted there seems no reason to doubt that a very large slice of the trade now supplied from abroad would be met with home produce. Such a policy, however, does not appear likely to be taken up immediately, and in making their forecast for the current year Messrs. Weddel do not take it into account. The hay crop for Great Britain is estimated at nearly 5 cwt. per acre, or 17 per cent. below that for 1904, representing a deficiency of about 1,750,000 tons, and as the Irish crop is also less, a decrease of 1,500 to 2,000 tons is looked for in the output of butter at home.

Regarding the general market outlook, Australian supplies of butter are expected to show an increase of 4,000 tons, and New Zealand an increase of 1,500 tons, while about 3,000 tons more may come from the Continent. Argentina, however, finds a better market in South Africa and America has enough to do to supply her own needs, so that no increase in supplies can be looked for from those two countries. The normal increase has been about 8,000 tons per annum during the past ten years, so that the increase estimated is about up to the average, but with the 15,000 tons short last year the quantity in stock is less than a quarter of the usual amount. Messrs. Weddel, therefore, look for a higher level of prices to rule, and they put the advance at about 7s. 6d. per cwt., provided there is no recurrence of partial drought in Australia or any reduction in supplies from elsewhere.

MR. TANQUERAY TODD'S TRUST.

Readers will doubtless recall the severe strictures we have passed from time to time upon Hannan's Trust, Limited, a concern run by Mr. Tanqueray Todd, in association latterly with that brilliant financier and company promoter, Mr. Horatio Bottomley. It was only in March last that these heaven-sent men of genius waxed indignant over an alleged conspiracy by a certain firm of Stock Exchange jobbers against their marine-store institution. Can we not vividly recall how they added to the gaiety of a sad world by the publication of a circular headed, "A Stock Exchange

Scandal," in which these two angelic individuals wept because unprincipled manipulation had rigged the shares to £4, when their intrinsic value, computed by their own immaculate selves, was only £1½? Was not the gentle, unselfish Horatio willing to settle with the "bears" at £20 or thereabouts? And did we not earnestly advise all and sundry to clear out at the price to which the shares had been raised by the buying of Horatio and Tanqueray? Since then we have not heard of the dire punishment threatened by these two valiant individuals against the Stock Exchange dealers, nor have we heard anything about further transactions by this famous trust, which the self-same circular declared "has been successfully engaged in various businesses." Now the tragic end has come, and there will be few who will shed a tear over its well-merited fate. Despite these "successful" (sic) businesses the creditors and shareholders met this week at Carey Street to select a liquidator and a committee of inspection. Mr. H. E. Burgess, the Senior Assistant Receiver, reported that the accounts filed under the liquidation showed total liabilities £40,345 (unsecured £15,323), and assets £3,137, absorbed in the debenture holders' claims. The account with the contributors disclosed a deficiency of £98,473. The company was formed as far back as 1897, with a nominal capital of £200,000, in £1 shares, and no prospectus was issued. Since February, 1904, the company has been wholly controlled by Mr. Tanqueray Todd, the chairman, when, as it was without capital, he lent to it certain securities, which, at his suggestion, were pledged with the North-Western Associated Gold Mines (W.A.) for an advance of £1,000 at 8 per cent. The loan was shortly afterwards repaid, but while it was in existence £700 of the amount was lent to Mr. Todd by the company. On March 28, 1904, Mr. Todd subscribed for 10,550 shares in the names of nominees, and the North-Western Associated Gold Mines subscribed for 17,000 shares, which were allotted on the same day, and out of the capital of £27,550 thus raised £26,550 was applied to the purchase of 177,000 North-Western shares at 3s. each, and the balance of £1,000 to the repayment of the above-mentioned loan. These transactions were shown by book entries only, no actual cash having apparently passed. Mr. Todd acquired the company's title in January, 1904, to assist in financing certain mines which he had arranged to secure in West Australia, and in the following March a cablegram was received from his representative there to the effect that five mines had been secured, and that the erection of plant was being proceeded with. A cheque for £57,000 was drawn by the company for the purchase of these properties, and of others over which options had been obtained, and Mr. Todd paid the company his cheque for £56,943 in return for 56,943 shares. The purchase of the properties was never carried out, and the bulk of the above shares was used for other purposes, unfavourable reports being received as to the value of the properties.

In continuing the interesting story, the Receiver went on to say:—

In October, 1904, the company purchased the assets of the Mount Yagahong Exploration and Finance Company, Limited, for £43,750 in shares of a new company to be formed, and in the following month it sold them at a gross profit of £33,500, almost entirely in shares, to the Corona Consolidated, Limited, which was a reconstruction of the Associated Southern Gold Mines (W.A.), Limited. The latter company lent this company £2,250, in anticipation of the completion of the sale; but completion had never taken place, and judgment for the amount had been obtained by the Associated Southern Company. There had been other transactions, on the suggestion of Mr. Todd, between the Hannan's Company and the African Consolidated Investment Company, Limited. Then, on January 5 last, the company entered into an agreement with the liquidator of the Kalgoorlie Mint and Iron King Gold Estates, Limited, guaranteeing the subscription of shares upon the reconstruction of that company, under the title of the Oroya Extended, Limited, the consideration to the company being the right to call all shares not taken up by the shareholders of the Kalgoorlie Company under the reconstruction. During January Mr. Todd reported to the board that he was negotiating, on behalf of the company, for the purchase of the assets of the Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, Limited; but, although the negotiations extended over a lengthy period, nothing resulted from them

nor from a counter-proposal that the Joint Stock Trust should acquire the assets of the company. A scheme to acquire the assets of the North-Western Associated Gold Mines (W.A.), Limited, for £46,861 in shares was considered in February; but it fell through, because it was not approved by the shareholders of the North-Western Company. In April last arrangements were made by Mr. Todd, on behalf of the company, to acquire £30,000 debentures of the Selected Gold Mines of Australia, Limited, with a view to the acquisition of a controlling interest in those mines, and the purchase was effected by a series of intricate transactions, having for their object the avoidance of any cash payment. On May 19 last a debenture action was commenced against the company, and Mr. Athelstan Dangerfield, C.A., was appointed as receiver by the Court. The failure of the company was attributed to the loss of the action brought against the company by the Associated Southern Company for recovery of their loan of £2,250 and to the long-continued dulness in mining matters generally. It was further ascribed to the purchase of the Australian mines, which proved to be worthless, to lack of capital, and to the onerous nature of the company's financial operations, which it was unable to carry through. The creditors, by a large majority, voted in favour of the appointment to the post of liquidator of Mr. N. M. Ogle, C.A., and the shareholders at the subsequent meeting unanimously supported the resolution. It was also decided not to elect a committee of inspection.

Those who have acted upon our advice, repeatedly given in our comments on the circulars issued by Mr. Todd and the company's reports, will feel pleased they are not in at the death.

GUEST, KEEN, AND NETTLEFOLDS.

The free trade prosperity of this powerful iron and steel combine is simply amazing. What in the world it could hope to gain from a policy of protection is beyond our powers to imagine, and we doubt if the chairman, Mr. Arthur Keen, will bang the Birmingham drum at next Tuesday's meeting, despite his avowed "reforming" tendencies. Anyhow for the moment the company is a very lively member of a nearly expired industry, alas! we never hear of dumping these days, and last year gathered the magnificent profit of £407,557, say £3,500 more than in the previous 12 months. So wealthy is the undertaking that the free balance brought forward is itself a fortune, the amount this time being £138,070, and making the entire sum for disposal £545,627. From that the debenture interest requires £70,319 and preference dividend £86,000, so that the directors pay the usual ordinary dividend of 10 per cent., add £150,000 to reserve, and further increase the carry forward to £142,808. The credit to reserve is no less than three-eighths of the profits, and raises the fund to £750,000. It is genuine, too, because the company has investments, high-grade securities, that is, to the amount of £1,866,535, an increase on the year of £218,495, reflecting fully the £150,000 placed to the accumulations a year ago. Freehold and leasehold land, buildings, collieries, and blast furnaces, &c., stand at the old figure of £2,821,200, and although these are no doubt maintained in the highest state of efficiency, we think it would be good policy to create a specific depreciation account against the properties instead of adding so lavishly to the ordinary reserve. Stocks of all kinds are a little higher at £560,267, the steadiness of this item seems to indicate a very sound trade, debtors owe £328,941, against sundry creditors of £265,694, and cash and bills are in ample supply at £208,309. A thoroughly sound position looked at anyhow, but the shares are dear, and, at present prices, yield less than 4½ per cent.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS—GLENCAIRN MAIN REEF.

Although this member of the Barnato group was formed as long ago as 1889 it has returned very little to the shareholders in the shape of dividends. During that period its capital has steadily grown from time to time until it recently reached its present high figure of £550,000. In 1898 £140,000 six per cent. debentures were issued, but the debt has been reduced to £60,000. The first dividend was paid in the year 1894, at the modest rate of 5 per cent.; in the following year 22½ per cent. was distributed and in 1896 12½ per cent., all on capitals of £225,000. Then there was a temporary suspension, the next payment being in June and Decem-

ber, 1898, totalling 25 per cent., making an aggregate distribution by the company of 65 per cent. After the war crushing operations were resumed in January, 1903, but up to the present profits have not been sufficient to allow of a further dividend. The company has lately increased its battery to 160 stamps, so that when these are in full operation the profits ought to be greater than they have been in the past. On the other hand, the capital has been doubled, which will neutralise the effect of dealing with a larger tonnage, whilst the extra stamps will exhaust the mine the more quickly. It is difficult to say how long the mine will last. With 160 stamps milling about 270,000 tons a year its life has been computed at twelve to thirteen years from the present time, but as a large number of stamps are still idle, about fifty now, it would be advisable, perhaps, to put the life at fifteen years. But what dividends can the company earn and pay? In the last completed financial year to the end of 1904 the average number of stamps run was nearly 89, crushing 146,789 tons, at the comparatively low profit of a little over 7s. per ton, equal to £53,048. But from this have to be deducted debenture interest, interest on loan, depreciation, &c., amounting to £29,600, so the net profit was only £23,448, to which £8,373 brought in was added, and £1,653 from sundry sources. Let us assume that when the full battery is running this profit will be much more than doubled and raised to £60,000; this is equal to a little over 10 per cent. on the total capital, but the directors would not divide the whole of it, and there will be the profits-tax to pay. So suppose we put the distribution as high as 8 per cent. Even speculators do not seem to expect more, seeing that the price of the share keeps round about par. Let us further say that 8 per cent. will be paid for 14 years, on the assumption that something may be distributed next year. The return would be £112 at the end of the mine's life on an investment of £100, leaving £12 for dividends, or less than 1 per cent. But the investor would have to allow for the redemption of his capital, say, at the end of 15 years from now, which would require about £5 5s. per annum at 3 per cent. This would give a yield of about 2½ per cent., including stamp fees, commission, &c., and the waiting for the dividend. With a mine of this very uncertain character it is only possible to calculate very roughly, but on present data we think we have done the company full justice.

A WESTRALIAN RECONSTRUCTION.

For several weeks—in fact, months past—speculators in the West Australian market have loudly sung the praises of Hannan's Star, and have succeeded in pushing the price up as a seductive-looking bait to outsiders. We ourselves have never had any belief in this mine, and so looked with considerable suspicion upon these market movements. The company has been in existence over ten years, and during that lengthy period has distinguished itself by making losses. Still, there was always the possibility that the mine might improve in depth, that profits might be earned, and even dividends paid, so we have waited patiently to see if these optimistic market predictions would come true. It is only this week that the directors have ventured to issue the report for 1904, and a depressing document it is. In the twelve months some 25,000 odd tons of ore were treated at the mill, yielding 10,326 ounces of fine gold, realising £43,967. Thus the ore was of very poor value, poorer than in the previous year, which seems to belie the hopes of a probable improvement in depth. The gold won has been sufficient only to pay working expenses, including depreciation and maintenance of plant and machinery. Had the average grade of the previous year been maintained, the directors argue, a profit of over £12,000 would have resulted. But what consolation is there in this? The distressing fact is that it was not maintained, and what encouragement does it hold out of a probable improvement in the future? Even had a profit been earned it would only have slightly reduced the big deficit in the accounts. A maintenance of the grade alone is not

needed to ensure dividends. There must be a considerable improvement, of quite 100 per cent., to make a distribution possible before the Kalgoorlie field is worked out, and by that time many of the present shareholders may be in their graves. Working costs have been considerably reduced—from 37s. 4d. to 31s. 8d. per ton—but the figure is even now very high, and unless they can be cut down several more shillings profits seem impossible. For the ore reserves at the end of the year were estimated at only 12,149 tons, averaging between 10 and 11 dwts. per ton, and 19,006 tons from 6 to 8 dwts., which gives further striking evidence of the poor quality of the ore. The directors have purchased the adjoining Chaffers Extended lease of 20 acres, which they describe as an important addition. It is not easy to understand where the importance comes in, seeing they bought it for the low price of £750 in fully paid shares, proving that the owners were glad to get rid of it at any figure. But paper is easily manufactured, anyway. It is argued that this ground will give the company the continuation of Morrison's lode in depth, but if this lode is likely to be valuable, surely the directors of Chaffers Extended would have preferred working it themselves? During the present year there is a further falling off in value reported of the ore in the stopes of the main lode, but Morrison's is declared to be developing encouragingly. So the directors are now hugging the hope that by enlarging the mill to double its capacity they can place the company on a paying basis. But unfortunately the company has come to the end of its resources, and as nothing can be done without cash the directors are boldly appealing to the shareholders to provide a lump more. Accordingly, they advise reconstruction. The managers estimate that no less than £40,000—a tremendous sum after all these years of working—will be required, and in order to provide this amount it is proposed to make an assessment of 4s. per share. This is a painful disillusionment to the shareholders. Instead of the dividends they saw coming they are asked to subscribe several more thousands on a very hopeless looking venture. It cannot be said that there is the least inducement held out to them to throw good money after that which they now know is gone for ever. Last year's loss was £10,184, and the debit is now £49,830.

Passing Events.

We trust Mr. William Carter will meet with success in his brave endeavour to reopen the old Woking and Basingstoke Canal to both passenger and goods traffic. English canals throughout the country afford a melancholy instance of the wasteful and careless habits of the people, offering in this respect the greatest possible contrast to the waterways of our neighbour, thrifty and well-husbanded France. Mr. Carter proposes to put barges driven by motors on the now derelict canal, and that method of propulsion ought to be applied with success on all the canals of the kingdom, reviving their traffic and doing much to relieve the railways of business which they declare to be unremunerative. The first chance we have we shall hope to take a trip along the reopened water from end to end.

So incurably parochial are Londoners that little attention has been paid by them to the momentous struggle which for weeks hung over, and threatened to break out, between the cotton operatives of Lancashire and their employers. Happily the calamitous strike which lately seemed inevitable has been averted by the unremitting efforts of the Lord Mayor of Manchester and other peacemakers, and those who but a few days ago breathed little but threats against each other are now happy and harmonious in a compromise by virtue of which the operatives get half the rise in wages demanded—2½ per cent., in lieu of 5 per cent.—for six months, with the prospect that before that time expires a scheme may be elaborated by means of which wages will in future be automatically regulated.

It will come to co-partnery in time, we have little doubt, and is not the Labour Co-partnership Association, so ably guided by Mr. Annerin Williams and his associates, showing the way? A co-partnery of labourers alone may never be able to accomplish great things, but when capitalist and worker go hand-in-hand they will have the world at their feet. Also the occupation of the dishonest, grab-all company-promoter will be gone for ever.

Just as expected, the war in the Far East had a considerable influence on the trade of Nagasaki during 1904, the imports showing a large increase and the exports a small decrease. We sent in an extra £813,657 worth, having first lent the money to buy the goods, and the United States, Indo-China, and Siam all show substantial advances compared with 1903, kerosene oil and rice showing the largest gains. British shipping also fared well, the number of vessels entering the ports of Nagasaki, Karatsu, and Kuchinotsu being 550 of a tonnage of 1,271,425 against 309, aggregating 820,950 tons, but the war seriously upset the Japanese shipping, which fell off by no less than 519 vessels of a tonnage of 791,026. Business men of the open ports have been hard hit by extra burdens of taxation, and this dislocation of shipping and fears of meeting an untimely end by means of floating mines and the now defunct Russian fleets dealt a severe blow to the tourist traffic.

The unresting Germans are making a bold bid for some of the Mediterranean coal trade, and Welsh coal no longer has a monopoly at Algiers and other coaling stations along the coast. The importation of German fuel, we learn from the report on the trade of Algeria for the year 1903-4, has considerably increased during the last few years, particularly since the imposition of the export tax in the United Kingdom. German fuel has been accepted on contract by the Paris-Lyons-Mediterranean Railway at a figure about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton less than that offered by British competitors. The quality appears to give satisfaction. Nearly all the shipping at the port of Philippeville is in French hands, and French steamers are easily holding their own at other ports, but that is only to be expected because Algeria is considered France's sphere of influence. The strikes at Marseilles had a noticeably adverse effect on business last year.

Although actual statistics are not available, owing to the non-classification of the goods, Savannah is still a considerable buyer of Indian merchandise, and every year takes quantities of jute, Rangoon rice, and other articles, the business for 1904 being about normal. British, German, Dutch, and Belgian steamers are supplanting the Norwegian and Swedish sailing vessels in the carriage of turpentine, resin, and lumber exported to foreign parts. Britain was easily first.

Details have not yet been published of the terms for the fusion of J. Marston, Thompson, and Son and Sydney Evershed, two well-known Burton brewery companies, but as the capital of the former is to be increased by £100,000 in ordinary and £50,000 in preference shares, and Sydney Evershed's capital is £150,070, the exchange will probably be share for share.

The *Daily Chronicle* is responsible for the startling statement, made on unimpeachable authority, that the new guns for the artillery, on which a couple of millions are being spent, are practically useless. A first consignment sent to the Indian Army were found so defective on arrival that they are being returned to England for alteration. Their mechanism was completely upset by the voyage, and when tested after disembarkation the weapons were discovered to be quite unequal to the requirements of active service. This was the gun that experts described as the finest quick-firer in the world. But never mind, it is only two millions wasted, and at the very worst the guns can be given to the volunteers with the compliments of the Right Hon. H. O. Arnold-Forster, Secretary for War.

Last week a correspondent sent us a couple of documents which were dropped in his letter-box by a venture called the American Exploration Company—you know the kind of thing—whose president bears the singularly appropriate name of Gammon. It has a co-operative investment system to exploit just in the usual style, and offers shares in the Eclipse Gold Mining Company, supposed to be possessed of wonderful mines in California. How absurdly familiar it all is. However, anyone with more money than sense can have any number of \$25 4 per cent. cumulative preference shares up to 15,000—there are 40,000 of them altogether—and for each one subscribed he will get an ordinary share for nothing, another one at the same time going to this American Exploration Company, as some slight recompense, no doubt, for allowing you to furnish the money to buy and develop the so-called mines. Before any dividends are paid on these ordinary shares the whole of the preference capital must be repaid, together with interest at 4 per cent. per annum, which is surely generous treatment, and, moreover, should you not be very flush of the "ready," no objection will be taken to a little business on the instalment plan. Pay 4s. down and the rest by monthly instalments of 4s. until all the liability is met, by which time you may be tolerably certain that something startling and altogether unexpected will have happened. Of course, money in the lump is preferred, and 10 per cent. discount will be given for cash, making the price of the shares £4 13s. 9d. net. Any buyers? One or two lunatics, perhaps, although memories of the Sand Fork Petroleum and that Nitrate Syndicate fiasco of barely a year ago should hardly have faded just yet.

The Tariff Reform League is surely drinking its cup of sorrow to the dregs. Unable by fair and upright means to obtain an audience to listen to their mournful wailings, the propagandists have descended to the expedient of holding monthly smoking concerts at local "pubs," where, after a fill of intoxicating liquor—all free, of course—the agricultural labourer is no doubt considered in a fit condition to go a bit further and swallow the heresies of Mr. Chamberlain. We have it on the authority of Viscount Hardinge, the chairman of the Kent branch of the league, that the average audience at the lecture hall meetings was 20 to 30 out of a population of a thousand, and only the attraction of a "smoker" would draw "reformers" together. The humiliation of the protectionists is more than complete.

In July last a majority of the shareholders of Brown, Stewart, and Co., the unsuccessful paper-making business of Glasgow, passed resolutions having for their object the capitalisation of the arrears of preference dividends, but the minority against the scheme has proved too strong and the directors have decided to drop it. This perhaps is not to be regretted. Considering that ordinary shareholders have received no return for a dozen years, and the preference holders nothing since 1897, it is tolerably certain that the conversion of unpaid interest into fixed capital would not set the concern on its feet again. Something a lot more drastic is required, and it might be well if the directors tried to formulate an acceptable scheme for a general reorganisation of the capital account. This must involve writing down, but the step is inevitable sooner or later, and the sooner the better.

In announcing an interim dividend of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year to July 31, paid out of profits amounting to nearly £12,000, the directors of the Glasgow Cotton Spinning Co. bring forward a proposal for extinguishing the uncalled liability of £4 per share. The present is an opportune moment to effect the change, they say, which involves the reduction of the capital from £175,000 divided into 17,500 £10 shares, to £105,000 consisting of the same number of shares of £6 each. No objection can be taken to the suggested course, because there is no debenture debt to be safeguarded, and the money is evidently not wanted in the business, so that the requisite resolu-

tions are certain to be passed at the special meetings to be called for that purpose.

Although other nations are creeping nearer, Great Britain still does by far the largest export trade with Uruguay, the nearest rival, Germany, being outstripped by nearly 100 per cent. This we learn from a supplementary report for 1903, and also the interesting fact that blankets are no longer imported to any considerable extent, two factories being now at work in Monte Video, which produce practically all that is required, while the import of shawls has almost ceased, owing to the same cause. In the supply of both articles we probably had something like a monopoly, but it is explanatory facts such as these that tariff reformers carefully keep in the background when making a lot of noise about declining British industries. Protection here will not stop Uruguay from attending to her own wants, but rather promote such action because it would prevent us from supplying her cheaply.

Our Consul-General at Baghdad says there is a good opening in that city for a firm of haberdashers and milliners. At present the place does not possess a decent shop, and as the inhabitants are compelled to import nearly all their wants from Europe or India, involving immense delay, there is no doubt at all that a little enterprise would be well supported. Traders are warned not to send in any goods bearing representations of places which Mohammedans consider religious or sacred, such as mosques, tombs, &c. All are liable to be refused admission. Pumps for raising water from the river, brass goods, ice and soda-water machines and fly-papers all command a ready sale.

This week it was announced that sufficient applications have now been received to enable the scheme of arrangement of Crisp and Co. to be carried through. Already the new company has been registered, and allotment letters have been set out. Thus ends a long and troublesome business, and it now only remains for the directors of the concern to endeavour to justify the time and labour expended on its reorganisation.

The latest Russian internal loan of 200,000,000 roubles at 5 per cent. has proved even a worse failure than expected. Public subscriptions amounted to just a thousandth part or 200,000 roubles, which is surely eloquent of the feelings of the moneyed classes towards the present conflict. Some of the savings banks and other public institutions are supposed to have come to the rescue, and it now appears that the Government has a credit of £7,260,000 at the Imperial Bank, instead of the previous deficits. But that will not go far in maintaining an army of three or four hundred thousand men.

Mr. George, president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, was entertained at a banquet on returning to Toronto from his visit to England. Evidently, however, his head was not turned with wild imperial enthusiasm. "Oneself first, others next," is his conception of the first law of self-preservation, and Brummagem sentiment is tabooed by him in the struggle of nations for the survival of the fittest—even in the struggle of the branches of our own colossal empire for existence and supremacy. In the course of his speech he is declared to have shouted that Canada must maintain tariff barriers even against England. So much for the filial love of our offspring. However, all expressed their gratitude for the hospitality extended to the colonial deputation by the Manufacturers' Association, but gratitude needs no paying for.

Exports from the Straits Settlements last year decreased over 6 per cent. to a total of \$255,500,000, whilst imports declined $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to \$326,000,000. In exports the shrinkage was principally in food and like commodities, but tin, one of the country's principal products, was well maintained. The imports showed that British trade chiefly suffered, for business both with the United States and Europe actually increased. Now, British merchants, wake up!

In the twelve months to the end of June the number of convictions recorded against Chinese coolies for offences against the general law of the Transvaal was 437, of which 219 were for rioting and 155 for assault. During the same period there were 1,432 convictions under the Chinese Labour Ordinance, the crime being mostly that of desertion. This is a good and promising start, indeed! Doubtless the number of yellow criminals of all sorts will be greatly multiplied in the present year and in the future, until the country will become too hot for white men to dare live in. Even the bosses now confess the Chinkees are more troublesome and dangerous than they are worth, but were not intelligent and imaginative enough to foresee the consequences of their ambitious schemes. It is proclaimed, too, with undisguised thankfulness and relief that the Chinamen wanted in connection with the murder of a Dutch farmer at Bronkhorst Spruit, on the 16th inst., have been captured, otherwise there was no foretelling who else would be their victims whilst they were at large. We learn, likewise, that the authorities are formulating measures for the hunting-down of Chinese deserters, with the object of preventing them from wandering on the veldt. Yes, we are paying for the coolies with both hands.

Shareholders in the Nile Valley Company have evidently not rushed forward in a surging mass to take up at par the 47,000 unissued shares which have been rejected by Mr. J. B. Robinson. On the contrary, they would seem to be utterly indifferent to the offer of the directors, for the latter recently went to the expense of issuing a circular, reminding the shareholders that this magnificent offer still held good until the 23rd inst. Seeing that anybody could and still can buy Nile Valleys in the open market at anything up to 15s., the apathy of the shareholders is easily explained. The individual who would give a sovereign for an article that is going a-begging at 15s. would reasonably be suspected of mental weakness, even were money more plentiful than it is. Should such an eccentric be discovered beggars and cadgers of all kinds would soon make his life intolerable.

A correspondent writing to the *Financial Times*, remarks that there is serious trade depression in South Africa, which, of course, is no secret. But he adds that in Natal the conditions are so bad that even the Government is at its ends to know how to keep down expenditure and how to raise the money necessary for the diminished expense of carrying on the affairs of the colony. Everywhere there is a cry for retrenchment. Works of development are at a standstill for want of funds, and no fresh undertakings are being commenced. This public and private stoppage of works necessarily involves a serious diminution in the demand for unskilled labour, and it comes at a time when the importation of Chinese has immensely increased the supply. A gloomy picture, is it not,

According to the accounts to hand much bitter and hostile feeling was manifested at the special meeting of shareholders in the South African Lands and Exploration Company, held at Johannesburg last month. It was decided to increase the capital by 34,000 new shares to £374,000, offered to shareholders at 55s. each, guaranteed at the same price, the guarantors receiving as consideration an option for six months to purchase a further 26,000 shares at 70s. per share, sanction being given for the capital to be further increased by this amount. The proposal that the capital should be raised by another 25,000 shares to acquire the vendors' and discoverers' interest of 10 per cent. in the farms Vlakklaagte and Hartebeestfontein (bought out by a syndicate for £60,000), led to an animated and vigorous debate. It was hinted that some of the directors were interested in the deal. On a show of hands the proposal was lost, but on a poll it was carried by an overwhelming majority, showing the preponderating interest held by the promoters, of which no one should be anxious to ease them.

Spaniards appeal for free trade! The managing committee of the Mercantil Clud of Madrid has issued

a report addressed to the Minister of Finance, in which they call for a return to the Free Trade of 1869, and condemn the protection of 1891, which they represent as the origin of the labour troubles and the principal cause of the loss of the Antilles and the Philippines. This is an admission which our own tariff reformers would be wise to take to heart.

The members of the Birmingham deputation who recently visited Germany to study the housing question do not agree with the general impression that the ill-feeling against England and all things English is most virulent in the Fatherland. On the contrary, the visitors were greatly pleased with the reception accorded to them. Wherever they went they were treated as friends, and when the Englishmen entered the music-hall of one town the orchestra greeted them with the National Anthem. They even assert that during the whole of the time they spent in Germany they did not see the slightest evidence of ill-will against Great Britain. Yet the cut-throats on the Yellow Press assure us that Germans are thirsting for our life-blood! How are these irreconcilable statements to be reconciled? The deputation saw things with their own eyes; the Yellow Pressmen and tariff-mongers terrify us with descriptions of their gory nightmares. They glory in strife and blood. A Brummagem deputation, too! A wonder, indeed!

With great good sense the vast majority of the shareholders of Showell's Brewery are disposed to adopt the suggestion put forward by the board that an arbitrator should be selected to apportion the lost capital, amounting to nearly £300,000, amongst the various classes of proprietors. No other way out of the deadlock seemed possible, and, of course, there must be a loyal acceptance of the decisions arrived at.

The revenue receipts last week were again small, and including £150,000 from the Post Office reached a total of no more than £1,915,000. Disbursements, however, only amounted to £642,000 on supply services, so that £1,273,000 was added to the balances at the banks, bringing them up to £7,911,293.

At a meeting of the Coal Conciliation Board for South Wales and Monmouthshire, held at Cardiff and presided over by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, M.P., in order to consider the application of the masters for a reduction of 3½ per cent. on the standard of 1879, the chairman, after a long discussion, gave his vote in favour of the owners bringing wages down to the minimum. In giving his decision Sir Michael argued that the men's representatives had not been able to show him there were any factors which outweighed the owners, and as selling prices were practically 5d. less than the equivalent price to the minimum, he was compelled to give his casting vote in favour of the reduction. For the first time, therefore, since the present agreement has been in existence the wage rate reaches the minimum of 30 per cent.

Nothing has occurred this week to cause us to change our view that peace must be near at hand. Day after day passes without any real sign of open rupture, the relations between the plenipotentiaries appear to grow more cordial, and the spirit of conciliation and compromise is now beginning to creep into the negotiations. Japan was as certain to put forward more stringent conditions than she was prepared to accept as Russia was bound to reject them, and we are now finding the terms gradually being narrowed down to a point from which an agreement may be expected to ensue. We cannot, of course, depend upon all that newspaper correspondents tell us, but it is quite in the order of things that Japan should give up her demand for the interned warships and the limitation of Russian naval power in the Pacific. Those clauses were never intended to be seriously pressed, and there are fresh developments in connection with the cession of Sakhalin and the payment of an indemnity, points on which neither side would ever yield. Russia is supposed to have sug-

gested the division of the island, and Japan replies with an offer to sell the northern half to her enemy for a certain sum which would reimburse her war outlay, retaining the southern part, which formerly belonged to her. Thus there would be no cession of territory, and Russia would be spared the indignity of a war indemnity. That these will be the actual conditions is not to be supposed for a moment, but each new phase seems to bring us nearer to the desired end.

Critical Index To New Investments.

J. P. RESTAURANTS, LIMITED.

When Mr. John Pearce, founder of the British Tea Table Company and of Pearce and Plenty, discovered that he was not to be given a chance to pull the first-named company out of the mud into which it had fallen, he announced his intention of starting a new competitor. The present company is the fulfilment of that threat, or promise, and has a capital of £40,000, divided into 10,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference and 30,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, of which only 20,000 ordinary are to be issued at present. Of this number 2,203 have been taken by the directors and signatories, and 17,797 offered for subscription at par. Premises have been secured in High Holborn and Gray's Inn-road, which are now being fitted up, and it is proposed to obtain others whenever a favourable opportunity occurs. Mr. John Pearce estimates that the minimum profit earned by each branch should be £300 per annum, and on this basis he calculates that with 14 depôts at work the annual profit, after deducting directors' remuneration, would be £3,750, or sufficient to pay 10 per cent. on the present ordinary shares and directors' commissions, and leave £1,262 available for depreciation and other purposes. But the company starts with only two establishments, which must keep profits very much below the figures taken as the foundation for the picture of wealth. Can 14 shops be acquired and equipped for £20,000?

WESTERN CANADA CEMENT AND COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.

This company acquires certain blocks of cement rock, clay lands, and anthracite coal at Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, and proposes to erect a mill with a capacity of 1,200 barrels of cement per day. The capital consists of 12,500 ordinary shares of \$100 each, or £250,000, and £225,000 in 6 per cent. first mortgage bonds, and the bonds having been privately subscribed, the Canadian Land Development and Finance Syndicate kindly announces that the prospectus is advertised solely for purposes of information. It is calculated that the company will be practically free from competition, as the nearest mill is 1,500 miles away, and freight charges are heavy, and the company has a further advantage in having its coal supply handy. Taking \$2.60 per barrel as the selling price, a profit of \$608,500 is worked out, which would leave a surplus of \$460,845 available for ordinary shares and reserve. Application is to be made for a special settlement and official quotation, but if the profits realised are anything like the amount of the forecast, the purchasers of the bonds are not likely to want to sell.

ISSUES BY TENDER.

TWICKENHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.—A sum of £18,200 is required for the purposes of a public elementary school, and another £8,300 for the provision of an infectious diseases hospital. The £18,200 has been sanctioned by the Local Government Board in sums of £16,515 repayable in 30 years, £1,352 repayable in 10 years and £333 repayable in five years, and the larger sum will be taken up in four quarterly instalments between now and June 24 next, while the other two amounts will be needed on March 25, 1906. The £8,300 will also be taken up in four quarterly instalments commencing February 1, 1906, and both loans will be redeemed by half-yearly payments of principal and interest combined. Outstanding loans come to £98,597, and the assessable value of the district in April last was £170,651.

BOSTON CONSOLIDATED COPPER AND GOLD.—Shareholders are offered £250,000 6 per cent. debentures to bearer in amounts of £10 and £100 at par, holders of 20 to 39 shares being entitled to apply for £10, holders of 40 to 59 shares for £20 and so on.

The debentures will be repayable on December 31, 1905, at 110 per cent., but may be redeemed at any time before December 31, 1910 at 105 on six months' notice, or after that date at 110 per cent., and will be secured as a first charge on the property and assets. Holders will have the right to exchange their debentures into shares at the rate of five fully paid £1 shares for each £10 of debentures.

HENLEY'S (W. T.) TELEGRAPH WORKS.—The directors have decided to create £300,000 4½ per cent. debenture stock, irredeemable for ten years, and repayable after that period at 105 per cent. on six months' notice at the company's option. It will be secured by a first charge upon their freehold works at North Woolwich and Gravesend and the leasehold offices, and by a floating charge upon all the undertaking and assets. The directors are prepared to pay off on December 1 next the existing 4½ per cent. debenture stock at 110 per cent., and holders are offered the option of being repaid either in the new stock or in cash.

Letters to the Editors.

BOND INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

SIRS,—My attention has been called to a criticism on the method of bond investment companies, appearing in your issue of March 11, 1905, and as the reflections made therein are detrimental to, and may be considered to apply to the Bond Investment Corporation, Limited, of which I am chairman, I beg to send you copies of the business prospectus and bonds issued by my company.

You will note that the term of the bond is 14 years (not ten as mentioned in your article), in respect of which a monthly premium of 5s. is payable, and that this period has been fixed upon as the result of very careful calculations made by prominent members of the Institute of Actuaries, whose certificates are set forth in the enclosed pamphlet entitled "Is 5s. worth saving?"

A further point I should like to accentuate is that the Bond Investment Corporation does not run counter to nor is in any way hostile to insurance companies. Most of the Press devoted to insurance interests, now that they understand this scheme, have been fair enough to admit the soundness of our business, and some have even had the temerity to recommend it to their readers.

We have recently been asked to give evidence before the Board of Trade Commission appointed to examine the business of bond companies. The opportunity has been afforded us to do so, and as far as our company is concerned we should only be too pleased to see that evidence published so that all may read.

Life insurance is now sufficiently old to have outlived the accusation that it is a speculative gamble, and in like manner I have confidence in believing that bond investment, honestly conducted, will arrive at an age when it can afford to smile at the accusation of being termed a "pretence" and "specious garbage."

I should be pleased to supply you with any further information about my company that you may desire.

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST P. PULLAN.

The rejoinder to our strictures has been a long time in coming, but we are pleased to give prominence to what the representative of this particular company has to say. Unfortunately the "enclosed pamphlets" have not yet reached us, so that we are unable to express any opinion on the company's methods, but a sight of the latest balance-sheet would be welcome. How long has the concern been in existence, and have any of the liabilities yet matured?—[ED.]

THE LONDON ELECTRIC POWER BILL.

SIRS,—We have had our attention called to the articles appearing in your journal of August 19, in which you discuss the above Bill. The greater portion of that article seems to merely express your views upon controversial matters, but there are also statements made as to facts which we cannot permit to pass unchallenged. The following is a quotation from your article:—

"No contradiction was offered to our statement about the German influences behind the Bill, and none could be given, because it is now well known to everybody concerned that the Universal Electric Company of Berlin, together with its Swiss dependency, the Brown Boveri Company, were the real promoters, and they had £6,000,000 behind them, besides what their banks could give."

If you have previously made in your columns a statement to the same effect, we greatly regret that our attention has not been called to it, as it would have met with an unqualified contradiction immediately.

A somewhat similar statement was made in the columns of the *Daily Chronicle* and the *Daily News* of July 25 last, and was immediately contradicted in both these papers on the 27th of the same month. It is unfortunate that you have not seen these two newspapers of the latter date. We beg to refer you to them.

It has perhaps escaped your notice that Mr. Brown, of the Brown Boveri Company referred to in your article, was called as a witness before the Committees of the House of Lords and of the House of Commons which considered the Bill and re-

ported to their respective Houses in favour of its passing into law. The interests of the Brown Boveri Company in the promotion of the Bill were the subject of a cross-examination of Mr. Brown by Mr. Lewis Coward, K.C., who represented the London County Council. As you do not appear to be acquainted with the questions asked and the answers given on oath by Mr. Brown before the House of Commons Committee, we would inform you that they were as follows:—

1837. Your firm supply generating plant, I think?—Yes; generating and motor plant.

1838. And, I suppose, you hope, if this Bill goes through, that your firm may have some dealings with the promoters in the supply of generating plant?—I do not think we will have much to do with it, as we have no right to deliver steam turbines into England.

1839. How did you come upon the scene here; is the sole interest of yourself and your firm confined to giving evidence in that chair. How did you come here?—I was asked by the administrative company, and the firm has nothing to do with it at all.

1840. Who asked you to come here?—Mr. Merz.

1841. Are the Committee to understand that the interest of Messrs. Brown and Co., of Baden, in Switzerland, and their managing director, is solely confined to giving evidence here?—Yes.

1842. You or your firm have no interest either in this company or in the Electric Power Development Company?—No.

1843. You have never heard of them before?—No.

Mr. Brown, as above stated, also gave evidence before the Committee of the House of Lords, and was cross-examined there by five separate counsel. No single question was asked by any one of these gentlemen which would suggest that either Mr. Brown or his company were in any way connected with the promotion of the Bill.

We cannot but think it most unfortunate that statements such as appear in your journal should be published as facts after unqualified contradictions have been given to them, and it seems to us especially unfortunate that you should describe the present position by saying as you do "it is well known to everybody that the Universal Company of Berlin, together with its Swiss dependency, the Brown Boveri Company, were the real promoters." We are instructed to inform you that so far from this being the case neither of these companies were in any way connected with the promotion.

We must ask you to publish this letter in your next issue, and to give it the same prominence as that in which the article with which we have dealt appeared.

We are, Sir,
Your obedient servants,
NORTON, ROSE, NORTON, FARISH AND CO.,
Solicitors for the Promoters of the Bill.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The Agent-General for Western Australia has received notification that during the month of July 57,416 ozs. of gold were entered for export, while 108,585 ozs. were received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint for coinage, giving a total of 166,001 fine ozs., against 160,718 ozs. for the corresponding month of last year.

Name of Company.	May.		June.		July.	
	Battery	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
Associated G. M. of W. A. ..	7,825	£19,991	7,188	£19,444	7,525	£20,833
Associated Northern Blocks	3,366	£15,769	3,200	£15,580	3,345	£15,697
Bayley's Mines	225	281	—	—	—	—
Bellevue Proprietary	3,657	1,816	4,053	2,146	3,842	2,108
Cosmopolitan Proprietary ..	8,319	3,183	6,730	2,367	6,905	2,531
Golden Horseshoe	18,298	13,211*	18,891	13,161*	18,644	13,220*
Great Boulder Perseverance.	13,147	8,907*	14,350	9,679	15,065	10,121*
Great Boulder Proprietary ..	10,819	12,697	10,467	12,069	10,871	12,478
Great Fingall	16,768	13,664*	16,831	13,661*	17,522	13,663*
Hainault	4,255	1,673*	4,241	1,742*	4,541	2,023*
Hannan's Reward	630	315	628	237	753	300
Hannan's Star	2,243	612*	2,118	830*	2,033	677*
Ida H.	1,350	1,010	1,480	1,039	1,580	1,264
Ivanhoe	17,030	10,645*	16,630	10,668	17,150	10,635
Kalgurli	5,443	3,893*	6,170	4,469	7,404	5,413*
Lake View Consols	9,978	3,782*	9,002	3,703*	10,026	3,386*
Menzies Consolidated	—	—	1,515	£4,226	1,539	£3,906
Merton's Reward	2,651	1,162	2,759	1,232	2,957	1,242
North Kalgurli	1,310	504	1,568	536	1,610	262
North White Feather	1,450	1,171*	1,550	1,187*	1,690	1,170*
Oroya-Brownhill	9,027	12,870*	9,065	12,918*	9,190	12,747
Peak Hill Goldfield	5,050	1,248*	5,292	1,040	5,301	1,168
Perseverance Gold	—	—	—	—	—	—
Queensland Menzies	665	543	—	—	—	—
Red Hill	1,159	729	1,173	731	1,300	734
Sons of Gwalia	9,895	5,318*	9,794	5,315*	9,983	5,306*
Vivian	1,483	798*	1,419	709*	1,510	738*
Westralia and East Extension	—	—	4,022	1,245	2,741	897
Westralia Mount Morgans ..	3,430	1,359	—	—	—	—
White Feather Main Reefs ..	879	6,807	852	620	1,521	711

* Fine Gold.

The directors of the Chartered Company have appointed Mr. Douglas G. Brodie to the secretaryship, in succession to the late Mr. J. F. Jones, C.M.G., who was joint manager as well as secretary.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended August 21, \$3,407.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 21, \$16,076, increase \$3,435; aggregate from January 1, \$511,929, increase \$111,179.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 22, Rs. 53,583, increase Rs. 10,431; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,72,284, increase Rs. 10,755.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 14, \$76,700, increase \$8,100; total from July 1, \$551,000, increase \$112,700.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 22, Rs. 22,749, increase Rs. 4,103; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 75,509, increase Rs. 4,542.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 15, £435, decrease £162.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of July, \$17,648, decrease \$1,068; aggregate from January 1, \$415,886, increase \$808.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 22, Rs. 11,513, increase Rs. 474; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 39,994, decrease Rs. 1,572.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended July 14 amounted to \$64,278.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending August 19, £1,099, decrease £63; aggregate from July 1, £8,025 decrease £277.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for 8 days ending August 19, £1,093, decrease £50; aggregate from July 1, £7,581, decrease £945.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for May, £4,399, decrease £149.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending August 19, £343, increase £11; aggregate from July 1, £1,865, decrease £422.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 18, £1,302, increase £439; aggregate from July 1, £9,995, increase £3,641.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 20, £56, increase £5; aggregate from July 1, £236, decrease £28.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 18, £5,124, increase £95; aggregate from July 1, £38,854, decrease £211.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending August 18, £30,481, increase £3,909; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £868,584, increase £75,255; 433½ miles, against 433½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, £1,190, increase £62; aggregate from July 2, £8,144, increase £361.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 20, £212, increase £8; aggregate from July 1, £1,352, decrease £13.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 18, £154, increase £20; aggregate from July 1, £1,062, increase £4.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 18, £5,561, increase £184; aggregate from July 1, £39,515, increase £314.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, £4,906, increase £358; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £161,042, increase £12,283.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 18, £275; aggregate from July 1, £2,013, decrease £112.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 10, £899.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, £1,846, decrease £182; aggregate from October 1, £25,120, decrease £2,105.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 12, £17,287, increase £3,547; aggregate from April 1, £292,367, increase £50,467. Miles 51½ against 46.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, £22,457, increase £482; aggregate from July 2, £178,532, decrease £1,387.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, £7,169, increase £386; aggregate from July 1, £60,450, increase £949.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 18, £225, increase £33; aggregate from July 1, £1,454, increase £102.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, £13,104, increase £618; aggregate from January 1, £435,238, increase £27,052.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, £2,500, increase £187; aggregate from January 1, £72,680, increase £8,838.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, £314, increase £22; aggregate from January 1, £9,999, increase £1,323.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to June 30, \$903,014, increase \$91,687. Net earnings from July 1 to June 30, \$328,680, increase \$43,638.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £15,277.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, \$42,345, decrease \$3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, Rs. 43,636, increase Rs. 6,669; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 2,97,798, increase Rs. 9,561.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £4,590, increase £1,777. Total to June 30, £26,606, increase £3,852.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of June, \$392,528; aggregate from January 1, \$2,171,470. Net traffic receipts, \$214,675; aggregate from January 1, \$1,131,943.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Aug. 20	£ 2,216	— 34	7	15,379	— 201	
Cambrian	" 20	10,067	+ 115	7	63,814	+ 5,190	
Central London ..	" 19	5,202	— 218	7	40,123	— 977	
City and South London ..	" 20	2,380	+ 145	7	15,672	+ 127	
Furness	" 20	12,391	+ 1,396	7	79,267	+ 2,315	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 20	74,820	+ 5,476	7	507,296	+ 26,612	
Great Eastern	" 20	118,900	+ 4,300	7	854,000	+ 23,400	
Great Northern and City ..	" 19	1,359	+ 368	7	10,005	+ 3,162	
Great Northern	" 19	119,800	+ 2,502	7	857,688	+ 17,457	
Great Western	" 20	268,200	+ 2,300	7	1,835,400	+ 26,300	
Hull and Barnsley	" 20	10,032	+ 29	7	65,054	+ 4,614	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 20	149,173	+ 10,625	7	892,988	+ 12,516	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 19	77,156	+ 2,579	7	537,889	+ 10,716	
London & North Western ..	" 20	320,000	+ 3,000	7	2,171,000	+ 4,000	
London & South Western ..	" 20	109,200	+ 3,900	7	765,000	+ 1,700	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 20	13,721	+ 564	7	91,679	+ 2,147	
Metropolitan	" 20	16,021	— 374	7	119,694	— 349	
Metropolitan District ..	" 20	5,733	— 470	7	44,650	— 2,594	
Midland	" 19	231,210	+ 9,233	7	1,597,173	+ 37,170	
North Eastern	" 19	187,590	— 16,010	7	1,371,764	— 4,748	
North London	" 20	8,218	— 188	7	59,465	— 1,749	
North Staffordshire	" 20	14,635	+ 454	7	124,018	+ 809	
Rhymney	" 20	5,928	— 84	7	39,795	+ 1,379	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 19	110,618	+ 3,020	7	770,329	+ 5,873	
Taff Vale	" 20	18,063	— 985	7	122,689	— 3,333	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Aug. 20	91,866	— 2,600	■	275,368	— 214
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 19	44,189	— 725	3	132,679	— 1,129
Great North of Scotland ..	" 19	11,460	— 163	■	33,395	— 218
Highland	" 20	14,577	— 291	3	42,356	— 854
North British	" 20	99,524	— 2,892	3	304,341	— 1,357

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Aug. 18	4,316	+ 606	7	29,857	+ 382
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 18	2,190	—	7	14,202	+ 804
Great Northern	" 18	22,829	+ 12	7	155,543	— 309
Midland Great Western ..	" 18	11,168	— 83	7	77,163	— 3,767

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

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The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

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TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED **£5,500,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $2\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent.
on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

The Japanese Government money released in the end of last week continued to make its influence felt throughout the greater part of the current week. Railway dividend disbursements, involving large displacements of credit, had no appreciable effect on the market, so abundant were the supplies, and borrowers were able to secure a good deal of their requirements at $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for day-to-day and 1 per cent. for weekly money. As the days wore on available balances became a little less plentiful, and it was hinted that lenders were "sitting upon" their money rather than lend it at the low rates prevailing, but the only difference noticeable was that 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. had to be paid for all advances instead of for part. Money into September could be obtained at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. all week, and the India Council, after securing $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on one small renewal for a month, had to content itself with $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

With the credit market in this condition it was inevitable that discount rates should flinch, but the brokers resisted the downward tendency as much as possible, and in this they were helped by the joint-stock banks. None of these have been free takers of bills, and those which were working either refused to buy ninety-day paper at all or asked $1\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. The market rate therefore never dropped below this figure, except for the finest Eastern paper, and when reports of gold being withdrawn from the Bank for export became current the discount houses were more determined than ever to hoist rates, and the alternative $1\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. quoted by the large brokers for three months remitted bills gradually became more of an actual working rate as the week drew to a close. As anticipated, the French cheque dropped to a point which enabled Paris to take all of last Monday's arrival of bar gold that was available, and although the exchange has since hardened it is considered by no means improbable that next week's supplies, amounting to about £750,000,

will also be snapped up. This, however, is not all that the discount market has to fear. The drain of gold to South America has commenced, £725,000 having been taken out of the Bank for that quarter in two days, and with the possibility of a demand from Egypt having to be met as well the outlook is all for a gradual hardening of the credit market from now on.

To-day money was again abundant, partly because a large sum recently paid over on account of the Brazilian loan was released, and partly because buyers of bills are by no means keen to work at present and prefer to lend their balances, even at nominal rates, until the end of the month. Day to day loans, therefore, after being $\frac{3}{4}$ and 1 per cent., dropped to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and were difficult to place at that, but weekly fixtures remained at $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and in some cases the rate charged rose to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Discount rates, notwithstanding this ease, were firm, and the lowest quotation for three months' bills was $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., while in places an effort was made to work the rate up to $1\frac{1}{8}$ and 2 per cent.

The rate at which the Treasury bills for £2,500,000 offered on Monday were sold came as something of a shock to the market. For ordinary six months' maturities the quotation has hung round about $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for some time, and it was therefore expected that 2 per cent. would be the minimum. Tenders, however, at £99 os. 6d., received about 72 per cent. of the amount applied for, and the average rate worked out at £1 16s. 8.3d. per cent. per annum. The total applications amounted to £7,094,000, and it was generally believed that the Japanese Government had secured the whole of the sum offered.

In spite of a loss of £277,000 by foreign demands during the week ended on Wednesday, the Bank's stock of coin and bullion was £243,260 higher, and as notes to the value of £385,065 also came back from circulation the reserve showed an increase of £628,325. The bulk of this went on to Government balances or public deposits, which were increased by £464,325, and as other securities were £305,321 smaller other deposits were reduced by £167,922.

SILVER.

A strong Continental demand, followed by Eastern buying, caused a rather sensational rise in prices for bar silver, which were lifted in one day by $\frac{1}{4}$ to $28\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for cash, and $28\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for future delivery. Supplies were extremely limited, and the upward movement was also helped by rather free "bear" covering, but the demand slackened at the high figures, and there was a reaction to $28\frac{5}{8}$ d. and $27\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. respectively. Just at the last, however, the market was picking up again on a continuance of the Continental inquiry, and quotations ended firm at $28\frac{7}{8}$ d. and $27\frac{1}{8}$ d. Drafts on India to the amount of Rs.80,00,000 were offered on Wednesday, when the applications were Rs.7,16,50,000 in bills, and Rs.1,10,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. The allotment was Rs.69,35,000 in bills and the balance in transfers tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. $4\frac{1}{8}$ d., receiving about 9 per cent.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, August 23, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	53,505,305	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	35,055,305
		Silver Bullion	—
	£53,505,305		£53,505,305

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	18,675,814
Reserve	3,476,023	Other Securities	29,203,158
Public Deposits (including		Notes	24,403,375
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,767,258
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	12,152,669		
Other Deposits	43,786,094		
Seven Day and other Bills	81,819		
	£74,049,605		£74,049,605

Dated August 24, 1905.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Aug. 24.		Aug. 16, 1905.	Aug. 23, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,515,768	Rest	3,458,782	3,476,023	17,241	—
6,769,007	Pub. Deposits ..	11,688,344	12,152,669	464,325	—
41,074,705	Other do. ..	43,954,016	43,786,094	—	167,922
85,938	7 Day Bills ..	72,459	81,819	9,360	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
14,234,402	Gov. Securities ..	18,675,814	18,675,814	—	—
25,122,298	Other do. ..	29,508,479	29,203,158	305,321	—
26,641,656	Total Reserve ..	25,543,308	26,170,633	—	628,325
				796,247	796,247
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
28,327,985	Note Circulation ..	29,486,995	24,403,375	656,965	—
36,519,641	Coin and Bullion ..	36,379,303	36,822,563	443,260	—
55½ p.c.	Proportion ..	45½ p.c.	46½ p.c.	—	—
3 "	Bank Rate ..	2½ "	2½ "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £277,000 out.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Aug. 15.	Aug. 17.	Aug. 22.	Aug. 24.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'1½	12'1½	12'1½	12'1½
Do. do.	3 months	12'3½	12'3½	12'3½	12'3½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'36½	25'36½	25'36½	25'36½
Hamburg	3 months	20'62	20'61	20'62	20'62
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'62	20'61	20'62	20'62
Paris	cheques	25'18½	25'18½	25'17½	25'17½
Do.	3 months	25'30	25'30	25'30	25'30
Marseilles	3 months	25'30	25'30	25'30	25'31½
Switzerland	3 months	25'41½	25'42½	25'42½	25'42½
Austria	3 months	24'25½	24'26	24'25	24'25
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'43½	25'43½	25'41½	25'41½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35½	35½	35½	35½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'39	18'41	18'40	18'40
Christiania	3 months	18'40	18'41	18'41	18'41
Stockholm	3 months	18'40	18'41	18'41	18'41

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Aug. 19.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous.. .. .	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means	in reduction of debt
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£1,915,000	£1,915,000

* Exclusive of £457,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £3,168,570.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4½
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	—	Jan. 2 ?	—
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
20,433,000			

Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,477,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,143	94,657,000	—
Week ending				
June 7	226,581,000	189,433,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	204,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 23	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
	8,025,548,000	6,793,410,000	1,232,138,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Nil.	
Total Efflux ..	£825,000
	Monday, Egypt £100,000
	Wednesday, S. America .. £345,000
	Thursday, S. America .. £380,000
Total ..	£825,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'17½	25'17	Antwerp	short	25'19	25'20
Brussels	chqs.	25'18½	25'18½	Italy	sight	25'15½	25'14
Amsterdam ..	sight	12'07½	12'08½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'07½	110'07½
Berlin	chqs.	20'46½	20'46½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	17½d.	17½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'35	20'34½	Valparaiso ..	90 dys	15½d.	15½d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'45	20'45	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort	short	20'45	20'45	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna	sight	24'00	23'99½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/11½	1/11½
St. Petersburg.	3 mths	94'30	94'20	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/8½	2/8½
New York	60 dys	4'84½	4'84½	Singapore ..	4 mths	2/0½	2/1½
Lisbon	sight	50½	51½	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	33'23	33'17				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	1½ 1½
Berlin	3	February 25, 1905	2½ 2½
Hamburg ..	3	February 25, 1905	2½ 2½
Frankfort ..	3	February 25, 1905	2½ 2½
Amsterdam ..	2½	March, 1905	2½ 2½
Brussels ..	3	December 28, 1903	2½ 2½
Vienna	3½	February 3, 1902	3½ 3½
Rome	5	September, 1904	3½ 3½
St. Petersburg	5½	February, 1904	7½ 7½
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	3½ 3½
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	4½ 4½
Stockholm ..	4½	February, 1905	4 4
Copenhagen ..	4	January, 1905	4 4
Calcutta ..	4	August 17, 1905	— —
Bombay ..	4	August 10, 1905	— —
New York call money ..	1½	—	— —

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Aug. 15, 1905.	Aug. 7, 1905.	July 31, 1905.	Aug. 15, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve ..	46,824,208	46,793,041	46,806,500	48,265,625
Silver reserve ..	12,688,916	12,723,916	12,860,166	12,543,583
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,747,041	1,763,083	1,759,541	1,744,288
Note circulation ..	66,209,833	66,978,333	68,183,208	68,986,083
Bills discounted ..	13,289,875	13,690,833	14,520,041	12,791,708

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 17, 1905.	Aug. 10, 1905.	Aug. 3, 1905.	Aug. 18, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion ..	4,793,080	4,724,560	4,919,920	4,662,920
Other securities ..	22,491,960	22,784,020	23,282,040	21,061,360
Note circulation ..	26,213,400	26,654,120	26,441,280	24,874,000
Deposits	3,187,160	3,008,680	3,952,360	2,930,480

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Aug. 19, 1905.	Aug. 12, 1905.	Aug. 5, 1905.	Aug. 20, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Specie	44,238,000	44,278,000	44,420,000	55,836,000
Legal tenders ..	17,060,000	17,624,000	17,868,200	16,365,200
Loans and discounts	229,220,000	227,978,000	229,240,000	219,840,000
Circulation	10,318,000	10,094,000	9,898,000	7,523,000
Net deposits ..	237,710,000	237,332,000	239,420,000	241,920,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,873,000 against an excess last week of £2,570,000.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 23, 1905.	Aug. 15, 1905.	Aug. 7, 1905.	Aug. 23, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£ 49,468,550	£ 48,174,000	£ 47,462,850	£ 48,510,300
Bills discounted ..	42,263,350	42,741,050	43,047,950	37,117,750
Advances on stocks ..	2,856,250	3,396,550	3,061,000	2,581,700
Note circulation ..	62,272,150	63,280,150	64,717,700	60,321,600
Public deposits ..	29,991,950	28,180,950	24,204,750	29,035,100

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 19, 1905.	Aug. 12, 1905.	Aug. 5, 1905.	Aug. 20, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 14,908,211	£ 14,900,513	£ 14,894,727	£ 14,757,010
Silver ..	22,446,533	22,318,743	22,286,288	20,397,486
Foreign Bills ..	2,178,906	1,793,811	1,750,012	1,593,812
Discount and Short Bills ..	45,527,188	45,957,320	45,899,437	38,425,786
Treasury Account ..	20,896,792	21,188,635	21,221,628	21,041,185
Notes in circulation ..	62,704,726	63,137,460	63,322,991	65,268,851
Current Account deposits ..	23,085,159	22,991,295	22,870,543	26,626,319
Dividends Interest ..	2,376,411	2,711,495	3,060,891	2,500,573
Government Securities ..	4,004,282	4,187,144	4,175,070	3,887,298

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 24, 1905.	Aug. 17, 1905.	Aug. 10, 1905.	Aug. 25, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£ 118,766,720	£ 118,455,600	£ 118,242,960	£ 107,571,680
Silver in hand ..	44,386,680	44,332,680	44,405,160	44,873,320
Bills discounted ..	18,893,880	19,285,760	19,071,080	20,798,880
Advances ..	18,640,000	18,678,720	18,861,680	19,909,600
Note circulation ..	169,591,160	171,308,560	172,255,640	164,225,000
Public deposits ..	12,621,000	11,894,360	10,376,480	9,990,400
Private deposits ..	24,731,720	22,914,160	23,754,040	25,945,160

Proportion between bullion and circulation $96\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., against $95\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 1/14, 1905.	July 23, Aug. 5, 1905.	June 8/21, 1905.	Aug. 1/14, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 91,783,113	£ 91,945,165	£ 92,090,846	£ 86,345,786
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	5,819,530	5,740,363	5,847,125	8,655,161
Advances and bills discounted ..	34,771,332	34,613,993	35,075,157	37,133,689
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	5,367,453	5,728,430	5,444,058	4,567,679
Notes in circulation ..	96,457,784	94,182,012	93,428,323	69,525,597
Deposits and current account ..	46,753,089	55,510,305	55,839,994	48,208,007
Treasury account ..	12,790,457	7,425,847	7,315,230	26,344,397

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	July 31, 1905.	July 20, 1905.	June 30, 1905.	July 31, 1904.
Reserve ..	£ 27,800,360	£ 27,828,040	£ 27,435,520	£ 26,246,600
State notes and small change ..	482,760	620,600	623,800	464,880
Discount and loans ..	11,884,600	11,358,160	13,828,960	10,258,960
Public stock and State loans ..	7,947,400	8,210,640	8,420,280	8,411,680
Credits ..	5,783,200	5,081,840	7,151,400	6,645,240
Note Circulation ..	39,012,640	38,106,720	37,640,320	35,110,320
Current account ..	4,373,000	3,959,720	4,569,760	4,326,240
Deposits ..	3,123,400	3,555,080	2,408,160	3,865,800

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	$1\frac{3}{4}$ — $1\frac{1}{2}$
Three months ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$ — $1\frac{1}{8}$
Four months ..	2
Six months ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{4}$
Three months fine inland bills ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{4}$
Four months ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{4}$
Six months ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{4}$

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	$2\frac{1}{2}$
" " short loan rates ..	3
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$
" " 7 and 14 days' notice ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	$1\frac{1}{2}$ — $1\frac{1}{4}$
" " for call loans ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{1}{4}$

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Another week has passed without bringing a definite conclusion to the negotiations at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, but the discussions seem to be following a perfectly normal course, and although some journals continue to strike a note of pessimism, the impression is deep in most men's minds that it must be peace. On the Stock Exchange the spirit of optimism everywhere prevails, and buoyed by the prospects of an early termination to the war, all markets wear a wonderfully firm appearance, so much so, that during the last day or two even the woebegone Kaffir Circus had a look in. The recovery there was quite cheering to behold, because we had almost begun to fear that tired holders would never be afforded another opportunity to get free on a rising market. But the professional "bear" is

a very useful animal at times, and when the "shorts" take fright, as they clearly did this week end, the opportunity is not to be neglected. Not for many a day has the list of Kaffir shares had such a pleasant appearance, but it must be borne in mind that "bear hunting" was alone responsible for the upward jerk, and that no change for the better has occurred in the actual position of the market. It is one to sell on, not to buy. Yankees Railroad shares are still forging ahead practically without a pause, first one share and then another being taken in hand, and not let drop until several dollars had been added to the price. It follows that quotations are reaching perfectly insane heights, intrinsic merits considered, but manufactured credit is still cheap in the States, and while there is plenty of that available the manipulation will no doubt go on merrily. That is why it would be dangerous to go "short," but as the autumn approaches, and farmers' requirements make heavy drafts on the resources now used in Wall Street for market purposes, a different story may have to be told. A period of stringency in the New York money market is tolerably certain, and nothing is more likely to cause a boil over than dear money, because, however powerful the master players may be, such a rise as that engineered in the Yankee department is bound to bring a lot of weak speculation in its train. Canadian Pacific shares have not been so aggressively to the front, being somewhat overshadowed by Eries, Readings, and other airy structures, but while they were allowed a rest the bull clique again turned its attention to Hudson's Bay shares, and one day drove them up £3. The price has again touched what is known as a "record," and may conceivably be taken higher still, but the time to take profits, at least in part, has surely arrived. That, likewise, applies to Yankee shares and a good many foreign railway securities, especially those which have risen so sensationally during the past few weeks. But are not prices likely to go a good deal higher should peace come? people ask us. They might, and it is possible that in an outburst of enthusiasm quotations may be carried up a lot further, but while optimism and cheerfulness are everywhere apparent it cannot be denied that not only peace but a good many other favourable prospects are already discounted. Therefore, after the first rush a rather sharp reaction may be expected to ensue, just on the principle that there is "nothing else to go for." The disturbance bound to be caused by the clearing up after the war must also be considered. So much for the outlook should matters turn out as everyone wishes, but the other side of the picture must also be contemplated, and assuredly markets are in no condition to withstand even a temporary breakdown in the negotiations. A shake out all round would probably ensue should this disappointment be thrust upon us, with the disappearance of many profits now waiting to be taken. Readers must naturally judge for themselves whether the further risk is worth running for the sake of possible greater gain, being guided, of course, by the condition of their purses and other influences. The rather violent fluctuation in Japanese stocks this week was decidedly significant and instructive, a rather unnecessary outburst of pessimism on Tuesday last sending quotations down with a rush. Scrip of the latest $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. issue fell to below 1 premium, and the other loans in proportion, and although the recovery was just as rapid when minds became easy again, the lesson should be taken to heart.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The time of year taken into consideration, markets were by no means badly employed this week, a good deal of speculative energy being developed at certain favoured points, and investment business still flowing along in quite comforting proportions. All eyes are still turned towards the Peace Conference, and although a little fright was experienced on Tuesday, when some thought the negotiations were on the point of breaking down, the latest intelligence does much to justify the confidence all along expressed by

the Stock Exchange that a peace treaty will be the result of the discussions at Portsmouth, N.H. We refer to this week's developments in a separate note, and if the cables lately to hand are an accurate presentment of the position the Russo-Japanese war may be a matter of history before we have an opportunity to write again. Consols began well, if quietly, and after showing some hesitation rallied smartly, and ended well up on the week. The improvement was shared by the other British funds, such as annuities, Irish Land stock, Khakis, Exchequer bonds, Local Loans, and Transvaal 3 per cent. and Indian sterling issues were disposed to advance in spite of the Curzon resignation.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 ¹ / ₂	87 ³ / ₄	Consols (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Money) ..	90 ⁷ / ₈	90 ³ / ₄
91 ¹ / ₂	87 ³ / ₄	Do. Account (Sept. 1) ..	90 ⁷ / ₈	90 ³ / ₄
90 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂
100 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
95 ¹ / ₂	89	Irish Land (2 ¹ / ₂) ..	92 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂
101	96 ¹ / ₂	Local Loans (3) ..	100 ¹ / ₂	101
99 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	National War Loan (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	99	99 ¹ / ₂
99 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	Do. Account (Sept. 1) ..	99	99 ¹ / ₂
101 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
308	297	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.) ..	301 ¹ / ₂	301 ¹ / ₂
109	104 ¹ / ₂	India 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stck. red. 1931 ..	105 ¹ / ₂	105 ¹ / ₂
99 ¹ / ₂	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1948 ..	97 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂
85 ¹ / ₂	80 ¹ / ₂	Do. 2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	82	82
66 ¹ / ₂	65 ¹ / ₂	Do. 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66 ¹ / ₂	66 ¹ / ₂

Home County and Corporation stocks, too, were better in several instances, Metropolitan Water Board, Metropolitan Consolidated, and L.C.C. issues being $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ up, and Bradford $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and Nottingham, Southend, and West Sussex 3 per cent. 1 higher. A few Colonial inscribed stocks also gained ground on investment buying.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	101	101 ¹ / ₂
102 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	102	102
104 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂
93 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93	92 ¹ / ₂
92 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	92 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂
90 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	92 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂
104	99 ¹ / ₂	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	103 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂
90 ¹ / ₂	82 ¹ / ₂	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
106	101 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
89	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89	89
102 ¹ / ₂	93 ¹ / ₂	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101	101
95	87 ¹ / ₂	Chilian 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1885 ..	95	95
96 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1886 ..	96	96
96	88 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1895 ..	95	95
102 ¹ / ₂	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101
97 ¹ / ₂	91 ¹ / ₂	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	95	95
100 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105
105 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	104	104
199 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99	99 ¹ / ₂
16	97 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104	104
59 ¹ / ₂	28 ¹ / ₂	Costa Rica A ..	53	55
51 ¹ / ₂	26	Do. B ..	43	45
45 ¹ / ₂	20 ¹ / ₂	Colombian External ..	44 ¹ / ₂	44 ¹ / ₂
109	104 ¹ / ₂	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	108 ¹ / ₂	109
107	104 ¹ / ₂	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	105 ¹ / ₂	105 ¹ / ₂
103 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Do. 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. pref. ..	102 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
91 ¹ / ₂	88 ¹ / ₂	German 3 p.c. ..	89	89
54 ¹ / ₂	47	Greek, 1884 ..	54 ¹ / ₂	54
55 ¹ / ₂	46 ¹ / ₂	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54 ¹ / ₂	54
44	38 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	43 ¹ / ₂	43
54 ¹ / ₂	47	Do. Funding ..	53 ¹ / ₂	53 ¹ / ₂
100 ¹ / ₂	96 ¹ / ₂	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	90 ¹ / ₂	90 ¹ / ₂
106	102 ¹ / ₂	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
101 ¹ / ₂	88 ¹ / ₂	Japan 5 p.c. ..	100	100 ¹ / ₂
102	88 ¹ / ₂	Do. New ..	101	101 ¹ / ₂
89 ¹ / ₂	76 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	88 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	103 ¹ / ₂	104
105	102 ¹ / ₂	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104	104
70 ¹ / ₂	64 ¹ / ₂	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	69 ¹ / ₂	70
91 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89	89 ¹ / ₂
81	76	Servian 4 p.c. ..	81	81
95 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	90 ¹ / ₂	91 ¹ / ₂
103	100	Turks 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Tribute ..	102	102 ¹ / ₂
103	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	104 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
89 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	90	90 ¹ / ₂
74 ¹ / ₂	63 ¹ / ₂	Uruguay 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. ..	71	71 ¹ / ₂
97 ¹ / ₂	80 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. ..	97 ¹ / ₂	98
50 ¹ / ₂	42 ¹ / ₂	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	43 ¹ / ₂	43 ¹ / ₂

An irregular opening in the Foreign bond market was followed by rather pronounced depression, Japanese bonds falling sharply when the outlook for peace seemed so black. All was cheerfulness, however, in the latter days of the week, and a strong rally ensued in principal counters, Japanese issues taking the

lead in the upward movement. They easily recovered the early losses, and Russian bonds were decidedly strong, along with the principal Paris favourites, like Spanish, Turkish, and Portuguese. The South American group was comparatively idle, but the tendency was good enough for Argentines, Brazilians, and Chilians and Buenos Ayres Provincial Cédulas were raised rapidly on the latest news concerning the alleged Government conspiracy.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133 ¹ / ₂	Brighton Ord. (5 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	134	135
165	152 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	156	156
131 ¹ / ₂	116 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (5 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	117 ¹ / ₂	119
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	112 ¹ / ₂	113 ¹ / ₂
83 ¹ / ₂	77 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79 ¹ / ₂	79 ¹ / ₂
38 ¹ / ₂	33 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	34 ¹ / ₂	34 ¹ / ₂
94 ¹ / ₂	90	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	89	89
86 ¹ / ₂	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78 ¹ / ₂	78 ¹ / ₂
17 ¹ / ₂	15 ¹ / ₂	Chatham Ordinary ..	15 ¹ / ₂	15 ¹ / ₂
47 ¹ / ₂	38 ¹ / ₂	City and South London (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	38 ¹ / ₂	39 ¹ / ₂
62	51	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	52 ¹ / ₂	53 ¹ / ₂
34 ¹ / ₂	28	Great Central Pref. ..	30	30
15 ¹ / ₂	16 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. ..	16 ¹ / ₂	16 ¹ / ₂
81 ¹ / ₂	81 ¹ / ₂	Great Eastern (3 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	81 ¹ / ₂	82 ¹ / ₂
108 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	99 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂
42 ¹ / ₂	33	Do. Def. (1 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	35	35 ¹ / ₂
145 ¹ / ₂	136	Great Western (5 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	136 ¹ / ₂	136 ¹ / ₂
55 ¹ / ₂	52	Highland (1 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	53 ¹ / ₂	53 ¹ / ₂
49 ¹ / ₂	41	Hull and Barnsley (1 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	43 ¹ / ₂	42 ¹ / ₂
112 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	105	105 ¹ / ₂
90	90 ¹ / ₂	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	91	91
42 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂	Metropolitan District ..	36	36
71	65 ¹ / ₂	Midland Pref. (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	70	70
70	62 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	65	66
83 ¹ / ₂	76 ¹ / ₂	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	80	80
49 ¹ / ₂	43 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (1 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	45 ¹ / ₂	45 ¹ / ₂
144 ¹ / ₂	134	North-Eastern (5 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	135 ¹ / ₂	135 ¹ / ₂
160 ¹ / ₂	147	North-Western (5 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	152 ¹ / ₂	153
94 ¹ / ₂	85	South-Eastern Ord. (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	85 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂
134	122 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (4 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	123 ¹ / ₂	123 ¹ / ₂
58 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. ..	52 ¹ / ₂	52 ¹ / ₂
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	158 ¹ / ₂	159 ¹ / ₂
111 ¹ / ₂	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108 ¹ / ₂	108 ¹ / ₂
60 ¹ / ₂	52 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	55	55

It seems rather an ugly business, and the Provincial Finance Minister has been compelled to admit part of the liability connected with the La Plata port lands. The Government has so far refrained from making any statement, but the Provincial Minister has apparently requested the President of the Hypothecary Bank to furnish a complete statement of account. It is feared, however, by the correspondent of the *Financial Times* that this will merely consist of a repetition of old and inaccurate figures. Peruvian Corporation issues readily

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
95 ⁷ / ₈	80 ¹ / ₂	Atchison Shares (4)	93 ¹ / ₂	93 ¹ / ₂
107 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (5)	107	108
118 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	117 ¹ / ₂ xd	118 ¹ / ₂ xd
102	97 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (4)	100 ¹ / ₂ xd	100 ¹ / ₂ xd
61 ³ / ₈	46 ¹ / ₂	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	59 ¹ / ₂	59 ¹ / ₂
192 ¹ / ₂	173 ¹ / ₂	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	191	193
38	27 ¹ / ₂	Denver Shares	36	37
93 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (5 ¹ / ₂)	92 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂
53 ¹ / ₂	38 ¹ / ₂	Erie Shares	49 ¹ / ₂	53 ¹ / ₂
87 ¹ / ₂	77 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (4)	85 ¹ / ₂ xd	87 ¹ / ₂ xd
80 ¹ / ₂	58 ¹ / ₂	Do. and Pref.	77	80 ¹ / ₂
185 ¹ / ₂	156	Illinois Central (6)	183 ¹ / ₂	182 ¹ / ₂
158 ¹ / ₂	140 ¹ / ₂	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	155	155 ¹ / ₂
34 ¹ / ₂	24 ¹ / ₂	Missouri and Texas	31 ¹ / ₂	34 ¹ / ₂
160 ¹ / ₂	140 ¹ / ₂	New York Central (5)	160 ¹ / ₂	160
90 ¹ / ₂	77 ¹ / ₂	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	89	88 ¹ / ₂
96 ¹ / ₂	94	Do. Pref. (4)	94 ¹ / ₂ xd	94 ¹ / ₂ xd
65 ¹ / ₂	41 ¹ / ₂	Ontario Shares	57 ¹ / ₂	59 ¹ / ₂
74	67 ¹ / ₂	Pennsylvania (6)	75	76 ¹ / ₂
58 ¹ / ₂	46 ¹ / ₂	Reading Shares	58	61 ¹ / ₂
48 ¹ / ₂	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4)	48	48
48	43 ¹ / ₂	Do. 2nd Pref. (3)	47	47
74	59 ¹ / ₂	Southern Pacific	70 ¹ / ₂	70 ¹ / ₂
38 ¹ / ₂	28 ¹ / ₂	Southern	36 ¹ / ₂	37 ¹ / ₂
103 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (5)	102	102 ¹ / ₂
140 ¹ / ₂	116 ¹ / ₂	Union Pacific (4)	140 ¹ / ₂	141 ¹ / ₂
102 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (4)	100 ¹ / ₂	101
24 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂	Wabash	22	23
49 ¹ / ₂	37 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref.	45	45
80 ¹ / ₂	69 ¹ / ₂	Do. Income Debs.	75	75
166	133	Canadian Pacific (6)	164 ¹ / ₂	166
108 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	108	108
112	108 ¹ / ₂	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	109 ¹ / ₂	109 ¹ / ₂
23 ¹ / ₂	19 ¹ / ₂	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	23 ¹ / ₂	23 ¹ / ₂
103	99	Do. Guar. (4)	102 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂
114 ¹ / ₂	107 ¹ / ₂	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	112 ¹ / ₂	113
104 ¹ / ₂	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	104 ¹ / ₂	105
55 ¹ / ₂	46 ¹ / ₂	Do. 3rd Pref.	55 ¹ / ₂	56 ¹ / ₂
109 ¹ / ₂	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	109	109

A good many dealers in the Home Railway market have taken advantage of this quiet season to go off for their holiday, and as the public still declines to take any interest in these stocks the week has been an idle one. Prices here and there followed those of other sections, and rose or fell according to the views prevailing at the time as to peace prospects, but the lack of business made the market difficult to stir at first, and the earlier changes were small. As the hopes engendered by Wednesday's cables gained strength dealers became more optimistic and quotations were lifted smartly, with the result that most of the losses of the early part of the week were replaced by more or less substantial advances. Scotch stocks felt the influence of the prevailing mood less than the others, as the shadow of forthcoming dividends hangs over them. The Great North of Scotland on Tuesday announced a distribution for the half-year at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum compared with $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. a year ago, with a slight increase to £2,722 in the amount carried forward. This in itself would have been disappointing enough, but the market feared that the report would show that even this small dividend had not been earned, and that the company has again had to resort to its contingent fund. The line is a comparatively small one, and the results achieved by it therefore do not necessarily afford an indication of what the big companies will do, but dealers were none the less nervous, and put down both Caledonian and North British deferred stocks. At the close, however, only the former showed any loss, and it was only $\frac{1}{4}$ lower.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
221½	128	Antofagasta (10)	218½	218½
321	144½	Do. Def. (15)	319½	315
127½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	126	123
131	113½	Do. Prfd. (5)	130	127
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Prfd.	84	84
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	143	143½
131	127	Do. Pref. (5)	130½	130½
134½	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	144	135½
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	116	116
109½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
112	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	111½	111
107½	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	103½	103½
169	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	169	168
109½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	109	108½
137	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	137	136½
90	79	Central Uruguay (3)	86	88
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	109	109
94	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	93	93½
70	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	67	67
3½	2½	Costa Rica (1)	2½	2½
7	5½	Cuban Central	6½	6½
12½	10½	Do. Pref. (5½)	12	12
107½	104½	Do. Deb. (4½)	106	106
90½	72	East Argentine (4)	87	87
6½	5	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6½	6½
75½	50½	Leopoldina (3)	75	79½
90½	86½	Do. Deb. (4)	94½	95
110½	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	109	109
108	104½	Do. "B" (6)	106	105
29½	19½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	25	26
121½	103½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	116	117½
57	36½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5½)	48½	49½
69½	48½	Mexican Southern (2½)	54	59
14½	10½	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	15	14½
196	162	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	19½
208	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	204	208
192½	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	181	192½

The pleasant stories of the American public coming into the market do not seem to have had much real foundation, but the "bulls" still have things all their own way and have been able to squeeze the "bears" to their hearts' content. Rumours were set afloat of the formation of a new anthracite trunk line, of various railroad amalgamations, and other schemes likely to help in the manipulation of prices, and although none of them were seriously believed they served their purpose. Readings were taken in hand early in the week and went soaring upwards, but after the rise had gone as far as appeared safe the interest was suddenly switched on to Eries, and the same game was played with them, while profits were secured on Readings. Eries in their turn were abandoned, but with a little change in tactics, as the hope of peace afforded an opportunity for a widening of operations, and instead of one stock being selected as a lever attention was given to several, including Union Pacific, Baltimore, and Ontario.

Not content with their own stocks, or dazzled perhaps by the glowing reports of the Canadian crops, an American clique is believed to have taken Grand Trunk stocks in hand. Prices, at any rate, were all fractionally up under the lead of the third preference, and it is now said that the company will be able to pay 3 per cent. per annum on this stock instead of 2 per cent. as formerly estimated. Canadian Pacific shares were also influenced by crop prospects, and finished firm at a substantial improvement on the week.

In the Foreign Railway market the principal incidents of the week have been the continuance of the sensational upward movement in United Railway of the Havana ordinary stock and the springing into favour of Leopoldina ordinary stock. The first-named has jumped another £12 or so and operators talk hopefully of seeing it up to 200 before long, while Leopoldina has come to the front on dividend forecasts. An increase of £14,000 in the traffic return following the large increase a week ago has induced a revision of the dividend estimates, and a distribution of 5 per cent. is now looked for. On the strength of this the price touched 80 and finished near that figure. San Paulo ordinary stock, too, was supported with some vigour, but no other Brazilian issue shows important change, and Uruguay stocks were equally left alone. All Mexican securities have been in favour, Mexican Central especially being particularly good on the net

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	Allsopp Ordinary	17	19
71	44	City of London Ord.	42½xd	42½xd
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	530	530
27½	21½	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23½	23½
2½	2½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2½	2½
3½	3	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3½	3½
128½	92½	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	49½xd	49
35	18	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	17½	17½
105	99	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	100xd	101
78½	56½	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	64	66
6½	5½	Aerated Bread (30)	6	6
6½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
7½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	6½	6½
6½	5½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
13½	13	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
6½	5½	Brunner Mond (35)	6½	6½
11½	9½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	10½	10½
5½	4½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	5½	5½
502½	483½	Coats Ordinary (20)	495	495
1½	1	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	495	495
13½	13	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	13½	13½
20½	20½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	14½	14½
13½	10½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	5½xd	5½xd
5½	3½	Henley's Telegraph (15)	12	12
18	12	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4xd	4 xd
111	106	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	108	108
1½	1½	Do. Debenture (42)	108	108
6½	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
5½	5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5½	5½
23½	23½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
1	1	Russian Petroleum (5)	1	1
5½	5½	Savoy Hotel (5)	5½	5½
8½	8½	Sweetmeat Automatic	8½	8½
15	13½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	14	14
17½	17½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	17½	17½
102½	102½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	102½	102½
71½	71½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	103½	103½
48½	48½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	73½	77
108½	99½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (12½) ..	40½	47
98	8½	Do. Debentures (6)	105½	106½
11½	10½	National Discount (10)	9	9
13	10½	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½
104½	95½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	6½xd	7 xd
134½	126½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	102	102
3½	3½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48) ..	100xd	100 xd
58	32	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	130xd	131 xd
1½	1½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3½	3½
13½	12½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	38	38
11½	9½	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	12	12
39½	26½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	19	19
109½	93½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	9½xd	9½ xd
23½	23½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	37½	38½
14½	11½	Do. Preference (7)	107½xd	108½
37	8	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	2½	2½
231	214½	Cunard Steam	12	12
37	28½	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	227½	227½
8½	8	Royal Mail	35½	35½
109½	101½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½	9
17½	10	Anglo-American Telegraph— Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	106	106
147½	134½	Do. Def. Ord.	15½	15½
14½	13½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	143½	143½
113½	100	Eastern Extension (7)	14	14
14½	13½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	107½	108
102	9	Western Telegraph (7)	14	14
8½	7½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	8½	8½
129	110	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	8½	8½
102	98	London General Omnibus (8) ..	124½	125½
		London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	10	10

increase of \$2,115,000 Mexican currency shown for the year ended June 30th. Inter-oceanic of Mexico "B" debenture stock was also in demand, and the stocks of the old Mexican company itself were put up substantially. Profit-taking caused prices of Argentine things to dip a little here and there, but the traffic returns were good and the decline did not make very much headway before it was checked. Antofagasta deferred ordinary, on the other hand, suffered a natural reaction after the recent pyrotechnic display, and finished several pounds down on the week.

The principal incident in the Miscellaneous markets was a further outburst of speculation in Hudson's Bays, which were carried up to the highest point ever reached. An American syndicate is supposed to be behind the movement, the same crowd being responsible for the rise in the Canadian Pacific Railway shares, and the hardiest gamblers may well hesitate to touch either security. The words of caution uttered by the chairman at the last Hudson's Bay meeting have, of course, been kept well in the background. Pekin Syndicate and other Chinese Exploration shares were decidedly flat at first, but came with a rush later on, and Argentine land shares kept steady, with an occasional fractional advance. In the Brewery division Allsopps issues were still recovering along with Watney, Combe deferred, but catering things generally were dull. Anglo-American Telegraph deferred, after being subjected to a good deal of profit-taking, quickly pulled up again. West India and Panama Telegraph ordinary and preference were given a lift, and the tendency of National Telephone stocks continues strong. Textile issues picked up a few pence after being dull, London Docks preferred and deferred were again supported, and amongst investment things South Metropolitan Gas and P. and O. deferred showed improvement. Some enquiry was visible for Bell's Asbestos and such things as Dalgety ordinary, Jones and Higgins, Brunner Mond, Nitrate shares generally, Bodega fully paid, T. R. Roberts preference, and Lovell and Christmas had a disposition to improve. Wm. Griffiths went back on the report of the investigation committee, which, however, is of a very mild character, and gives no real guidance to the shareholders. Associated Cements moved irregularly, but finished hard; Iron and Steel issues were steady, with occasional trifling movements either way, and amongst entertainment shares Lyceum went down to 1s., at which they would probably be dear.

The Stock Exchange read this morning's peace news unfavourably, and was grumpy all day. There was no real cause for the pessimism so far as the Portsmouth negotiations were concerned, and in reality markets are suffering from top-heaviness after the recent wave of buying. The fortnightly settlement begins on Monday, and that naturally induced a reaction, because some fine profits were visible for those wise enough to take them. The chief break was in Yankees, as might have been expected, but Consols lost $\frac{1}{4}$, and all Home markets were decidedly dull along with Kaffir shares.

More Frenzied Finance.

The next day the deal went into effect. Rogers turned over the bag of securities to the Central Trust Company and made off with his millions of spoils; Whitney and his associates celebrated the birth of the company with a banquet; I waited for the tying up of the last threads of the deal and then let go in a full-page advertisement in all the big Eastern newspapers. An extract from this announcement will serve to exhibit its tenor. It is too long to reproduce in full.

"To the holders of Boston United Gas Bonds, Underwriters of New England Gas and Coke Company Bonds and Stock, Boston Consumers of Gas, the Board of Gas and Electric Light Commissioners, and the Incoming General Court of Massachusetts:

"As the possessor of full knowledge of the past and present history of the various gas companies now existing for the purpose of supplying gaslight to the citizens of Boston, I propose to lay before you all the facts about one of the most startling impositions ever attempted. In proclaiming the New England Gas and Coke scheme an imposition, I am aware that I am taking a very grave responsibility. I am aware that there are men

connected with this enterprise who are entitled to public respect. Notwithstanding this I take the responsibility of stating that the New England Gas and Coke scheme is a monstrous imposition on the different interested parties to whom this statement is addressed, and I am ready to justify my statement in the courts or elsewhere.

"Before analysing this scheme, I call attention to the fact: The statements made by me are from my personal knowledge, acquired as vice-president and director in the several gas companies, and as the negotiator of the various settlements, deals, and reorganisations that have been consummated or attempted in the Boston gas field during the past three years, and as I am in possession of the original documents pertaining to, or connected with, the inside history of the Boston gas companies, my statements cannot be refuted.

"The following are the company's

"OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SETTING FORTH THE NEW ENGLAND GAS AND COKE SCHEME.

"Agreement made this twenty-sixth day of November, in the year 1897, by and between the New York Gas Improvement Company,* a corporation created and existing under the laws of the State of New York (hereinafter called the Improvement Company), party of the first part, and the Central Trust Company of New York, a corporation created and existing under the laws of the State of New York (hereinafter called the Trust Company), party of the second part.

"Now, therefore, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the said parties have agreed and do hereby agree each with the other, as follows:—

"I. The Trust Company agrees to loan to the Improvement Company the sum of twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) upon the promissory note of said Improvement Company, to which reference is hereby made, dated December 1, 1897, payable on the first day of August, 1898, with interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum from the date thereof; and as compensation and commissions said Improvement Company agrees to deliver to said Trust Company shares owned by it of the capital stock of said New England Company to the aggregate amount of two million four hundred thousand dollars, par value.

"II. The Improvement Company shall deliver to the Trust Company, at the time of the making of the loan aforesaid, certificates of stock of said New England Company, duly indorsed in blank, or as may be required by the Trust Company, representing four million eight hundred thousand dollars, par value, of such capital stock of a total issue of seventeen million, five hundred thousand dollars, par value, and also its bonds to the amount, par value, of twelve million dollars of a total issue of seventeen million five hundred thousand dollars, par value; such bonds to bear interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum from December 1, 1897, payable semi-annually, and to be secured by the transfer and pledge to said Trust Company, as Trustee, of all the securities and personal property so to be purchased and acquired by the New England Company, and the transfer and mortgage of all the real estate now owned or to be purchased and acquired by said New England Company; under an instrument in the nature of pledge or mortgage to be approved by said Trust Company. All of the said shares of stock and bonds shall be held by the Trust Company as security for the payment of said loan.

The exposure had the effect of a thunderclap. It was all up with the proposition and its sponsors, so far as the public's tumbling over themselves to subscribe for the "securities was concerned," as soon as they grasped the full import and audacity of a clause of the contract which gave the Central Trust Company, besides its interest of five per cent., two and a-half millions of stock for the loan of twelve millions for eight months, with the additional proviso of \$600,000 for a six months' renewal of the loan. I closed my advertisement with these significant clauses:—

"It may be impossible for anyone in this the end of the nineteenth century, when financial miracles are daily being paraded for the edification of investors and speculators, to say with absolute certainty that the promises made by the New England Gas and Coke Company promoters will not be fulfilled. I can only say that they will not be fulfilled until after the incoming General Court has had an opportunity to pass upon the advisability of allowing them to be fulfilled, until the Board of Gas and Electric Light Commissioners have had a chance to exercise the supervisory power for which they were created, and until the Courts, both State and National, have adjudicated all matters upon which these promises are based, and until the holders of Boston United Gas bonds, the holders of stock and bonds of the Bay State Gas Company of Delaware, and the investing public have had ample opportunity and time to weigh carefully and have adjudicated the merits and demerits of this prudish child of modern finance."

The immediate effect of my declaration of war upon the greedy little coterie of schemers so suddenly awakened amid their dreams of easy millions was something akin to panic. At once they began to ask the whys and the wherefores of the explosion; had they not had absolute assurances that no opposition need be feared—that the several old ownerships in the property had been taken care of—why this outbreak? Rogers was busy in other directions—and only Whitney remained to weather the storm. Here, you might say was a fair opportunity for Whitney to retreat. It was another parting of the ways. Beyond

*A dummy to cloak Rogers and Rockefeller.

the fork two roads stretched far into the future. To the right, smooth, straight, and true, one ran, and high above it, showing clear like a star, a cold white light marked its beginning. The other zigzagged to the left, a devious course amid dark woods and precipices, and ominous at its branching a red lantern swung uneasily, like that upon the light-ship on the dangerous ledges of ocean. If Whitney had at this time confided the facts to his associates and frankly and fairly said to them, "Rogers and I thought we could carry this thing through, but after what has happened it is no use, and I don't propose to stand by and see you robbed, not even to make a pot of money for myself, and I certainly will not consent to be a stool-pigeon for Rogers," that would have solved the problem. For a brief hour he must have faced Rogers' wrath, but after the flood of the master of "Standard Oil's" anger had been exhausted, Whitney would have stood higher in his estimation than ever before. Such admission, it is true, would have meant an admission of his defeat by me, but why should a strong man balk at that? He who never errs never wins. Also he would have had to lose a million or so of "bad money" and to forego his new distinction as president of a great corporation. But balancing the loss would have been all those things that are fair and clean and decent, that make for an easy conscience and sound sleep—the high estimate of friends and the honest respect of one's fellow citizens—a profit surely more precious than all the treasure of Rockefeller.

Whitney chose. He would forego nothing. He met my proclamation with the regulation answer of the "System." My readers know it for they have heard it a thousand times since the story of "Frenzied Finance" began. It was in this key: "Lawson is a jealous scoundrel, trying to force us to settle with him, but we never will." Into his associates he pumped his own opinions, and they agreed to back him in any kind of a fight he made on—no, not Rogers, who had so ruthlessly tricked them and actually had their money, but upon me, whose guilt consisted in obstructing a steal. So there issued from the camp of the frenzied financiers a statement that the New England Gas and Coke Syndicate laughed at my threats and would proceed to carry out their plans as though I had never existed; "and we have the millions to do it," Whitney defiantly wound up.

The campaign that followed was extraordinarily bitter, complicated, and checkered. My adversaries were the most powerful among the dollar dukes and earls of Wall and State Streets and all the resources of the kingdom of High Finance were at their command. Word was passed round that this time I must be stamped out at any cost, as I was imperilling the great financial interests of the country, and every battery known to "Frenzied Finance" was opened and pointed into my camp. What a fusillade of words they delivered at me! For a time it seemed as if I had every power in New York and Boston arrayed against me. The "News Bureau" my enemies owned, of course, but also the columns of the Press were wide open to them for whatever they wanted to say, for were not these allies of Whitney as respectable as the brownstone churches on fashionable avenues in which they worshipped? My scrap-books show that they said things every hour in every day. I answered their accusations, but it cost me a fortune, for I was obliged to pay full advertising rates for my every word. The fact is that I expended nearly three-quarters of a million of dollars before I knocked out their scheme.

The ups and downs of this contest would take pages to describe, but by way of suggesting what forces they evoked for my annihilation, here is what happened when my first proclamation appeared. My banking firm was summoned before the Governing Committee of the New York Stock Exchange, in which we had a membership, and told in terse, stern terms that a repetition of that kind of advertising would be punished with expulsion and confiscation of our seat. Such action by this powerful body spells the ruin of the house so punished, besides the loss of over \$60,000 odd, the value, at that time, of a seat. The Exchange's rules controlled my firm, not me—I considered myself at liberty, individually, to take action which my firm was forbidden. I kept up the advertising, signing my own name to all my statements. The Exchange altered its rule to cover my offending. I did not let up; I was not expelled.

It may seem to my readers that a fight of this character waged in the interest of the people should have had the public's aid. This does not follow. The public's support cannot always be depended on. We were both appealing to the world through the Press. My attacks were met with counter assaults equally formidable. Falsehood uses the same language as truth. A group of adroit schemers with millions to spend in moulding opinion are often able to force their lies down the public throat by dint of reiteration. The assumption that right prevails through inherent virtue is a delusion that only reformers, college professors, and youth cherish. When humanity realises that goodness and justice need for their enforcement the same energy and advertisement that are used in exploiting evil, civilisation will undergo as great a revolution as mechanics did after the discovery of steam.

But in the stress of the battle there were consoling facts. The public had taken my warning against the bonds. The offering was a failure, for enough were not taken to pay advertising and printing bills. Thereupon the securities were divided among the underwriters who had them listed in the Stock Exchange and soon began to make a market for them. Thus I had another mark to aim at. Nor was Whitney idle, for he had begun a campaign to secure an alteration of the Pipe Line charter, together with other special legislation to help out his concern, and for a while, through his valuable newspaper connections and the powerful interests aiding him, it looked as if he would turn the tide against

me and finally win out. In the clever and cunning moves made I was sure I detected the marvellous brain of Rogers directing the fight somewhere from the wings. When the Legislature convened, the issue was clearly defined—if Whitney could carry his point, then the public would regard him as victor; whereupon the scheme would stand and the bonds find purchasers. And all conditions contributed to his success, for he had stumped the State in the interest of his scheme; with him were all the big corporations that "do things" each year at the State House; and he was a past master in the art of political manipulation. The legislative halls would be sanded with gold dust, and nothing I could do in the ordinary way would disturb him.

In spite of all these disadvantages I determined to stake my all on a single battle. I waited until he had chosen his position and disposed his forces—then I attacked as if I believed I could match him at his own kind of fighting. At the same time I got up a statement of hard, cold facts into which entered the names of George Towle and others, and let drive with terrific force. Whitney and his crowd were at once on the defensive. He attacked me violently. I responded in kind; there were pitched battles along the line; the Press and the people of the old Commonwealth were aroused as never before. The Committee on Manufactures was given my charges to investigate. Instantly the energies of the gas crowd were directed to secure control of the committee—first to smother the investigation; failing that, to keep out really bad testimony. The fight was so steered that it grew every day more dangerous for those who had been making Beacon Hill a bartering place for franchises and other legislative commodities. At the turn of affairs Rogers grew alarmed. Fearing he would be involved he sent me a strong appeal to let up. I reminded him of his bargain. At last one Friday morning I played my trump card. I massed together a lot of facts in such shape that its publication would surely blow the enemy sky-high, and I notified Whitney that I proposed letting it go at the first opportunity. So he might know what to expect, I allowed him to inspect my bomb. He saw what it meant. At noon that same day the committee adjourned until the following Monday. Late that night Rogers called me up and in a voice charged with tremendous feeling, said:

"Lawson, you must come over to-night. I cannot tell you what for on the wire, but the gas people are here and there is a situation with which neither you nor I can afford to trifle, and which no one but you and me can possibly do anything to relieve. It is a matter of life and death for some one, and after to-morrow it may be—yes, will be, too late. I can only say if you are too late you will never forgive yourself."

Next morning I was in New York. In a few straight sentences Rogers made me see the situation. It was tragic. If I forced the fight an inch further certain people would be involved beyond their capacity to endure. I will not mention names, nor enter further into details, but clear as a cameo he painted a picture—it was dark and terrible; it involved a dreadful deed—would I take the responsibility? I looked at his picture, and it took me but a minute to decide, no—that I would not take the responsibility. It carried me further than I cared to go in any business affair. Were I a public official, sworn to certain duties, there would be no choice, but in this I had only my own conscience to satisfy. Justice said—Proceed; Mercy—For Heaven's sake desist. No, the result would be too harrowing, too terrible for innocent people who had had no part in any of the devilry.

I threw up my hands.

I was wrong. I should have driven home the steel. Mercy at times is more criminal than cruelty. He who takes on himself to wield the sword of retributive justice must not weaken when the accused sweeps at his feet. If I had recalled some of the lessons of my own life—remembered that "it's the scotched snake that strikes in the heel"; that there is no enemy so bitter as him one has forgiven—perhaps I should have pressed my advantage. But my too vivid imagination was dwelling on the horrors of the picture Rogers had conjured up; ruthlessly my mind was making my foe's plight my own, and to relieve the tension I would have made any sacrifice.

How prodigally I paid for my forbearance!

I reiterated that I would not take the responsibility. A thousand times no.

Then what would I do?

Anything—the one thing possible—I'd abandon my fight before the Legislature for that year if the other side agreed to retire also. I might have made any terms as the price of my compliance—I might have demanded that they abandon the whole scheme—but at the moment I was emotionally disarmed. I could not calculate nor traffic over terms. I'd just call it off if they would.

Rogers looked the relief he doubtless felt.

"Lawson," he said, "this is generous. I can speak for the others; it shall be as you say and everything shall be done to place you in the right light. I think, though, you have a right to demand of them the expense you have been to."

I turned on him in a flash: "Mr. Rogers, it won't be safe for anyone to mention dollars to me in connection with this affair. You have touched me in the only possible spot to make me let up, so drop it right there."

"How can you arrange it, Lawson?" he said, after a moment.

"There's only one way," I answered. "I will go back to Boston and in very few words announce that I am dropping the fight for this season."

"You don't mean that you will put yourself in the position of—"

"Yes, I mean I will put myself in the position where I will be accused by my enemies of having sold out. I mean I will put myself in a position that my best friend can hardly stand for."

What odds does it make to me? What do I care what my friends, or even my enemies, say? You know why I am doing this; you know that it is now impossible for me to go ahead, and I will not play politics nor attempt to smooth it over. Let the public, my enemies, and my friends think what they will."

Rogers looked at me, and said no more.

That is—to me he said no more. I wanted to hear no more, only to get away, to forget what I had heard. Had I been less harrowed, doubtless I should have diagnosed the smile that drew down the corners of that mobile mouth in pitying contempt for one so blind to his opportunity. Even while I sat before him, silently painting dark pictures of sad catastrophes, he must have been calculating how best to profit by my sentimental folly. He may have said to himself, "If this fool doesn't know what to do with a chance like this, I do."

I saw no other soul. I returned to Boston and gave the word. That was all.

(To be continued.)

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

. Frank and unbiassed answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The South African market continues in a state of deep depression, and punters and gamblers are as despairing as they have been for a long time past. Not only are the public indifferent, but bad news is constantly coming from the Rand, in one shape or another. Following the sensational announcement of the non-payment of a dividend by the Wemmer directors comes the news of the outbreak of a disastrous fire at the Wolhuter. Then there is the nervousness and suspense created by the uncertainty as to the outcome of the peace conference, together with the fact that it is the height of the holiday season. Paris has again been a big seller of Kaffirs, and as no support has been given to the market from this side prices have further given way all along the line, and Rhodesians have weakened in sympathy. The further adjournment of the peace conference hardly helped either section.

There has been a similar state of stagnation in the Egyptian and Jungle sections, but West Australians have attracted some attention. We have recently alluded to certain promising developments at the 1,900 ft. level of the Great Boulder Proprietary mine, which have been responsible for the marked strength exhibited of late weeks by the shares of this company, as it was considered that such good indications would have a favourable effect upon the Kalgoorlie field generally. This week, however, some very disappointing news comes to hand, to the effect that for the last 10 ft. of driving the ore is reported to be 7 ft. in width and 17 dwts. assay value. For the previous 9 ft. the width was the same, but the value was as high as 43 dwts. per ton. Though the quality has now fallen to below an ounce to the ton, the ore is still of a payable grade. In consequence of this news the price of the shares has gradually weakened from day to day. Great Fingalls have been firm, but some of the other leading shares in this group have slightly drooped. Hanan's Stars have been adversely affected by the exceedingly poor report of the directors and by the proposed amalgamation scheme, both of which have been disappointing to the market and the shareholders alike.

In the miscellaneous department Esperanzas have again been conspicuous, scoring a further rise on the announcement of a largely increased profit for July—£50,250 against £32,448 for June—whilst the manager reports that the sulphide veins continue to develop, both as to richness and extent, in a most satisfactory manner. El Oros have been firm in sympathy. In the Broken Hill group Broken Hill Proprietary have been weak, but other issues have improved. Mount Morgans have been dull, but Indians and others have scarcely moved. Rio Tintos have dropped amongst coppers.

CAMP BIRD, LIMITED.—Another good report is issued by the directors of this company covering the financial year to the end of April, the net profit, after providing for every description of expenditure, amounting to £247,252. This compares with £228,076 in the preceding 12 months, when operations were interfered with by a shortage of water, but it is slightly less than the profit of £249,859 earned in 1902-3. As the substantial balance of £116,118 was brought forward, the directors have a disposable surplus of £363,370 to deal with, and the dividends paid out aggregate 27½ per cent., comparing with the 20 per cent. distributions in the two preceding years. Such payment will absorb the sum of £225,500, income-tax for two years takes £23,457, and the extra remuneration to the directors £2,473, the balance forward being reduced to £111,941, or £4,177 less. Ten per cent. is the allowance for depreciation of plant. The directors assure the shareholders that the development of the mine has proceeded satisfactorily, a total of 8,568 ft. having been driven, raised or sunk in the various workings. Although this is a considerable increase on previous years, the footage is not as great as was desired, the management having been hampered by shortage of labour. In addition to the extension of stopes in various sections of the mine, the most important discovery during the year was the development of an ore body of considerable size on a vein parallel to that on which work in the western portion of the mine had previously been carried on. The reports of Messrs. Hammond and Cox show that after treating 74,674 tons of dry ore the reserves at the end of April

were 116,535 tons broken in the stopes, and 114,962 tons blocked out, making a total of 231,497 tons, which Mr. Hammond estimates will yield a profit of approximately £993,853, an increase of £30,738 over his former estimate. On the recommendation of this expert the directors ratified an agreement made by him with the Imogene Basin Gold Mines Company, by which the Camp Bird was able to secure a working bond over the Imogene Company's property on satisfactory terms. It looks, therefore, as if all the eulogies passed upon the Camp Bird by Mr. Curle and other well-known experts are fully justified, there being every promise of present profits and dividends being maintained for some time to come. The directors again succeeded in considerably reducing the mine expenses from £2 1s. 3d. per ton to £1 15s. 2d. per ton, and as the average value of the ore rose from £5 12s. per ton to £6 5s. 5d., the profit improved nearly £1 per ton, the gross revenue amounting to £468,472 compared with £396,171. Why the net profit is not larger is because £73,695 of the net earnings is paid for the first time to Mr. Walsh, the vendor, a matter that should be thoroughly explained by the directors in the report, otherwise to many it will be mystifying. This payment is in the form of royalty in accordance with an arrangement entered into at the formation of the company whereby he should receive 25 per cent. of the profits after \$2,400,000 had been distributed to the shareholders. This agreement has now come into force, and the royalty is to cease when the vendor shall receive \$2,000,000 in the aggregate. A very strong financial position is disclosed in the balance-sheet, cash and Consols alone amounting to nearly £219,000, against £31,480 owing to sundry creditors. As it is impossible to estimate the life of this mine this risk must be faced by those who think the yield of well over 15½ per cent. on the market price is tempting.

JUMBO GOLD MINING COMPANY.—It is said that the market has been dispirited by the terms of a circular issued by the Jumbo Gold Mining Company. This is not a familiar company, we fear, to the general public, or to the readers of this Review, but only for the reason that it has achieved nothing up to the present to bring it into any prominence. It is a Rhodesian company, floated in the early part of 1903, without a prospectus, and the fact that it was christened Jumbo reflects the opinions and hopes of the promoters that it was destined to do wonderful things. In fact, in several Rhodesian reports we have examined of late we have read references to this particular mine, to its alleged promising indications, &c., &c., and we have waited patiently to see what we should see—whether or not it was destined to shed ephemeral glory on an industry which has hitherto distinguished itself as the grave of lost hopes. The Jumbo mine consisted of twenty claims only, and it was promoted jointly by the Mayo (Rhodesia) Development Company and the Chartered Company. The purchase consideration was £150,000 in fully paid shares (105,000 to the Mayo and 45,000 to the Chartered), but a further 42 claims have since been acquired, with options on other properties. The authorised capital was as much as £300,000, of which £250,000 has been issued, and when it came into existence the Charter Trust and Agency and the United Rhodesia Goldfields agreed to subscribe in equal proportions for £100,000 working capital in consideration of an option over 30,000 shares at £2. Here, then, was additional evidence of the hopes cherished by the vendors and promoters. But, like dozens of other Rhodesian mines, it has failed to justify these hopes and expectations. The secretary has now issued a circular stating that the directors having recently had reason to doubt the accuracy of the information given in the consulting engineer's report to them, dated October 5, 1904, in regard to the prospects and developments of the lower levels of the mine, have obtained an independent report from Mr. H. A. Piper, the consulting engineer of the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa. Mr. Piper considers that it will take some months' careful prospecting to prove the mine in depth. Several encouraging signs, he states, are noticeable in depth, but owing to the reef eccentricities and the peculiar nature of the formation he does not advise too sanguine a view being taken at the moment. The engineering control of the mine has now been entrusted to the engineering staff of the Consolidated Goldfields. The above opinion appears to us to amount practically to a condemnation of the mine. Yet it was introduced to the public in a surreptitious kind of way without a prospectus; it was obviously over-capitalised at the start, and an option was given over a large block of the shares at a substantial premium. It is all further justification of our opinion that the public will never get anything out of the Rhodesian mining industry. It has had a long trial, incalculable sums have been spent in the attempt to get gold out of it, and there has been no evidence of success in any direction. The public know it, hence their refusal to be mulcted in further losses.

LANCASTER WEST.—Shareholders in this outcrop company will be disappointed to learn from the report for the quarter to June 30 that the directors have decided to pay no dividend, although it is admitted that the profits resulting from the operations on the Battery Reef would have justified the payment of 10 per cent. In view, however, of the amount already spent, the explanation goes, and still to be expended in the near future in connection with the opening up of the Botha reef, the directors consider it advisable not to declare a dividend. So the question may pertinently be asked, Why did they pay a dividend of 10 per cent.—the solitary distribution the company has made—at the end of 1903? Did not the directors at that time foresee all this expenditure? It may be commendable policy to open up this reef out of profits, instead of out of capital, but the disappointment will cause much heartburning amongst the shareholders. For there is the doubt as to how much longer they will have to go without a dividend, it may be months, it may be

years, though we should not like to be so gloomy as to say, in the words of the popular song, "it may be for ever." In the last balance-sheet there was a sum of £34,799 owing to Messrs. A. Goerz and Co., and creditors appeared for £7,420, these liabilities greatly exceeding the available assets. Ore reserves at the end of 1904 amounted to 151,677 tons, sufficient to keep the mill going for two years. The directors have under consideration the enlargement of the battery from 40 to 70 stamps, and possibly to 100. This outlay may involve a long postponement of dividends.

MONTEOSE GOLD MINING AND EXPLORATION COMPANY.—In an interim report to the shareholders it is stated that the company has still an interest to the extent of 5,000 shares in the Montrose Diamond Company, which remain under option at £10. A re-inspection of some of the company's farms has been recently undertaken, and a cable was received on the 14th inst. stating that a discovery of gold was made at Kliprandt, Kameel River; also that the report and accounts will be sent on August 21. The secretary adds that as this farm is not situated in any of the well-known gold-bearing belts, it is premature to express an opinion as to whether any importance can be attached to the gold discovery. It is added that since the last balance-sheet was issued a modification of the financial position of the company has taken place. That account showed an accumulated loss of £32,730, but the directors say they have reason to anticipate that this will disappear before the end of the current calendar year. Cash resources have also increased, the available funds amounting to £41,342, consisting of £24,907 at the bank and £16,434 on loan.

LANCASTER GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This member of the Goerz group has likewise suffered from the employment of Chinese, it being admitted in the report for the three months to the end of June that the results of that period were adversely affected by the initial inefficiency of the coolies. The first lot of 500 who arrived on the 17th and 18th of February had not become fully efficient when the second batch was received at the beginning of May. Meanwhile profits and shareholders suffer.

WILSWATERSRAND DEEP.—It may not be common knowledge that the Chinese coolies working on this Wernher, Beit company's property have recently been giving the manager much trouble. No less than 107 of them had to be arrested and sent to prison. And investors little know what they have to pay for all this indirectly. The matter is but briefly mentioned in the last quarter's report, for it is one on which the bosses prefer to be as reticent as possible.

DE LAMAR COMPANY.—A circular states that the board having approved the proposals and plans of Mr. Orford for an alteration in the reduction plant, the mill will be shut down in the course of the present month in order to prepare for the new machinery. It is anticipated that the change will result in a saving of nearly \$2 per ton in milling costs, or, in other words, that it will become possible to treat profitably ore of that much less value than has hitherto been possible. Also that the new process will permit of dealing with the tailings dump of 25,000 to 30,000 tons at a profit. It is hoped that about 60 days will suffice for carrying out the proposed changes.

ESPERANZA, LIMITED.—Readers have doubtless noticed that of late there has been considerable activity in Esperanza shares, a company that has only recently come to the front. The English company is the owner of nearly the whole of the capital of an American company, the Esperanza Mining Company, registered in New Jersey, the property, which is in Mexico, adjoining the El Oro mine, consisting of 237 acres of mining rights and 164 acres of surface rights, with a 120-stamp battery and cyanide plant. The authorised capital is £455,000, in £1 shares, of which the English company acquired 449,800 shares. Originally the ground was pegged out as long ago as 1892, and a year later a Mexican company was formed to work it, production commencing on a small scale in 1896. So far only the Esperanza block, out of three blocks, has been exploited. The first dividend, at the rate of 1s. per share, was paid in May, 1904, and two quarterly distributions of 6d. per share were subsequently announced. On account of the current year interim dividends of 6d. per share were declared in January and July. According to the following table it will be seen that the monthly returns have steadily and greatly improved:—

	Ore Treated.	Total Revenue.	Profit.
	Tons.	\$	£
November	11,053	120,497	4,852
December	12,348	122,014	3,734
January	12,995	134,256	4,912
February	12,967	160,292	9,590
March	14,355	201,327	15,919
April	13,771	216,359	20,534
May	13,996	264,348	27,859
June	15,234	160,788	32,448

It is apparent from the above figures that the increased profit is due to an improvement in the grade of the ore rather than to a larger tonnage treated. In January the ore reserves were put at 210,000 tons, estimated to yield a profit of about £180,000, but as a result of continued good developments in the west sulphide veins there has been a marked improvement in subsequent months. Recently the directors announced that the ore in

reserve in these veins amounted to 40,700 tons, which might yield a profit of £376,200. As the profit in sight is thus computed at well over £500,000, it represents much over 100 per cent. on the nominal capital, but only about 40 per cent. on the market capitalisation. The price of the shares seems fairly high, therefore, though speculation may still carry them to a bigger figure, especially should developments continue to improve.

PROSPECTIVE LABOUR TROUBLE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—According to the local Press and the advices continually coming to hand, it looks as if serious labour trouble is probable on the famous Kalgoorlie field of Western Australia. The miners here have been feeling dissatisfied for a long time past and are determined upon trying to get a higher scale of pay. A written notice has been served on the Chamber of Mines, stating that the several unions of mine workers absolutely decline to agree, on the termination of the existing industrial agreement, to a revision of the present schedule of wages and conditions of labour on the lines recently suggested by the mine-owners' representatives. The reasons advanced by the workers' executive for refusing to entertain the proposal to accept the reduced rates of pay quoted by the other side are:—(1) That the present rate is only a living wage. (2) That the nature of the employment of the men is every day becoming more arduous and dangerous, owing to the depth of the mines and competition among managers to reduce working costs. (3) That the efficiency of labour on the belt has now reached such a high standard that the rates for some classes of labour should be materially increased. (4) That although the grade of ore may be diminishing in value, the gold output is well maintained, as evidenced by the fact that from January this year to June last over £700,000 in dividends has been paid, or is in course of payment from the Kalgoorlie Golden Mile alone. From an official source it is learned that the rates which the workers' executive considers fair and just, which will be submitted to the Chamber of Mines during the next fortnight, differ little from those now ruling in the district. For instance, no provision is made in the new scale for an increase of the wages of machine drill men, except in the case of work in shafts and rises, rates of pay for which are fixed at 15s. a shift, or 8d. a shift in excess of the amount now paid. Whilst the wages of hammer and drill men remain unaltered, an increase from 10s. 6d. to 11s. 8d. a shift is asked for in the cases of underground truckers, mullockers, and shovellers, and from 10s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. in cases where men employed in that class of labour are working in dead ends. An all round increment of 1s. per shift, covering all classes of underground labour, is also asked for where men are working in badly-ventilated places. In lieu of time and a-half for Sunday labour a six-hour shift, to be paid for as a full shift, is asked for. Another new demand is that Christmas Day, Good Friday, and May Day may be observed as close holidays at the mines. According to local opinion, there is no chance of a compromise being effected, so it seems as if the task of deciding upon a fair rate of wages for mine-workers will have to be tackled by the Arbitration Court.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH BLOCKS COMPANY.—Mail advices state that at the meeting of the Broken Hill South Blocks Company (which must not be confounded with the Broken Hill South Company), held at Melbourne on July 17, unanimous approval was given to the agreement entered into between the directors of the company and Messrs. L. and C. Baillieu, stock and share brokers, acting on behalf of an English syndicate:—"That the syndicate should be granted an option over the company's undertakings in order to provide working capital to equip the property with a plant, thereby enabling ore-raising to be proceeded with." The chairman said the new company would consist of 200,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid. Of this number 100,000 would go to shareholders in the present company, the other 100,000 being allotted to a syndicate, which was prepared to place £50,000 to the credit of the new concern. According to the report of the manager the prospects of future ore-raising are particularly good. He estimates the ore in sight at 300,000 tons, and suggests that a plant should be erected to treat 1,500 tons a week. At this average the company has four years' work in sight.

MONTANA MINING COMPANY.—A circular issued by the secretary to the shareholders states that the litigation, which has been dormant for a long time, has again revived. After the lapse of nearly three years, and on the initiative of the St. Louis Mining and Milling Company, the case which had been remanded for retrial by the Supreme Court on May 19, 1902, came on for hearing on May 31, and after occupying the time of the court for several weeks, a verdict for \$195,000 was given against the Montana Company. Believing in the ultimate success of the company's cause, and upon the recommendation of its legal advisers, an appeal has been lodged, and the security demanded by the court has been tendered and accepted.

BRITISH BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—A deputation, representing the Stock Exchange of Adelaide and some Australian shareholders, waited on the local secretary of this company on July 17, asking him to endeavour to make arrangements by which the dividends to be paid shall be made available every quarter instead of half-yearly, as at present. The secretary replied that the Adelaide board was powerless to make such an arrangement, which was entirely in the hands of the London directors, but he promised to bring the matter to the notice of this body.

CORPORATION OF WESTERN EGYPT.—The directors of this company have entered into an agreement with Messrs. Lake and Currie for their retention as consulting engineers in connection with the well-boring operations in the oases of Western Egypt, about to be conducted on a much larger scale, under the im-

mediate supervision of Mr. H. J. L. Beadwell, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., the corporation's manager in the oases and geological expert. The chemist, who has spent the past season investigating the earthy minerals of Khargeh, returns to Egypt early in September, and under his direction immediate steps are to be taken to manufacture aluminium sulphate upon a commercial scale. For this purpose a large number of tanks will be constructed forthwith.

STRATTON'S INDEPENDENCE.—The representative of a metal extraction syndicate has returned from America, where he has been present at the tests carried out by the expert appointed on behalf of the Stratton's Independence Company, on a method of treating the dump ore from the Stratton mine. According to this expert "the tests show that, with a plant of large capacity, the waste heap, running as low as \$3 per ton, can by the system be treated to yield a profit of close on \$1 per ton, and that handsome profits can be produced from the large bodies of ore which, being of too low a grade to ship, have hitherto been left in the mine." We understand that the expert's reports and the recommendations of the consulting engineer upon them have been mailed.

GREAT BOULDER MAIN REEF.—Advices are to hand from the manager that a contract has been let for sinking the main shaft from 1,400 ft. to 1,550 ft. Further, that the winze connecting the 1,200 ft. and 1,400 ft. levels has been completed, thus giving better ventilation to these levels, enabling development work to be pushed on to greater advantage. Negotiations have been completed for the disposal of the residues "dump," and the manager reports the receipt of £6,000 in cash in respect of this, which will put the company in funds for some time to come.

"LLOYD" COPPER.—It is officially stated that, according to advices received by mail, it has become apparent that the chances of securing the adjoining property on anything like a reasonable basis are very remote. The manager, therefore, recommends a vigorous development policy in the eastern lower levels, and states confidently that such should result in the opening up of further and richer ore bodies. This work the directors have authorised by cable, and no time is to be lost in pushing it ahead as speedily as possible. The manager also advises that additional land has been taken up to the east of the adjoining property, in order to protect the dip of the ore body in that direction.

LISBON-BERLYN.—In cabling the output for July the directors of this company announce that in consequence of the depletion of the ore reserves and the shortness of water power at this season they have decided to shut down the mill. It is intended upon the starting of the slimes plant in about three weeks' time to work up the accumulated rich slimes during the remaining dry months.

QUEENSLAND GOLD RETURNS.—The Queensland gold returns for July are returned as follows:—Charters Towers, 20,100 tons crushed, yielding 18,900 ozs.; Croydon, 4,500 tons, 2,600 ozs.; Gympie, 17,900 tons, 8,400 ozs.; Mount Morgan, 33,200 tons, 11,500 ozs.; Ravenswood, 3,000 tons, 3,400 ozs.; other fields, 6,900 tons, 3,400 ozs.; alluvial, 600 ozs.; total, 48,800 ozs.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINING.—During the six weeks ending July 14 122 gold mining leases and 15 mineral leases, having an aggregate area of 1,855 acres, were applied for in Western Australia. In addition, 757 acres were applied for as miners' home-stead leases and 541 as sluicing and dredging leases, situated in various parts of the State.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

COMMERCIAL BANKING CO. OF SYDNEY, LIMITED.

Business seems to have been pretty good again for this Australian bank during the half-year to June 30, the profit of £72,265 being much the same as for the corresponding period of 1904. The balance is arrived at after providing rebate on current bills and accrued interest on deposits, reducing premises account and deducting note, land, and income-taxes, besides making allowance for bad and doubtful debts. With £21,389 brought forward the credit for disposal is £86,593, and after again paying a dividend at 10 per cent. per annum the directors add another £15,000 to reserve and carry forward the increased sum of £21,593. The balance-sheet has a really excellent appearance, and the position seems quite sound. Deposits and other liabilities have gone up more than £1,000,000 to £12,338,812, and notes and bills in circulation are also higher at £428,059 and £599,331 respectively, but the bills discounted and all other debts due to the bank, such as loans, advances, &c., have been reduced by £411,527 to £8,723,456. As a result the "cash assets" show an advance of £1,578,785, and the holding of coin and bullion of £3,058,208 is surely a very good proportion to the public liabilities, being nigh on 25 per cent. Compared with a year ago this metallic reserve is larger by £499,205, money at short call in London is up £205,000 to £495,000, and an additional £200,000 is held in Consols and Government securities, the total now being £1,308,600. Notes and bills of other banks stand at £58,901 compared with £32,606, but Queensland Government notes have been reduced £11,183 to £40,993, and the cash at bankers of £73,987 is less by £93,085. Reserve fund is now £1,085,000 against the paid-up capital of £1,000,000.

BOLCKOW, VAUGHAN AND CO., LIMITED.

Once again the capital account of this great coal and iron business attracts attention, and we are bound to confess a con-

siderable dislike to the way the company is going on as disclosed in the report and accounts for the year ended June 30 last. A year ago we pointed to the fact that during the twelve months then under review the directors indulged in a capital outlay of £463,240, surely a prodigious sum in times like these, but evidently there are still greater capital commitments which the board has no power to stop or check, because last year the expenditure reached £567,563, making more than £1,000,000 since June, 1903, and so far as we know the end has not been reached yet. It was mainly incurred on new collieries, new blast furnace plant, electric installations, machinery and extensions, and since revenue contributed only £92,718 in the two years—£36,522 in 1903-4 and £56,196 in 1904-5—capital has been debited with £938,085. We do not know whether any of this vast outlay is supposed to be profit earning yet, but it is interesting to note that the net income for last year, although £14,230 better than the sum brought out twelve months back is still £64,877 below the revenue gathered together in the period before a single penny of this expenditure was incurred. It is quite true that before arriving at the figures interest is provided on the increasing burden of floating liabilities, but the fact remains that these huge sums of money are being poured out without bringing any apparent benefit to the shareholders. One day they may, but they are just as likely to prove an intolerable strain. Take note of the fact, for example, that the floating liabilities now add up to £967,077, an increase of more than £330,000 since last account, and they cannot always remain in this form because £598,816 or £315,322 more is owing to bankers alone. No, they must in large part be capitalised into debentures, of which there are already £122,000, or into preference or ordinary shares, the present amount of which reaches £3,218,380. Not a cheerful prospect even if we have another boom, and that seems very improbable at present. To ordinary creditors the company owes £261,278 or £44,959 more, and an additional £9,264 at £13,979 on bills payable, but debtors are only up £20,846 to £158,269, and cash and bills are in nice supply at £2,502 considering that nearly £69,000 has to be provided for final dividends. So far as we can tell by a rather elaborate calculation, the board giving us no assistance in finding out these matters, the depreciation for the twelve months was only £67,673, leaving the property account at £3,750,455, an increase over the previous figure of £443,694. Investments £75,465 may partly represent the reserve fund of £150,000, an absurd amount bearing in mind the company's enormous obligations, stocks are a little lower at £572,142, and £16,679 is lent on mortgage apparently not immediately realisable. After providing loan and most of the debenture interest, the profit from all sources is returned at £213,871, to which is added £48,190 brought forward, making £262,061. Balance of debenture interest is £722, and the preference dividend takes £23,604, so that after again providing a dividend of 5 per cent. on both classes of shares £56,196 is set aside towards capital outlay and £44,224 goes to next account. Holders of partly paid shares had best be prepared for a call.

RICHARD HILL AND CO. (1899), LIMITED.

Business was not nearly so active for this undertaking during the year to June 30 as in the previous 12 months, the sales of wire, wire rods, bars, strips, hoops, &c., being only £156,496, compared with £185,267. The expenditure was naturally lower, being down from £170,477 to £143,340, a decline of £27,137, so that after providing directors' remuneration and travelling expenses £1,700, depreciation £1,500, and doubtful debts £150, the net balance is £9,840, including £34 from transfer fees. That is a decline of £1,611, and after paying the preference dividend the directors reduce the ordinary dividend from 5½ to 3 per cent. in order to place £1,500 to reserve, and further increase the carry forward from £3,081 to £3,471. There may be some grumbling from the shareholders at this cautious policy, because it is not pleasant to face lower dividends, but without a doubt the course adopted by the directors is the proper one. Even now the reserve will only be £12,500, largely composed of profits earned prior to incorporation, and one cannot consider a depreciation allowance of £1,500 adequate on properties and goodwill amounting to £147,537, bringing them down only to £146,037. Stock-in-trade, including loose plant and tools valued at £3,696 is entered at £48,649, but while the trading accounts are just favourable, the cash balance is the trifle of £101, meaning considerable borrowing for dividend purposes.

DUBLIN DISTILLERS' CO., LIMITED.

Although this wretched undertaking managed to slightly increase its profits in the 12 months to June 30, compared with the previous year, its position is in reality steadily growing worse. There was actually further capital outlay during the year to the amount of £1,439, bringing the balance-sheet value of the premises, plant and goodwill to the great sum of £639,642, and we do not know how many years the auditors have been telling the shareholders that not a penny of depreciation has been allowed on this enormous mass of hopelessly overvalued assets. Stocks of whisky, although reduced, are still exceedingly heavy at £339,631, and are out of all proportion to the slender profits earned. Could they be realised to any extent at this figure and so open the way to a general strengthening of the company's finances? Of course not, and we have no doubt at all that the value is really a fancy one, maintainable only so long as the company keeps off the market all whisky not absolutely needed. Cash in hand £261 is a nice cheering entry, and it is fortunate indeed that floating debts are not heavy, the total is £21,394, because sundry debtors and storage

rents are no more than £38,403, and the general reserve, debts reserve, and depreciation account have already been appropriated to meet debenture interest, and prevent an absolute breakdown. That, however, seems very near now, because even the debenture interest is not being earned by many thousands of pounds, and debit balances begin to appear. Needless to say there was the usual row at last Saturday's meeting, but once more the board's urgent appeal for proxies had led to a good response from the misguided shareholders, and again the directors declined to entertain a motion for a committee of investigation. That will have to come, though, sooner or later, a mere advisory committee, as suggested by the chairman, being of no real use, and it might be well if some of the big shareholders took the lead. A very few more years like the last will bring the company to a full stop, when, probably, the debenture holders will step in and scoop everything available. Reconstruction of capital and a thorough reorganisation in all departments from the directorate downward is absolutely essential if anything at all is to be saved from the wreck, and a movement to this end should be inaugurated at once. It is of no use waiting for the annual reports, because between their issue and the general meeting there is no time for organisation, and the directors care little about violent language so long as they are well fortified with proxies. Last year's trading profit was just £13,618, and after providing £2,785 for maintenance and repairs, £2,252 for depreciation of casks, £2,618 for interest and income-tax, and £750 for directors' fees—they must be paid whatever happens—the net profit is the lively sum of £5,212. From the reserves already mentioned there was still a balance of £2,249 unused at the end of the previous year, making £7,461 in all, but as the debenture charges were £14,962, there is a deficiency to be carried forward of £7,501. £650,000 of share capital gets no return at all.

BARNESLEY BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended July 31 this company made a gross profit on sales of £59,164, and £9,756 came in from rents, together £68,920, an excellent sum. Total outgo was £37,994, including £12,148 for salaries and wages, travelling expenses and general charges, £9,874 for trade discounts, &c., and £3,467 for horse feed, fuel and other consumables. Repairs to property cost a further sum of £3,603, allowance for depreciation and renewals was £3,824, rents and interest payable, rates and taxes, &c., came to £3,777 and directors' and trustees' fees to £1,300. Balance of net revenue is £30,926, and after deducting debenture interest of £6,000 and adding £1,258 brought forward the sum left for division is £26,184. It provides preference dividend with 10 per cent. on the ordinary capital, £8,000 to reserve and £1,584 carried forward. Reserve now reaches the very fair sum of £58,000, but it has to be used entirely in the business because the share capital and debenture stock reach only £260,500 and estates and goodwill alone are entered at £392,000. Then £11,425 is represented by plant and rolling stock, consumable stocks come to £15,794, sundry debtors, loans and mortgages amount to £17,029 and cash is £9,139. Sundry creditors are by no means formidable at £6,332, but £7,256 has been raised by means of loans and mortgages. Apart from the general reserve of £58,000 there is a special suspense account of £1,100. Attention is drawn to the fact that the compensation fund for the extinction of licenses will involve a charge exceeding £1,200 per annum, and thus reduce the profits by that amount.

LEOPOLD SCHWABACHER, LIMITED.

This drapery and fancy goods business carrying on an export and import trade did rather well last year in earning a profit of £16,495, after deducting working expenses and depreciation of fixtures, fittings and leases. Interest on investments gave a further sum of £513 making £17,009, from which managing directors' remuneration and directors' fees take £2,500 and audit fee £125, leaving £14,384. It is once more raised to £18,023 by the balance of £3,639 brought forward, and the preference dividend having been provided the directors propose to pay 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, adding £1,200 to reserve and carrying forward £4,371. Including £7,500 received from premiums this addition will make the total reserves £22,500, partly invested in securities outside the business, and the position looks fair on the whole. Goodwill, leases and fixtures are valued at £49,424 and might with advantage be separated, and although sundry creditors of £56,679 are slightly in advance of debtors, £52,065, there is the stock in trade of £74,873 and cash and bills of £24,652.

LAWES' CHEMICAL MANURE CO., LIMITED.

In the year to June 30 this company's profit was £15,664, balance brought forward was £1,326, and transfer fees gave £13, in all £17,003. Debenture interest takes £680, and as this time there are no bad debts to provide, the remaining sum of £16,323 is available for appropriation. Preference share dividend being at 7 per cent. absorbs £5,372, but the directors are able to raise the distribution on the ordinary shares from 5s. to 6s. 6d., with interest of 5 per cent. per annum for prepayment on fully paid-up shares, adding £1,000 to reserve and sensibly increasing the carry forward to £1,742. Reserve is now £6,000, a very indifferent accumulation, especially in view of the fact that no depreciation is allowed on land, plant, leases, goodwill, &c., standing at the high figure of £188,094. Does not the property gradually exhaust itself? Floating liabilities consist of £6,646 due on bills payable and £16,579 to sundry creditors against debtors £108,166, considered quite good, stocks £57,849, bills receivable £4,903 and cash £6,442.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—Quotations in the cargo market continue without change, and buyers continue to take little interest in them. Generally trade has been a little more active, and with a moderate demand for all sorts the Liverpool market has had one or two livelier days, prices fluctuating within narrow limits and influenced more by outside advices. Farmers' deliveries last week were 32,715 qrs. averaging 28s. 5d., against 19,200 qrs. averaging 28s. 8d. last year. It is of very fair quality, but is offered sparingly as prices for it are considered too low. Imports were 463,377 qrs. against 438,387 last week, and Dornbusch estimates the quantities on passage at 2,290,000 qrs. against 2,455,000 last week. The influences brought to bear upon American markets were very variable, and prices fluctuated in sympathy, but with no violent tendencies. Bradstreet's estimates give the quantities in sight east of the Rockies at 23,868,000 bushels against 22,406,000 last week and 19,678,000 last year.

WOOL.—Trade everywhere continues to improve, and manufacturers are busy. It is now regarded as certain that all sorts of wool will maintain their prices for the rest of the year, and as buyers seem to realise this they are covering for their wants. Considerable satisfaction is naturally felt that the strike in Lancashire has been averted. Though the recovery in the prices of raw wool appears to be slow it is evidently of a most healthy character, and so helps to strengthen confidence all round. Crossbred tops continue to make headway, and 16½d. is now paid more freely for a forties top, whilst there is a good inquiry for low sorts. Spinners, however, assert that the business passing on export account is not important and orders are limited. Fine crossbreds and merinos are still firm with an upward tendency, though the rise is not equal to that in low crossbreds.

LINEN.—Business has been rather quieter, but even so is above the average in holiday time. Exports continue good, and though the United States has not been quite so active in its demands lately its relapse is not looked upon as serious or permanent. Other outside markets are for the most part more than holding their own, and great hopes are entertained of a profitable autumn season. Home markets show no change of any consequence, and damasks and drills continue to improve. Inquiries for dress fabrics show that their popularity is not declining, brown linens are in fair demand, and everywhere manufacturers are stiffening their prices. Demand for yarns has rather diminished, but here also values are hardening, and the scarcity of some descriptions still continues. The flax crop in Russia is now thought to be fairly satisfactory, and the Dutch also as regards quality if not quantity. Irish samples promise well, and will yield good prices.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—As briefly stated here last Saturday the wages crisis is settled to the great satisfaction of the whole country. The mills will continue henceforth working at full stretch. Things are now assuming normal conditions. During the period of suspense some users of yarn tried to accumulate stocks at the weaving sheds. Since last Friday, the 18th inst., very little new business has been done in either American or Egyptian yarns. Buyers have for the most part held aloof. There is nothing in the situation to stimulate manufacturers to place orders in cop twist and weft. Spinners in Oldham, Ashton-under-Lyne and Rochdale are fortunately having annual holidays, the first-named town being idle for seven working days beginning on the 25th inst. Shipping yarns have been inactive, no demand worth naming being heard of from abroad. Bolton spinnings have been steady with a generally healthy demand. Producers of carded counts are not badly engaged in point of contracts. Piece goods for India have been discouraging to makers, that is to say, no weight of business has come round. The monsoon news from our dependency is not of a nature to stimulate shippers. China is inactive for the most part. The holiday season on the Manchester Exchange is in full swing, many buyers and sellers being away for some weeks. Raw American cotton has fluctuated in price from day to day, but Lancashire spinners are confining their purchases to small lots for pressing wants.

At Liverpool business in American futures has been quiet, but the market hardened on the receipt of better New York cables, followed by profit-taking. The close is just steady, and quotations are:—August to October, 5.84d.; October-November, 5.86d.; November-December, 5.90d.; January-February, 5.91d.; February-March, 5.92d.; March-April, 5.94d.; April to June, 5.95d.

Cotton in New York opened steady, but has again had a fluctuating and irregular tendency. After declining on low cables there was an all-round advance on the continued need of rain in Texas, on local and New Orleans bull support, on an expected bullish weekly Government weather report, on covering by shorts, but rates subsequently gave way on selling, only to recover on further bullish reports and news.

COAL.—There is a steady revival in the coal trade; in fact, in some places there is considerable activity in the demand for coal of all sorts, particularly for steam and gas coal. Coal-owners are consequently under no immediate necessity to seek for trade; rather do many find it difficult to execute the orders of consumers, who are desirous of buying for forward delivery. Best steam coal in the north is quoted 9s. 6d. per ton f.o.b., and a little less for the winter months. Gas coal has risen to 8s. 3d. and even 8s. 6d., and at the latter figure coking coal is fairly steady. At Cardiff the quotations are best steam coals, 12s. 9d. to 13s.; best seconds, 12s. 3d. to 12s. 6d.; seconds, 11s. 6d. to 12s. House coal, best 14s. 9d. to 15s., best ordinaries 12s. 6d. to 13s. 6d., seconds and other kinds 10s. 6d. to 11s.

COPPER.—There have been further active dealings this week in the copper market, accompanied by sharp advances in price from day to day. Buying has been influential and largely concentrated. The more hopeful peace prospects have had a stimulating effect, bringing out quite a rush of buying orders. It is felt that peace will bring about important developments in the electrical and other industries. Closing prices:—£72 15s. 7d. cash, £72 2s. 6d. three months.

TIN.—The tin market continues to show increasing strength, and values have further risen as a result of vigorous support. The metal has been favourably influenced by a rising exchange and higher quotations from the East. There has also been active buying on American account. Closing prices:—£153 cash, £152 5s. three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—The outlook in the iron and steel trades is now regarded as somewhat promising, and confidence is growing, helped by the higher range of prices for practically all kinds of raw material. As a result of the growing demand, Scottish works have increased their orders for fresh contracts. Producers of hematite iron, who have been feeling the pinch for some time past, have also shared in the all round improvement, having put up their prices about 1s. per ton, whilst expecting to make better terms still. In the north of England business continues to improve, and prices are advancing all round. There has been a slight fall in warrant quotations, but buyers have been compelled to pay more for G.M.B. Hematite is strong, and there is a brisk demand for finished iron and steel. From the Tees the exports of pig-iron are increasing. A similar condition of animation is to be seen in Wolverhampton and the Midlands generally, where buyers have been more anxious to place orders since prices began to harden. In Glasgow, too, trade in pig-iron warrants is decidedly more active at advancing prices.

TEA.—Markets were not quite so energetic as last week, and in the Indian auction medium as well as common gave way a little in price. But a large proportion of the offerings were from Assam, and were of such excellent quality as to command very high prices, fancy ones in some instances, such as 25s. 6d. per lb. for 8½ chests of Pabbogan, broken Orange, Pekoe. 30,547 packages were offered in all, and averaged for the total amount sold 8.11d. against 7.10d. last year. Heavy offerings of Ceylon weakened values a little, and though many invoices showed improved quality, the average for the week remained much the same as last, 7.24d. against 6.86d. in 1904. About 3,711 packages of Javass were brought forward, and good sorts were well competed for, all under 6d. being generally easier.

SUGAR.—Further realisations of sugar contracted for end of August delivery depressed prices from 9s. 7½d. to 9s. 1½d. to 9s. 2¾d., September from 9s. 6½d. to 9s. 0¾d. to 9s. 2¼d., and the next crop was affected in sympathy or by favourable weights and reports. It is felt that in the absence of cane the trade will have to rely on French crystals and Hamburg stocks for the next six weeks. The premium quoted in France for forward delivery does not cause any free offerings from there, but with the present good margin on granulated some imports are taking place. Landings of raw sugar last week were very moderate, and with barely 3d. premium on new sugars, with stocks extremely low for an article of such magnitude, the utter want of resistance shows, as Mr. Czarnikow points out, how the market has been weakened by the late heavy failures in Paris. America has not bought, though our prices are below cane. Several Java steamers are in distress, and may not arrive. Meltings are large, being 48,000 tons or 14,000 tons above imports, reducing stocks to 198,000 tons, whilst Cuba is reduced by 9,000 and afloat by 16,000 tons. Shipments in the six ports in the week ending August 23 were 9,000, against 14,800 tons, stocks amounting to 234,000 tons compared with 53,671 tons.

CONSULAR TRADE NOTES.

In commencing his observations on the commerce and agriculture of the Consular District of Odessa our Consul-General there plaintively remarks that the report is prepared without any help from official returns or statistics, and he therefore cannot vouch for the accuracy of some of the figures and statistics. They "are not to be esteemed as other than the best available approximation to the truth." The effect upon trade of the Russo-Japanese war is obvious in some matters, in others it is more difficult to trace. Manufacture of all kinds of war necessities has prospered, but the internal trade was seriously impeded by the restriction of credit by the banks and the calling out to active service of military officers and doctors, which caused many families to give up their houses. The import of agricultural machinery from the United Kingdom has been very little affected by the war, except perhaps favourably, because the many hands sent away to fight lessened the amount of manual labour available, and at times of agrarian unrest there is always the possibility that the peasants will make exorbitant and impossible demands at harvest time. Hence the necessity of being well prepared with machinery. In exchange for these implements we take considerable quantities of grain, and although transport has been sadly hindered by want of trucks, great numbers being taken for service on the Siberian railway, there was throughout the year a steady trade with the United Kingdom and the Continent. At the same time business was not nearly so good as in 1903, the crops in the district which feeds the Odessa market being neither in quality nor in quantity equal to those of the previous year, and we fear the current year must be still worse because for months the district was given over to riot, anarchy and bloodshed. Great Britain still has an immense preponderance in the shipping trade, the number and tonnage of

the vessels using the harbour being greater than all other foreign nations put together. In the Kieff and other districts German and Austro-Hungarian competition in the supply of certain kinds of agricultural implements is becoming so acute as to be a real menace to British supremacy. Their specialities are portable engines and threshing machines, and they induce trade by giving long credits aided in no small degree by the facilities afforded by certain banks which are frequently directly interested in the enterprise. British makers are recommended to do likewise, because if we lose our hold here not only the manufacturing but the shipping industry will suffer severely.

Chili seems to be the most steady-going of all the South American republics, and the Acting Consul-General's report for 1904 points to consistent trade development. High prices ruled in Europe during that year for three of the principal articles of export from the Republic—nitrate, wool, and copper—effectually stimulating all industries connected with their production, and at the present moment the opinion prevails that the prosperity of the country shows no sign of abating. One very important fact is to be noted—that the Chilean people are themselves finding the capital for new enterprises instead of depending upon outside resources. This must have a very important bearing upon the future, because it means that profits will be retained in the country, instead of being sent abroad as heretofore, to be used in further industrial and agricultural pursuits. Imports were naturally influenced by the expansive movement in the country, machinery for nitrate works, for electric works in the large cities, and for sewage in Santiago all showing increases as well as the usual railway and other rough material. Revenue of the country for the year was \$82,765,039 or £6,207,378, practically the whole of it in gold compared with \$78,416,418, equivalent in sterling to £5,881,231 in 1903, an increase of \$4,348,621 or £326,146. British shipping easily holds first place and largely increased its lead over the nearest competitor—Germany. The mad company boom at the close of last year and beginning of this had very little effect on trade, but when the inevitable crash came in March a large number of small people and brokers were ruined. It is estimated that about a year will elapse before the exchange in Valparaiso will recover from the shock it sustained.

It was hardly necessary to await the annual Consular report in order to learn that the trade of Marseilles has suffered very considerably from strikes. That the severe conflicts between capital and labour would have an adverse effect on a port naturally placed at a disadvantage owing to its awkward situation was inevitable, and it is therefore pleasant to hear that the danger of further troubles has been greatly minimised by the combination of the employers and the general discredit into which some of the strike leaders have fallen. Moreover, it is now recognised on all sides that the concessions already granted to the labourers are as much as can be expected. Capital is wanted for the development of the place which would soon expand, we are told, under concerted effort, and it is interesting to note that British financiers seem disposed to step into the breach. There is the old story of German competition in the coal trade, and Belgian cement is said to be supplanting British. Excessive capitalisation no doubt seriously hampers the English companies.

Mr. Lionel Carden's report on the trade and commerce of Cuba for 1904 should prove very acceptable to all interested in the industries of that island. All branches of trade show a decided improvement over the previous year, thanks principally to the higher prices obtained for sugar, and so far the current year bids fair to be an even more prosperous one. Imports during the past 12 months amounted to £16,567,130 or an increase of over 21 per cent. on 1903, and if the increase shown by duties collected on imports during the five months to May is maintained during the remainder of the year Mr. Carden looks for the total importation to exceed £21,000,000. A most gratifying point to note is that in spite of the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Cuba British trade has held its own well, and represented 19¾ per cent. of the total compared with 20 per cent. in 1903. The official returns had not been issued when this report was compiled, so that it was impossible to state from what source the increase of £514,258 shown was drawn, but it would appear to have been chiefly from cotton manufactures and rice. With regard to the latter item the rice growers of Louisiana and Texas are doing their utmost to persuade the Cuban Government to give them such facilities under the treaty as will enable them to undersell the Indian product, and the Cuban Congress is now considering the question. At present the duty levied is \$1.20 per 100 kilos, the preference to American rice being 48 cents, and it is suggested that the duty should be raised to \$2.75 per 100 kilos, which would give American rice an advantage of \$1.10 per 100 kilos. Of course it is not personal gain, but the good of the country the Yankee is looking after, and the specious plea is put forward that the higher tax will encourage the growing of rice in the island. There does not appear to be any possibility of this, and the proposal has met with a good deal of opposition.

Exports rose by £2,298,346 to £17,995,628, the advance being entirely due to the shipments of raw sugar, which were £2,761,777 higher at £10,851,702. Leaf and scrap tobacco fell off, and although cigars and cigarettes were both up, the total decrease under this head was £217,128. Mineral products, ores, and woods were all down, but fruits improved. The sugar crop not only realised higher figures, but was rather larger than in 1903, and the estimates for the current year show a further increase of about 160,000 tons. Labour appears to be the chief difficulty, and a considerable quantity of cane had to be left in the fields, owing partly to this scarcity of hands, but a steady

stream of immigration is coming in from Spain attracted by the high wages paid, so that it should soon be possible to extend the agricultural industries on which the country relies, and in their turn the additional benefits derived will extend to the railway and shipping companies.

WOLHUTER GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

Just as we were going to press last week the unhappy news came to hand that a terrific fire had broken out at the Wolhuter mine, destroying not only the mill and boilers, but damaging much of the machinery and plant and other surface works. It is said that the loss is covered by insurance, but, even so, it will mean a big loss to the shareholders in an indirect way. It must have been an appalling conflagration, indeed, to destroy a mill of one hundred stamps and other plant, and it was not unreasonable to surmise, as we did on first hearing the news, that it might have been the work of Chinese incendiaries, out of devilry or revenge, for they are as capable of this as they are of murder. At the moment of writing last week we overlooked the fact that this is one of the few mines that does not at present employ Chinese. At any rate, none were on the mine last year, though we cannot say for certain whether or not any have been engaged since. For in common with most of the other companies the Wolhuter has become a member of the Chamber of Mines Labour Agency for the importation of the Chinkees, and has subscribed for 2,030 shares of £3 each. It is evidently the intention of the directors to get coolies sooner or later, and it is from no virtuous, humane scruples that they had none a year ago. The mere fact that they subscribe to the agency is proof that they approve of Ah Sin. And is not Sir George Farrar, one of the most vigorous agitators for Chinese, a member of the board?

It is assumed there will be quite a year's delay in earning profits until the new mill can be erected, and as administrative and other expenditure will go on just the same, the unfortunate effect will be to increase the deficit in the balance-sheet, which it will take longer for subsequent profits to wipe out. For the Wolhuter has never been a big profit earner, yet in spite of this water was pumped into its capital in the year 1895 with irresponsible and mad-brained vigour. In that year the company underwent reconstruction. The capital was raised in April to £215,000 by the creation of 85,000 new shares of £1 each, and not satisfied with this the directors quadrupled it in the following November by making these £1 shares of the nominal value of £4, which were given in exchange for the old shares. Hence the tininess of the dividends so far distributed. On the old capital of £130,000 10 per cent. was paid in April, 1894, followed by 10 per cent. on the present inflated capital in 1897, and 10 per cent. in 1898, since when the shareholders have received nothing. Yet the company commenced to crush as long ago as 1888. Seven years later a new 50-stamp battery and cyanide plant were started, and in 1896 the mill was enlarged to 100 stamps, which has been its capacity up to the date of its destruction. Since 1894 the profit earned per ton has varied a great deal. At that date the value of the ore milled per ton was 42s. 7d., whilst the expenses were 30s. 10d., leaving a profit of 11s. 9d. per ton. In the following year the value improved to 44s. 2d. per ton, but as the costs rose to 34s. 2d., the profit fell to 10s. per ton. In 1896 the results were worse, for the value depreciated to as low a figure as 33s. 2d. per ton. However, the directors managed to reduce the working costs appreciably, bringing them down to 27s. 6d. per ton, otherwise there would have been no profit. The next 12 months the company did much better, for the whole 100 stamps were at work and milled 157,545 tons. The value of the gold produced from all sources was £300,063, averaging 38s. 1d. per ton. At the same time there was a further considerable saving in the expenses, which were reduced to 24s. 3d. per ton, the profit aggregating £109,211, or 13s. 10d. per ton, which stands as the high-water mark of the company's achievements. In 1898 the mill treated 161,712 tons, or 4,167 tons more than in the previous year. But the value of the total gold production fell to £288,613, or from 38s. 1d. per ton to 35s. 8d. per ton, the profit declining to £101,434, or 12s. 6d. per ton. There was a further heavy falling off to the end of September, 1899, which is the more singular as in that year the majority of the Rand mines showed greatly improved results. The profit averaged only 7s. 11d. per ton. After the war milling was restarted in July, 1903, but in the subsequent months to October 31—the date when the company's financial year closes—there was a loss of £15,863, at the rate of 8s. per ton milled. The full capacity of the 100 stamps was reached in November, 1903, and in the ensuing 12 months the average recovery was only a little over 25s. 6d. per ton, leaving a profit of nearly 2s. 7d. per ton, although working costs were brought down to 22s. 11.61d. per ton. There was a deficit of £14,000 in the balance-sheet, together with an overdraft of £115,388. How long would it take the company at this rate to wipe out this debit and repay the liability? It would take a long time, indeed, and now there will be a year's delay, during which both these items will grow. Up to the present the results have been exceedingly disappointing, yet such a low grade mine as this has been burdened with £645,000 of paper capital! And the bosses profess to be anxious to enrich investors! Though the price of the shares has recently fallen below £3, it has in past years soared to a stiff premium, as the following record of highest and lowest quotations shows:—1895, 12—5½; 1896, 9—3¼; 1897, 6½—2¾; 1898, 6½—4½; 1899, 6¾—3¼; 1900, 5¼—3¾; 1901, 5¾—3½; 1902, 6½—4¾; 1903, 5¾—3; 1904, 4½—2¾; 1905, 4—2¾.

COMPANY MEETING.

PEARKS' STORES (AFRICA).

The second ordinary general meeting of Pearks' Stores (Africa) Limited, was held on Thursday, at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, Mr. Charles Steel (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. John Dumphreys) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman said that it must be gratifying to the shareholders to find that the trading profit had so largely increased. That was partly due to their amalgamation with Messrs. Levi and Co. But quite apart from amalgamation, their business had made satisfactory progress, and was still growing. That fact was the more gratifying when they considered that there had been difficulties to contend with during the course of the year. He supposed that all businesses had difficulties to contend with, more or less, and they were no exception to the rule; but the difficulties had not been small. One of those difficulties had arisen from a cause which he hoped would never recur—that was, the selling of Army stores at prices with which no private enterprise could possibly compete. It was not for them to express any opinion upon the course which those in authority followed. It may be that the selling of stores at those break-down prices was an occurrence which was incidental to the close of all great wars; for the moment he was simply concerned with the fact that they, as a private trading concern out in South Africa, had to contend with goods of the same kind as those they dealt in being sold at prices such as nobody could sell at except at an enormous loss. Another principal cause which had militated against them, and prevented their doing even better than they had done, was the general absence of trade development in South Africa. The country had not experienced that recuperation which was expected to follow on the restoration of peace. No doubt there were a great many reasons to account for this, and it had been represented to him that one of the most important was the high cost of living. This was the result, to some extent, he thought, of the heavy transport charges. For the class of goods, or some of them, that the company sent to Johannesburg the cost of carriage was nearly three times as much as it would be for similar goods in this country. In addition to the railway charges in South Africa, he thought that the high cost of living there was also to be attributed to the sea freight. The freight from Montreal to London for the class of goods in which they dealt worked out at 45s. per ton, the distance being 3,500 miles. From Southampton to Cape Town was not quite as far again; but, taking it at double the distance, the freight for goods, on the Canadian basis would be, roughly, £3 per ton. Instead of that, however, the charge was £12 per ton. These high freights did not affect this company so far as the profit on the goods that they sold was concerned, but the quantity sold was undoubtedly affected by them. Dealing with the company's financial position, he said that the board felt that the time had come when further capital must be asked for. There was a sufficient margin between the subscribed and the authorised capital to cover all that was needed for the present, and, indeed, for some time to come. The shareholders would in due course be communicated with in reference to this matter, and would be given the opportunity of subscribing for any new shares before any offer was made to the public. Out of the available balance of £9,950, ample provision had been made for depreciation and doubtful debts, and, after placing £1,000 to general reserve, it was proposed to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., leaving £1,149 to be carried forward. On the whole, he thought that this was not an unsatisfactory record of the past year's trading. Mr. W. Salmon seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to without discussion, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

LABUAN COALFIELDS COMPANY.—The directors have just issued their report for the year 1904, but as the colliery is not yet sufficiently developed to win coal no profit and loss account is drawn up. It was anticipated, it seems, that the period of production would be entered upon last March, but this was made impossible by some unforeseen accidents to the machinery. The whole of the armatures of the motors driving the pumps broke down, and the directors say they cannot understand how this happened. As a result of these breakdowns, work has practically ceased in the last few months, but the directors trust the mine will be unwatered shortly, and that development work will again progress. So shareholders will have to draw largely upon their patience before learning what the mine can do. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £13,788. On machinery and freight to Labuan £3,922 was spent, and on the development of the colliery, including driving the adit and water level, completing the air shaft, salaries and wages, &c., a further sum of £9,865, from which is deducted £342, the balance of the coal account. Mr. Hopwood's plan is to open-up a deep mine towards the northern part of the island, which, in his opinion, would yield a supply of good coal for a very long period. The Borneo Company, Limited, has advanced the funds necessary to the extent of about £11,000, and the directors have agreed to give them the option of taking ordinary shares at par up to the amount of these advances and any further advances they may make, should the capital be increased. In order to provide these shares if called for, and for further issue of capital in the future, it is proposed to create 40,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each, which will raise the capital from £60,000 to £100,000.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

BANKS.

Anglo-Californian.—Interim of 6s. per share for the half-year ended June 30, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

London of Mexico and South America.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 of 4s. per share.

INSURANCE.

General Accident.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Scottish Accident Life and Fidelity.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

MINES.

Brilliant Central Gold (No Liability).—6d. per share.

Durban-Rodepoort Gold.—Interim of 3s. per share on account of the year ending, Dec. 31, 1905.

Golden Pole Gold.—9d. per share.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—Interim of 9d. per share on account of current year, payable Sept. 26.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Barlow and Jones.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Bengal Iron and Steel.—Interim for the half-year ended March 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Boddingtons' Breweries.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

Broken Hill Water Supply.—6d. per share.

City of Buenos Ayres Tramways (1904).—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share for the half-year ended June 30.

Croydon Gas.—For the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 14½ per cent. per annum on class "A" stock, 11½ on class "B" stock, and 10½ on class "C" stock, carrying forward £3,988.

Eastman Kodak of New Jersey.—Usual quarterly 2½ per cent. (being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum) upon the outstanding common stock, payable Oct. 2.

Great North of Scotland Railway.—For the half-year ended July 31 at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary stock, and at the rate of ½ per cent. per annum on the deferred ordinary stock, carrying forward £2,722.

Hadfield's Steel Foundry.—Interim of 1s. per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

London and Glasgow Engineering.—At the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £1,438.

Marsden's Engines.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £1,226.

Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron.—Final of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 5 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

Richard Hill and Co.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30, placing £1,500 to reserve, increasing it to £12,500, and carrying forward £3,471.

South Hetton Coal.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30, carrying forward £8,670.

Summerlee and Mossend Iron and Steel.—£1 per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, for the year ended May 31, carrying forward £5,564.

Thomas and Evans and John Dyer.—7½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £3,289.

MINING RETURNS.

Brilliant Block Gold.—Crushed 608 tons, 280 ozs.; value cyanide, £1,300.

Brilliant Central.—2,410 tons of quartz, 1,651 ozs.; value of cyanide, £446; concentrates, £1,739.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—5,245 tons crude ore produced 875 tons concentrates, containing 534 tons lead and 25,375 ozs. silver.

Camp Bird.—Crushed 6,366 tons, 10,112 ozs.; 439 tons of concentrates.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output 15,000, sales 16,500 tons; consumption 1,200 tons.

Cobar Gold.—Mill 1,200 tons, 225 ozs.; tailings 764 tons, 335 ozs.; slimes 600 tons, 370 ozs.; total, 930 ozs.

El Oro.—Crushed 20,963 tons of ore, producing \$203,609; from old cyanide plant, \$2,754.

Esperanza.—Dry ore, 14,735 tons; ore shipped to smelter, 2,611 tons; value of bullion, \$148,357; value of concentrates, \$31,277; value of ore shipped to smelter, \$238,192; total, \$417,826.

Komata Reefs.—Crushed 1,300 tons; bullion, £2,950.

Lachlan.—Crushed 780 tons; result, £1,150.

Maryborough Leviathan Gold.—Crushed 861 tons, 204 ozs.

Mount Lyell.—Treated 33,403 tons; in addition 1,515 tons of purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes; the converters produced 711 tons of blister copper, containing:—copper, 702 tons; silver, 60,256 ozs.; gold, 1,839 ozs.

Mount Roudny.—Crushed 3,850 tons, 556 ozs.; concentrates, 143 tons, 350 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 2,288 tons, 42 ozs.; total yield, 948 ozs.

Nigel.—Output for July:—Crushed 6,460 tons, 3,690 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—1,800 tons of crude ore treated, producing 380 tons concentrates, containing 69 per cent. lead and 18 ozs. silver per ton.

Pahang.—2,450 tons of stone, producing 42 tons black tin.

Pahang Kabang.—1,050 tons of stone, producing 12 tons black tin.

Queensland Copper.—293 tons matte, value £13,000.

Tasmanian Gold.—4,238 tons, 2,209 ozs.; chlorination 391 tons, 586 ozs.; total, 2,795 ozs.

Tasmanian Consols.—Crushed 380 tons of stone, 250 ozs.

Waihi Gold.—Crushed 24,637 tons for £56,474.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and August 19, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to August 19, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to August 20, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	12,811,000	15,811,000
Excise	30,200,000	10,950,000	11,393,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	5,358,000	4,642,000
Stamps	8,000,000	2,954,000	2,683,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	520,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	4,680,000	5,082,000
Post Office	16,500,000	5,060,000	4,890,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,500,000	1,570,000
Crown Lands	470,000	140,000	140,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	674,573	607,244
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	584,025	590,742
*Revenue	142,454,000	45,111,598	45,928,986
Total, including balance		52,541,876	50,192,828
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		250,000	250,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		—	230,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		410,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,950
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		8,850,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	500,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		—	12,000,000
Total		62,391,876	73,656,818
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	45,111,598	45,928,986
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	58,629	65,155
Excise	5,291,000	1,358,851	1,351,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	1,750,839	1,731,242
Total	9,756,000	3,168,319	3,148,070
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	48,279,917	49,077,056

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Aug. 19, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Aug. 20, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 11,576,789	£ 11,096,806
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	669,750	669,114
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,304,000	38,041,283	42,609,554
Expenditure	142,084,000	50,519,997	55,207,684
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		220,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		90,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		1,000,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		300,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		1,663,000	855,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		400,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		105,000	76,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		159,586	—
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	3,450,000
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Aug. 19. 1905.	£ 7,114,838	£ 2,869,105	£ 7,911,293
Aug. 20. 1904.	796,455	854,029	3,743,134
Total		62,391,976	73,656,818

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

The output for July from the mines crushing on the Rand amounted to 401,121 ozs. of fine gold, whilst 18,384 ozs. came from the mines in the outside districts, making a total of 419,505 ozs., valued at £1,781,944 against 412,317 ozs., with £1,751,412 in June, being increases respectively of 7,188 ozs. and £30,532. This is a record, but it did not actually show progress, the daily average being only 13,532 ozs. against 13,743 ozs. There was a new contributor in the Nigel Deep, which gave 2,160 ozs. to the total. The labour returns show a net loss of 2,315 natives, but there was an increase in the number of coolies at work—43,141 compared with 41,299. The French Rand company returns a loss of £926 in comparison with a profit of £1,621 in June. This is officially explained as the result of a subsidence which caused a stoppage of work in connection with some of the best stopes, and that in consequence lower grade ore was milled. A shipment of Chinese labourers arrived at the same time, and this

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February	1,457,684	—	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508
March	—	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371
April	—	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340
May	—	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,376	1,695,550
June	—	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734
July	—	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412
August	—	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944
September	—	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	—
October	—	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	—
November	—	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	—
December	—	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	—
December ..	—	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	—
Total ..	1,457,684	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	11,809,859

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

increased working costs. The reduced profits of the Goldenhuis Deep and Rose Deep are attributed to a falling off in the rate of yield and higher working costs on account of the introduction of additional coolies, whilst the increased profit of the Ferreira Deep is the result of running new stamps.

Answers to Correspondents.

Ascot.—We are sorry we overlooked the matter you referred to. The concern is not one that we should care to have any dealings with. (1) Prospects seem fairly hopeful under the new arrangement, but the recent rise in price would make a purchase very speculative. (2) As we think very poorly of this company's prospects and the outlook for the market, you had better, perhaps, cut your loss, as the price is just as likely to recede further as to advance. (3) We do not like the outlook for this company at all, and we are assured by those who ought to know that the process cannot be worked at a profit.

Africanus.—The preference shares seem all right. They rank in priority for return of capital.

F. E. D.—Prospects of this stock do not seem very bright, and no rise in price is to be anticipated. The dividend just declared was very poor, and even that may not have been fully earned.

A. D.—Not to any extent, we think, although naturally it would be advantageous to the company if the Government dealt honestly by it. Do not however commit yourself too heavily because the security is somewhat speculative.

TIMOTHY.—Hold for the present because the controlling company dare not permit default.

H. D. R.—(1) You have a profit here and we are disposed to say, take it. (2) This is hopeful although very speculative. Keep for a little while. (3) Profit-taking may have knocked down the price for the time being, or any other gambling movement. The company should continue to pay good dividends for a long time to come, but, probably, your holding is large enough.

CHOWRINGHEE.—(1) No. There is a liability of £9 per share and the company does a somewhat hazardous business. (2) The yield of over 9 per cent. would indicate a risk so great that it hardly seems worth taking and besides the company publishes no details of its operations which is always a bad sign. (3) This company has a hard struggle and its preference dividend is now in arrears so that it also should be left alone. Both 2 and 3 have priority rights as to capital.

NOMEN.—(1) The company has a very fine business and is well managed but the shares seem to have reached top price. (2) Prospects of this company also seem to have been fully discounted at present quotations.

Oliver.—(1) We think these might be held, but any very important rise is not probable. (2) No, the prospects of improvement are by no means hopeful. (3) This should also be left alone just now. The company is only just providing its debenture interest.

Harassed.—No, we cannot recommend a bear sale of these shares, although we think they are a long way above their true worth. Manipulators on the other side seem determined to keep up the present game as long as possible, and prices might be hoisted still further should peace come.

Nemo.—We do not think you should touch them. Interest has been in arrears since 1899, and although the government has the option to purchase, it is hardly likely that it will be exercised seeing that the line has been losing so steadily.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, AUGUST 28.

Whitechapel and Bow Railway.—41, Trinity Square, 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29.

Forth and Clyde Junction Railway.—Stirling, 3 p.m.

Richard Hill.—Middlesbrough, 11.30 a.m.

Workington Iron.—Workington, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30.

Axminster and Lyme Regis Light Railway.—Waterloo, 2 p.m.

Dolcoath Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Isle of Wight Central Railway.—3, Lothbury, 12.30 p.m.

Middlemass and Son.—Edinburgh, 2.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31.

Barnsley Brewery.—Barnsley, noon.

Cranbrook and District Water.—Cranbrook, 3.30 p.m.

English Sewing Cotton.—Manchester, 11.30 a.m.

Liverpool, St. Helens, and South Lancashire Railway.—Manchester, 2.45 p.m.

Laws' Chemical Manure.—58, Mark Lane, noon.

MINE.	May.			June.			July.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	13,656	6,731	9,956	12,052	7,231	..	12,747	7,308	..
Barrett .....	..	373	250	..	423	..	..	304	100
Bonanza	8,700	4,500	9,194	8,600	4,327	9,057	8,750	4,467	8,512
City and Suburban	25,001	8,330	13,514	24,200	8,307	15,083	25,000	9,065	16,354
Comet, New	15,840	5,332	1,428	14,152	5,614	..	14,490	6,043	..
Cons. Langlaagte	15,140	4,745	3,058	14,420	4,363	2,646	15,300	5,124	4,303
Cons. Main Reef	15,161	6,241	7,855	15,749	6,218	8,322	16,051	6,290	8,327
Crown Deep	29,199	11,402	20,800	28,936	11,419	19,950	29,111	11,742	20,850
Crown Reef	19,715	12,335	25,033	18,769	12,408	25,128	19,364	12,369	25,256
Drietenheim	19,688	9,555	15,120	18,603	9,069	..	23,044	10,235	..
Durlan Roopepoort	10,840	5,147	8,000	11,150	5,217	..	11,390	5,204	..
Do. Deep	10,005	4,401	4,588	9,950	4,352	4,200	10,095	4,335	4,200
Ferreira	19,670	11,207	24,280	19,084	11,806	25,416	20,700	12,049	26,115
Do. Deep	10,206	11,084	27,000	10,355	10,689	27,150	19,800	11,001	29,650
French Rand	14,750	5,134	2,212	13,500	5,095	1,621	14,700	4,725	929*
Goldenhuis Deep	25,040	11,068	18,000	23,615	10,777	18,150	23,030	10,433	15,000
Goldenhuis Estate	10,750	7,108	15,935	10,825	7,222	16,095	16,865	7,229	16,094
Ginsberg	8,400	3,484	5,904	7,995	3,345	4,778	8,5	3,493	5,217
Glenearn	14,831	4,242	4,504	14,608	4,389	4,955	14,911	4,162	4,992
Glen Deep	10,280	6,720	8,850	15,300	6,045	7,000	15,900	6,033	7,000
Glyn's Lydenberg	2,425	1,453	..	2,220	1,370	..	2,175	1,413	..
Goch New	9,016	3,411	2,023	11,210	3,048	3,112	..	..	..
Henry Nourse	10,656	6,249	12,097	..	6,214	12,125	10,925	6,101	11,044
Heriot	9,300	3,864	2,672	9,000	3,752	3,101	9,240	3,816	4,410
Jubilee	5,803	1,781	..	5,074	1,074	..	5,997	1,757	..
Jumpers	11,576	4,042	3,553	11,300	3,325	1,768	11,100	3,829	3,000
Jumpers Deep	16,227	5,100	2,000	15,455	5,205	351	16,319	5,240	3,000
Knight's	24,200	7,542	4,802	20,055	8,703	8,197	28,083	9,602	11,863
Knight's Deep	24,700	9,101	11,490	23,200	8,652	8,249	22,500	8,230	7,100
Lancaster	13,000	4,507	2,220	13,010	3,256	1,562	13,100	4,345	1,085
Lancaster West	6,645	2,365	2,344	6,416	2,329	2,349	6,680	2,367	2,879
Langlaagte Deep	20,441	6,975	6,950	19,269	6,752	6,850	20,010	6,765	6,850
Do. Estate	26,775	8,607	..	26,327	8,365	..	26,141	8,267	..
May Consolidated	13,730	6,145	11,606	13,402	6,054	11,542	13,800	6,091	11,724
Meyer and Charlton	11,500	4,717	8,614	10,920	4,614	8,318	11,500	4,476	8,297
Modderfontein	9,554	3,739	3,968	9,155	3,557	3,433	9,032	3,566	3,424
New Kleinfontein	28,001	9,457	9,254	26,332	9,201	..	28,083	9,602	..
New United	9,015	3,375	2,007	8,554	3,260	2,236	8,907	3,344	2,632
Niekerk	783	248	2,007	688	309	..	910	240	..
Nigel	6,465	3,593	5,202	6,210	3,651	4,977	..	..	..
North Randfontein	15,246	5,442	..	14,765	5,647	..	2,882	2,100	1,042
Nourse Deep	14,400	7,105	8,150	14,410	7,076	9,000	14,870	6,922	8,600
Primrose	17,475	7,224	13,184	16,838	7,372	13,865	17,274	7,774	15,043
Princess Estate	5,850	2,730	1,148	5,592	2,604	1,406	6,417	2,910	1,670
Rietfontein New	2,902	4,013	7,157	3,276	4,223	7,645	8,309	3,324	7,013
Robinson	26,500	20,091	45,501	26,500	19,485	46,527	27,000	19,362	46,591
Robinson Cent. Deep	12,650	7,607	19,132	13,075	8,131	20,636	13,877	8,483	22,532
Robinson Deep	28,077	14,720	31,274	27,822	14,611	31,174	29,066	15,351	34,588
Robinson Rndfontein	14,812	5,506	..	14,092	5,200	..	14,456	5,570	..
Roopepoort Central	7,493	3,284	2,776	7,282	3,139	2,517	7,628	3,221	2,810
Roopepoort United	9,300	4,028	5,060	9,000	3,909	5,084	9,500	4,052	5,246
Rose Deep	28,846	9,226	12,110	24,884	8,707	9,650	24,786	8,397	8,050
Salisbury	5,650	1,870	2,050	5,400	1,710	1,455	..	..	..
Sheba .....	..	2,085	..	..	2,350	..	..	2,400	..
Simmer and Jack	52,700	20,011	28,251	5,038	19,302	26,696	52,080	19,911	30,664
South Randfontein	14,478	5,374	..	13,700	5,722	..	14,649	6,076	..
Transvaal Gold	11,307	4,239	..	10,864	4,218	..	10,673	4,149	..
Treasury	8,600	3,560	5,622	6,650	2,438	2,733	5,260	2,086	2,454
Van Ryn	22,230	8,113	12,011	21,260	7,794	10,870	22,380	7,926	10,047
Village Deep	14,600	5,498	6,586	14,065	5,327	5,697	14,805	6,003	8,387
Village Main Reef	23,780	9,721	14,389	24,000	9,386	14,402	25,000	6,485	14,517
Vogelstruis Estates	5,045	2,046	..	..	2,051	..	5,200	2,081	..
Wemmer	8,480	4,064	3,565	8,120	3,752	3,278	8,420	3,852	3,819
W. Rand Central	2,625	571	..	2,400	508	..	2,500	538	..
Windsor	5,020	1,539	628	4,902	1,491	646	5,050	1,510	645
Wt. Deep	17,630	7,332	5,735	20,730	8,629	10,457	21,580	8,978	12,344
Wolhuter	16,575	5,773	5,375	16,000	5,730	5,681	16,700	5,845	7,007
Worcester .....	..	1,184	..	..	..	..	..	1,432	..

* Loss.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
February	80,785	..	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258
March	64,408	..	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811
April	84,546	..	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823
May	54,772	..	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166
June	64,249	7,488	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395
July .....	..	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317
August .....	..	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505
September .....	..	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	..
October .....	..	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	..
November .....	..	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	..
December .....	..	39,075	187,375	279,813	336,167	..
December ..	..	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	..
Total ..	348,760	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	2,780,275

* Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared.

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The Investors' Review.

More Notes upon the Report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

It is impossible to embody in one or in half-a-dozen articles the great variety of suggestive and interesting facts contained in this annual volume, but one or two further notes may be made, and first of all let us talk about beer, Bonsor's nectar that does not pay dividends. The beer duty, we are glad to say, gives the same testimony to a diminution of the drinking habits of the people which we found when dealing with the spirit duty. Last year's receipts from the beer duty came to £13,101,459, of which £12,678,832 went into the Exchequer—into the national purse, that is—and £422,627 in relief of local taxation. These figures, however, did not include the beer licences, which come under another category, and the fines, &c., only part of which appears to come in anywhere. Now this total shows an aggregate decline of £840,000 on the highest figure ever before reached, which was for 1900-1, when beer duty to the amount of £13,940,538 was received. The decrease, moreover, has been progressive since that year, so that last year's figures, for the twelve months ended March 1, we must always remember, were about £360,000 less than the total for 1903-4. Those who contend that we cannot tell how much the people are drinking from figures of this description, or from the statement of the number of barrels of beer of the standard gravity of 1,055 degrees upon which duty was paid, because so much of the liquor is diluted, are put out of court when we look at the number of what is called the bulk barrels produced; that is to say, the aggregate number of barrels turned out without regard to specific gravity. In these there was a decrease of 1,738,000 barrels in 1904-5 compared with 1902-3, and the decrease in this instance is also progressive, for the number was less by about 85,000 barrels than in 1903-4. It follows, therefore, that the per head consumption of beer, calculated upon the standard gravity basis, is probably not far from giving a true indication of the tendency of the people's habits in this particular. And this per head standard is in some senses most consoling of all. According to it, the excitements of the year in which the war in South Africa began, 1899-1900, induced the people to consume 32.28 gallons of beer of standard gravity per head. That was the high water mark, or the high beer mark, and every year since the per head consumption has fallen off, until for the year ended March 31 last it was only 28.44 gallons. These figures accord with what one gathers from observation. The habits of the people are unquestionably changing, and the more they do so under the fashion set by the modern restaurants the worse does the outlook for the breweries, with their swollen capital accounts, come to be. And what of the Empire, whose foundations are a capacity on the part of citizens to swallow much, and more, and yet more intoxicating drink? Well may the tariffites display zeal.

Another interesting subject, which might be enlarged upon to the extent of a fair-sized volume, is furnished by the accounts of the estate duties. These last year gave an aggregate of £16,778,815 to the Exchequer, which was £404,443 less than the figure for 1903-4, the decrease in capital upon which duty was paid having been £5,400,000, but the total was still £264,000,000, and no sinister inference whatever is to

be drawn from this temporary decline beyond the fact that it was probably due to no small extent to the lower prices at which personalty was valued, owing to the decline in the market value of public securities held by the executors of the deceased estates. A more interesting point is the distribution of this wealth. We find, for example, that last year 63,918 estates came under the notice of the Inland Revenue Department, their aggregate value being £265,103,196. Now, 61,000 of these estates represented only £79,000,000 of money in round figures. There were 18,505 estates whose gross value did not exceed £300, and another 8,846 the gross value of which was between £300 and £500. Then, of net estates there were 5,853 of a value between £100 and £500, 10,098 of a value between £500 and £1,000, and 16,704 of a value between £1,000 and £10,000. The next group, we may state, ranges between £10,000 and £100,000, and of these there were about 3,700 representing a capital value of about £111,000,000, but, as showing what the tendency of wealth to coagulate and congest is, the remaining 185 estates represented an aggregate capital value of about £77,000,000; that is to say, 185 people left property to an amount that came within £2,000,000 of the value left by 61,000 people possessing estates ranging from £100 up to £10,000 in value. There was one estate alone whose value was £5,942,000, and there were 23 other estates whose aggregate net value was £17,224,000. Whatever may be the source of this wealth, aggregations of this description cannot be deemed a sign of health in the body economic. One more observation may be made. There were 17,559 insolvent estates, including 15,931 not exceeding £100 net value, coming under the cognisance of the Department last fiscal year, whose gross capital value was £4,990,000, on which there was a net deficiency of £2,402,000. It may be worth mentioning, too, that since the new death duties came into force on August 2, 1894, nearly £4,000,000,000 of property has either been dealt with by the Inland Revenue Commissioners and duty paid upon it, or come under their notice for prospective assessment. During that time capital has been sheared off the value of deceased estates to the amount of about £130,000,000. If we had had no war, and if the whole of the money thus received had been devoted to the repayment of debt, in addition to the ordinary annuity and other sinking funds, what a splendid position the country would have been in to-day.

A word may be added about the income from licences, most of which passes over to the local authorities in order to relieve the owners of agricultural estates and the clergy, who pay tithes of part of their share of public taxation. In the past fiscal year the net receipts from Excise licences alone came to £4,327,565, of which £4,074,377 was handed over to the local taxation authorities. Since 1894-5 the increased receipts from these licences has been £557,000, or 15.3 per cent. There are a great variety of them, not all relating to drink, and one has only to look at the list in which they are set forth to realise that the system of taxation in force within the United Kingdom is by no means the simple affair we are apt to imagine. For instance, amongst the licences paid, besides those charged upon brewers, distillers, and those who sell their stuff—much too light in most cases—tobacco and snuff manufacturers, patent medicine vendors, dealers in sweets, keepers of refreshment houses, wine retailers, game dealers, and many others, are subjected to this form of taxation. Most people know of the dog licence, and have heard of the 10s. charged for a licence to carry a gun, but few people, perhaps, are aware that auctioneers have to pay a licence of £10, appraisers one of £2, pawnbrokers one of £7 10s., and tobacco and snuff sellers one of 5s. 3d. So minute is the tax-gatherer's scrutiny that if an occasional licence to sell tobacco and snuff is required, it is charged at the rate of 4d. for a period not exceeding three days, and occasional wine retailers have to pay

1s. a day for a period not exceeding three days. It is, perhaps, fitting enough that the bulk of this money should be handed over to the local authorities, but in that case they should also have the collection of the taxes in their control, and considerable latitude ought to be allowed to municipal and county authorities in the matter of levying duties upon public-houses. Another wilderness of taxation is found in the stamp duties, which are of almost endless variety, and include a further group of licences, such as the £30 paid by bankers, the £5 paid by those who keep retreats for habitual drunkards, and things of that kind. These stamp duties gave £409,474 more last financial year than in the previous one, the total income from them having been £7,803,513.

The French Budget.

No student of finance can look at the enormous aggregate of the French National Budget year after year without marvelling that the burden of it should be borne without frequent convulsions and occasional defaults. The aggregate income estimated for in the Budget of 1906 recently voted is £148,023,000, and the expenditure is put at £148,016,000, leaving less than £7,000 by way of surplus. In reality, however, the Budget is balanced in this fashion only by the help of unspent balances of credits left over from previous Budgets, and by taking power to negotiate bonds to the amount of about £352,000, representing gifts and legacies of property to the State. Altogether in this way rather more than £1,000,000 is provided, else there would once more have been a suggestive deficiency. It is possible that the extra money may not be wanted, that the revenue may continue to grow in the satisfactory manner that most recent years have shown, but none the less are income and outgo balanced with extreme difficulty at the best of times, and it is obviously wellnigh impossible for any French Government to proceed to make further additions to the load of taxation. Yet expenses grow steadily and inevitably. Comparing 1903 with 1905, the Minister of Finance points out that there has been a growth of about £5,240,000 in three years. Of this, £1,136,000 is due to the public debt and £1,640,000 to augmentations of salaries, indemnifications, and other items inevitable in a country the *personnel* of whose administration is continually growing and continually demanding more money. When all is said, however, it is the burden of military charges and of debt together which weighs most heavily upon the French people, not the current outgoings on other branches of the State's services and avocations. The gross charge for the debt in the coming year will amount to nearly £49,000,000, and the Army and Navy, together with the pensions attributable to these services, will take about £47,500,000. Altogether, out of a total Budget of £148,000,000, something like £96,300,000 disappears in these three directions, or fully 65 per cent. of the entire revenue, pure dead weight.

No wonder that the French people are ardent lovers of peace. Their only hope of deliverance from the excessive public burdens they are now called upon to endure lies in the reduction of the outlay upon the fighting forces of the State. Yet how light these charges are compared to ours. The French Army and Navy together will in the coming year, leaving pensions out of account, take barely £42,000,000, as against something like £70,000,000 in this country, if the projected outlay on naval and military works is included. Debt and the fighting forces together, however, weigh fully more burdensomely upon the French people than our debt and fighting enginery charges, and France must be a country of much greater resources than the United Kingdom, greater within itself, else the load could not be carried year after year without risking frequent social convulsions. France is rich and thifty beyond any other country on earth, but for all her people's industry and prudence, the charges borne by them are now obviously taxing the country's strength to the

utmost, and, therefore, we cordially join the French in hoping to see an accord come to amongst European nations before many years are over, which will have the effect of reducing all our dead-weight military and naval burdens, thereby liberating the humbler classes—the multitudes of those who toil—from some, at least, of the sufferings and disabilities they are now called upon to endure. Of the remainder of the French Budget, the portion left for other purposes, a good deal is absorbed in public works, and the State is also charged with a certain portion of the outlays made by the railway companies. In the coming year, for instance, £2,800,000 is assigned to the various companies for supplementary works, and the State is further charged with the deficiencies upon the railway guarantees of interest or dividend. One day, it is to be expected, all this will come back to the nation, thanks to the fact that the railways only possess leases, all of which will fall in about the middle of the present century, after which the entire railway system of the country will become the property of the people or State. Whether that will profit them or not remains to be seen, but at least they have an asset against a portion of their enormous debt, to which there is no parallel in the United Kingdom. Our debt is all unrelieved dead weight. The total of the French debt, by the way, including a floating debt of £44,525,000, is now £1,218,411,000, the heaviest handicap laid upon the shoulders of any nation on earth. Military pensions, it may be added, take £4,203,000 in the coming year, naval pensions £1,573,000, and civil service pensions about £3,440,000, and the civil pensions at any rate tend to increase year by year. Among these civil pensions it may be interesting to note there was inscribed in the Budget of 1904 Fr. 500 paid to members of the civil list of Louis XVIII. and Charles X., so careful are Frenchmen of all political creeds to respect vested interests. Public education is down for upwards of £10,000,000 in the Budget and public worship for about £1,700,000. This latter item should disappear in time, but no immediate reduction in its total can be expected as a consequence of the severance of Church and State, because all those ministers of religion of the various sects endowed under the old régime will continue to draw their salaries or equivalent compensation allowances in the shape of pensions.

Whatever we in the United Kingdom may have lost by the Sugar Convention, France has unquestionably gained much, and the result of the reduction of the Customs and excise duties in France, together with the abolition of the bounties paid upon export, have furnished the people with an excellent object lesson in free trade and its happy products. The new arrangement came into force on September 1, 1903, and in estimating the income for the following year the Budget Committee and Minister of Finance looked for a reduction of about £820,000 in the total revenue from sugar compared with two years before—French Budget estimates being now always based upon the actual figures of the penultimate completed year. This forecast was most agreeably falsified, and instead of getting about £5,500,000 from this source of income the Treasury received nearly £6,000,000. The rise in the price of sugar has occurred since which will probably do something to check the expansion of this revenue. But it may be only a temporary rise, and is put down by the Minister of Finance to the exhaustion of the stocks which had weighed on the market since 1902, together with a reduction last year in the area planted with beet. In the current year, however, this cultivation has again been extended, and it is therefore probable that the revenue from sugar will again increase. Perhaps after studying the effect of lower duties in augmenting the public income French ministries may pluck up courage to take the plunge and lighten their import duties in various other directions. The foreign commerce of France labours heavily beneath the load of exactions imposed upon the country's imports, and a practicable and prolific reform might be effected by at one and the same time lowering the scale of Customs

duties and abolishing the bounties on the French mercantile marine. High duties and an oversea carrying trade artificially fostered at the expense of the people who pay these duties cannot be economically sound finance. So lip full, however, is the cup of the national finance that only men of exceptional political and financial capacity can be expected to have the courage to institute reforms of this kind, profitable to the public purse and to the people at large though they unquestionably would be.

It may be interesting to recount in a summary fashion the deficits which have accumulated against the nation in the course of French modern history. A table is given setting forth these deficits at the end of the Budget statement, but it omits the cost of the indemnity paid to Germany at the close of the Franco-German War. Without this, however, the figures are interesting enough. Thus in the period anterior to April 1, 1814, the aggregate Budget deficits are put down at about £4,000,000. Then in the period 1815 to 1829 almost £11,000,000 more were added to the shortage, but the largest deficiency occurred under Louis Philippe in the seventeen years from 1830 to 1847, when nearly £21,000,000 was added to the debt through excess of expenditure. The Republic of 1848 to 1851 lasted so short a time that it added little more than £1,160,000 to the accumulated deficiencies, but the second Empire put on nearly £4,000,000 more down to 1869. Leaving out the period of national disaster and humiliation, the third Republic in the thirty-four years from 1870 to 1904 had added little more than £2,420,000 to the previously accumulated shortcomings. Its record is therefore better, tested in this way, than that of any of the régimes which have preceded it, but it is obvious that these figures refer to the "ordinary" Budget alone, and take no account of the stupendous outlays upon public works, on occasional wars, or on colonial expansion any more than of the war indemnity, wrapped up in Budgets extraordinary. Were everything included the second Empire would stand out as the most ruinously, costly sham any nation has ever been cursed by.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

PEACE.

After 18 months of the most sanguinary warfare, involving enormous sacrifice of men and money, the conflict in the Far East has at last been brought to a close, and Russia and Japan, who should have always lived in neighbourly accord, are friends once more. War broke out in February, 1904, chiefly in consequence of Russia's refusal to fulfil her pledge to evacuate Manchuria and restore those provinces to their rightful owner, China, a violation which threatened the very existence of Japan as a nation. By a series of brilliant successes, both on land and sea, the Japanese forces have done more than ever seemed possible to justify the course taken by their rulers, completely destroying the Russian navy and beating back her armies over many bloody battlefields to Harbin. Many heroic resistances were made, and battles were only won at terrible cost; but, deprived of her sea power, there was little or no chance of Russia changing the fortunes of the day, and Japan had to be proclaimed the victor of one of the most memorable struggles in history. But it is easier to make war than to end it. Russia had a bitter disappointment to swallow, and although very near exhaustion might have contrived to continue the bloodshed rather than ask peace from an opponent hitherto despised. It was a case for intervention by some neutral Power, and, throwing ceremony to the winds, the President of the United States boldly stepped into the breach. For him the result has been a personal triumph, and we ungrudgingly add our voice to the chorus of praise which has greeted his successful work in the cause of humanity. By bringing the representa-

tives of the two nations together he practically rendered further fighting impossible, because impartial minds had little doubt of what the result of the negotiations would be. The stern logic of necessity caused the envoys of both countries to approach the discussions in a spirit of conciliation, ready to make sacrifices and concessions in order that a lasting peace might be secured. The terms put forward by Japan were almost precisely what were to be expected, and to the great majority of the clauses the Russian plenipotentiaries instantly agreed; but the split came, as it was certain to come, on the question of indemnity, cession of the island of Sakhalin, the interned warships, and the limitation of Russian naval power in the Pacific. The last two were easily adjusted, and Japan sacrificed nothing by foregoing these claims, because the demand for ships protected by foreign ports was without precedent, and Muscovite naval power can hardly be an influence in any part of the world for a greater number of years than need be worried about. Besides, Russia is now without a warm water port, and could not keep a big fleet in the East, even if she would. With these points disposed of, there remained only the indemnity and territorial questions, and it was on these that the negotiations sometimes looked like breaking down. The cost of the war to Japan has been enormous, probably not less than £200,000,000, and she was certain to endeavour to obtain part of this great outlay from her defeated enemy as well as lay claim to the island of Sakhalin by right of conquest. But the Czar had said "not an inch of territory," "not a copeck of indemnity," and there is little doubt that had Japan insisted upon her demands a rupture would have ensued. But the Government of the Mikado, although perhaps conscious of its right to be reimbursed for the expenses of war, was aware that payment could not be enforced, and suggested a compromise under which Russia should repurchase the northern half of Sakhalin for a sum to be fixed by arbitration. Nothing, however, would shake the resolve of St. Petersburg not to concede a money payment, and at the last moment Japan agreed to abandon her claim and divide the island, Russia retaining the northern and Japan the southern half. Naturally enough, the result was hailed as a victory for Russian diplomacy, but there is no doubt at all that Japan was all along prepared to drop the indemnity question if Russia proved immutable, as she was bound to do. Like her great antagonist, Japan was becoming exhausted, 18 months of continuous fighting having thrown an enormous strain on her resources, and made her painfully aware that borrowing in Western markets is a ruinous business. In all, she raised £82,000,000 by way of foreign loans for war purposes, little of it obtained at less than 8 per cent., besides many millions at home, and although the whole of this money has not yet been spent, there is already talk of a peace loan, because clearing up after a war is almost as expensive as conducting it. For a young nation this may yet prove an intolerable load of debt, and none can really question the wisdom displayed in declining to add to the burden in the hope that Russia might be so crushed that she would eventually be willing to pay. After all, Japan has obtained far more than she could have ever hoped for in her wildest moments of enthusiasm, and had no need to humiliate the Russian people to a greater extent than is implied in the terms of peace. Japan is conceded:—

- (1) The predominant influence in Korea;
- (2) Evacuation of Manchuria by Russia, and the abandonment of Russian claims in that province, mutual recognition of the territorial integrity of China;
- (3) Restoration of Chinese administration in Manchuria;
- (4) Proposed arrangements for future government of Manchuria;
- (5) The southern half of the island of Sakhalin below the 50th parallel;
- (6) The surrender of the leases of the Liaotung Peninsula, including Port Arthur, Dalny, and the Blonde and Elliott islands;
- (7) The transfer to China of the South Manchurian Railway;
- (8) The future use of the Russian portion of the railway to be confined to commercial purposes;
- (12) Fishing rights on the Siberian coast from Vladivostok northwards.

On the other hand, she withdrew (9) The claim for re-

imbursement of war expenses; (10) The demand for the surrender of the interned warships; (11) The claim for the limitation of Russia's naval strength in the Far East. What the loss of all these prizes means to Russia can hardly be computed, in money alone it must exceed £500,000,000, including war outlay, the dreams of Asiatic dominance being shattered for all time, and no one can with truth say that Japan has been cheated out of the legitimate spoils of war.

BANK BALANCE-SHEETS.

The publication of Mr. H. W. Birks' excellent analysis of the balance-sheets of the London joint stock and private banks again gives opportunity for a few remarks on the general position of these great institutions. Mr. Birks issues the figures without comment of any kind, but if he did hazard a few observations they would probably take the form of a complaint against the absence of uniformity in the methods employed in drawing up these balance-sheets. In all 22 banks are dealt with, but for analytical purposes they have to be divided into two classes, the first comprising the London and Westminster, National—an Irish bank included because its head office is situated in London—London Joint Stock, London and County, London City and Midland, Union of London and Smiths, London and South-Western, Parr's, London and Provincial, and Martin's. Although not affording so much information as we should like these companies, all incorporated under the limited liability Acts, follow more or less well defined lines in setting forth their liabilities and assets and moreover issue their statements to the shareholders twice a year. But there are just a dozen other institutions which do not conform to general principles either in the form of making up, or in the dates on which the figures are available to the proprietors. These include such great institutions as the Capital and Counties, National Provincial of England, Lloyds, Williams Deacon's, Barclays, and Glyn Mills, and it seems rather a pity that an arrangement should not be come to for some general method of account keeping. Unlike railways and friendly societies, banks are not answerable to any Government department, and any action would have to be voluntary, but the matter is worth considering if only because it might lead to the rendering of fuller details. If, for example, the Union of London balance-sheet, with slight emendation, were accepted as the standard for other banks to follow, we should be immediately placed in possession of more detailed information concerning the actual cash holdings of the great corporations to whom we entrust our savings, and on whose smooth and regular working our national existence may almost be said to depend. As is well known the Union of London gives as separate items, the actual cash in its tills, and the reserve held by the Bank of England, which is surely better than the single entry of "cash in hand and at Bank of England," favoured by so many, and is in striking contrast to the item of "cash in hand and at Bank of England including money at call and short notice," all too frequently encountered. Distinction likewise is drawn between bills discounted and loans and advances, and invariably should be, although it is not, as there is really nothing in common between the two items. Carefully selected bank bills are always good to hold in moderate quantities, since they are a constant source of ready money, falling due day by day, giving fresh available resources for current needs should they be required, or ready for reinvestment in the same class of security or any other if circumstances permit. But it is not so with loans and advances. When these are granted it means a locking-up of resources for a more or less indefinite time, because they are intended to be used, and quite legitimately so, in financial or commercial transactions which call for the continuous use of the money. We are of course aware that in exchange for accommodation securities are usually lodged which might be realised if necessary, but that is not always the case, and the mind has not to go back far to recall a successful outcry against an important projected banking amalgamation owing to the fear in some quarters that overdrafts might

be restricted at a critical time. Thus the absence of relation between bills discounted and advances at once becomes apparent, and we are also reminded of what powerful influences our banks are in regulating and ensuring the smooth working not only of our own vast internal and external commerce, but of the financial commitments of other nations. It was Mr. Schuster who laid such great emphasis on this point in his magnificent address to the Institute of Bankers in December, 1903. We may now with propriety take a glance at the resources of our banks, and this again opens up discussion on the question of balance-sheet details. With very few exceptions all group together their current and deposit accounts, that is on the one hand, the sums placed at the disposal of banks and liable to be withdrawn at a moment's notice by means of the cheque—the now recognised medium of payment throughout the country—and on the other monies deposited for fixed terms of 7 or 14 days, a month or may be longer, and on which interest is given. These deposits should, we think, be given under distinct heads so that we might know the extent to which banks are liable to be immediately called upon, to be measured against their readily available resources. The total of these deposits including, of course, the current accounts, of the ten banks first named was rather more than £246,000,000 at the end of June last an increase compared with the end of December of about £4,500,000, thanks entirely to a large recovery in the figures of the London Joint Stock Bank. Including capital, reserve funds, and acceptances the total resources are some £291,000,000, and if we add the latest available figures of the dozen other concerns the aggregate is brought up to the huge amount of £541,000,000. By the way, with seven of these banks the liability of the partners is unlimited. Going back to our original 10 banks we find the cash in hand and at Bank of England is £40,944,382, or 15·77 per cent., ranging from the 11·18 per cent. of the National to the 19·67 per cent. of Martin's, the Union of London, the leader of the big concerns, being close up with 18·54 per cent. Another £40,000,000 or more, being 15·47 per cent. is used in the short loan market, and investments in Government and other stocks amount to £44,231,258, these three items being very uniform in amount. Finally we come to bills discounted, loans, and other securities, necessarily given together, amounting to £160,834,905, the aggregate assets, including buildings, &c., footing up to £291,678,790. Cash in hand and at the Bank of England of the 12 private and other banks already referred to cannot be stated because one of them does not provide the amount, but £31,700,000 would be near the mark, and the cash at call and short notice is £29,376,160. Investments run up to a further amount of £51,225,518, and bills discounted, loans, and advances reach £130,494,653, the total assets including buildings coming to the enormous figure of £250,721,563. Adding on those of the 10 banks first mentioned and the aggregate is £543,889,442 for the 22 institutions now being discussed which, after all, represent only a very small proportion of the banks of the United Kingdom. The aggregate resources of them all we know to be a long way over the £1,000,000,000 mark, and it will be a bad day for this country if any fantastic tinkering with our fiscal system should lead to our banking supremacy being successfully assailed. Commerce and banking are inextricably bound together, and the slightest restriction upon the one must have an adverse influence on the other. Vast sums of money are used in the legitimate furtherance of the trade and industries of the nation, and, on the whole, used with a caution and discretion which reflects the utmost credit on those in control of this great banking system. Some people are disposed to think that caution is carried to extremes, and it is not unusual to find in our Consular reports comparisons between the facilities afforded to traders by foreign banks and our own. Praise is often accorded to the former for their readiness to assist and foster commercial enterprises usually by taking an interest in or even promoting a particular venture, but we have not adopted that system yet, and experience teaches that in the long run it is not a sound one. There is really no inducement to

depart from the lines already laid down while present business remains so profitable. True it is that banking profits have suffered some curtailment during the last year or so, the reasons for which have been frequently referred to, but they are still excellent, and amounted, for 10 banks, to £1,575,314 in the past half-year, or 16·88 per cent. on the paid up capital. Dividends paid ranged from the 8 per cent. of Martin's to the 20 per cent. of the London and County, the only one to show change compared with the preceding half-year being Parr's, which distributed slightly less. Total reserve funds of these 10 banks aggregate £12,843,805 or 68·82 per cent. of the paid up capital of £18,663,225. In these few notes we have not touched the question of the adequacy of the gold reserves held by the joint stock and private banks, a subject which was discussed with some vehemence not so very long ago, only to be allowed to drop and sink once more into oblivion, so it is to be feared, as there is no outward sign, that any effort is made to keep a greater proportion of banks' assets in liquid form.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: ROBINSON DEEP.

The Robinson Deep is a member of the group under the control of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, and is regarded as one of the best and most promising deep levels on the Rand. It has been in existence eleven years, having been formed in 1894. Five years later, in 1899, it was reconstructed, when holders of the original 450,000 shares received two shares in the new company for every one held, so that nearly 50 per cent. of the present capital is water. Its dividend achievements to date are not brilliant. The first distribution was in 1899, at the rate of 25 per cent., followed by similar distributions in 1903 and 1904, or 75 per cent. in the aggregate. It follows that had the capital not been doubled the payments would have been at the rate of 50 per cent. in each of these years, making a total of 150 per cent., but water of this kind is very dear to those who have to pay for it. In February last the directors issued a circular announcing their intention to further increase the capital from £950,000 to £980,000, by the creation of 30,000 shares, issued at a premium of £5, and guaranteed by the South African Gold Trust at £5 17s. 6d. per share. This issue yielded a net sum of £176,202, which is to be spent in the erection of another 100 stamps, in order to enlarge the battery to 300 stamps. At the same time the company's engineer made a new estimate of the mine's probable life, extending it to 26 years. He argued that previous estimates made of the ore available for mining purposes had been too conservative, so, on the strength of recent results he reasoned that in future a much larger tonnage can be safely calculated on. It appears that the figures obtained from actual measurements of the stopes and from the tons extracted over a period of two years show that a tonnage of 64,000 tons per claim is now got instead of 35,000 tons, as originally estimated when the company commenced crushing. This increase is mainly due to the fact that the Main Reef has been found to be payable over a greater width than was originally anticipated, whilst a decrease in the working expenses has rendered portions of the reef workable which formerly would have been left untouched. If, however, mistakes have been made in the past, it is reasonable to feel that there may be errors in the new estimates, though it must be admitted that as a large portion of the low grade Main Reef has been found payable it will appreciably prolong the life of the mine. The present milling capacity is 200 stamps, but only 190 of these were run during the financial year to the end of last March. As already stated, the dividend paid in 1904-5 was at the rate of 25 per cent., but this will be increased when the extra 100 stamps are erected and running. It will take a long time, however, before they are ready, perhaps another three years, and dividends are not likely to exceed 25 per cent. during that period. What will the distributions be subsequently? It is possible only to guess at these. Assuming that the 300 stamps will crush as many as 500,000 tons

per annum, at 20s. per ton profit, the total profit would be £500,000. But from this must be deducted the gold tax, depreciation, &c., and a good balance to keep in hand. Therefore, it is unlikely that future dividends will be higher than 40 per cent., and may probably average less, including the years of waiting. However, let us make our calculations on the basis of 40 per cent. The yield on present prices would be about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., so that in 26 years the aggregate return on £100 invested would be £195, leaving £95 for dividends, or approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, if we exclude stamp fees, commission, &c. The sinking fund necessary to redeem the principal at the end of the mine's life would be £2 10s. per cent. per annum at 3 per cent. compound interest. Allowing for this the net yield would, therefore, be about 5 per cent. Is this good enough in face of all the risks and uncertainties of the future? We think not.

LONDON AND GLASGOW ENGINEERING AND IRON SHIP-BUILDING.

A remarkable change came over the fortunes of this undertaking during the year to June 30, and the chairman should have an interesting story to tell the shareholders at the forthcoming annual meeting because there is very little of an explanatory character in the report. It merely tells us that during the last six months the shipbuilding, engine, and boiler works have been fairly employed, implying that the first part of the year was not so satisfactory, but that hardly seems sufficient explanation for a collapse in profits from £115,230 to £17,275, both figures being arrived at after payment of all departmental and general charges, including depreciation. Balance brought forward was only £498 compared with £3,283, and transfer fees gave £4, so that from all sources the revenue amounts to £17,777, a decline of £100,737. But, singularly enough, the dividend this time will be $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against 5 per cent., paid on a larger capital, too, the reason being that last year the company really used the greater part of the profits on capital account. Two bonuses of £1 each were distributed, and immediately called up again in order to make the shares fully paid, £26,000 was provided to pay off the balance of the mortgage debt, and no less than £34,000 was added to the reserve. That meant an increase in the company's resources, or a decrease in its liabilities of no less than £106,930, which renders all the more difficult to understand the serious shrinkage in profits. Reserve fund, instead of being £106,000, is £140,000, and the capital amounts to £211,185 compared with £189,720, money which has been used in acquiring large blocks of shares and debentures in other companies. These, at cost, stand at £86,220 compared with the trifle of £1,000 a year ago, and it will certainly be interesting to learn what they consist of and the revenue brought in. Cash at bankers naturally shows a big decline, being down from £134,187 to £48,343, and there is likewise a shrinkage in the bills receivable of £36,551 to £22,786, but against the last, creditors on open account are less by £27,709 at £30,008. Sundry debtors £2,062, show practically no change, but stocks and work in progress have gone up £12,379 to £28,849. Not much was laid out on capital account, only £7,452, chiefly on fresh land, and the £4,717 allowed for depreciation brings the value of the property to £213,225. The warship *Roxburgh* mentioned in the last report has now been completed, after the alterations caused by the change of armament, and her final trial is being carried through. Work on hand at present consists of a large passenger steamer for a foreign company, besides a big cargo vessel for Glasgow owners, and orders to proceed with the building of other boats are expected at an early date.

RAND OUTPUT AND DIVIDENDS.

Though market gamblers and the bosses trumpet forth as shrilly as they can the monthly increases in the production from the Rand mines, shareholders in the various companies do not get the percentage out

of this which is their due, although many probably imagine they do. As Sir George Farrar himself has only recently admitted, the ore in the mines shows, on the whole, a considerable falling off in value compared with the stuff that was got out in the pre-war days. His figures were that the ore worked to-day averages 36s. per ton, whilst in 1899 and before that year it was 41s. 7d. per ton, a fall of 5s. 7d. per ton, serious enough, surely, for low-grade mines such as those on the Rand. It is highly probable, of course, in the nineties that it was the custom to work out the richer ore and leave the poorer behind, hence the comparatively bigger dividends then paid. We know, for instance, that the Main Reef itself is practically untouched, and that it is the hope of some companies so to reduce costs as to enable ore to be extracted from this reef at a profit. In one or two mines they have been able to do this, but the mixing of this poorer ore with the better quality must necessarily lessen profits, and if profits are lower dividends must shrink. Anyway, the tendency is that way, to instance the Wemmer as a conspicuous example, hence the need for investors and others to exercise the greater caution. It would not in the least astonish us, indeed, were other sensational incidents to follow that of the Wemmer, and we know for a fact that such a fear as this is operating in many quarters. In the twelve months to the end of June the value of the gold output of the Transvaal was £18,338,400, whilst dividends totalled approximately £5,100,000, or almost 28 per cent. In other words, expenses, in one form or another, absorbed 72 per cent. of the value of the gold unearthed. Looking at all the great risks involved, the number of companies that pay no dividends, and the number that feed on the industry as parasites, the profit is disproportionate, and 50 per cent. would not be too high a dividend. Not that the general public have received the whole of this £5,000,000. A large portion has been, of course, intercepted in one form or another by the great parent and controlling companies, as shareholders and otherwise. These have had to finance many of their subsidiaries very liberally, and have not been unselfish in their usurious exactions. But for these heavy loans and interest there would have been bigger profits to distribute amongst shareholders, whilst some companies would have been able to divide surpluses instead of devoting them to the discharge of liabilities and the wiping out of deficits. Hence the small percentage of the gold won that finds its way into the pockets of waiting and anxious shareholders. The cost of importing and employing Chinese has, of course, been terribly heavy, far heavier than the unimaginative and greedy bosses foresaw, and this has made a serious inroad in earnings. So the mine potentates, with the redoubtable Sir George Farrar at their head, are now agitating for a reduction in taxation and in railway rates, and should all this be given to the generous millionaires then they will agitate for further concessions. Is it that they might put more money into the pockets of the shareholders? Or make a bit for themselves by rigging the market? The latter, surely, judged by past experience. What the community ought to do is to feed, transport, and lodge the bosses and their slaves for nothing. But would even that satisfy them?

At the annual meeting of the New Modderfontein Company, held at Johannesburg on July 26, the chairman dealt with this important matter of depreciation in the grade of the ore since the war. Let us quote his words:—"He did not think that the conditions had changed very much, but, still, the grade had fallen, and the impression outside was that the mines had become poorer. He thought it was a matter for mining engineers generally to consider whether it was a sound policy to mill a lower grade at present, when, as a matter of fact, working costs remained on the same level as they did before the war. People not acquainted with the conditions could not quite explain why the mines should be apparently working at a smaller profit now than they were some time ago. Personally, he was inclined to think that a mistake had been made in

not keeping up the milling grade to the higher average of before the war, for the simple reason that they were passing through a period of some strain, and it was unfortunate that confidence in these fields should be shaken by causes which were perfectly understood by those on the spot, but not by those at a distance." To the bosses it may be a misfortune that confidence should be shaken, for that means so much the less out of the pockets of the public; but if the ore is becoming poorer and profits are suffering thereby, should this tend to strengthen hope and confidence? Is it not most reasonable that so serious a fact should increase apprehensions? What difference does it make if the conditions are thoroughly understood by those on the spot, and are not comprehended fully by English investors? The latter are less concerned about the causes than the effects—such effects as the non-declaration of a Wemmer dividend and tiny ones paid by other companies. The suggestion that engineers might do what they did before the war—work out the higher grade ore—is worthy of a mine boss. It might rush prices up for the moment, but the losses to shareholders would be the heavier in the end. In the year 1899 it was foreseen that war was inevitable, so managers hurried to mill as much of their richer reserves as they could, which explains the higher output and the larger profits exhibited by the companies in these few months. Working costs are as high as ever, in spite, too, of cheaper dynamite, cheaper coal, lower railway rates, improved mechanical inventions, and many other favourable conditions. Look not only at the cost of getting the Chinese, but at the waste of time involved in training these men. Month after month we read that some companies explain lower profits as the consequence of the arrival of Chinkees, which has greatly increased the working costs. These go up, the grade goes down. Take last month as the latest example. The French Rand Company showed a loss of £926 in comparison with a profit of £1,621 in June, partly owing to the arrival of Chinese and the milling of lower grade ore, whilst the Geldenhuis Deep and Rose Deep returned greatly reduced profits as a result of a fall in the yield of the ore and the introduction of additional coolies. Is not all this ominous and disquieting?

FIRE INSURANCE IN NEW ZEALAND.

The Government of New Zealand, having started a Fire Insurance Department, is now seeking custom for it in a most objectionable manner, and business men in the Colony are up in arms. It appears from various newspaper extracts which have come into our hands that pressure is being brought to bear through other departments, and the assertion is made that the officials have stooped to the incredible meanness of leading local bodies to believe that they were legally obliged to take out policies. The bluff has failed in some cases, notably in that of the Lyttelton Harbour Board, which declined to accede to the Railway Department's request that some of its buildings should be insured with the State, but these failures have not prevented the game being tried elsewhere. Local bodies have been practically, if not actually, coerced into helping to build up the insurance business by circulars suggesting that, as they are in receipt of Government subsidies, they should in return support the department. Now another method of drumming up business has been discovered, and the insurance companies have been informed by the Superintendent of the Advances to Settlers Office that it has been decided to compel all borrowers to insure with the State, and that existing policies will, therefore, not be renewed. Before this precious industry was started borrowers were merely obliged to insure with a reputable insurance company approved by the department, and when the State office was opened the conditions were simply altered to include it. The thin end of the wedge having been thus inserted, it was easy enough to go further and force new borrowers to give their business to the State, and had this been the end of it no one would

have had much to say, although even that step is none too fair to the companies which have established themselves in the Colony with the Government's consent. But the zealous officials are not satisfied, and now wish to make the new stipulation retrospective. The Commissioner of Crown Lands is doing the same in his office, and is coolly demanding that leaseholders shall transfer their policies. If they are successful in effecting these changes it is not difficult to see what the end will be. So far as Government business is concerned, competition will be stifled, and when the State department gets a monopoly of this class of business into its hands there is nothing to prevent them screwing up rates to a point which will mean a heavy additional burden laid on the back of the borrower. Fortunately, the legality of these attempts has been called in question, and there is likely to be a good deal of resistance to the scheming and plotting.

INDIAN TEA COMPANIES.

Market conditions in 1904-5 were very much against planters, and, as might have been expected, the directors of Indian companies join in the chorus of more or less vituperative language raised by their Ceylon brethren over the iniquity of the increase in the tea duty. That increase undoubtedly had a serious effect in driving the average consumer to seek the lower grades in order to avoid paying more than his accustomed price, but it was not the only cause of the reduced profits earned, although many of the directors would fain have their shareholders believe that such was the case. Prices, it is true, fell off by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. as a rule, and to this extent the extra duty may perhaps be blamed, but where a larger decrease occurred, and in some cases a decrease of 1d. or more was recorded, it will be found that the quality of the output did not come up to the usual standard. Climatic conditions, too, were not altogether favourable in some districts, and as no attempts were made to counteract the effect of the increased duty by a resort to coarser plucking the yield was smaller than had been anticipated, and the cost of production was proportionately heavier. So far from coarser plucking being indulged in, every care was taken to keep up the quality of the leaf, and in a few cases an improvement was sought for. These efforts met with a certain amount of success, and a few companies stood out prominently as having secured an advance over the previous year's figures in spite of the adverse markets. The Assam Frontier Company, however, was singularly unfortunate in its efforts to secure compensation for the fall in prices. Its tea is of a very fine quality, and a year ago brought just under 10d. per lb., but this class being out of favour the attempt to turn out an even higher grade put the company still more out of the market, and its average price dropped by nearly 1d. per lb.

With the decline in gross revenue it was inevitable that net profits should show a severe shrinkage notwithstanding the savings effected in expenditure, and there was hardly a company in the whole list which could show a divisible surplus at all approaching that of 1903-4. The Nedeem, indeed, showed a drop of about £11,000, the Assam Frontier, Jokai, Chargola, Sephinjuri, and Imperial realised from £8,000 to £10,000 less, and the Empire of India suffered most severely of all with a reduction from £17,100 to £4,500, while the smaller concerns experienced proportionately heavy decreases, and in the case of the Makum and Singlo companies profits of £3,600 and £2,200 gave place to actual losses. Under these circumstances it might have been expected that dividends would have been cut down substantially, but by resorting to the well-worn expedient of ignoring reserves and depreciation any reduction has been small, and in some instances the old rate has been maintained. The Nedeem, for example, which a year ago transferred £6,500 to reserve and paid 3 per cent., this year puts nothing aside in order to distribute 2½ per cent. Yet its reserve only comes to £25,000, and is practically all sunk in the business, while the estate stands in the

books at a cost of nearly £53 10s. per mature acre. The Doom Dooma has not added anything to reserve for several years, but, nevertheless, continues to pay 10 per cent., and the Pabbojan, although four years old, has not yet begun to accumulate a reserve in spite of the fact that its gardens are valued at £57 10s. per cultivated acre. Many more instances might be quoted, but enough has probably been said to show that most of the Indian tea companies are as little careful of the future as their Ceylon competitors.

The last few weeks have seen a decided revival of buying in the tea share market, on the assumption that the accumulations in the warehouses are now about exhausted, and that the reduction in the tea duty which took place in July, should stimulate consumption in a way which cannot fail to benefit the producers. Estimates of crops for the current year, however, are mostly for larger outturns, and if they are realised there would appear to be some risk of the markets being over-supplied, unless new outlets are found for the surplus. According to the official figures, India last year sent us 160,171,116 lbs., or an increase of nearly 3,600,000 lbs., and Ceylon exports, although smaller in both 1903 and 1904 than in the preceding year, are creeping up to the former level once more, while Java is fast becoming an important competitor. China is sending less to this market, but the tendency is for supplies to increase and it would be useful to know what is now being done in the way of finding new markets. Very little, we fear, at any rate so far as the Continent is concerned, and as for the development of the home market nothing seems to have been done since the Expansion Commission ceased its labours.

F. STEINER AND CO.

There is much less now to be said about this well-known business of Turkey red dyers and calico printers than was necessary a few years back, when the affair seemed to be getting in a bad way, because profits are steadily picking up again, and given a moderate revival in trade we see no reason why the company's best days should not once more be equalled. In the 12 months to July 31 last the profit reached a sum of £74,218 or £12,732 more than in the previous 12 months, and to show the remarkable vicissitudes through which the undertaking has passed during recent years it is perhaps only necessary to point out that the revenue in 1901 was down to £7,404, while two years previously it was returned at £132,582. All that, however, belongs to the past, and shareholders will be more concerned with current doings and the prospects for the future. With £7,951 brought forward, the aggregate for disposal is £82,169, from which debenture interest takes £18,000 and preference dividend £22,500. Already an interim dividend of 2 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares, and the directors now propose a further distribution of the same amount making 4 per cent. for the year, adding £12,000 to reserve and carrying forward the considerably increased sum of £10,669. Twelve months ago no dividend at all was paid on the ordinary shares because the board was anxious to recommence the reserves which had become extinguished during the years of adversity. The sum then set aside was £15,000, and the £12,000 now added brings the fund to £27,000. Not a very large amount, truly, bearing in mind the size of the business, but as it has been saved while only £19,000 has been distributed on the ordinary shares, which are held by the vendors, there can hardly be cause for complaint. The item in the balance-sheet which always attracts most attention is the stocks on hand and consignments, both because of its size and the controversy to which it at one time gave rise. A slight increase has taken place in the 12 months under review, and the latest valuation of £602,867 is enormous, but we have no doubt that after past experiences the directors keep an ever watchful eye on this all-important asset. Land, buildings, machinery, water rights, &c., continue to grow and now stand at

£791,680 compared with £766,300, and it might be well if more particulars were available with an indication of the allowance for depreciation, which ought to be on a generous scale. Sundry investments have gone back a little to £28,104, and the general finances are none too strong because £97,981 is owing to sundry creditors and £16,797 on bills payable, against debtors £72,878 and bills receivable £1,502. Cash, however, is almost £40,000, with all dividends met with the exception of the final on the ordinary shares, requiring £9,500, so that there is no actual impoverishment yet. But is it absolutely necessary to keep such enormous stocks? A rumour was current the other day that the business was to be taken over by the Calico Printers' Association, but although the board does not see fit to deny the story in the report it is understood to be without foundation. That we are thoroughly pleased to hear, because the business is much too good to be joined to a wind-and-water structure like the Manchester combine.

AUSTRALASIAN REVENUE.

In the past financial year the total revenue of the Commonwealth, according to Sir John Forrest, Minister of Finance, was £11,460,000, or a mere £109,000 less than was estimated, of which £8,800,000 came from Customs and Excise, and the Post Office and Telegraphic Service gave £2,630,000. After providing for the Federal expenditure, amounting to £4,318,000, a surplus of £7,141,000 was returned to the various States. For the current year the revenue is put at £11,387,000, or a decrease of £73,000, Customs being expected to show a drop of £116,000 at £8,683,000, partly because £50,000 is credited to the preceding year for sugar excise already received, and partly because increased production will, it is thought, cause a diminution of £21,000. A reduction in the West Australian special tariff accounts for a further portion of the decrease, and but for these items the revenue from Customs would have shown an advance of £19,000, and the total revenue would have been £64,000 up. The Post Office is estimated to yield £51,000 more at £2,682,000. Federal expenditure is put down at £4,606,000, naval contribution being £51,000, increased bounty on locally grown sugar £25,000, defence £25,000, posts and telegraphs £88,000, and new public works £118,000 up, so that the surplus returnable to the States will fall to £6,784,000, which is a drop of £358,000 from last year, but is still £469,000 above the statutory minimum. The total expense of Federation this year is £297,000, representing 1s. 5d. per head of the population. Sir John Forrest is an advocate of the consolidation of the State debts, amounting to £234,000,000, and points out that although this step would require the amendment of the Constitution, it would stop the loan competition between States, and gradually enhance the value of the £23,000,000 of State loans which will mature within the next five years.

WASSAU (GOLD COAST) MINING COMPANY.

Shareholders in the Wassau company must be extraordinary people if they still cling to the hope of ever receiving another dividend. During the 23 years of the company's existence it has but one solitary dividend to its credit—a wee one of 1s. per share in 1897. For some years crushing had to be suspended to enable development work to be carried out in the mine, and milling was not resumed till January, 1904. Accordingly the directors wrote in this hopeful strain in their report for 1903:—"The directors congratulate the shareholders on the fact that after many difficulties and delays the mill is now running and the mine has reached the producing stage, and they confidently believe that from now onwards there will be a steady and continuous treatment of payable rock showing regular monthly profits." Since then over two years have passed, and instead of profits being earned losses have been made, more capital has had to be raised,

and a debenture debt created. Now comes the following intimation from the secretary of the company:—"In accordance with the report of the directors approved at the annual meeting, instructions were sent to the manager to suspend crushing operations as soon as he could arrange for the transfer of his milling staff, and this was accordingly done last month. The treatment of the old tailings will, however, be continued, and from this source some revenue will be obtained during the period of suspension of crushing operations. . . . It is hoped that sufficient progress with development will be made by the end of the year to enable the battery to be restarted, and that arrangements will be completed to enable development to be kept well ahead of the mill." Is it possible to feel any hope after this? Despite the several years spent in developing the mine, many more months and probably more years will be devoted to similar operations. And even should crushing be resumed at some future date, what likelihood is there that the results will be any improvement upon those of the past? The probability is slender. And where is more money to come from for such work? Will the shareholders, who have already lost many thousands in the company, be willing to give the directors as many more thousands as they choose to ask for? Only a few weeks ago, when the dreary report for 1904 was issued, the directors proposed to increase the capital from £260,000 to £350,000 by the creation of another 90,000 shares. Should the latter be taken up the money will last for some time, but when it is exhausted it would astonish us greatly should the directors not ask for more. If the mine cannot earn profits on a moderate capital, what likelihood is there that it will earn them on a large one? In the last report the directors admitted that they could not regard the ore position as satisfactory, and added: "It calls for vigorous measures to ensure uninterrupted progress for the future." A suspension of crushing for an indefinite length of time is their conception of vigorous measures and uninterrupted progress. Though the gold won in 1904 realised £101,379, the gross profit on this was only £21,961, all swallowed up in mine development and depreciation, leaving a considerable accumulated deficit to wipe off before dividends are possible. The ore is very poor in value, whilst the working costs are excessive. Although there is a possibility that economy may reduce the expenses of getting the gold, the possibility of the ore improving in value is remote, and if shareholders dream that it will improve to such a degree as to admit of dividends, their awakening may be sad and painful. The Jungle gold field has had a good long trial, the losses of the public have been appalling, and the results have been what we predicted they would be when the madness first broke out.

MORE ABOUT MADAGASCAR.

It is not as easy as eating one's breakfast to gather particulars of those mysterious syndicates which, rumour has told the world, have recently been formed by South African financiers for taking up mining concessions in the island of Madagascar with a view to engineering a boom when the cupidity of the public—French as well as English—had been thoroughly excited. There is little likelihood of it being excited after recent revelations, but none the less the attempt may be made, on the theory that human memory, amidst the distractions of this work-a-day world, is very short. But a French mining contemporary, *L'Afrique Minière*, publishes one or two facts that are interesting and enlightening. We have heard a great deal, for instance, of a W. and B. Syndicate. According to our contemporary, the principal French gold-washing company in Madagascar is the *Compagnie Lecomte*, with a capital of £50,000, in £1 shares. Its concessions are near Fianarantsoa, and were lately inspected by Mr. Byerley, on behalf of Mr. Abe Bailey. Do we not remember Mr. Bailey in connection with the banket discoveries in Rhodesia? This engineer's report was

stated to be favourable, and a company bearing the title of the W. and B. Syndicate was formed with a capital of £50,000 in £100 shares, amongst those interested in it being the aforesaid Mr. Abe Bailey, Mr. Carl Hanau, of Coronation Reef fame, Mr. Samuel Weil, and the African and European Investment Company. On the 21st of July last several of these gentlemen left South Africa for Madagascar, and the effect of their expedition was that Lecomte shares rose to £12 and the W. and B. shares to £300. Then came the message that the engineers were dissatisfied with the results of their examination of certain areas on arriving at Fianarantsoa, and Lecomtes fell at once to £5 and W. and B.'s to £40. On August 19 Mr. Pope's report, stated by Dalziel's Agency to be extremely favourable, arrived at Johannesburg and W. and B.'s rose to £15 (*sic*). A rise from £40 to £15 is evidence that somebody was excited, or it may have been the cable that trembled. Or it may be that giddy pens miswrote W. and B. for Lecomte. Anyway, it is confusing, and we don't know which of the shares to buy "for a rise." Our contemporary thinks the dissatisfaction of the delegates may be explained, not by the poor auriferous nature of the ground, but by the tax levied by the Government, which is 25 per cent. of the gold output. Do not burst out into uncontrollable laughter, reader, but maintain as sedate a countenance as you can for dignity's sake. For the suggestion, utterly absurd though it seems, is put forward with all seriousness and sincerity. The writer is naturally one deficient in any sense of humour or of the ridiculous. As if these financiers did not know what tax was levied long before they started on their mission! And as if a tax matters in the least if only a boom can be worked up! If it was the tax only, why has it not been mentioned in the cable despatches? The latter have been clear on the point that reports have exaggerated the richness of the district, and there are rumours of the "salting" of properties. These are quite sufficient to explain the fall in the shares, without needing any such fantastical suggestion as too high a gold tax. If the properties actually were, as stated to be, so phenomenally rich as hardly to be whispered lest some of us should fall dead from gladness, such properties could afford to pay a tax of 25 per cent.; at any rate, the boomsters would say so. They have never yet wrecked their schemes in this manner, and are never likely to.

Passing Events.

Are we in for a Bohemia mining boom? We think not. Nevertheless, it will be interesting news to many people to learn that considerable British enterprise is directed to gold mining in that country. According to our Consul at Prague, the amount of gold produced in Bohemia in 1904 was 89,0951 kilos against 7,877 kilos in the previous year, the increase being due to the fact that the Mount Roudny gold mine, a British undertaking, commenced to crush last September. Equipped with a battery of 30 stamps, 100 tons of ore are treated daily, giving an average of 7 to 8 dwts. of gold per ton. From September 1, 1904, to June 30, 1905, about £49,000 worth of gold was delivered to the Imperial Mint at Vienna. A second mine at Krasna Hora, also a British property, is to commence work during the present month with a plant capable at first of treating 50 tons of ore per day. Mining claims have been taken up by English, French, and local companies. One of the principal advantages of mining in this country, the Consul remarks, is that a good supply of cheap labour is always available.

The Royal Commission on Immigration, appointed by the Government of Western Australia to inquire into the best means of encouraging immigration into the State, reports that in Western Australia there are 148,000,000 acres within which wheat may be grown. Railway construction, however, is still in its infancy, and more track may have to be laid before wheat-growing can be profitably carried on, so the world's

growers of wheat need not be uneasy at nights in fear that the market may be swamped with wheat from Westralia. For further encouragement to the immigrant we are told that even when the remote parts are eliminated from the calculation, there remains an area large enough for the whole population of Great Britain. Also, it is pointed out, not only are farmers' staple products numerous, but wool, sheep, fruit, and wines can also be produced fit for the world's markets, while beef, mutton, dairy produce, and poultry can be developed for local demands. But we cannot feel hopeful that this news will do much to stimulate immigration.

For the six months to the end of June last the exports from the Transvaal totalled £11,305,979, compared with £8,406,247 in the corresponding period of 1904. The bulk of it was, of course, gold, which investors are painfully conscious is produced very dearly. Of this metal the quantity sent out was worth £10,076,369, against a value of £7,710,534 in the first six months of 1904, whilst diamonds fetched £628,142, compared with £341,160, as a result, presumably, of the greatly increased output from the Premier mine. In reference to the latter it is now announced that the Crown's proportion of the profits is to be devoted to the redemption of the Selati railway debentures.

The Chinese boycott of American goods promises to become serious. Advices from Hong Kong state that the action of the merchants has completely paralysed the American flour trade from the Pacific coast ports, no sales have taken place since July 15, and orders for shipments in September have been cancelled, the bakers and breadshops at Hong Kong and Canton refusing to handle American flour. All which goes to show that the Western Powers are not to have matters entirely their own way in the treatment of Asiatics, and we fancy America will be obliged to climb down from the attitude she has adopted towards inhabitants of the middle kingdom desirous of touring the country.

The Canadian harvest is said to promise exceedingly well. Lord Strathcona, High Commissioner for Canada, has received a cable message from the Dominion Government stating that magnificent crops were being reaped throughout the Manitoba and North-West Territories, and that harvesting had become general. Excellent news, and any wheat that Canada has to spare we shall be pleased to buy on the usual terms.

Our Vice-Consul at Leghorn is full of the possibilities of that town as an industrial centre. The place seems to be well adapted for the development of industries, as a vast tract of flat land connected with the port by a canal and with a railway within easy reach lies just outside the town, and the Municipality is ready to grant facilities in such matters as water, gas, and local rates. Land and labour are both cheap, and Mr. Carmichael recommends British manufacturers who find it more advantageous to supply foreign countries from branches on the spot to consider the advisability of establishing themselves there. German, French, Belgian, and Swiss capital is already available but apparently no British.

The Viceroy's report on crop prospects in India issued last Wednesday is far from cheering. In the Eastern branch the monsoon has been up to normal, but in the North-Western plains there has been no rain for a month, and the break in the rains continues. More rain is needed in Burma, Assam, Bengal, Oudh, Central India, Central Provinces, and Gujerat, and also in Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad, and Mysore, while the situation is critical in North Rajputana and adjoining areas of Agra and the Punjab. If September rains fail there will be serious failure of the unirrigated crops in the South and West of Agra, and in the Punjab plains and in North Rajputana severe distress seems to be certain whether rain comes soon or not.

British working men have long since cast off their delusions as to the real motives that urged the mine

bosses and the Tory Government to wage war against the Boers and to annex their country. They applauded it as a war waged for the suppression of injustice and for the rescue of political liberty, never dreaming that its consequences would be to strengthen the power of the plutocracy and to establish slavery. Since they have seen these effects their indignation against the deception has been fierce, but impotent, though that is no reason why they should give themselves up to apathetic resignation. A campaign, the object of which is to bring before British workmen the evils attendant upon the importation of Chinese into South Africa was started in London on Sunday last, when a meeting, presided over by Mr. Page, the South African labour delegate, was held in the Triangle at Kennington. The various speakers denounced the mine owners in the language with which we have become familiar during the past three years, and considerable enthusiasm was manifested. Mr. Page announced his intention of organising a general movement, to end in a demonstration in Trafalgar Square. But if working men are sincere and strenuous they will soon have an opportunity of showing it with effect at the next general election.

The Equitable Life Assurance Company of New York has filed its reply to the statement of claim in the suit brought against the company and some further directors by the Attorney-General, who, as readers are aware, is bringing an action for account, and demands the restitution of moneys wasted and lost. The company places the blame for the irregularities complained of upon the former directors, and desires to be made a plaintiff in the suit with the Attorney-General against the old directors. With regard, however, to the charge that a sum of two million pounds surplus was withheld from the policyholders, the company gives a denial. So the action promises to be dramatically interesting.

The Great Central Railway Company's new branch line, which starts at Neasden, and is 40 miles in length, will be open for goods traffic in November, and for passenger traffic early in 1906. It goes by way of Wembley to South Harrow, Harrow Road, Ickenham, and Ruislip to Denham Street, whence the rest of the branch is in Buckinghamshire. By way of Gerrard's Cross the line extends to Beaconsfield and High Wycomb. At this point commences a line jointly made by the Great Western and Great Central companies. Formerly the Great Western line between High Wycomb and Princes Risboro' was only a single one. This is now being doubled to a point south of the present main line station of the Great Central Railway at Calvert. Thus the branch will afford access to many pleasant and picturesque parts of Bucks, hitherto unreached by rail, and will also open up new areas for residential purposes.

According to the official statement just issued from Iquique the export total of 40,411,285 quintals fixed by the nitrate combination for the year ending March 31, 1906, has been distributed as follows:—16,640,000 quintals to 33 English companies owning 50 oficinas, 8,175,000 quintals to 16 German oficinas, 6,145,000 quintals to nine Chilean companies, 4,258,000 quintals to Messrs. Granja and Co., a Spanish firm, owning nine oficinas, 1,666,000 quintals to Italian producers, 1,347,000 quintals to the Junin Railway and Nitrate Company, an American concern, and 2,180,000 quintals amongst 15 small private works. The number of oficinas at present comprised in the combine is 112, including two large Chilean undertakings, which are expected to commence operations this year. Including balances short-shipped in the last year of the combination, the quantity allowed to be exported in the current 12 months is 43,960,471 quintals. In the year ending March 31 last the world's consumption was 33,521,524 quintals. During the first year of the nitrate combination the percentage of the total export quota allotted to 24 English companies, owning 34 oficinas, was 52.79; at present 33 companies, with 50 oficinas, are entitled to only 41.17 per cent. Meanwhile, the proportion of the German producers has risen from

9.27 per cent. to 20.23 per cent., showing a rapid extension of German competition.

In the year ending June 30, 1904, according to statistics only recently published, the number of casualties on American railroads was 94,201. The persons killed numbered 10,046, and the injured 84,155. There were 2,114 trainmen killed, and 29,275 injured; switch-tenders, crossing-tenders, and watchmen, 229 killed, 2,070 injured; other employees, 1,289 killed, 35,722 injured; casualties to employees coupling and uncoupling cars, 307 killed and 4,019 injured. In the same period 715,419,682 passengers were carried, an increase of 20,528,147.

Mr. Thomas Lawson, Boston's "Frenzied Financier," has favoured us with another sensational advertisement this week. He predicts a violent break in the price of copper, accusing the manipulators of keeping back supplies in order to maintain prices at an artificial level, and nothing is more probable than the truth of this assertion. So a \$10,000,000 pool is to be formed in which the public may participate to the extent of \$4,000,000 in order to raid the copper share market, which is pretty certain to collapse should the price of the metal slump at all severely. "Only do not come in, unless you are prepared to lose the lot," warns Mr. Lawson, "as the stock gamblers at present lined up on the other side of 'coppers' may give me a more strenuous battle than I expect." The pool is to end on or before January 1, 1906.

It was not to be expected that the failure of M. Jaluzot, which took place a few weeks ago, would be the only result of the violent gamble in sugar which has been going on in Paris since the spring, and this week the market was convulsed by the collapse and suicide of M. Georges Cronier. He had gambled heavily on the "bull" side on the assumption that the beet crops would turn out badly, but these calculations were a long way off the mark, and a steady fall in the price of sugar soon turned paper profits into heavy and real losses. Up to a certain point differences were met, some say to the tune of over £2,000,000, but apparently this was only accomplished by the use of funds belonging to some of the sugar refining companies with which M. Cronier was connected, and the misappropriation of funds under his control in the capacity of trustee. Then came the smash—no less than £4,000,000 being required, so it was said, for the end of August settlement—and escape from the consequences of reckless gambling by means of a revolver shot through the heart. All kinds of stories are current as to the extent of the liabilities, most of them obviously exaggerated, and we hope it is not true that one of the big French banks backed the defaulter to the tune of £2,400,000. Some are bound to be severely hit, but steps are being taken to prevent the consequences from becoming too devastating, and already people are saying that the result of the crash will not be so bad as at first supposed. We hope the optimistic forecasts will prove the right ones, because markets are not in a condition to bear violent shocks just at present, but the object-lesson afforded should be taken to heart. Unrestrained gambling invariably means frightful losses in some direction or other, bringing untold misery in their train, and unhappily the chief criminal is never the greatest sufferer.

Railway agitations seem to be coming into fashion. No sooner is the North-Western turmoil got out of the way for six months at least, than another with which the premier line is bound to be closely connected springs up to take its place. In a somewhat lengthy circular an individual, whether stockholder or not does not transpire, and who is not anxious for his identity to become known to the world, draws attention to the very serious decline that has taken place during recent years in the dividends paid by the North London Railway, a reduction that has inevitably led to a serious shrinkage in the market value of the company's stock. We are not sure that much of the retrogression could have been prevented, because all kinds of competition has sprung

up during the last few years, rivalry which promises to become keener as time goes on, and we fear the directors of the North-Western Company are not likely to view with favour the suggestion now put forward that the North London system should be absorbed either by an exchange of North-Western stock or by a guarantee of dividend. The proposal is not so very far-fetched as might at first appear, for the North-Western already holds £1,328,730 North London stock out of a total of £2,034,000, and really uses the smaller line as a feeder to its own. Six North-Western directors are on the North London board, meaning complete control all round, but as any improvement in the position of the latter is not immediately probable, we do not think the desired action is likely to be taken. It might one day, should the suburban lines of the North-Western and Great Northern Railways be converted for electric traction, but that is a long way distant.

The dispute between the ex-Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief in India has reached a further stage, and we have been treated to the unedifying spectacle of these two officials carrying on their quarrel in public. Lord Curzon's telegram of August 10 called forth what is described as a strongly-worded protest from Lord Kitchener, in which he practically gives Lord Curzon the lie. To this Lord Curzon replied that although he deprecates a controversy on technical points, he welcomes the chance of substantiating every statement made, and of proving the correctness of his inferences. The publication of these acrimonious minutes or despatches has very properly been received with great disapproval, and now Lord Curzon endeavours to throw the blame for the unstatesmanlike proceedings on his opponent. A Reuter telegram says that Lord Curzon vainly protested against the publication of Lord Kitchener's minute, but that the Commander-in-Chief insisted, but surely Lord Curzon had power to prohibit it, or did Lord Kitchener appeal to Mr. Brodrick and get the prohibition overruled? Whoever was responsible the action is not one likely to enhance our prestige in the eyes of the natives.

Last week's revenue from taxation came to £2,209,712, in addition to which £500,000 was received for the Treasury bills reissued, £50,000 came in from the Exchequer bond issue, and another £50,000 from advances for bullion repaid, making a total of £2,809,712. On the other hand £924,310 was absorbed by supply, £500,000 was spent in military works, and £22,932 on national debt service, these outgoings leaving another £1,362,470 to be added to the balances at the banks.

At the annual meeting of that prosperous concern, Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds, the chairman no longer lamented the alleged disastrous effects of "dumping" upon the industries of this Kingdom. As far as we can gather from the report of his speech he did not even whisper the word "dumping," nor alluded to tariff reform. Perhaps reflection has taught him that his company, which has for so long enjoyed the happy fruits of free trade, would have considerably more to lose from Brummagem panaceas than to gain. On the very eve of the announcement of peace—the meeting being held on Tuesday—he pictured the benefits the company stood to obtain if the devastating conflict came to an end. "I hope," said he, "that peace will soon be restored in the Far East, which would tend to improve the political atmosphere, which has, during the past year, been in an unsettled condition. This would be a great incentive in helping trade, as insecurity is one of the chief difficulties traders have to contend with, as it checks enterprise." But he also hopes to see less public expenditure and a lower income-tax! What! As long as the present Government keeps in power! "We must look forward with hope," says he. We all do, but our politicians will not let us cherish it whilst there are straws of power to cling to.

We thought it would come to it in time. The decapitated body of a storekeeper has been found at a spot 20 miles to the east of Pretoria, and the crime is supposed to be the work of a Chinkee. In consequence of the feeling of insecurity created by outrages imputed to Chinese deserters, the Government has decided to supply magistrates in the districts in the vicinity of the mines, with arms and ammunition for discretionary issue to the farmers, and returnable on the completion of measures for the prevention of desertion and outrages. These measures include the establishment of posts every 500 yards along the reef where the Chinese are employed. What a heaven Johannesburg will be presently! Not only will terror soon reign throughout the country, but it will cost a terrible sum to prevent the coolies from cutting the throats of the citizens. In course of time a policeman may have to accompany every Chinaman to see that he doesn't molest and outrage unprotected women and children. Soon arms and ammunition will have to be issued to every man and boy, for the greater the number that comes from the slums of China the more murderers will be landed in the country. And all for the sake of putting more sovereigns into the overflowing pockets of the millionaires!

Some belated returns of railroad operations in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1904, have just been issued by the Inter-State Commerce Commission. The aggregate mileage given therein is 297,073, an increase of 13,251 miles; whilst the number of corporations was 2,104, of which 28 were in the hands of receivers. The par value of railway capital outstanding was \$13,213,124,679, or \$64,265 per mile. Of this \$6,339,899,329 existed as stock, in the proportions of \$5,050,529,469 common and \$1,289,369,860 preferred, the balance being funded debt. Of the stock outstanding \$2,696,472,010, or 42.53 per cent., paid no dividends, whilst \$300,894,215, or 4.49 per cent. of the funded debt paid no interest. Gross earnings for the year amounted to \$1,975,174,091, being \$74,327,184 greater than for the previous year, and the operating expenses absorbed \$1,338,896,253, an increase of \$81,357,401 over 1903, but net earnings showed a decline of \$7,030,217 at a total of \$636,277,838. Per mile the earnings averaged only \$2,998, against \$3,133 for 1903, and \$3,048 for 1902. Market manipulators and those financial organs yearning for a Yankee boom go into ecstasies over the increasing gross earnings of the American railways, but try to conceal from the public the important fact that expenses are growing more rapidly, so that profits and dividends tend to decline.

So there is likely to be trouble and agitation over the railways of South Africa, which will not tend to promote the peace of mind of our mine bosses, nor help forward the boom they are striving to create for their personal enrichment. For the Bloemfontein Chamber of Commerce has unanimously resolved to petition Lord Selborne to reconsider the position of the Inter-Colonial Council with regard to railways. It is urged that while the control is in the hands of the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony bears, through the contribution of profits, an unfair proportion of the guaranteed loan. The resolution asks for a conference of the representatives of the colonies concerned.

Critical Index To New Investments.

TICEHURST AND DISTRICT WATER AND GAS COMPANY.

Headed "To investors and premium seekers in progressive Water and Gas Companies," the directors of this puny bantling have issued an invitation to the public to tender for no less than 1,000 £5 shares entitled to rank for dividend up to 10 per cent. They do not, however, seem to know exactly what they want, as in one part of the prospectus they talk of offering these shares in lots of five shares, and in the body of the document stipulate that ten shares are to be taken at a minimum of £5 per share. The total capital so far paid

up consists of £32,193, in original ordinary shares of £5 each, and £9,145 in 5 per cent. preference shares, while £13,700 4½ per cent. debenture stock and £2,000 provisional ditto have been issued, making a total of £57,040 in share and loan capital, so that even with the present issue the undertaking is hardly big enough to be described as a "bantam."

SHEPPY GAS COMPANY.

Tenders are invited for £5,000 consolidated ordinary stock, limited to a maximum dividend of 5 per cent., and the minimum price asked is par. The present capital of the company consists of 400 4 per cent. preference £10 "A" shares, and £63,000 consolidated ordinary stock, resulting from the conversion of 2,100 "B" 10 per cent. shares, and 1,500 "C" 7 per cent. shares of £10 each, into an equivalent 5 p.c. stock, and a loan of £4,000. Started in 1859, the company supplies the whole of the Isle of Sheppy, and has paid the full dividends since 1863, and the reserve fund is up to the amount allowed by the 1871 Act, so the new stock should be good enough, although too small for the ordinary investor.

Answers to Correspondents.

"Nomen."—(1) The company, it is true, has a very fine business, and the shares are worth their present price, but we do not see much prospect of an increase in capital value. (2) There is perhaps more chance of an improvement in these, as the business seems to be steadily expanding. (3) Yes; we can make a selection for you if you wish. We cannot charge for such a question as this, and therefore hold it to your credit.

H. Bayley.—(1) No; the yield is not high, but the security is excellent, and the stock cannot therefore be considered overvalued. (2) Not unless you require the money, as you could not do better with it elsewhere. (3) This is not a very promising speculation. The company certainly has been doing a little better in recent years, but the securities it holds are still carried at a good deal more than their market value.

F. W. P.—A very good security, and at the price you name it seems reasonably cheap.

Olive.—(1) Considering that dividends are out of the question for years to come, if, indeed, anything is ever paid, this stock seems quite high enough. In any case, it is not one you should touch, because gamblers might any moment knock the price down several pounds. (2) This is less risky, and the line is making progress, but you would have to regard a purchase as quite speculative, and be prepared to face a set-back.

Ascot.—The company seems to be earning the 6 per cent. preferred dividend, but nothing besides, so far as we can tell. Fair as a speculation.

W. H. G.—No occasion to sell immediately, we think, unless you have a profit on your holding. (1) This would make a fairly good purchase of a semi-speculative kind, especially as the capital outlay of these companies is not so prodigious as on the English lines.

Edina.—We have heard nothing of this company for years, and cannot say what it is now doing.

C. B. V. 43.—We think these shares should be held for the present, but it would not be well to increase your holding.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

Dover Gas.—Dover, 3 p.m.
Falmouth Gas.—Falmouth, 11.30 a.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5.

Floating Dock of St. Thomas.—Suffolk House, noon.
London and Glasgow Engineering and Iron Shipbuilding.—Glasgow, 11.30 a.m.
Tricolour Nitrate.—Dashwood House, 2.15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6.

F. Steiner.—Church, noon.
Steel Company of Scotland.—Glasgow.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7.

Lady Loch Mines.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
North Cornwall Railway.—Padstow, 11.30 a.m.
Surrey Commercial Dock.—106, Fenchurch Street, 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8.

Price's Patent Candle.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

ISLE OF THANET ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS AND LIGHTING COMPANY.—It is officially announced that in view of the recent accident at Ramsgate the directors have decided to defer making any payment on account of the second half-year's preference dividend, usually paid on September 1, until after the accounts for the company's financial year, which ends on September 30, are made up and audited.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended August 21, \$3,407.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 21, \$16,076, increase \$3,435; aggregate from January 1, \$511,929, increase \$111,179.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 29, Rs. 60,201, increase Rs. 7,739; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,32,485, increase Rs. 18,494.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 21, \$75,400, increase \$8,200; total from July 1, \$626,400, increase \$120,900.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 29, Rs. 30,671, increase Rs. 7,314; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,06,180, increase Rs. 11,856.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 15, £435, decrease £162.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of July, \$17,648, decrease \$1,068; aggregate from January 1, \$415,886, increase \$808.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 29, Rs. 13,930, increase Rs. 2,942; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 53,924, increase Rs. 1,370.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended August 21 amounted to \$76,780.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending August 26, £1,175, decrease £49; aggregate from July 1, £9,200, decrease £326.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for 8 days ending August 26, £1,082, decrease £67; aggregate from July 1, £9,674, decrease £1,012.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for June, £4,214, decrease £94.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending August 26, £294, decrease £80; aggregate from July 1, £2,159, decrease £502.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 25, £1,392, increase £517; aggregate from July 1, £11,387, increase £4,158.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 27, £33, increase £1; aggregate from July 1, £269, decrease £27.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 25, £5,130, increase £149; aggregate from July 1, £43,984, decrease £62.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending August 25, £32,284, increase £5,506; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £900,868, increase £80,774; 446 miles, against 433½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 26, £1,151, increase £98; aggregate from July 2, £9,295, increase £459.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 27, £166, decrease £36; aggregate from July 1, £1,518, decrease £48.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 25, £148, increase £6; aggregate from July 1, £1,210, increase £10.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 25, £6,155, decrease £228; aggregate from July 1, £45,669, increase £365.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 26, £4,620, increase £301; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £165,662, increase £12,584.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 25, £271, decrease £2; aggregate from July 1, £2,284, decrease £114.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 24, £801.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 26, £1,862, decrease £50; aggregate from October 1, £26,982, decrease £2,155.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 19, £15,745, increase £2,316; aggregate from April 1, £308,113, increase £52,783. Miles 51½ against 46.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 26, £21,782, decrease £68; aggregate from July 2, £200,314, decrease £1,455.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 26, £6,999, increase £227; aggregate from July 1, £67,450, increase £1,265.

Rosendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 25, £194, decrease £2; aggregate from July 1, £1,648, increase £100.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 29, £12,681, increase £778; aggregate from January 1, £447,919, increase £27,830.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 26, £2,297, increase £236; aggregate from January 1, £74,977, increase £9,174.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 26, £284, increase £25; aggregate from January 1, £10,283, increase £1,348.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, rs. 42,391, increase rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, rs. 247,609, increase rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £10,915, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to July 31, \$89,398, increase \$18,093. Net earnings from July 1 to July 31, \$40,390, increase \$11,944.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending August 27, £3,492, increase £449; aggregate from January 1, £115,400, increase £4,386.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £42,345, decrease £3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, £34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 26, Rs. 41,690, increase Rs. 5,206; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 3,39,488, increase Rs. 54,767.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £4,590, increase £1,777. Total to June 30, £26,606, increase £3,852.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, \$435,104, increase \$49,336; aggregate from January 1, \$2,606,574, increase \$161,544. Net traffic receipts, \$248,051, increase \$39,961; aggregate from January 1, \$1,379,994, increase \$100,527.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Aug. 27	£ 2,189	+ 28	8	£ 17,568	- 173	
Cambrian	" 27	9,256	+ 255	8	73,070	- 5,445	
Central London	" 26	5,300	- 180	8	45,423	- 1,157	
City and South London ..	" 27	2,161	- 96	8	18,033	- 223	
Furness	" 27	11,611	+ 510	8	90,678	+ 2,825	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 27	73,651	+ 5,353	8	580,947	+ 31,965	
Great Eastern	" 27	121,200	- 560	8	975,200	- 23,900	
Great Northern and City ..	" 26	1,380	+ 294	8	11,385	+ 3,456	
Great Northern	" 26	118,000	- 1,663	†	975,688	- 19,120	
Great Western	" 27	266,700	+ 3,800	8	2,102,100	- 22,500	
Hull and Barnsley	" 27	9,635	- 751	8	74,689	- 5,365	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 27	137,148	+ 7,438	8	1,030,136	+ 19,954	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 26	74,435	- 630	8	612,324	- 11,346	
London & North Western ..	" 27	312,000	+ 3,000	8	2,483,000	+ 7,000	
London & South Western ..	" 27	108,200	+ 1,100	8	871,200	- 600	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 27	13,903	+ 1,261	8	105,582	- 886	
Metropolitan	" 27	16,290	- 25	8	135,984	- 374	
Metropolitan District ..	" 27	5,945	- 248	8	50,601	- 2,842	
Midland	" 26	229,220	+ 605	8	1,826,393	+ 37,775	
North Eastern	" 26	207,001	+ 6,830	8	1,578,765	+ 2,082	
North London	" 27	8,214	- 282	8	67,679	- 2,031	
North Staffordshire ..	" 27	17,091	+ 506	8	141,109	- 303	
Rhymney	" 27	6,078	+ 366	5	45,873	+ 1,744	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 26	112,298	+ 6,084	†	882,627	+ 175	
Taff Vale	" 27	17,888	- 986	8	140,577	- 4,319	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Aug. 27	91,104	-	1,225	4	366,472	-	1,439
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 26	42,867	-	489	4	175,546	-	1,618
Great North of Scotland ..	" 26	10,722	-	730	4	44,117	-	948
Highland	" 27	14,308	-	42	4	56,664	-	896
North British	" 27	99,247	-	3,994	4	403,588	-	5,351

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Aug. 25	3,708	+	27	8	33,565	+	409
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 25	1,983	-	96	8	16,185	+	709
Great Northern	" 25	22,625	-	297	8	178,168	-	606
Midland Great Western ..	" 25	12,187	-	1,518	8	89,350	-	5,28

PELICAN & BRITISH EMPIRE

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THE STOCK EXCHANGE.—NOTICE.

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Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of The Stock Exchange or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of The Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance of the Bank of England or obtained on application to EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE, Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange. Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $2\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 3 per cent. on March 9.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Last week finished up with credit so abundant that lenders could hardly find employment for their surplus balances at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and weekly fixtures rarely cost more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., although this period covered the end of the month as well as the Consol and general settlements on the Stock Exchange. An additional £500,000 had to be found on Saturday for the Treasury Bills reissued, but the operation produced no appreciable effect on floating supplies, and it was assumed that the Japanese Government, which took the bulk of the issue, had not withdrawn funds from the market, but had provided for the payment either out of its balances at the Bank of England or out of remittances received from America. Money was still abundant enough on Monday morning but hardened slightly before the end of the day, and it was understood that some of the joint-stock banks were screwing up their rates for seven-day loans in view of the usual locking up of funds in connection with the end of the month balance-sheets. In addition to this the instalment paid on the last Japanese loan was not so promptly released as hitherto, so that in one way or another the market's resources were considerably reduced, and on the 31st rates rose to $2-2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and occasionally 3 per cent. for overnight loans and to $1\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for seven-day money, while a little assistance had to be obtained from the Bank on the usual terms. The India Council has been lending all week at the low rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for a month, and it is possible that with the new month there may be a return to the easy conditions prevailing until this week, but it is extremely doubtful whether they will continue for any appreciable time.

Japan has hastened to assure the world that she has plenty of money in hand to wind up the war, and that no further borrowing is therefore contemplated, but Russia is certain to need very large sums immediately. In addition to this it is well known that there are numerous corporation and other authorities at home who have been anxiously waiting for the more settled conditions expected after the end of the war to come into the market. Another influence against a continuance of very cheap money is the position of affairs in Paris. Bankers there have been very heavily hit by the sugar collapse and its accompanying failures, and have been forced to strengthen their position in every way possible. The amount of French credit in this market is considerably less than it was some months ago, but the total employed in loans to the Stock Exchange and in other directions is still very large, and the steady decline in the Paris cheque would appear to indicate that steps have been taken for the withdrawal of a portion of these balances. France, too, is snapping up all the gold that comes into the open

market here, and this week secured practically the whole of the £700,000 to £750,000 available, while next week's arrival, amounting to about £250,000, is in present conditions certain to go the same way. So far from the Bank being able to secure any additions to its stocks of gold, it lost during the week ended on Wednesday £389,000 taken out for South America. Shipments to that quarter are expected to be very heavy this autumn and the drain for Egypt is also likely to be large. If crops in the United States are as bountiful as expected and large quantities are available for export, bankers there may be in a position to further deplete our stocks unless the money has to be left here for stock market purposes.

The uncertainty of the outlook for money in the autumn has tended to make the discount market very cautious in its dealings, and rates, especially for the longer dated bills, have been pushed up steadily. For three months' remitted paper buyers asked 2 per cent. as their minimum towards the end of the week, and although they got very few parcels at this figure there was not much disposition shown to cut the rate in any quarter. Six months' maturities were quite out of favour, and transactions were small even at $2\frac{3}{8}-2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The Bank return calls for very little comment, as the movements are merely incident to the end of the month, and are of small importance. An increase of £561,000 was shown by the note circulation, but coin came back from the country to a moderate extent, and notwithstanding the export of the £389,000 mentioned above the stock of bullion was only £171,500 lower. The reserve consequently was down by £732,500, and as Government deposits rose by £341,000 and other securities were reduced by £326,000, it follows that other deposits were £1,315,000 smaller.

SILVER.

There has been a good deal of excitement in this market during the week. Under the influence of heavy buying from Russia, and in a lesser degree from India, prices were lifted to $28\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for cash and $28\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for delivery two months forward. But when peace was announced "bears" made a violent raid on the market on the assumption that the Far Eastern requirements will now be on a greatly reduced scale, and as a good deal of real metal was also dislodged prices slumped to $27\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $27\frac{1}{2}$ d. respectively. Clearly, however, the fall was overdone, and a recovery to $28\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $27\frac{1}{2}$ d. quickly ensued. At these prices business was still reported on Russian and Indian account, and the market closed firm. Council drafts on India for Rs. 80,00,000 were offered on Wednesday, when the applications amounted to Rs. 6,89,44,824 in bills and Rs. 1,20,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. In bills the allotment was Rs. 68,20,000 and in transfers Rs. 11,80,000, tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. 4 1-16d. respectively receiving about 9 per cent. Next week Rs. 80,00,000 will be again offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 30, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	53,319,645	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	34,869,645
		Silver Bullion	—
	£53,319,645		£53,319,645

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	18,676,283
Reserve	3,406,025	Other Securities	28,876,930
Public Deposits (including		Notes	23,656,685
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,781,402
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	12,493,331		
Other Deposits	42,470,932		
Seven Day and other Bills	68,012		
	£72,991,300		£72,991,300

Dated August 31, 1905.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Aug. 31.		Aug. 23, 1905.	Aug. 30, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,670,546	Rest ..	3,476,023	3,406,025	—	69,998
6,245,287	Pub. Deposits ..	12,152,669	12,493,331	340,662	—
43,454,495	Other do. ..	43,786,094	42,470,932	—	1,315,162
129,439	7 Day Bills ..	81,819	68,012	—	13,807
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
14,234,402	Gov. Securities ..	18,675,814	18,676,283	—	469
27,317,452	Other do. ..	29,203,158	28,876,930	326,228	—
26,500,913	Total Reserve ..	26,170,633	25,438,087	732,546	—
				1,399,436	1,399,436
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,702,960	Coin and Bullion	24,403,375	23,656,685	—	746,690
36,753,873	Proportion ..	36,822,563	36,651,047	—	171,516
53½ p.c.	Bank Rate ..	46½ p.c.	46 p.c.	—	½ p.c.
3 "		2½ "	2½ "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £389,000 out.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Aug. 22.	Aug. 24.	Aug. 29.	Aug. 31.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'1½	12'1½	12'1½	12'1½
Do. do.	3 months	12'3½	12'3½	12'3½	12'3½
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'36½	25'36½	25'35	25'35
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'62	20'62	20'62	20'61
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'62	20'62	20'62	20'61
Do. do.	cheques	25'17½	25'17½	25'17½	25'17½
Paris ..	3 months	25'30	25'30	25'30	25'28½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'30	25'31½	25'30	25'30
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'42½	25'42½	25'41½	25'41½
Austria ..	3 months	24'25	24'25	24'26	24'25
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'41½	25'41½	25'42½	25'42½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35½	35½	35½	35½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'39	18'39
Christiania ..	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'40	18'40
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'40	18'40

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Aug. 26.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance ..	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£2,809,712	£2,809,712

* Exclusive of £89,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £3,257,570.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4½
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
11,200,000	6 months	Jan. 27	1 18 7
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
20,433,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148	94,657,000	—
Week ending				
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 23	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
" 30	174,559,000	190,242,000	—	15,683,000
	8,200,107,000	6,983,652,000	1,216,455,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Nil.	Wednesday, S. America ..
Total Efflux ..	Thursday, S. America ..
£46,000	Friday, S. Africa ..
	Friday, S. Africa ..
Total ..	Total ..
£46,000	£46,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs.	25'17	25'15½	Antwerp ..	short	25'20	25'19
Brussels ..	chqs.	25'18½	25'18	Italy ..	sight	25'14	25'12½
Amsterdam ..	sight	12'08½	12'08½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'07½	110'05
Berlin ..	chqs.	20'46½	20'45	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	178½d.	18½d.
Do. ..	3 mths	20'34½	20'34	Valparaiso ..	90 dys	150½d.	154½d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20'45	20'43½	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort ..	short	20'45	20'43½	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna ..	sight	23'99½	23'97½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/11½	1/11½
St. Petersburg	3 mths	94'20	94'25	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/8	2/8
New York ..	60 dys	4'84½	4'84½	Singapore ..	4 mths	2/1½	2/1½
Lisbon ..	sight	51½	50½	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid ..	sight	33'17	33'21				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	1½ 1½
Berlin ..	3	February 25, 1905	2½ 2½
Hamburg ..	3	February 25, 1905	2½ 2½
Frankfort ..	3	February 25, 1905	2½ 2½
Amsterdam ..	2½	March, 1905	2½ 2½
Brussels ..	3	December 28, 1903	2½ 2½
Vienna ..	3½	February 3, 1902	3½ 3½
Rome ..	3½	September, 1904	3½ 3½
St. Petersburg	5½	February, 1904	7½ 7½
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	3½ 3½
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	4½ 4½
Stockholm ..	4½	February, 1905	4 4
Copenhagen ..	4	January, 1905	4 4
Calcutta ..	4	August 17, 1905	— —
Bombay ..	4	August 10, 1905	— —
New York call money ..	2	—	— —

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Aug. 23, 1905.	Aug. 15, 1905.	Aug. 7, 1905.	Aug. 23, 1904.
Gold Reserve ..	£46,843,833	£46,824,208	£46,793,041	£48,290,708
Silver reserve ..	12,711,541	12,688,916	12,723,916	12,523,250
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,761,375	1,747,041	1,763,083	1,769,125
Note circulation ..	65,932,208	66,209,833	66,978,333	68,792,166
Bills discounted ..	12,807,333	13,289,875	13,690,833	13,602,625

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 24, 1905.	Aug. 17, 1905.	Aug. 10, 1905.	Aug. 25, 1904.
Coin and bullion ..	£4,782,600	£4,793,080	£4,724,560	£4,640,320
Other securities ..	22,815,360	22,491,960	22,784,020	20,968,120
Note circulation ..	26,342,360	26,213,400	26,654,120	25,162,360
Deposits ..	3,284,960	3,187,160	3,008,680	2,630,960

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Aug. 26, 1905.	Aug. 19, 1905.	Aug. 12, 1905.	Aug. 27, 1904.
Specie ..	£43,890,000	£44,238,000	£44,278,000	£55,516,000
Legal tenders ..	15,960,000	17,080,000	17,624,000	16,324,400
Loans and discounts ..	228,922,000	229,220,000	227,078,000	219,820,000
Circulation ..	10,462,000	10,318,000	10,094,000	7,544,800
Net deposits ..	236,216,000	237,710,000	237,332,000	241,440,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,796,000 against an excess last week of £1,872,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 23, 1905.	Aug. 15, 1905.	Aug. 7, 1905.	Aug. 23, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£ 49,468,550	£ 48,174,000	£ 47,462,850	£ 48,510,300
Bills discounted ..	42,263,350	42,741,050	43,047,950	37,117,750
Advances on stocks ..	2,856,250	3,396,550	3,061,000	2,581,700
Note circulation ..	62,272,150	63,280,150	64,717,700	60,321,600
Public deposits ..	29,991,950	28,180,950	24,204,750	29,035,100

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 26, 1905.	Aug. 19, 1905.	Aug. 12, 1905.	Aug. 27, 1904.
Gold	£ 14,914,737	£ 14,908,211	£ 14,900,513	£ 14,775,058
Silver	22,594,596	22,446,533	22,318,743	20,512,288
Foreign Bills ..	2,227,586	2,178,906	1,793,811	1,612,832
Discount and Short Bills ..	45,484,255	45,527,188	45,957,320	38,445,873
Treasury Account ..	20,834,914	20,896,792	21,188,635	21,933,256
Notes in circulation ..	62,448,621	62,704,726	63,137,460	65,075,956
Current Account deposits ..	23,260,723	23,085,159	22,991,295	26,712,883
Dividends Interests ..	2,223,974	2,376,411	2,711,495	2,509,320
Government Securities ..	4,271,922	4,004,282	4,187,144	4,145,728

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 24, 1905.	Aug. 17, 1905.	Sept. 1, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£ 118,845,160	£ 118,766,720	£ 118,455,600	£ 107,100,560
Silver in hand ..	44,332,120	44,386,680	44,332,680	44,780,080
Bills discounted ..	26,950,880	18,893,880	19,285,760	23,421,640
Advances ..	18,583,880	18,640,000	18,678,720	19,908,200
Note circulation ..	177,164,880	169,591,160	171,308,560	169,230,240
Public deposits ..	11,997,520	12,621,000	11,894,360	8,643,000
Private deposits ..	24,756,400	24,751,720	24,914,160	22,296,880

Proportion between bullion and circulation 92½ per cent., against 96½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 8/21, 1905.	Aug. 1/14, 1905.	July 23, Aug. 5, 1905.	Aug. 8/21, 1904.
Gold	£ 91,813,964	£ 91,793,113	£ 91,945,165	£ 86,408,409
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	5,707,650	5,819,530	5,740,363	8,741,561
Advances and bills discounted ..	34,852,361	34,771,332	34,613,993	37,530,577
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	5,458,033	5,367,453	5,728,430	4,590,065
Notes in circulation ..	97,779,536	96,457,784	94,182,012	70,011,025
Deposits and current account ..	45,074,936	46,753,089	55,510,305	45,831,447
Treasury account ..	11,969,440	12,790,457	7,425,847	27,339,133

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	July 31, 1905.	July 20, 1905.	June 30, 1905.	July 31, 1904.
Reserve	£ 27,800,360	£ 27,828,040	£ 27,435,520	£ 26,246,600
State notes and small change ..	482,760	620,600	623,800	464,880
Discount and loans ..	11,884,600	11,358,160	13,828,960	10,258,960
Public stock and State loans ..	7,947,400	8,210,640	8,420,280	8,411,680
Credits	5,783,200	5,081,840	7,151,400	6,645,240
Note Circulation ..	39,012,640	38,106,720	37,640,320	35,110,320
Current account ..	4,373,000	3,959,720	4,569,760	4,326,240
Deposits	3,123,400	3,555,080	2,408,160	3,865,800

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	1½—1½
Three months ..	2—2½
Four months ..	2½
Six months ..	2½
Three months fine inland bills ..	2½
Four months ..	2½—2½
Six months ..	2½—3

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	2½
" " short loan rates ..	3
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	1
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	1½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	1½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	1½—1½
" for call loans ..	1½—1½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Now that the war in the Far East has been brought to a close, and there is reasonable prospect that the peace of the world will not be again disturbed, at any rate, for a few years, readers will no doubt expect us to indulge in a forecast of the probable course of the Stock Markets. We should do so with a good deal of diffidence, knowing the perversity of human nature, and can do no more than indicate in a general way the symptoms as they appear to us at present. From what we hear on our daily walks round the City, it is reasonably certain that most people are expecting the conclusion of hostilities to be followed by what is known as a "boom," just as they did at the close of the Boer war, and we know that the Stock Exchange itself will be keenly disappointed if the autumn does

not bring a great revival in business. A couple of days' movements close on the heels of the anticipated event are, of course, no indication of the general trend, but up to the present prices have followed exactly the course we said they would. They blazed up in a style that must have frightened stray "bears" almost out of their wits as soon as the peace news was known, but the outburst was short-lived, and level-headed people soon settled down to the more sober business of profit-taking, so that quotations quickly lost their early bloom. Will the reaction be carried further? It all depends upon circumstances. Paris has got two trying settlements to get over, the current one on the bourse, and the sugar settlement on September 5, and an attitude of caution until these are surmounted is not likely to lead to much loss. Remember, also, that the next few months usually bring stringency to all money markets, that company promoters and loan-mongers are bound to take advantage of the turn of events to push their wares before the public, and, most important of all, quotations in all markets are already decidedly high. We know this will not prevent them going higher if professionals and public set their mind on a "boom," but in the "long view" there must be very few securities deserving of a further hoist, and when prices are driven up without reasonable cause some people are certain to be badly caught. Be careful it is not you.

The buying of Hudson's Bay shares this week, for example, has been a kind of insanity. Despite the warning so carefully conveyed at the last meeting that values in reality were already too high—the quotation was then under 70—the gamblers who are manipulating these shares got them up to 90 on the night that peace was known, and we suppose some misguided individual bought at that figure. At the moment he is facing a loss of seven or eight pounds unless he cut and run before the shrinkage became so severe. We instance this case as showing how difficult it is to speculate, with an even chance of profit, in securities entirely controlled by a gambling clique which can move the prices either way, pounds at a time, at its own sweet will. It is the same with Canadian Pacific shares, in a lesser degree with Trunks, with practically all American Railroad shares, and a greater number of others than we have space to mention. Then you do not think much of the prospects of an autumn outburst? Candidly, no. Surely Japanese loans are high enough considering the enormous load of new debt running up to £130,000,000 which the war has put on the country, the whole of which she must carry with her own resources. Besides, there is probably a peace loan to come—we already note significant movements towards that end in the City—and is not Japan about to take her place amongst the great nations of the world? That will mean constant borrowing in the approved Western style, and before many more years are over her head Japan will learn many lessons in the name of Empire. That she will successfully solve the many problems in front of her is probable enough, but Japanese bonds at present prices are not exactly bargains.

Some other Foreign Government stocks may still be worth attention, notably those of Chili, signs being visible that the country is making progress now that the speculation fever which broke at the end of last year is dying down. But we look in vain for anything really attractive in the Foreign railway section, so enormous has been the advance in recent months, although some of the low-priced stuff may be worth attention on the principle that rubbish often pays to hold. There is talk of important developments in connection with the Paraguay Central Railway, and the remarkable traffics now being gathered by the Leopoldina company may cause the price of the stock to reach "par" as so freely predicted, although we doubt it. Conditions are much the same in the Miscellaneous markets, the good things being fully valued and the rubbish hardly worth buying at any price, but for those content to take moderate risks the Com-

mercial and Industrial section may have a few attractions. Armament shares might also offer a chance if the late belligerents indulge in heavy outlay in replenishing their attenuated stocks of war material.

What of the Mining markets? Well, there is nothing fresh to say. Kaffirs bobbed up along with other things on Wednesday, but immediately bobbed down again, and clearly the market is without any real stamina. Is not Chinkee going out of the mining into the murder business? Perhaps the latter is more profitable. Esperanza shares, by the way, have gone up more than £1 this week, and are talked higher, but it may be wise not to tempt Providence too far.

The Week's Stock Markets.

As soon as the rumour gained currency that the Japanese had decided to forego their indemnity claim the Stock Exchange was quite convinced that peace was absolutely certain, and began to work itself into a state of excitement long before the actual announcement came along. Tuesday was a day of cheerfulness in all sections, and there were some wild scenes in the street on the evening of that day when it became known that the plenipotentiaries at Portsmouth, N.H., had reached an agreement on all points. Prices blazed up in wondrous fashion, and dealers went home quite convinced that it was only necessary to go on the "bull" tack in order to make a fortune. For some time on Wednesday the play was kept up briskly, a tremendous business taking place in Russian and Japanese bonds, but to the dismay of the wildest enthusiasts, although quite in accordance with best anticipations, the buying was met by steady realising, and the gains at the end of the day were by no means awe-inspiring. Yankee shares in particular were thrown out by New York; the selling, indeed, has been pretty free throughout the latter part of the week, ostensibly on fears of dear money, just as we

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	90½	91½
91½	87½	Do. Account (Oct. 4) ..	90½	91½
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89½	90½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100½	100½
95½	89	Irish Land (2½) ..	92½	93
101	96½	Local Loans (3) ..	101	101
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	99½	99½
99½	97½	Do. Account (Oct. 4) ..	99½	99½
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100½	100½
308	297	Bk. of England Stock (9 p.c.) ..	301½	302½
109	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1931 ..	105½	106
99½	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948 ..	97½	98
85½	80½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	82	82
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66½	66½

anticipated a week ago. Gilt-edged things made a fairly good show, and so did Home Railways, while Russians shot up £2 to £6 almost in less time than it takes to tell. In them the rise was well maintained, and even carried further, prices having been very severely depressed, but a great effort was required to keep up the quotations of Japanese bonds, notwithstanding very heavy buying, and in other directions prices displayed a decided tendency to slacken off towards the close. The fortnightly settlement was carried through with the greatest ease, the bankers' charge for loans being 2½ per cent. as a rule, although ¼ per cent. more was occasionally paid where fresh accommodation was required to carry the enlarged "bull" account. The monthly Consol adjustment also came on this week, and operators for the rise found things much to their liking, the making-up price showing a gain of ½ at 91, while there was plenty of money available at 2 per cent., or slightly more. This state of affairs no doubt helped to impart a good tendency to the gilt-edged market, which finished up with substantial gains. Consols put on about ½, Bank Stock 1, and other securities, such as annuities, Irish Land stock, Exchequer bonds, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per cent., and India sterling issues ½ to ¾. There were also a few improvements of ½ to 1 in the Home

County and Corporation and Colonial inscribed stock lists, but business was never very gay.

The Foreign bond market naturally had the distinction of providing the chief excitement, and probably more business was put through during the last two or three days than usually takes place in a month. The buying and selling of Japanese bonds was enormous, the internal as well as the external loans attracting the attention of investors and speculators, and Russians, although less wildly played with, were also the medium of a large amount of dealing. The buying came from investors who had patiently awaited the conclusion of hostilities before venturing to take a hand, and also to a certain extent from "bears"

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	99½	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	101½	101½
102½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100½	100½
106½	100½	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	102	102
104½	98½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101½	101½
93½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	92½	92½
92½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	92½	92½
90½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	92½	92½
104	99½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	103½	103½
90½	82½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89½	89½
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	100½	100½
106	101½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104½	104½
89	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89	89
102½	93½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101	101
95	87½	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	95	95
96½	89½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	96	96
96	88½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	95	95
102½	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101
97½	91½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	95	96
100½	103½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105½
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	104	105
100½	92½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99½	100½
105	97½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104	105
59½	28½	Costa Rica A ..	55	54
51½	24	Do. B ..	45	44
45½	26½	Colombian External ..	44½	44½
109	104½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	109	109
107	104½	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	105½	105½
103½	99½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	102½	102½
106½	102½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
91½	82½	German 3 p.c. ..	89	89
54½	47	Greek, 1884 ..	54	54½
55½	48½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54	54½
44	38½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	43	43½
54½	47	Do. Funding ..	53½	53½
100½	96½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96½	96
106	102½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104½	104½
101½	88½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	100½	100½
102½	88½	Do. New ..	101½	102½
89½	76½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	89½	89½
106½	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	104	104½
105	102½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104	104
70½	64½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70	70
94½	86½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89½	94½
81	76	Servian 4 p.c. ..	81	81
95½	89½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	9½	91½
103	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	102½	102½
105	100½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	104½	104½
91	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	90½	91
74½	63½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	71½	71½
98	80½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	98	98
50½	42½	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	49½	49½

anxious to close up, while the selling was on behalf of those who had bought lower down and were anxious to make sure of their profits. Compared with Russians the rises in Japanese were not at all sensational, but that was natural because the former were very badly depressed and the latter already pretty fully valued. Scrip of the new Japanese issue touched 4 premium and ended about 3½ premium, while the other issues were up about 30s., but in Russians the advances ranged from 4 to about 8. Other European things were good, particularly Greeks, Portuguese, and Turkish, but the troubles in Paris, owing to the sugar smash, exercised a restraining influence as also the heavy break in copper. Chinese bonds were all decidedly strong, and the security for these loans, always very fair, should be materially increased now that China is coming by her own once more. Manchuria is a rich and fertile province, and should be a source of great wealth under enlightened administration. Although not displaying any striking movements, leading South American issues shared in the prevailing mood, and the firmness of Peruvian issues was thought to indicate some progress in the settlement with the Government. Buenos Ayres Provincial Cedulas had a sharp jump on the impression that the Government will come to a satisfactory arrangement, and Central American issues, showed moderate improvement. Carry-over rates on Tuesday were lighter than ever, and even though

money was cheap outside there were few opportunities for profitable lending. On all South American issues, Chinese, Japanese, and Peru preference and debentures the charges were no higher than 2 to 4 per cent., while Peru ordinary was done as low as 1 to 3 per cent., indicating some scarcity. On Portuguese the rate was $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., Spanish were continued at 2 to 3 per cent., Turkish and Italian at "even" to 1 per cent., and Russians "even" to 2 per cent. Making-up prices showed an all-round rise of $\frac{1}{8}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ in Argentines, fractional improvements in Brazilians, Chilians and Chinese, and advances of 1 each in Costa Rica "A" and "B." A fall of 1 in the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. sterling was the only striking movement in Japanese, Russian 4 per cent. Nicolas was up $2\frac{1}{2}$, and San Paulo 5 per cent., 1904, rose $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	135	135
165	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	136	138
131 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	119	120 $\frac{1}{2}$
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	114
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (3 p.c.) ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	89	89
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
17 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	41
62	51	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	58
34 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	30	32 $\frac{1}{2}$
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	17
82	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gr. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	100
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1) ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	37
145 $\frac{1}{2}$	136	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	137
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	44
112 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
100	90	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	91	92
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	36	36
71	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	70	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
70	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	66	65 $\frac{1}{2}$
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Eastern (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	80	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	134	North-Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	136 $\frac{1}{2}$
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	147	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	153	151 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	88
134	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	126
58 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Del. ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	55
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	159 $\frac{1}{2}$	160 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Del. (2 p.c.) ..	55	55 $\frac{1}{2}$

It cannot be said that the conclusion of peace has brought much outside support to the Home Railway market as yet, but the wave of enthusiasm with which the news was received naturally had a decided effect on quotations. Dealings being almost entirely professional it was inevitable that after the first spurt there should be a little reaction, yet so hopeful is the Stock Exchange that peace is to be followed by a "boom," that this was more in the nature of a pause in the advance than an actual setback. South-Eastern stocks were helped by the traffic return and rose smartly, carrying Chatham ordinary up with them, and Brighton issues, after being dull in the beginning of the week on the news that a motor 'bus service between London and Brighton was to be started, rallied with the rest and finished substantially higher. The "heavy" stocks came in for a fair share of attention on the peace news, but the whole improvement in their case was not held to the end. A demand for Great Central preferred sent the quotation soaring upwards, and Furness rose several pounds on buying from the provinces. Great Eastern, Great Northern preferred and deferred, Hull and Barnsley, and South-Western ordinary were all better, and amongst undergrounds City and South London and Metropolitan both showed fair advances. Scotch stocks were better in anticipation of the dividends which are to be announced by the Caledonian on the 5th, and by the North British on the 7th. Contangos on Tuesday were much about the same as last time at 4 to 5 per cent., with slightly easier rates on Great Eastern and Metropolitan. Movements in the fortnight were pretty evenly divided, but did not reach important dimensions. Brighton ordinary and preferred, North-Western and Midland deferred were all 1 higher, Great Northern deferred and consolidated "A" stocks rose $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Furness put on $2\frac{1}{2}$. City and South London gained 2, and

Metropolitan $\frac{1}{2}$, but against these Central London ordinary dropped 2 and District fell $\frac{1}{2}$. Great Western also receded 2, Hull and Barnsley and Taff Vale both lost $1\frac{1}{2}$, South-Western ordinary and preferred were 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lower, and Great Northern preferred, North-Eastern and Chatham second preference declined 1.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
108	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	108	108
118 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$
102	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100
61 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
192 $\frac{1}{2}$	173 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	193	186 $\frac{1}{2}$
38	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	37	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie Shares ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
87 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. and Pref. ..	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
185 $\frac{1}{2}$	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	182 $\frac{1}{2}$	183 $\frac{1}{2}$
158 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	155
35 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	New York Central (5) ..	160	157
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	95
65 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ontario Shares ..	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
76 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (6) ..	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$
61	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reading Shares ..	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	48	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
49	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (2) ..	47	49
74	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	69
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
140 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (4) ..	141 $\frac{1}{2}$	138 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	101	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Wabash ..	23	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. ..	45	44
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Debs. ..	75	75
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	166	166 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
112	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
114 $\frac{1}{2}$	113	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	113	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	105	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
58 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109

An unfavourable return by the New York banks and the doubts expressed in the beginning of the week regarding the outcome of the peace conference caused a certain amount of liquidation in Yankee shares before the settlement, and as New York and the Continent were also disposed to unload quotations dropped smartly. Rumours that the Japanese had yielded on the indemnity question circulated on Monday evening caused the activity in the street to last until a late hour, and as the "bull" account open proved on Tues-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
221 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	218 $\frac{1}{2}$	220 $\frac{1}{2}$
321	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (15) ..	315	315
127 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Argentine Gr. West. (6) ..	123	127
127 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	127	128
84 $\frac{1}{2}$	77	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	84	84
148 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. Gr. Southern Ord. (7) ..	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	144 $\frac{1}{2}$
131 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	130 $\frac{1}{2}$	131
136 $\frac{1}{2}$	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	136 $\frac{1}{2}$
118 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	116	115
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
112	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	111	112
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
169	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	168	169
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$
137	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	137
109	79	Central Uruguay (3) ..	88	88
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	109	109
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
70	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	67	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica (1) ..	27	28
72	59	Cuban Central ..	68	72
128	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	12	11
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	106	106
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	East Argentine (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	87	87
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	Ineroceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
84	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina (5) ..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	84
97	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4) ..	95	97
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	Manila Bonds "A" (5) ..	109	109
108	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	105
29 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
121 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	117 $\frac{1}{2}$
57	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. and Pref. ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
69 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	59	59
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nitrate Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
208	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	208	205
193 $\frac{1}{2}$	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock. ..	192 $\frac{1}{2}$	193 $\frac{1}{2}$

day to be smaller than had been anticipated, the upward movement made further progress. Although Wall Street caused a little reaction in the afternoon, the confirmation of the peace news gave the signal for a wild outburst which sent prices flying upwards once

more. The opportunity to secure profits thus provided was promptly seized upon, and the steady stream of realisations which came into the market soon knocked off more than had been gained in the early part of the week, and the majority of movements at the close were adverse. Atchison, Baltimore, Chesapeake, New York Central, Ontario, Pennsylvania, and Southern Pacific all dropped heavily, smaller declines were recorded in Erie preferreds, Southern, and others, but Illinois Central, Readings, and one or two others did manage to retain a small portion of their advances. Making up prices show that the largest improvement amongst the active securities was one of $5\frac{1}{2}$ in Readings, where it was said that a "corner" existed. Union Pacifics rose 4, Denver common and preference $2\frac{3}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Erie ordinary and second preference $2\frac{3}{4}$ and 2. Missouri and Kansas were $2\frac{3}{8}$ higher, Wabash issues from 2 to 3 up, and Great Northern preferred were lifted 12, but Baltimore ordinary fell $2\frac{1}{2}$ and the preference 2, Illinois Central lost $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Erie first preference and Norfolk common $\frac{3}{4}$. The demand for money in this section was not very pronounced, and carrying-over charges were again round about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with a tendency towards lower rates in Union Pacifics and one or two others.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	15	20	Allsopp Ordinary	19	20
71	44	—	City of London Ord. ..	42½xd	42½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	530	530
27½	21½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40) ..	23½	23½
28½	22½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2½	2½
3½	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3½	3½
68½	49½	49	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	49	50
35	15	17½	Do. Def. Ord. Stock ..	17½	19½
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	101	102
78½	56½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½) ..	66	68
6½	5½	6	Aerated Bread (30) ..	6	6½
7½	5½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	6½	6½
6½	5½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	6½	6½
1½	1½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	12	12
3½	2½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
6½	5	—	Brunner Mond (35) ..	6½	6½
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	10½	10½
5½	4½	10/9	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	5½	5½
502½	483½	500	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	57½	58
1½	1½	14/3	Do. Prof. Ord. (20) ..	495	500
1½	1½	21/6	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	1½	1½
1½	1½	6	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	1½	1½
23½	10½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6 xd	6
5½	3½	4	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	12	12
1½	1½	26½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4 xd	4
211	106	108	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	1½	1½
1½	1½	—	Do. Debenture (42) ..	108	108
6½	5½	1½	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	1½	1½
24½	19½	5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	5½	5½
1½	1½	24/6	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
7½	5½	1½	Russian Petroleum (5) ..	1½	1½
13½	13½	8/6	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	5½	5½
104½	104½	9/9	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	1½	1½
104½	104½	17/9	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	14	14
104½	104½	103½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	103½	103½
104½	104½	81½	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	77	83½
104½	104½	46½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	47	47½
104½	104½	106	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-) ..	106½	106½
104½	104½	—	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) ..	9	9
104½	104½	—	Do. Debentures (6) ..	11½	11½
104½	104½	—	National Discount (10) ..	7 xd	7xd
104½	104½	7	Union Discount (11) ..	10½	10½
104½	104½	10½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	100 xd	100xd
104½	104½	—	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	131 xd	132xd
104½	104½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½) ..	3½	3½
104½	104½	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	3½	3½
104½	104½	—	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3½	3½
104½	104½	—	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	3½	3½
104½	104½	—	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
104½	104½	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	1½	1½
104½	104½	—	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	9½ xd	10
104½	104½	—	United States Steel Ordinary ..	38½	38½
104½	104½	—	Do. Preference (7) ..	108½	107½
104½	104½	—	Vickers Ordinary (12½) ..	2½	2½
104½	104½	—	Cunard Steam ..	12	12
104½	104½	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	227½	229½
104½	104½	—	Royal Mail ..	35½	35½
104½	104½	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship ..	9	9
104½	104½	—	Ordinary (5) ..	106	106
104½	104½	—	Anglo-American Telegraph—	15½	15½
104½	104½	—	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½) ..	143½	144½
104½	104½	—	Do. Def. Ord. ..	14	14
104½	104½	—	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	108	108½
104½	104½	—	Eastern Extension (7) ..	14	14
104½	104½	—	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	14	14
104½	104½	—	Western Telegraph (7) ..	8½	8½
104½	104½	—	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	8½	8½
104½	104½	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	125½	126½xd
104½	104½	—	London General Omnibus (8) ..	10	10
104½	104½	—	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	10	10

While the net increase of \$188,000 in the July statement of the Canadian Pacific was regarded as satisfactory, a greater stimulus to activity was afforded by the reports of oil discoveries, and at one time the price

was carried up to 270 $\frac{1}{2}$. It fell back about \$1 almost at once, and a further relapse followed, but the price at the close was still substantially up on the week. Grand Trunk stocks were likewise in demand on the oil stories, and in spite of the net increase for July being less than anticipated, the support was strong enough to lift quotations for the ordinary and third preference in a very decided fashion, and the firsts and seconds, went up along with them. On the account Canadian Pacific shares rose \$2 $\frac{3}{4}$, and Grand Trunk third preference was that number of pounds higher, while the first preference rose 1, and the other issues put on $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$.

A few Argentine Railway issues slipped back with other markets in the beginning of the week, but the check was only a temporary one, and buying again became vigorous in such things as Argentine Great Western, Rosario ordinary, Buenos Ayres Great Southern ordinary and debenture and Entre Rios preference. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock, too, came back into favour, and in spite of a little reaction finished several pounds up, while Leopoldina issues continued to improve day by day in a steady-going fashion. Inter-oceanic of Mexico "B" debenture stock was also bought with some vigour, together with Mexican Southern issues, but the stocks of the old Mexican Company after an initial improvement fell back owing to a disappointing traffic return. Russian Railways were marked up smartly on peace without much sign of actual business in any of them. Antofagasta stocks have dropped completely into the background, and were hardly mentioned all week, but their place has been taken during the last day or two by Paraguay Central debenture stock, which was sought after on expectations of important developments and touched 37 $\frac{1}{2}$. The demand for United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock during the past fortnight resulted in a gain of 16 in the making-up price, Leopoldina ordinary put on 9 $\frac{1}{2}$, Inter-oceanic of Mexico "B" debenture stock 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Villa Maria and Rufino preference 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. In Argentine Railways Great Western stocks improved from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary was 4 up, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario issues and Entre Rios ordinary rose from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Mexican Railway ordinary and preferences advanced 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Mexican Southern ordinary and second mortgage debenture stock 3 and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. San Paulo ordinary stock was 3 up, but Uruguayan issues as a rule were only fractionally altered. Carrying over charges were rather lighter than last time on Mexican Railway stocks, and on South American things the charge was again 4 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Miscellaneous markets were decidedly lively for them and treated us to some sensational movements. Frenzied buying of Hudson's Bay shares drove them up nearly £12 on Tuesday, the price reaching 90 $\frac{1}{2}$ in the Street, but madness like that could not last and the quotation has since come crashing down to about 80. There will be serious trouble over this business one of these days. Pekin Syndicate, Shansi, and Yangtse Valley shares all went bounding ahead, accompanied by stories that the deferred shilling shares of the Pekin Company, now standing at the fabulous figure of £220, are to be converted into ordinary. Hyderabad (Deccan) shares were also firm, and Textile and Armament shares were driven along in the hope that the termination of the war will lead to a largely increased business. It is said that Coats are making enormous profits, the largest ever earned, and that another capitalisation of the reserve is to take place. The price is talked to 6 and may go there, but the same kind of story has been heard before, when a freely predicted bonus was not forthcoming to the great disappointment of many. Eastern Bank shares were put up and investment securities like Gas and Insurance shares, Financial Trusts, and Waterworks debentures all closed higher. London Docks all issues gained ground, along with Suez Canal shares, Millwall first preference stock, and the debenture

ture stock of the Milford Company and P. and O. stocks were higher in the Shipping division. Most Telegraphs and Telephones were also disposed to mount, London Generals put on several pounds, and Tramway shares in general were firm, with the exception of B.E.T. preference. There was a good inquiry for Russian Oil shares, and Catering things were inclined to be flat, particularly Lyons and Slaters, the last going back sharply, but Gordon Hotels preference recovered quite £1. Breweries were still disposed to pick up, Nitrates moved irregularly, Nelsons went forward, and Wm. Griffiths further receded. Rates at the settlement were much as usual, but there were a few striking movements in the making-up list. Hudson's Bays showed a rise of 10, Associated Cement debentures were $2\frac{1}{2}$ higher, Allsopp ordinary and preference rose 3 and 4 respectively against a decline of 4 in the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture, Bieckert's Brewery ordinary gained $17\frac{1}{2}$, Watney preferred and deferred each lost 2, Anglo-American ordinary and deferred made up $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{3}{8}$ better, National Telephone preferred and deferred put on 1 and $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Standard Bank of South Africa fell 2.

In spite of a set-back here and there markets to-night were firm and full of confidence regarding the autumn. Consols dipped $\frac{1}{16}$, but Japanese stocks were good on the impression that no fresh loan would be required, and the Continent even turned its attention to some of the internal issues. Hudson's Bay shares suffered a further reaction, which is hardly surprising, but Chinese exploration and land things have been "tipped" freely of late and showed further improvements. Kaffirs, too, had a burst of activity such as they have not seen for a considerable time, mostly on Paris influences. Home Railways were hardly altered except in the case of Great Eastern, where the accident was reflected by a drop of 1, but the liquidation in Yankee Rails continues and further heavy losses were scored.

Notes on Books.

How to Deal with Your Broker. By Henry Warren. (London: Swan, Sonnenschein, and Co., Limited. Price, 3s. 6d.)

Mr. Henry Warren is already well known by his books on "Banks and their Customers," and "How to Deal with Your Banker," and we are inclined to think this new publication the best of the three. In his earlier books he sometimes told tales out of school, and went aside to administer correction or deliver homilies which were perhaps hardly always germane to the subject in hand. This book, however, is practical from beginning to end, and packed full of just such information as an intelligent City man, with the gift of the pen, could put together. Take his chapter on the art of investing. It begins with a sentence which defines admirably the difference between an investor and a speculator. "The investor," says Mr. Warren, "as distinguished from the speculator, is a person who buys an income." True, however, as this is, the two classes of purchasers of public securities shade into each other, and there are nowadays very few investors who do not mingle a little speculation with their efforts to secure an income. They buy for a rise as well as for revenue. Another lucid definition relates to the words "bull" and "bear," which are used, the author says, "to describe both the actors themselves and their acts. An account which is open for the rise is called a 'bull' account, and one that is open for the fall a 'bear' account," the men who treat them being "bulls" and "bears." And then he goes on to describe the effects of the excess of the one kind of speculation or the other upon the market. It is all done with lucidity and reasonable precision. Clearly Mr. Warren knows his Stock Exchange. "A dangerous broker," he tells us, "is always urging his client to take small profits. This he does that by inducing them to buy and sell as frequently as possible he can obtain more commission from them. Generally speaking, it is

wise to change such a broker, whose advice is seldom either very good or reliable." That is true, but if the public acted widely on this counsel what would become of half the brokers who now struggle to live on the Stock Exchange? Several chapters are devoted to descriptions of the various kinds of securities dealt in, and in these much information is condensed which the public should find valuable.

Socialism and Society. By J. Ramsay Macdonald. (London: Independent Labour Party. Price 1s. net, paper, and 1s. 6d. net, cloth.)

It is difficult for us to criticise this book with perfect impartiality, at least we are told it must be so because of our prejudice against Socialism. Mr. Macdonald, however, always writes not only interestingly but with full knowledge, the knowledge of a thoughtful man who has read widely and pondered much upon what he has found in books. Where we, however, come into collision with the Socialists is on the practical side of their theories of the State in relation to modern life. That there are tendencies towards the consolidation, under popular control, of the forces behind modern industries we know very well. It is impossible to read much about the trusts and monopolies in countries like the United States without recognising that these all-grasping combinations can only represent a transition stage in the history of society. A time must come when communities in self-defence will be compelled to set bounds to the ambitions and wealth-absorbing expedients of these small groups of soulless manufacturers and wielders of capital. But how is the Socialist gospel going to deliver us from this new tyranny? It is very beautiful to read about the coming time when the capitalist as a separate class will cease to exist, when nations will be the real owners of the soil upon which they live, when private property will be, if not completely abolished, at least subjected to the will of the community and compelled to yield its benefits for the common good; but how is all this to be brought about? Alongside the manifestations of unscrupulous capitalism such as we have instanced there runs the increasing corruption of existing forms of government—republican, monarchical, despotic—they are all alike in this, that the capitalists have the machinery of the governing system of each country more and more under their control. Not only so, but representative assemblies everywhere, or at least everywhere outside France, are growing less and less capable of checking the ravages of the permanent officials by whom the work of administration is carried on. How is this great corruption to be swept away and purity to be brought into the Government? How is inefficiency to give place to knowledge, impotence to effective supervision? In what manner is Socialism going to prevent or root out jobbery and the motives for jobbery amongst those whom the people elect? We should like to hear what Mr. Macdonald has to say upon this practical side of the subject. He is eloquent and often forcible in his attacks upon the Marxian system, and bears somewhat hardly upon the hesitations and reservations of the orthodox British economist, but he does not seem to us to grapple with the real difficulties underlying the socialist theory of an organic state as a practical method of delivering nations from the tyranny of the capitalist or from any other tyranny if it comes to that. We do not agree with Mr. Macdonald in the opinion that capital and labour are necessarily antagonistic. That in practice the capitalist is often little better than the enemy of those whom he employs may be true enough, although much less true than it used to be, but that is an accident due to our imperfect moral development, and essentially there appears to us to be no valid reason whatever against unity, perfect harmony, between the capitalist and the workmen. Their interests are always one, and not two antagonistic forces. Is it not possible to dream with some practical purpose of a day when harmony will be brought about in all industries through the recognition of employers of the human element in those they employ, so that instead of regarding each other as

mortal enemies intent on mutual plunder they may recognise that by working together and sharing the ups and downs of industrial effort together they can surmount adversities and gain a basis of universal comfort which at present looks unattainable? We are not saying this in any spirit of captious criticism, but merely because we cannot see our way to accept the socialist theory of evolution in national life. All, however, who are interested in this subject will welcome Mr. Macdonald's book as a thoughtful and luminous exposition. It is quite true, as he says, that "when the time comes for a further effort on the part of society to perfect itself the step to be taken must be one which not only unites the organism more completely, and which makes its organised work more in co-operation and less in competition with each other, but also one which promises to satisfy more fully the demand that social action and individual action should approximate to the same standard of morality." Quite so. All we want to know is how socialism is going to effect this happy change.

Amongst the recent publications which have too long remained unnoticed by us are *Bourne's Annual Insurance Manual for 1905*, edited by Mr. F. Harcourt Kitchin, and published by Mr. Effingham Wilson in three varieties, at 1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s. 6d. No further changes have been made in this edition, Mr. Kitchin says, but that is because the improvements previously made by him have brought the manual so near perfection as to render further important changes not only unnecessary, but inadvisable. The book is so well done that it would be in the interests of the public at large if they would buy it and try to educate themselves to some knowledge of what insurance is and implies. Another book, also issued by Mr. Effingham Wilson and invaluable to all who are constantly dealing with public securities, is *Wilson's Share and Stock Tables for Calculating the Cost of Shares in Railway, Insurance, or Other Companies at any Price from 1-16th of £1 up to £310*. The present issue is the tenth edition edited by Mr. Edwin Robinson, and the claim made for it in the preface that its accuracy may be fully depended upon is a just claim. Some papers of the Cobden Club have also reached us, including a few of their very effective leaflets, amongst the most interesting of which is a facsimile of a letter dated August 13th, presumably 1881, from "10, Downing Street." It is from the pen of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, and is addressed to the late Mr. T. B. Potter, M.P., for many years the respected president of the Cobden Club. So curious is the letter that we may give it:—

My Dear Potter,—Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright think that the speeches on reciprocity, &c., made by Cross and myself in the debate last night, should be published separately for distribution. Will the Cobden Club undertake this work? I see the report in the *Times* is very bad and much abbreviated, and I have only my rough notes, but I will try and dictate a verbatim report to my secretary if you think it would be worth while to republish. I believe Cross has arranged with his local paper for a verbatim report of his speech; but if you decide to reprint, perhaps you will communicate with him on the subject.—Yours very truly, J. CHAMBERLAIN.

How funny that reads now, with all Mr. Joseph's recent abuse and slander of the Cobden Club in the mind.

We cannot round off this note more worthily than by again drawing the attention of readers to the cheap books in Messrs. Methuen and Co.'s "Standard Library." They have the distinction of being cheap and good; giving buyers for 6d. or 1s. works printed in a style that would have looked cheap not so many years ago at five to ten times the money. We do not know though that we unreservedly admire all the latest additions to the list, being disposed to wish for cheap reprints of translations of the works of Herodotus and Thucydides or Plutarch's *Lives*, or, to come nearer home, Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy," and even Butler's "Hudibras," to mention but a few rather than Thomas à Kempis, for the "Imitation of Christ" does not seem to lend itself well to the part of a cheap classic.

Civil Engineering. By T. Claxton Fidler, M.Inst., C.E. London: Methuen and Co. Price 2s. 6d.).

With the romance of engineering Mr. Fidler cannot deal to any extent in the brief space at his command; but his story of the progress of British engineering is fascinating enough, and though quietly told, full of instruction. In the main the book is practical, a sort of friendly, intelligent mentor and guide to those who may be intending to enter this most fascinating and attractive of all modern professions. Not only will it be useful to the student, but the general reader will find it well worth perusal. It is not hard reading by any means, for Mr. Fidler avoids technicalities, and helps his text out with judiciously-chosen illustrations, so that anyone can dip into these pages with profit. The ground gone over may be indicated by mentioning the various chapters dealing with the origin of civil engineering in Britain, its progress, the occupations of the civil engineer, the drawing-office and its staff, science and engineering, education, and putting in a plea for engineering in economics. The subject-matter of the book is well outside our capacity, we regretfully admit, but all the same, no book in all this "Books on Business" series has attracted us more than this latest addition thereto. We note with pleasure that the author sticks up manfully for that genius among engineers, Isambard Brunell.

The Broken Hill Mines (London: Effingham Wilson, 54, Threadneedle Street, E.C. Price 1s. net.)

This is a goodly-sized brochure dealing with the present state of the metallurgical industry in connection with the famous Broken Hill mines of New South Wales, together with particulars of the principal properties—such as capitalisation, output, dividends, &c.—and accompanied by a review of the statistical position of the lead market. Thus the information within the pages of the book is of interest alike to the mining and metallurgical expert, to the metal broker, and to the investor, and being published at a moderate price it should command a large sale. The mines of this famous district have now been known to the world for many years, but in recent months, owing largely to the skill and science of the metallurgist, they have been given a new lease of life, and promise to do better in the future than they have done in the past. Interspersed amongst the pages are numerous photographs of the mines, plans, diagrams, and maps, which add, of course, to the usefulness of the work, and those of our readers interested in the mines and companies might do worse than spend a shilling on the pamphlet.

Round the Rand.—By J. W. BROOMHEAD. London: The *Financial Times*, 72, Coleman Street, E.C. Price, 2s. 6d. net.

Some weeks ago Mr. J. W. Broomhead, who has made a special study of mining in all parts of the world, wrote a series of articles in the *Financial Times* dealing with the present positions and prospects of Rand Mines, embracing 135 in number. These have now been collected and published in a goodly-sized pamphlet, and are thus made exceedingly handy, both for study and reference. To a certain degree they help one to form a tolerable idea of the potentialities of each mine, and it is pleasing to see that unbiassed facts alone are given unaccompanied by the enthusiasms of the tipster. The particulars collated are a digest of the annual reports issued by the companies, and the author has made an admirable selection of essential points. Being brief, they are more or less superficial, not exhaustive, especially in dealing with finances. Anyway, the book can unhesitatingly be recommended to the investor, whose knowledge it will widen, and at the same time assist the judgment. There is nothing new in it that has not appeared in the columns of this REVIEW from time to time, but to our own readers it will save the labour of turning to back numbers. Mr. Broomhead adds to the book a table showing the dividend each mine may be expected to pay in shillings and pence per share, how much of this must be set

aside annually at 4 per cent. compound interest to redeem the price, and how much may be spent as interest. The same table also shows at what price each share will yield 6 per cent. interest over and above amortisation, but such table must of course be taken really in the light of personal opinion, which subsequent events may or may not support.

More Frenzied Finance.

Monday morning it became known at the State House that I had dropped the fight. In short order the affair was off the slate for that year—wiped clean off the slate; but the consequences remained—consequences to me. One cannot start an avalanche and then shoulder it without inviting self-destruction. The explanations given out for my volte-face were so unconvincing that I was not surprised to learn that rumour had me bought off. These stories I knew I'd have to stand, though I trusted to Rogers's pledge that the Whitney crowd would see to it that my concession was set in the right light. The legislative session was well over when there began to be noised around, first rumours, then circumstantial stories, that I had held up the New England Gas and Coke scheme until I had obtained my price; the price was stated to be a million dollars. From Wall and State Streets the story got into the newspapers. Then I published a statement as unqualified as I could make it, declaring that I had not benefited a dollar by the suspension of hostilities, but, on the contrary, was out large amounts by my gas fight, and that I had dropped the fight, so far as the Legislature was concerned, for a reason purely sentimental, and that I did not regret it.

In such a contingency, however, denials are idle. Other corporations had been held up for money under just such circumstances; and for what reasons but monetary ones would a man cease fighting with victory in his grasp? There could be no other reason, said my enemies; feared many of my adherents. The story grew as such stories grow, until men could be found who "positively knew" that I had received this million dollars. My position was most painful. The public believed I had turned traitor; my friends admitted I had made a terrible mistake. There was nothing for me to do but to pay the price of my Quixotic folly. I paid it—in the long weeks and months that followed that fatal Saturday morning interview.

"But why suffer under such a suspicion when it was easy to prove your innocence through Rogers?" my readers ask.

The first time I had unmistakable evidence that brought the story about me home to Whitney and his associates, I went to Mr. Rogers and said:

"Of all the beastly ingrates, your friends in the gas crowd are in the front ranks! I know for a certainty that instead of going about showing that I did them a good turn, purely because I took pity on those dependent upon them who were innocent and would suffer, they are doing everything in their power to prove that I blackmailed them into paying me my price."

This happened several times, and on each occasion he would cool me down with some smooth argument and talk me off the track. Once I came to him in a bitter rage and said:

"Mr. Rogers, what do you think of this? The other day when I was up for election at the Yacht Club a club member went before the Election Committee and said that he had been told that I had blackmailed Whitney and the New England Gas and Coke Company out of a million dollars; and that if this were a fact, I should be refused admission. One of the committee, a personal friend of mine, at once denied the story, whereupon the member said his informant would stand for it. My friend asked the committee to wait until he could consult me. I told him to force proof at once so we might run down what this meant; thereupon the committee called for proof, and what do you think happened? The member took the committee to Kidder, Peabody, and Co., Whitney's bankers; and a member of the firm, a man whose word I would take without question assured them he knew it to be a fact that I had received a million dollars. You know the facts, and you know that a more damnable outrage than this accusation against me was never attempted. I owe it to myself to make a clean breast of the influence that was brought to bear to make me let up."

Mr. Rogers was greatly disturbed. He said with great earnestness:

"Of course, Lawson, you cannot make public my part of the transaction, because you have agreed not to, and there is no reason why you should sacrifice me because some other scoundrels persist in doing things against you which are not right. However, I'll take this affair in hand and will promise you'll not be troubled any more."

Again I let the wool be pulled over my eyes, accepted his specious explanations, and gave way to his arguments. But I withdrew my name from the Yacht Club, and the matter dropped—and again Whitney and his friends let it leak out that I had withdrawn because it had been proved I was guilty of this nefarious act.

All these affairs and events spread over a period of several years. At the close of the term of my truce I began to pound away again at the New England Gas and Coke scheme, and as the stock and bonds were on the Stock Exchange, I had another place to hammer them in. Viciously I attacked their price structure and had the satisfaction of keeping the public far away from their securities. From time to time it came to me that Whitney and his friends were characterising my work in driving their stocks down as outrageous—since I had been

paid a million dollars to let them alone. Another time they told it around that I had taken in securities my pay for letting up on them and that my ostensible short sales were in reality the stock I had received as the price of my dishonour. I had made up my mind, however, that these men were a mean and vicious set of ingrates, and that I should go my own way and not worry about their foolish lies. About this time Mr. Rogers said to me in the course of one of our copper conferences:

"Lawson, I will give you some good commissions if you would like to have them."

"That is what my firm is in business for," I said.

"All right. I have a lot of New England Gas and Coke stock that I have taken from some of the underwriters that I should like to quietly work out of. Do you want to sell it? I thought perhaps you could get better prices than anyone else, as the Whitney crowd will think it is short stock."

"Of course I can," I answered; "they will buy stock of me when they would not touch it from each other, and I should like nothing better than to have a block of it to sell to pound the price down."

Mr. Rogers did not tell me how much he had, but he had said "quite a block," and I began to sell. Every day or two for a number of days thereafter I would dispose of all Whitney and his brokers would buy; of course they did not want to buy, but were obliged to stand by to keep the price from falling. My principal brokers, Brown, Riley, and Co., sold the stock on the floor of the Exchange, and each day they would report to me exactly what they had done, and I would report by phone to Rogers. He invariably delivered me the certificates the next morning. I noticed that these certificates were fresh ones; that is, that they evidently were made out each day in the names of my brokers, thereby hiding from me the name in which they had originally stood. After I had sold very nearly 7,000 shares, a director of the company, who was a common friend of Rogers and myself, came to me and said:

"Lawson, you have been pounding our stock now for a long time, and must have sold a lot of it short. What's the use? You can't get it down. If I show you it's absolutely impossible, I'll be doing you a good turn; won't I?"

This opening was rather curious, but it is always well to parley with the enemy, either in stocks or war, and I took him up quickly:

"Certainly you will," I replied.

"Good," he said. "I'll undertake to show you positively that you cannot beat our stock down, and when I've proved it to you, I'll ask you to let up on the market end of your fight. We are all anxious to get peace in that quarter, anyway."

I said nothing, but showed the interest I felt. It's a bad practice in stocks to talk to the other fellow when it's to his advantage to get a peep into your hand.

"Well," he said with a great air of authority, "all the stock you have been selling to put the market down has been purchased by the company, and the directors have authorised Whitney to take any more you offer."

This was news to me. I had not sold the stock short, for I knew too much of their situation to imagine I could depress it so seriously as to make the attempt worth while. They were loaded up with their own securities and had borrowed immense sums on them in the banks and trust companies. If the stock fell, they would have to put up more collateral, and I knew it would be cheaper for them to buy all I cared to give them than to submit to a further decline in the price of their shares. It is a knowledge and a comprehension of such situations that make for success in stock-market manipulation, and I had thoroughly studied out the position of my antagonists and was sure I knew exactly where they "were at." I thought quickly. My informant was evidently absolutely sincere, and as he had never told me anything but the truth, I knew his statement must be taken at its face value. I reasoned: They cannot suspect I am selling stock for Rogers, one of their own number, and as they know I've been selling, they've made up their minds that I'm going short for sure. I chuckled at their error, and by way of leading them deeper into the mire, I replied:

"It's interesting to know that, but though it may seem folly to you, I have made up my mind to sell a certain amount anyway. If your people are determined to buy what I shall sell, just say to them that if they will make me a good round bid for what I now will offer, I'll quit selling when they take it."

In the operations I was conducting, my chief aim was to embarrass the New England Gas and Coke Company as much as possible and beat them out in their effort to float their stock on the public. Any strategy that helped out this situation was good, and I rather flattered myself that my reply left them farther than ever off the track. I said to myself, "They'll calculate that by buying a bunch of short stock from me, they'll have me in a box, whereas I'm not short a share. Also, they will conclude I'm reckless and probably they'll be led to some radical move, thinking they have me on the hip." All my calculations were based on my presumption of their ignorance of the source of the stock I was selling. That they knew more about it than I did never crossed my mind. As soon as my visitor left me to see how much his people would take care of, I determined to help Rogers get some more of their capital and thus further deepen their trouble. I jumped for the wire and was soon in consultation with the master of "Standard Oil." The new developments were quickly laid before him and I went on:

"Here's your chance, Mr. Rogers, if you want to unload. Just tell me how much you have left, and I'll offer it to them, and in their present mood I think they'll snap it up."

"Thirty-two hundred shares," he answered, "and I leave the price to you."

In stock deals harvest time is to-day; to-morrow's planting and ploughing are the next man's opportunity. I determined to take good advantage of the situation, and when a few minutes later I was called by my man from the company's office, I was ready for him. His query was:

"Whitney wants to know how much will clean you up?"

It was rather a curious expression, but I passed it over.

"I'll sell 3,200 shares more if he'll give me two dollars over the present market," I said. "I know that, after I have sold out, your people will jump the stock up, and two dollars a share over present price is certainly fair."

It took him only a moment to accept and request me to have my brokers, Brown, Riley and Co., clinch the trade with the brokers of the company, F.S. Mead and Co., at the Stock Exchange, which I did. I delivered the certificates next day, and sent Brown, Riley and Co.'s cheque to Mr. Rogers.

At the time I remember reviewing the series of transactions and noting that, with the final parcel of 3,200 shares just disposed of, I had sold for Mr. Rogers just an even million dollars' worth of the stock, calculating it at par, and I congratulated myself I had done very well for my principal. This ended the episode.

Next day Whitney and his associates began a desperate attempt to rally their stocks and bonds, but their efforts were useless. They did advance a few dollars, but it was purely an appearance of gain and profited them nothing. Though I had ceased in the stock market, I redoubled my pounding in the Press and before the Massachusetts Legislature, and under my blows the shares declined until New England Gas and Coke stock sold at the price of infected rags and the bonds for little more. Finally the day came, as I had predicted, when the rotten swindle went into the hands of a receiver. There was a sensation, for a condition of corporate depravity was exposed that astonished even the most hardened practitioners of Frenzied Finance. Not only were there liabilities of \$17,500,000 bonds and \$17,500,000 stock, but millions and millions more in the form of debts representing money the company had borrowed from the banks and trust companies in New York, New England, and Pennsylvania, controlled by or in the power of the "System," debts contracted in the short period this Magdalen of finance had practised her wiles. It was a vile mess, legally, financially, socially, morally. Draw the veil and pass to the next, you say? I should like to, but disgrace does not always mean death, and there is still another chapter growing out of this putrid institution that must be dealt with in its turn before I can call my job done. However, that is another story.

My readers have now had laid before them the exterior details of a plain situation. I had sold for H. H. Rogers a million par value of the stock of the New England Gas and Coke Company; had disposed of it through my own brokers, and had duly sent on cheques for the total amount of the transaction to H. H. Rogers. From him I had received the certificates representing the stock thus sold, at the end of each transaction. No one knew that it was his stock except myself and my brokers. It might have been any one's—save that the cheques in payment were all sent to the master of "Standard Oil."

In the course of this narrative I have expatiated at intervals on the morality of Frenzied Finance, and have tried to explain the intellectual perversion by which private gentlemen become rogues in commerce. Temptations befall the best of us and, at intervals, all of us stumble. But there are certain things no man, be he financier or thief, can afford to do. No man must gain life or safety by the sacrifice of his friend; no man shall sell his friend's honour and reputation and have him, innocent, blackened before the world. The thing I am about to lay before my readers may seem and sound incredible—not because you have not heard extraordinary things, but because optimistically you dislike to believe even the most corrupt of frenzied financiers could be so unconscionable a blackguard and blackleg. Just as the idea of Judas is repugnant to you, so is the thought that your neighbour or fellow clubman or business friend, who seems white, and toes all the conventionalities of decency and, apparently, has the same code as yourself, is an embezzler, a cheat, and a wife-beater. You hate to think so fair an appearance can hide so black a heart.

(To be continued.)

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address: Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

At the opening of the week the carry-over arrangements principally occupied the attention of members, otherwise they would have found little or nothing to do, business being on so small a scale. Rates generally were much about the same as they were at the previous settlement. Gold Fields were done at 3-4 per cent., East Rands and Rand Mines at 3½-4½ per cent.; Randfontein Estates at 4-5 per cent. and Modderfonteins at 4½-5½ per cent. On Johannesburg Consolidated Investment the charge was again 3½-4½ per cent., but on Barnato Consolidated it was 4-5 per cent. Such things as Geduld Proprietary, Simmer and Jacks and South African Gold Trusts were contangoed at 4½-5½ per cent. and Goertz at 3½-4½ per cent., the general rate on the bulk of the shares being 5-7 per cent. The De Beers rate was a little stiffer at 2½-3½ per cent., but the charge on Jagers was

lighter at 4-5 per cent. On Rhodesian shares the contango was 5-7 per cent., and West Africans were arranged on a similar basis, while Egyptians were continued at 6-8 per cent. The latter was also the ruling rate in the West Australian section. Associated and Northern Blocks were, however, done at 7-9 per cent., Great Fingalls, Great Boulders, and Lake View Consols at 4-6 per cent., Sons of Gwalia and Golden Horseshoe at 3-5 per cent. and Oroya-Brownhill at 5-7 per cent. In the Miscellaneous group, Le Roi, Le Roi No. 2, Stratton's Independence and Camp Birds were arranged at 5-7 per cent.

In the making-up list declines were again in the majority, Central Minings—the Werner-Beit Trust shares—losing 1½ and Wemmers 1½. Montrose Diamonds fell ½, Durban Roodepoort Deeps ¾, Crown Deep ½, with falls of ¼ in Apex, Coronation Syndicates, Geduld Proprietary, Henry Nourse, Lace Props, Modderfonteins, Robinson Gold, Rand Mines, &c. Of the rises, Premier Diamonds were the most conspicuous with an advance of 1½, whilst De Beers deferred put on ¾ and the preference ¾. Among gold shares Jumpers improved ¼. West Africans and Egyptians were generally lower; so were West Australians. In the Miscellaneous list, Esperanzas were exceptionally strong, spurting as much as ¾, but other shares showed little change. Among coppers Rio Tintos fell ¼.

For the new account there was no business of any description done in Kaffirs, and these again weakened in price. Further French sales depressed the market, these realisations being due to a report that a Paris speculator in the sugar market, who was also largely interested in Kaffirs, had committed suicide. The report was true, and unless some arrangement can be made to prevent M. Cronier's shares from being thrown on the market the effect upon quotations may be serious, in spite of peace. The bosses must by this time feel sure that malign fate is working against them, giving them no chance to pull themselves together. They are already so choked up with paper that unless it can be sold or otherwise disposed of they will be able to find no storage room for the mass of stuff that keeps falling upon them. It would be, of course, a good thing for the market and for other unfortunate holders of Kaffirs if the whole could be burnt, but there is no likelihood of the magnates setting fire to it. The fact, however, that there is all this mass of paper waiting to be placed on the market at the very first favourable opportunity that offers itself must inevitably prevent any substantial and sustained recovery in prices for a very long time to come, to say nothing of the anxiety of the general public to realise the moment they see their chances. For now that peace has come and the punters and gamblers are dancing with joy they may give holders many opportunities to clear out, for which they might otherwise have looked in vain. Prices were pushed up at once on the news of peace, for professionals felt it would bring the public forward, and it would not be profitable to let them in at too low figures. Thus it was shouted all round the market and through Press megaphones that Kaffir shares showed substantial gains. It is true prices ascended, but not as the result of any genuine business on behalf of outsiders. They were marked higher by the dealers, that is all. This is shown in the reaction that speedily followed, both on profit-taking and in the disappointment felt by insiders at the non-appearance of the public. The following is the latest dividend declaration:—

	Issued	Dividend.	Capital.	Amount.
Durban Roodepoort Gold	15 per cent.	£12,500	£18,750	

In the diamond section Premier deferred have shown much strength, whilst Laces have advanced on the announcement by the company that "a magnificent 82 carat stone of extra fine quality" was found on August 26, but a solitary good stone will not make the fortune of the shareholders. De Beers and Jagers, on the other hand, have been quiet. Rhodesians were booked higher simultaneously with Kaffirs, on the opening of the market after the peace declaration, but on no support forthcoming to maintain the advance, the professionals soon had to lop off some of the "gains."

West African shares did not share in the attentions of the insiders, and have remained practically unchanged. Amongst Egyptians, however, Nile Valleys have risen somewhat mysteriously to par. Rumours were started that the reserve shares had all been taken up, but it is officially stated that no arrangement has yet been completed as to the placing of these. Other rumours have put it about that there have recently been favourable developments in the company's concession, but apparently the officials of the company know nothing of these, so the reports seem to be the mere invention of the manipulators.

Westralians have developed a little liveliness here and there. Associated, for instance, have spurted on the report that the Iron Duke lode has been proved still further into the company's property, assaying 3½ ozs. to the ton, while Great Fingalls have risen on the cable announcing the striking of payable ore in the deep winze from the eleventh level. The usual quarterly dividend of 4s. per share has been announced by the Oroya-Brownhill company, and these shares have also improved. Great Boulder Proprietary have recovered a little from their recent weakness, but other shares are mostly dull.

In the Miscellaneous group support has continued to be given to the various Broken Hill shares, both the Continent and the colonies being buyers. British Broken Hill have advanced on the statement that an important ore body has been opened up at the low level in Marsh's shaft, whilst Block 14's have also benefited from favourable rumours. Rio Tintos and other copper shares have exhibited considerable strength on the recovery in the

price of the metal. Esperanzas are still flying upwards, and El Oros are following them, but Camp Birds are slightly easier. Stratton's Independence have risen, and even Le Rois have suddenly moved higher, though the reason for this is not discoverable. Indian shares have shown their customary firmness.

VOGELSTRAUIS CONSOLIDATED DEEP.—A report for the period from January 15 to June 30 states that the water in the centre shaft was standing at 50 ft. from the collar when work was started. This was unwatered to the bottom, 2,066 ft., and a sump 8 ft. deep was cut. The main incline has been started and sunk 66 ft. In the west shaft the water was standing at 40 ft. from the collar. This also was unwatered to the bottom, 2,520 ft. An additional 88 ft. has been sunk and 84 ft. timbered. A crosscut was started at 2,600 ft. to intersect the reef, and has been driven 22 ft. An office note adds that since the above report was drawn up, the crosscut north from the west shaft, at 2,600 ft., which corresponds with the sixth level in the centre shaft, has intersected the South Reef, the assay being 18.7 dwts. over 23½ ins., equal to 12 dwts. over an assumed stoping width of 36 ins. The width of the reef, as well as its value, is regarded as most satisfactory, and development has been started from this shaft as well as from the centre shaft. This is an old company, and was reconstructed as long ago as 1895, its original title being the Vogelstruis Deep. Since then the capital has stood at the high figure of £400,000, in addition to which there was a debenture debt of £122,500, part of which has been redeemed. After a long suspension of operations it was not until November of last year that the directors decided to take the necessary steps to recommence work, when boreholes were put down. It is hoped that by the end of the present year sufficient development will have been done to justify the erection of a mill and cyanide works. As, however, further money was needed, a scheme of reconstruction was sanctioned in January last, providing for the issue of 196,800 shares at par, with power to issue a further 80,000, over which an option at 30s. per share was given for 18 months to the guarantors of the 196,800 shares. The issued capital was £393,000, and it will now be raised to half a million. In spite of this intersection of the reef prospects must be considered very speculative, as it is impossible to forecast what profits can be earned. And even if profits be earned, they must be large to pay a fair dividend on the huge capital.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY.—A cable has been received from the head office in Melbourne stating that the half-yearly meeting has been held there, and that it passed off satisfactorily. In amplification of information already published, the chairman announced that the latest quantity of ore in sight is equal to five years' supply. He added that prospecting work is being vigorously carried on and the company is now sinking Delprat shaft to the 1,200 ft. level, between which and the 800 ft. level the ground is practically intact for the whole length of the mine—4,000 ft. As the result of modifications in the plant, including the introduction of mechanical stokers, there has been a satisfactory reduction in the working costs. The zinc roasting furnace has been completed and is now being put in operation, while the sulphuric acid plant at Broken Hill is said to be doing good work, the output for the half-year being 600 tons. A similar plant is being erected at Port Pirie, with spelter works, and is pushing ahead. In the meantime the first thing requiring attention is the treatment of the zinc residues, as, in addition to enormous dumps, the company is producing at the rate of 9,000 tons of tailings weekly. A resolution was passed increasing the fees of the directors from £3,000 to £4,000 per annum, with £4,000 to be paid as a bonus to the chief members of the staff.

PLANT'S DAY DAWN GOLD MINES.—The report of the directors of this Charters Towers company, covering the year to June 2, states that sinking is now proceeding on the day shift only, the funds available not admitting of more rapid progress at present. Owing to the very depressed times and the inability of many to pay calls, a considerable number of shares have been surrendered to the company. This, together with the fact that 57,900 shares were made paid up by the Brilliant Gold Mining Company and others, now leaves only 34,000 shares to make calls upon, and it may be necessary soon to make some arrangement for increasing the capital. It is argued that as the Day Dawn Freehold Consolidated mine has a well mineralised reef, 4 ft. thick in the bottom of its underlie shaft, and Wallis' Day Dawn to the west is raising good stone, such developments improve the prospects of the Plant's Day Dawn, but something more alluring than this will be needed to draw money out of the pockets of impoverished and reluctant shareholders.

THE KALGOORLIE WAGES QUESTION.—A fortnight ago we dealt with the somewhat critical labour position arising from the differences between employer and employed on the wages question, on the famous Kalgoorlie field of Western Australia. At the end of July, according to the mails to hand, the tension between the mine-owners and the workmen showed no signs of abatement. In fact, the position seemed to be a little worse, as the result of the rejection by the miners of the amended scale of rates submitted by the owners through the medium of the Chamber of Mines. This was a unanimous decision on the part of the union delegates, who were assembled in special meeting at Boulder to consider the amended scale. The delegates were further unanimous in deciding to submit in return a scale of rates required by the unions. As far as can be learned, this scale seems much the same as that embraced in the award about to expire, and authoritatively inspired rumours are circulated to the effect that the workmen are resolved to refuse to accept any less rates

than these, so it looks as if an appeal to the Arbitration Court will have to be made to settle the dispute. According to the Kalgoorlie correspondent of the *W. A. Mining Journal*, the futility of the negotiations between the owners' representatives and the men up to the present has been responsible for the development of a new phase which, in the opinion of a section of the community, has a very practical bearing upon the situation, to wit the intended intervention of the business people of the district, who held a preliminary meeting in Kalgoorlie. "The result of the meeting," says the correspondent, "could be summarised by the stereotyped 'much cry but little wool.' The preliminary discussions lacked an air of unanimity, and on the question as to what would be the best course of action in order fully to achieve the object of the meeting—to range in line with the workers in their fight against any reduction of wages—there was a marked diversity of opinion. Yet the general feeling, as far as could be deduced from the appreciative murmurings which provided the accompaniment to the harangues of the most voluble speakers, was that if the wages question dispute went before the Arbitration Court a reduction in the wages was inevitable. The outlines of several positive resolutions were suggested by some of those who addressed the meeting, but the only definite action taken was the appointment of a committee of twelve (with power to add to their number), the discretionary authority to act according to necessity being included in the motion of appointment. Three of this committee, the recognised business men of Kalgoorlie, were specially deputed to wait on the Chamber of Mines, representing the mine-owners, 'with a view to securing an amicable settlement of the question.'" As the result of several meetings of delegates representing the various workers' unions a letter has been forwarded to the Chamber of Mines rejecting the reduced scale of wages submitted by that organisation after the recent Conference. The letter stated that the unions were prepared "to accept a continuation of the existing industrial agreement for a further period, and also asked that the executive of the Chamber should again meet the men in conference."

MINING IN MEXICO.—We gather from the local newspapers to hand by mail that in all directions considerable vigour is still being displayed in exploiting and developing the gold-mining industry of Mexico. The statement that the American Smelting and Refining Company is negotiating for the purchase of the Torreon smelter has been confirmed by both Mr. W. S. Morse (general manager of the southern department of the American company) and Mr. Ernesto Nadero, president of the Torreon Smelter Company. When questioned respecting the rumour, Mr. Morse said:—"While it is a fact that the American Smelting and Refining Company are negotiating for the smelter in Torreon, no deal of any kind has yet been made. The matter stands in this way. Offers have been made and those offers are being considered. There is absolutely no truth in the report that a deal has been closed. The smelter has not been purchased by our company, the company is simply making an offer for it. At the present time that is the situation." Mr. Ernest Nadero spoke to a similar effect when interviewed. It is understood, though the report is not confirmed, that the offer of the American Smelting and Refining Company is not on a cash basis, but that the proposal is for the Torreon Smelter to go into its hands upon the purchasing company issuing to the Smelting stockholders stock in the American Refining Company. Operations have been resumed on the Santo Domingo mine, at Alamos, Sonora, by the San Bernardo Mining Company. A new boiler, hoisting engine, and gallews frame, have been put in place. The shaft will be sunk 100 ft., the lode will be cross-cut, and then driving north will be commenced, in order to get under the old Antigua workings. It is generally expected that when this work is done the mine will become a payable one, seeing that the old upper workings have produced immense quantities of rich silver ores. This work is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible, day and night, and is expected to reach under the ore shute by the beginning of January.

KALGOORLIE'S GOLD PRODUCTION.—According to the June report of the West Australian Chamber of Mines, the production of gold in the colony to date has amounted to 12,656,593 fine ozs., valued at £53,761,791. Towards this total the East Coolgardie Goldfield, of which Kalgoorlie is the centre, contributed 6,514,615 ozs., or more than 50 per cent. of the output from the whole of the State. During 1904, says the same authority, the East Coolgardie field produced 1,050,922 fine ozs., or over £4,000,000 worth of gold, of which nearly the whole came, of course, from Kalgoorlie. Dividends paid by West Australian mining companies in the first six months of the present year are estimated at £1,068,296, bringing the aggregate distributed to date to £12,640,511. This is a large sum, but it has cost a larger still to get out the gold, if we consider the money lost in the whole of Western Australia since the day when promoters charmed us with pictures of its wealth. Scandals and frauds innumerable have cost the public countless thousands, and may cost them many more, for honesty is a virtue that is not yet rigidly practised. If we could only feel some little assurance that directors and mine managers would think of the shareholders first and themselves second, we could enthuse somewhat over the figures of gold production and dividends we have quoted.

BROKEN HILL MINES.—The correspondent of the *Financial Times*, under date July 26, writes to say that the most recent estimate of the ore reserves of the Barrier mines has caused a good deal of comment locally. Taking all the mines together it is computed that there are from ten to twelve million tons of

sulphides in reserve, in addition to 6 to 6½ million tons of zinciferous tailings. The ore reserves, taken on a fair average basis of metal contents and metal recoveries, represent approximately 1,400,000 tons of recoverable lead and 50 to 60 million ounces of silver, besides the zinc contents. It is estimated that the tailings dumps contain close on one million tons of recoverable spelter, while in addition the treatment of the present disclosed ore reserves will mean over another eight million tons of tailings, worth about 17 per cent. zinc., which should yield over one million tons additional of this metal in the shape of concentrates. Therefore, the gross value of the recoverable metals in sight to-day cannot be placed at less than £50,000,000. The writer adds:—"With lead in the neighbourhood of £14 per ton, silver over 27d. per oz. standard, and spelter about £24, the Broken Hill mines are making very large profits. Seeing the economies adopted during the past few years, it is safe to say that never before in the history of the Barrier since sulphides took the place of carbonates has the position been more solid. The mines, as a whole, are making greater profits than in 1900, when lead rose to £17 17s. 6d. per ton."

BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINING.—Shipments for the first week in August amounted to 6,760 tons, bringing the shipments for the year to date to 201,953 tons. This is about the same as a year ago, but it is expected that the total will exceed last year's aggregate of 342,325 tons. During the past three months the Centre Star and the War Eagle have increased their shipments considerably under the new management, and a further advance in the output is thought probable. The Le Roi experimental concentrator, if run to its full capacity, will by the end of the year have reduced a large tonnage of second-class ore to concentrates, and thus increased the output. Shipments have been resumed by the White Bear, and several new mines are now making contributions to the total.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

AUSTRALIAN JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED

On January 1 last this bank repaid the fifth instalment of the "A" fixed deposit receipts amounting to £253,165, the payment being anticipated by just a year, as it was not due until January 1, 1906, but the action was no doubt judicious seeing that rates of interest for money in London have since fallen. In addition to this, during the six months to June 30 there has been a further reduction of "B" fixed deposits to the amount of £31,457 as well as a transfer of £2,737 to inscribed deposit stock, movements which the directors are no doubt pleased to see. The fixed deposits, "A" and "B" series, now amount to £3,294,324 compared with £3,618,872 and the inscribed deposit stock is the above-mentioned sum of £2,737 larger at £791,004. Notes in circulation, £55,790, are less by £3,295, bills in circulation amount to £100,555 compared with £117,732 and the current account and new fixed deposits reach £1,058,496, an increase of £143,035. On the other side, the cash, investments, and other liquid assets have been reduced by £130,343 to £1,004,502 in consequence of the fixed deposit repayment, and the bills discounted, advances and all other debts are £60,779 less at £4,176,105. Bank premises, £365,789, remain as before. Gross profits in the six months show a small shrinkage of £3,608 to £113,449, but there was a balance of £5,423 brought forward compared with nothing, so that the total revenue comes to £118,872 against £117,057. Management expenses, note and other taxes were a little smaller at £42,060 and interest went down £2,720 to £69,245, so that £7,567 remains, an improvement of £5,108.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Business was a little better for this bank during the six months to June 30 last compared with the corresponding half of 1904 and the profit is returned at £122,518 against £118,817 after providing for bad and doubtful debts, interest on deposits and rebate on current bills. Sum brought forward, however, was £15,833 less at £15,959, because twelve months ago the directors made a special appropriation of £15,521 against bank furniture and fittings account, so that the total credit is £12,132 down at £138,477. Salaries £37,282, rent and other charges £13,632 and income, note and other taxes £3,139 were all on a larger scale and the loss on the working of the Special Assets Trust Company was rather heavier at £28,994. So on the present occasion the transfer to the Special Assets Trust reserve is reduced £3,500 to £5,000, leaving the net balance £11,610 lower at £50,429. The directors, however, again propose a dividend at 3 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, with £5,000 in reduction of premises account and £13,669 carried forward. The above-named Trust reserve now reaches £196,500, but the gap is still a wide one between the deposits of this concern, amounting to £2,987,841, guaranteed by the bank and the assets, estimated to be worth £1,600,000. Of the bank's ordinary liabilities, notes in circulation have been reduced a little at £150,798, but bills in circulation show an increase of £16,447 to £365,250 and the deposits have gone up no less than £460,104 to £3,650,771. Government and ordinary accounts both contributing. On the other side, the "cash assets" add up to

£2,259,671 compared with £2,053,131, the chief movement being an advance of £300,000 to £520,000 in the money at call and short notice. Bills discounted and other advances have been increased £325,456 to £3,969,457 and real estate is a few hundreds higher at £454,369, bank premises being larger in consequence of the opening of additional branches and receiving offices.

BANK OF VICTORIA, LIMITED.

The accounts for the six months ended June 30, including those of the London branch to May 29, show that Government deposits rose by £141,731 to £560,599, and other deposits, including £2,935,000 or £402,697 more in those bearing interest, were £394,092 up at £4,402,966. Notes and bills in circulation also increased by £3,696 and £3,654 respectively to £108,610 and £411,637. The bulk of this additional money was added to coin, bullion and cash at bankers, which was £444,717 higher at £1,267,480, but as investments remained at £186,140 while bills and remittances in transit were £45,612 less at £205,518 and notes and bills of other banks held came to £56,117 or a drop of £22,535, the net increase in cash assets was £386,925 at £1,762,698. Real estate went up by £7,462 to £424,956 and bills discounted and other advances by £149,866 to £4,989,486. In spite of the larger resources at the bank's disposal, gross profits, after providing for interest, rebate on bills and bad and doubtful debts, were practically the same as a year ago at £74,670, and with £11,329 or £1,135 more brought in gave a disposable balance of £85,999 compared with £84,634. Of this current expenses absorbed £37,667 or an increase of £86 and bank note and income-taxes having been paid, the amount available was only £860 larger at £45,588, but after paying the preference dividend the distribution on the ordinary shares is raised from 3½ per cent. to 4 per cent. per annum, and the balance forward is cut down by £1,793 to £13,944.

STEEL COMPANY OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

This company did not do so badly during the year to July 13 last, as although the works were not always employed to their full capacity, the quantity of steel delivered was slightly in excess of the previous 12 months, and the fluctuations in the prices of plates and angles were less frequent than formerly, thanks to the better understanding prevailing amongst the makers. Prices were never high, neither were they reduced by excessive competition to a point below cost. Profit for the year was £91,713 compared with £68,692, and after deducting £33,010 or £10,365 more spent on reconstruction of and additions to plant, the actual net balance was £58,703 against £46,047. Balance brought in was £2,443, and rents came to £1,041, making £62,187, from which total charges reached £30,020, including £14,781 for general expenses, rates, taxes, &c., £2,000 for directors' fees, £12,823 for debenture and other interest, £442 for debenture stock premiums and redemption expenses, and £473 for bad debts. Sum still left is £31,567 which enables the directors to add another £5,000 to reserve and increase the dividend from 2½ per cent. to 5 per cent., carrying forward £4,265. The expenditure on improvements and additions is supposed to constitute depreciation allowance, and there is, therefore, little change in the value of properties shown in the balance-sheet, railways, buildings, machinery, and fixed plant at Hallside being £259,926, and at Blochairn £193,643, lands, sand quarry, and dwelling houses at the two places representing a further amount of £50,754. Loose plant and tools are entered at £59,911, and besides a considerable preponderance of debtors over creditors stocks are valued at £97,709, and cash is £12,246. With the present addition the ordinary reserve will be raised to £80,000, apart from an accident compensation fund of £2,800, and £6,800 paid off during the year brings the total debenture redemption to date to £33,760.

YORKSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY.

The directors of this undertaking have just issued their half-yearly report made up to June 30, and announce good progress in the erection of the works. Since the last statement was issued two turbo generators have been put up and are now working, and it is expected that the third turbo generator, which will complete the present order for generating machinery, will be installed during the autumn. Equipment for sub-stations at Thornhill, Mirfield, Gomersal and Pudsey is practically completed and is now in use, the transmission mains have been laid and the distribution mains and service equipment necessary to connect consumers are being proceeded with. A supply of energy was given to the Mirfield Urban District Council on July 7 and to the Pudsey Corporation on August 23, while the supply to other consumers is being given as their installations are ready. Capital expenditure for the half-year was £78,957, making £226,399 to date, including the outlay incurred in formation, which appears somewhat heavy at £67,522, but £55,254 was received, bringing the total paid up to £243,218, so that the credit to capital account is £16,819. There is also a sum of £25,833 owing to sundry creditors, so that after providing for general and other charges the cash balance stands at £36,387. The directors are of opinion that good opportunities exist for the extension of the company's business into other districts, and therefore seek borrowing powers to the extent of £80,000.

SURREY COMMERCIAL DOCK COMPANY.

This company's interim report, covering the opening half of the current year, shows that business recovered in gratifying

fashion from the setback experienced during the corresponding period of 1904. Then the tonnage of vessels entering the docks showed a decline of 67,788, but the latest statement reveals an increase of 80,917 at the excellent total of 605,162 tons. There was a slight decrease in the vessels laden with wood and firewood, but in every other department the tonnage increased, sundries being up 75,773, coals 7,671, and grain 15,044. As usual the directors recommend dividends at 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary and preference "A" stocks for the six months ended September 30. Reference is made to sundry Bills, that of the L.C.C. for the incorporation of a commission to administer the Port of London being thrown out by the House of Commons on second reading, while certain provisions in the Thames Conservancy Bill, to which the company objected, having been abandoned, the petition against the measure was withdrawn, and it duly received the Royal assent. The Thames Harbour Bill, which proposed to establish a commission for the control of the harbour and the construction of a dam across the river at Gravesend, surely a fantastic scheme, was not allowed to proceed.

FLOATING DOCK COMPANY OF ST. THOMAS, LIMITED.

The directors of this unfortunate venture are pleased to be able to state that the result of the past year's working compared with the previous 12 months shows a substantial improvement. The dock was employed 44 days as against 36, and the tonnage raised was greater, with the result that the revenue from all sources added up to £5,768 compared with £4,104, the amount received for ships docked, painted, &c., being £5,616. Working and other charges absorbed £3,032, insurance premium £171, and directors' fees and administration charges £530, leaving £2,034 or the gratifying improvement of £1,320. So the directors add £437 to the reserve and equalisation of dividends fund, and after providing £76 for income-tax, raise the dividend on the first preference shares from 1½ to 3 per cent. They are called first preference shares, but are the only ones in existence, the second preference and ordinary having been entirely cancelled on the reduction of capital by £114,465, and it is not at all improbable that a lot of the capital still left will presently have to go because nine years ago it was agreed that nothing should be written off dock account for depreciation. It therefore remains at £49,129 not a formidable figure, but possibly a good deal more than the real worth. Reserve and dividend equalisation fund is now £1,209, and the renewals fund £1,045, together £2,254, all invested in tip-top securities. Cash is £3,144, including £2,200 on fixed deposit, and as sundry creditors are light at £312, the company should have no difficulty in keeping itself going.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

This music hall venture was formed as recently as November, 1903, and has already got into troubled water. In the prospectus net profits were estimated at £4,000 to £5,000, and Mr. T. Barrasford, the managing director—he occupies the same position at the unhappy Lyceum—led subscribers to expect a 10 per cent. dividend. Any such return seems a very long way off, because the first year's business has resulted in a loss. No wonder the accounts were not circulated to the press, and the annual meeting held in private. In the 12 months to May 31 the entertainment and refreshment receipts were £22,835, advertisements on programmes gave £175, and transfer fees £8, making £23,019 in all. But the total expenditure reached no less than £25,370, owing to the sums paid for artists having greatly exceeded the directors' calculations, so that the operations have resulted in a net deficiency of £2,351. It is a nice outlook for the shareholders when the board practically admits that it is unable to gauge the cost of providing the entertainment, and it is to be hoped that the artists performed better than the people who engaged them. No wonder the Lyceum is getting near the breaking up stage again. The balance-sheet is naturally a mean-looking affair, the premises account being £85,000, against the share capital and mortgages of £86,000, while £3,196 is due to sundry creditors owing to the debit to profit and loss account. Preliminary expenses still figure as an asset for £583, and cash is £796. What the shareholders had to say to such a position at Tuesday's meeting we have no means of knowing, but doubtless it was very much to the point.

TRADE AND PRODUCE

WHEAT.—Cargo holders have shown a disposition to accept lower rates, especially for white sorts, but buyers have not shown any disposition to take advantage of their magnanimity. Liverpool has again been dull and inactive. It endeavoured to show a firmer front in sympathy with American cables early in the week, but without success, and prices and transactions both remained indifferent. Everywhere the markets have been dull, but up in the north holders of the new wheat are standing out for higher prices for their grain, refusing rather to sell than let it go too cheap. Farmers' deliveries were 88,696 qrs. averaging 21s. 1d. against 31,432 qrs. averaging 29s. 5d. in the same week of last year. Our imports were higher this week, 522,597 qrs. against 561,960 qrs. a year ago, but supplies on passage are smaller, the wheat and flour coming to the United Kingdom being estimated by Dornbusch at 2,190,000 qrs. this week against 2,290,000 qrs. last. Continental trade is irregular and American markets generally were easier under the influence of good crop news. Bradstreet's estimate puts the quantities in sight east

the Rockies at 22,565,000 bushels against 22,868,000 bushels last week.

WOOL.—Peace conditions have roused some anxiety as to what will be the effect upon low and medium wools and as to whether the high prices paid for them are altogether the result of Japanese army contracts. Lincoln wools, for instance, are 1s. 1d. to-day compared with 8d. in January, 1904, and colonial 40's are 16d. or 16½d. compared with 1s. at that same date. It is generally considered, however, that immediate prospects at any rate are fairly hopeful. Business is certainly expanding and it is thought that the renewal of financial confidence on the Continent, where trade has been even more handicapped by the war than here, the prosperity of the United States and a general all round demand will more than compensate the districts so much depending of late upon Japanese army serges and blankets.

LINEN.—Business continues normal and satisfactory from almost every point of view and prices harden from day to day. In yarns weft lines are fully 6d. a bundle higher than a year ago, and even the commonest sorts are held at 4s. 3d. a bundle, the highest level during the last five years. Stocks are limited everywhere, and manufacturers are for the most part working to order. Demand for bleaching linens equals production; unions are better but still checked by the uncertainty of the cotton trade. The housekeeping end continues dull. Foreign trade also is cheerful. Barnsley reports more doing with the United States. Great things are expected of Cuba and South American markets are steady. Canada improves and Continental business keeps only moderate. The acreage of flax sown in Ireland this year is stated at 46,153 acres an increase of 4.2 per cent. over 1904.

COTTON.—The week opened with a bullish tendency, on the receipt of news that was more unfavourable to the crop. In Texas the heat was stated to continue. Accordingly the market for futures recovered from the weakness at the close of the preceding week, with a disposition to take up a waiting attitude pending further news and developments. The count of stock published showed that there were 17,746 bales more American in hand than the then current estimate and 426 bales more Brazilian. On the other hand, there were 4,102 bales less Egyptian, 3,301 bales less West Indian and 2,123 less Surats. These increases and decreases showed that the total stock was 8,646 bales larger than the current estimate, the actual quantity being 738,376 bales, comprising 669,006 American, 9,266 Brazilian, 36,578 Egyptian, 21,259 West Indian, &c., and 3,267 Surats. The trade demand has been very limited and the market dull in consequence. Later a fair amount of business was done in American and rather a larger trade in Egyptian. The proclamation of peace had no effect upon the market; in fact, futures immediately declined in response to New York, and have continued weak.

After opening strong from 8 to 17 points higher on the drought in the south-west there was a slight reaction in New York, followed by a speedy recovery on private bullish crop news, covering by shorts and peace news. This was succeeded by a relapse on disappointing cables and manipulation, then advanced again on the daily weather reports indicating need of moisture in the south-west. Shorts also became scared and bulls supported the market. Subsequently there was another violent drop, followed by a partial recovery, but the situation in New York remains unsettled and uncertain.

In the Liverpool market American futures opened several points up in response to Saturday's advance in New York, and finished higher on balance. The improvement was not maintained, however, for dealings became very limited and quotations weakened. The closing quotations of futures are:—September, 5.69d.; September-October, 5.69d.; October-November, 5.72d.; November-December, 5.74d.; December-January, 5.75d.; January-February, 5.77d.; February-March, 5.78d.; March to May, 5.80d.; May to August, 5.81d.

COAL.—Everywhere but in Lancashire the general opinion of trade is hopeful. The cold, wet August has quickened demand for house coal and there is a talk of discarding lowest summer prices early this month. Gas coals are in ever increasing demand, new contracts being generally taken at from 2d. to 3d. lower than those of last year, but in the north coal owners are quoting 3d. higher for next year's delivery than for the autumn. Best steams in the north keep at 9s. 6d. per ton f.o.b., and the demand for coke is greater than has ever been heard of before. Manufacturers are at present getting 15s. 6d. per ton for medium qualities and expect to get still more. The week has been quiet in Wales, boisterous weather interfering with exports and imports, but prices keep about the same.

COPPER.—At the beginning of the week there was a considerable decline in copper owing to "bear" attacks from New York, which induced realisations. This, however, was quickly followed by some spirited buying, from which quotations smartly recovered, only to relapse again on further heavy selling, which sent prices back considerably. Closing quotations: £70 5s. cash, £70 three months.

TIN.—The course of the tin market has been very similar to that of the copper market, and has seemingly sympathised with its irregularity and fluctuating tendencies. Though at first full prices were cabled from the east these were ignored on the London market, where sellers were in the majority. Afterwards, the price advanced on higher quotations from the east, but was subsequently lower on estimates of full shipments from the

Straits this month. Closing quotations: £147 15s. cash and £147 three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—There is a maintenance of the improving tendency noted last week, with signs of growing activity in all directions. Consumption is decidedly brisker, larger orders for finished iron coming in, so that works are becoming fully engaged. In several trades manufacturers have received instructions from London shipping merchants to proceed with the execution of orders suspended during the conflict in the Far East, orders intended for Japan, Russia and China, these being followed by inquiries for the requisite supplies of iron and steel. Not only has home business improved, but the foreign demand for all descriptions of iron has likewise expanded. Both for steel and iron in the Midlands large orders are under consideration, with prices firmer and northern competition less keen. Pig-iron makers are busy and there is a similar condition of activity in Glasgow. Prices strengthened when some purchases were made on reports that a large quantity of Cleveland hematite had been sold for America, but a slight reaction followed. The market also sympathised with the fall in copper and tin.

TEA.—Prices have again been rather irregular. Fine liquoring teas in the Indian market, where 28,550 packages were offered, commanded a good price, for buyers know that it is a case of now or never in the season, but ordinary grades were decidedly easier. Ceylon sales comprised 27,521 packages and followed the same lines as Indian. Where quality was exceptional prices were firm, elsewhere irregular and sometimes lower. The average on the week for Indian was 8.19d. against 7.42d. last year, for Ceylon 7.02d. against 6.94d. in 1904. Java prices averaged 36d. per lb. lower than last week and some 2,394 packages were offered. Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton, Limited, give the total imports of all teas into the United Kingdom for the year ended May 31. They amounted to 316,109,343 lbs. or 15½ millions more than in the previous twelve months, Indian increase being over 5 millions and Ceylon over 10 millions.

SUGAR.—The suicide of M. Cronier and its effects upon the sugar market have been the most notable and sensational events of the week, but the incident has marked the close of a season which the sugar trade will take leave of with a sense of relief. It began promisingly, but was spoilt partly by narrow regulations made by the trade itself in the conduct of speculation, which reduced the quantities tenderable, created a limited market apart from the general situation and failed to be a true reflection of the world's actual position. At a time when cane sugars were 1s. 6d. below European quotations holders were afraid to operate; a feeling of relief spread even when white sugars were declared tenderable at 1s. to 1s. 6d. below their real value, and a further step in advance will have to be taken, so Mr. Czarnikow thinks, increasing the quantities available and also the range of analyses at a rate representing at least the refining value, if business is not to be curtailed considerably. Had prices not been low M. Cronier's suicide would have affected the market more adversely than it actually did. It placed ready sugar at a discount below next crop values, as it increased the number of holders until prices reached a level at which everybody seems content to wait for the natural trade demand. Stocks in Europe are very low and the stores are empty. America has been practically unchanged. Meltings remain high and stocks are reduced by 12,000 tons, Cuba by 24,000 tons and afloat by 22,000 tons. Shipments in the six ports in the week ending August 30 were 24,000 tons against 11,800 tons, leaving stocks at 201,000 tons compared with 41,926 tons.

CONSULAR TRADE NOTES.

Mr. B. A. Altintop does not tell a very pleasant story of the trade of the consular district of Smyrna during 1904. The year left anything but happy memories behind it, a rather bad time being experienced by those dependent upon agriculture, such staple products as raisins, barley, &c., being below the average, while full compensation could not be obtained from the abundant crops of opium and figs owing to the unremunerative prices realised. Curiously enough, the loss did not fall to any extent on the producers, but on the mercantile classes, who paid the growers fair prices for the produce and then found the consuming markets unsatisfactory. The result was restricted exports and consequent crippled purchasing power on the part of the general public, which is bound sooner or later to reflect on the imports. Fortunately this break in the steady growth of the foreign trade of the port of Smyrna is not thought likely to have any lasting effect on its continuous development, which there is reason to suppose will soon be renewed with vigour. But Custom-House facilities will have to be increased if every advantage is to be taken of the growing trade, loud complaints having been made during the past year against the insufficiency of space at the local Custom houses, the inadequacy of the staff, and the cumbrous and complicated system of service due to all pervading distrust of ill-paid, irresponsible officials holding positions of great trust. British shipping shows a large increase, but the business in cotton piece goods and yarns, which constitutes the mainstay of British trade in the Levant, was seriously disorganised by the sharp fluctuations in the price of raw cotton. No doubt the gambling in cotton hurt us severely, but it may be well to take note of a statement in a local paper that "whereas Great Britain has enormous commercial interests in the piece-goods trade of Turkey, she has not yet decided to

send out a single representative to learn the Turkish language, and thus bring producers and consumers into closer contact." The outlook for 1905 is said to be promising. Barring accidents, the unusually heavy rains and the lateness of the season justify the general expectation that the coming crops will be abundant. A word of praise is given to the English-owned Smyrna to Aidin railway for the increased facilities it is providing.

Trade in the consular district of Barcelona seems to have kept up pretty well during 1904, as although the tendency in the manufacturing centres is for the small factories to go under, that is more than counterbalanced by the large and wealthy manufacturers increasing the size of their premises. The interruptions to trade owing to strikes and labour troubles generally were fewer than in 1903, even though the continually increasing cost of living is becoming a very serious problem to deal with in the case of the working classes. Needless to say, Barcelona is highly protected. Still, British manufacturers and mercantile houses are making efforts to increase their business, although they already possess an enormous predominance in the coal trade. We also maintain pre-eminence in the supply of machinery, and the amalgamation of the firm of Coats with the Spanish house of Fabra gives a practical monopoly of the sewing cotton trade in Spain. During the past year a new mill has been erected at San Andras, a suburb of Barcelona, probably the finest and largest existing in the country, replete with all the latest improvements. This new factory works some 3,000 spindles and employs about 2,000 hands, several of whom are British. Two or three years ago an attempt was made to introduce shipping on the coast, but the results were not satisfactory. As a rule, the steamers and iron and steel sailing ships required are purchased in the United Kingdom, but this year two steamers connected with Barcelona were contracted for abroad, one in Genoa and the other in Kiel. The results obtained, however, were not such as to encourage further departure from the general rule of procuring vessels from British shipyards. Another triumph for British industry.

According to Mr. Wyndham, our consul for the district of Boston, the manufactures and general products of Massachusetts in 1904 amounted in value to £214,061,112, of which no less than 20 per cent. was due to the textile industry. This industry is greater here than in any other state in the Union, and gives employment to 30 per cent. of its wage earners, and although New Hampshire, which is also in Mr. Wyndham's district, is likewise a large cotton state, its trade is now of secondary importance owing to the rapid growth of the boot and shoe trade. Other industries of New Hampshire are lumbering, paper and wood pulp making, and leather tanning, while in Vermont the lumber business predominates, but there are also marble quarries and the manufacture of condensed milk, butter, cheese, and other farm products, all add to the prosperity of the state. The foreign trade of Boston is steadily expanding, the total imports being valued at £17,837,310, or £772,810 more than in 1903, and the exports being £284,987 larger at £18,105,431, notwithstanding a great decrease in food stuffs which have been diverted to the Southern Atlantic ports through differential railway rates granted for grain, &c., from the producing centres in the West to the seaboard. Just how much this diversion means to Boston may be gathered from the fact that whereas in 1900 11,925,415 bushels of wheat, 13,892,525 bushels of corn, and 4,578,168 bushels of oats were shipped from Boston, and in 1901 the exports were 20,084,378, 11,044,197 and 3,979,084 bushels respectively, in 1904 they amounted to no more than 2,671,786, 4,296,095, and 78,722 bushels, and many ships that come to Boston with inward cargoes are now compelled to go to Philadelphia for their outward grain freights. Although this grain trade has been lost to the district the textile and boot and shoe industries have more than filled the gap. No less than 238 cotton mills, employing 17,128 hands, and 122 woollen and worsted mills, with 9,700 hands, are at work, and while the receipts of foreign and domestic cotton dropped from 685,492 to 646,483 bales, the importation of foreign wool rose by 16,514,334 lbs. to 112,058,782 lbs. The boot and shoe trade, too, is a flourishing one, and the output from the three leading cities amounted to 51,683,022 pairs, the cost of which is estimated at 6s. 3d. per pair or £16,150,944, and the selling value at £32,301,888.

Importations into Boston are mainly for consumption in the New England States, as consumers in the West prefer to trade direct with Europe, but even so Boston holds second place in the United States. New York is first with £130,014,590, as that port is a distributing centre for a very wide area, while Boston imported £17,787,310 against £11,103,566 for Philadelphia, £8,950,511 for San Francisco, and £7,396,330 for New Orleans. In the matter of exports Boston ranks fourth with £18,105,431, being beaten by New York's £104,067,471, New Orleans' £30,281,949, and Galveston's £26,179,394. Of the total foreign trade by far the largest part was with England, which took £14,817,508 and sent in £4,772,452, without taking into account the trade done with Scotland and Ireland or with any of the British colonies, all of which are given separately. Germany is our biggest competitor, but falls considerably below our figures, the exports being only £387,677 and the imports £1,265,120. Notwithstanding the large cotton manufactures Great Britain supplied £72,785 worth, chiefly in bleached, dyed, and printed goods, as Swiss lace is preferred to English and Irish and the home-made muslins are so much lower in price as to exclude all but those of special quality. The demand for preserves, and especially for marmalade, is increasing, but makers do not seem to have grasped that fact yet, and are doing nothing to push their wares. More might be done with tea also, although at present.

Japan holds the market, and last year sent in 873,544 lbs. against 711,292 lbs. from China and 448,924 lbs. from India and Ceylon. A marked increase in the consumption of Scotch whisky has taken place, and Mr. Wyndham reports that it is to some extent displacing wine in clubs and restaurants, which should be good news for some of our distillers who have larger stocks than they know what to do with.

During the past year England imported from Boston alone 530,015 pairs of boots and shoes valued at £239,097, Scotland took 59,334 pairs worth £26,526, and Ireland 82,549 pairs worth £27,446, and Mr. Wyndham asks why this demand cannot be supplied by British manufacturers. Many of the factories here are equipped with the best and latest American machinery, but an American manufacturer who visited them found that the iron last was still in use and he gave it as his opinion that if a wooden last were adopted the United Kingdom could make boots and shoes for the world. As it is the American patterns are neater and of a prettier shape, and so the demand is attracted to them. The same complaint is made with regard to this country taking £65,037 worth of indiarubber boots and shoes. Rubber has to be imported into the States, and makers here should therefore be in a good position to compete with the American and with very little trouble could at least retain the home market for themselves.

MINING RETURNS.

Brilliant Extended Gold.—Crushed 3,120 tons for £7,963; cyanide £1,240; total £9,203.

Cecil Syndicate.—Treated 1,200 tons of tailings, value £800.

Day Dawn Block and Wyndham.—Crushed 1,870 tons, 1,454 ozs.; 3,338 tons of tailings, value £2,900.

Eaglehawk Consolidated.—Crushed 820 tons, 333 ozs.; 135 ozs. from cyanide.

Great Eastern Collieries.—Output 18,900 tons.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output of coal, 37,847 tons.

Middleburg Steam Coal.—Sales, 7,433 tons.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 710 tons, 348 ozs.; concentrates 24 tons; value £340.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—Treated 5,000 tons of crude ore, producing 64 tons 12 cwt. fine copper.

North Broken Hill.—1,700 tons crude ore treated, producing 360 tons concentrates, containing 248 tons 8 cwt. lead and 6,480 ozs. silver.

Queensland Menzies.—Crushed 449 tons for 408 ozs.; cyanided 560 tons for 191 ozs.; total, 599 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £8,500; yield per ton, '59 of an oz. troy.

Spassky Copper.—Production, 3,249 poods (52.2 tons).

Tanganyika Concessions.—Ruwe, 446 ozs.

Transvaal Coal Trust.—Output 39,200 tons.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

MINES.

Butters Salvador.—5 per cent. (1s. per share).

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. a share for August.

Oroya-Brownhill.—Interim of 4s. per share, payable Sept. 25.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Frederick Gorringe.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the past half-year.

Glasgow District Subway.—At the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended July 31, carrying forward £1,405.

Kayser, Ellison, and Co.—Final of 7s. 6d. per share on the ordinary shares, making 12½ per cent. for the year ended June 30.

Pyle and Blaina Works.—Final of 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year.

Pontypool Gas and Water.—Interim on the £12 and A shares, at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum; and on the £10, B and C shares, at 4½ per cent. per annum.

Prince Line.—For the half-year ended June 30 of 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year.

Santa Catalina Nitrate.—Third quarterly of 3 per cent. on account of profits for the current financial year.

Sheepbridge Coal and Iron.—Final of 5 per cent., making 7½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ending June 30.

Smith, Garrett and Co.—Final of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year ending June 30, placing £40,000 to suspense account, and carrying forward £9,643.

Staveley Coal and Iron.—Final of £4 10s. per share on A and C shares and 15s. per share on B and D shares, making 11½ per cent. for the year ending June 30.

Stewarts and Lloyds.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, payable on Sept. 29.

Wisbech Lighting.—3s. per certificate, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Wisbech Waterworks.—For the past year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

The District Railway on Sunday last commenced running a new service of electric trains from Wimbledon and Putney through London to Whitechapel. With the exception of the Inner Circle service and the London and North-Western trains, the whole of the various services run by the District Railway are now being worked electrically.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and August 26, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to August 26, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to August 27, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	13,490,000	14,502,000
Excise	30,200,000	11,527,000	11,916,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	5,661,000	4,869,000
Stamps	8,000,000	3,154,000	2,803,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	520,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	4,759,000	5,107,000
Post Office	16,500,000	5,230,000	5,050,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,670,000	1,570,000
Crown Lands	470,000	170,000	170,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	674,573	608,422
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	585,737	624,337
*Revenue	142,454,000	47,321,310	47,799,759
Total, including balance.		54,751,588	52,063,601
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		300,000	250,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		—	230,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		410,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		8,900,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	500,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..		—	12,000,000
Total		64,701,588	75,527,591
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	47,321,310	47,799,759
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	58,629	65,155
Excise	5,291,000	1,438,851	1,431,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	1,759,839	1,811,242
Total	9,756,000	3,257,319	3,308,070
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	50,578,629	51,107,829

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Aug. 26, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Aug. 27, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 11,599,721	£ 11,742,412
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	669,750	669,114
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,304,000	38,965,593	44,159,554
Expenditure	142,084,000	51,467,239	56,803,290
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		220,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		90,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		500,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		300,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		1,663,000	855,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		105,000	76,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		159,586	—
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	3,450,000
Total		55,427,825	71,529,290
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Aug. 26. 1905.	£ 8,470,308	£ 3,202,272	£ 3,998,301
Aug. 27. 1904.	803,455	796,029	—
Total		64,701,588	75,527,591

The Investors' Review

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The Investors' Review.

The Debts of the World.

Every year the *Stock Exchange Official Intelligence* gives a table headed the "National Debts of the World." Like most tables of statistics it is a forbidding-looking compilation, out of which little instruction is to be gathered without taking into account a multitude of supplementary facts which no statistician can get together. As the table stands, moreover, it is incomplete, and we have been hoping, year after year, to see it remodelled. For one thing the debts of all British colonies and of India are left out of account, and also we cannot find in the table any statement of the debt borne by the population of the United States of Brazil, nor is the Chinese debt, or the Cuban, included in the latest tables issued. From various points of view, therefore, the exhibit is imperfect, and we should like to see it remodelled so as to contain figures relating to the public indebtedness of every civilised or semi-civilised country in the world. It would be better for statistical purposes to include the entire debts of the various portions of the British Empire in a summary fashion, so that students might be enabled to form some conception of the growth of public burdens the world over. We should like also to see local obligations—municipal, county, provincial—all swept into the summaries, so as to provide material for students of sociology and human well-being. Not that very much can be inferred off-hand from the figures in their condensed shape, however complete they are; still, they would help in providing the means for intelligent discussion of the interesting problem, growing every year more urgent of solution, and stimulate sociologists to try and grasp what this fettering of communities may mean to civilisation. It goes an apace, and, one would think, must have injurious consequences in many directions, consequences that statesmen cannot ignore any more than the would-be public benefactor.

From the figures as they stand, and in their imperfection, we gather that the public debts of the 32 countries embraced in the summary tables, increased between 1893 and 1903 by no less than £739,000,000, the aggregate being £5,652,000,000 at the latest date given. If we add into this table about £440,000,000, the amount to that date of the debt contracted by our various colonies, self-governing and other, and about £530,000,000 representing the imperial and railway debts of India, together with £67,000,000 representing the foreign debts of Brazil, £56,000,000 that of China, and £7,000,000 for Cuba, we get an aggregate total of upwards of £6,700,000,000, and even then the whole of the facts are not included.

Can any human mind form a definite conception of the meaning of a burden of, say, seven thousand million pounds, upon the communities affected? It cannot have a good effect upon the masses of the people who bear the charges, but do not enjoy the fruits, of these debts, because the debt, whatever its amount, represents a greater or less mortgage upon their labour, upon the productive power of the masses. At merely 3 per cent. this debt would absorb in interest above 5s. per week out of the earnings of about 13,000,000 of

workers. Can it be the case that through means of these public debts and of other instruments, whereby men are put in pawn to certain limited classes amongst the various communities more and more dominant in the affairs of what may be called the money-lending states, races are being pressed down, or at the very best prevented from ascending in the scale of civilisation? No answer to this question can be given through an examination of such figures as those relating to the per head weight of public debt upon a community. Before one could put any definite construction upon these figures it would be necessary to analyse the circumstances under which the debt has been raised, the objects to which the money has been devoted, the character of the population, the extent to which its mastery over the forces of nature has been developed through the use of tools or machinery, the productiveness of the soil, and whether the debt is held at home or abroad. France, for example, looks enormously over-burdened with a debt of £28 5s. 2½d. per head, which is how the figure worked out for 1903. By comparison, our own public debt of £18 11s. 4d. per head looks light, and the debt of Portugal at £34 1s. 11d. per head a deadly load. We cannot, however, generalise in this fashion, and for several reasons. The debt of France is unquestionably oppressive, and its consequences must be hurtful to the comfort of the great mass of the population, but it is not so purely a dead weight burden as our own debt, because some considerable portion of it represents money spent upon works of public utility, whereas our National Debt is entirely a product of wars, whether of conquest or mistaken quixotism like the Crimean War. For the whole of our public debt, therefore, the bulk of the people get no direct return whatever, whereas in the case of France more than half the entire amount raised appears to have been devoted to public undertakings, remunerative or other. Another kind of problem is presented by the debt of Portugal, which stands highest of all as a per head burden upon a small and by no means wealthy people. This debt must be more hurtful to the population of that little kingdom than either the French or the British debt, because so much of it is held abroad. Its total increased by more than £20,000,000 between 1893 and 1903, and is now about £174,000,000, of which one may reckon that quite £130,000,000 is held by foreign creditors. It thus constitutes an oppressive drain upon the product of the people's labour, and must tend to impoverish the whole country, no matter how industrious its workers may be. It also leads to recurring defaults and compositions with the public creditor—compositions out of which the financier class may make fortunes at the expense of debtor and creditor alike.

The nations of the world are divided into two classes, creditor nations and debtor. It is by the creditor nations that this system of enslavement, through the creation of public debts, has been brought to its present perfection, and the prospect is by no means a cheerful one for those who desire to see mankind as a whole advancing in civilisation and the enjoyment of an increasing share in the advantages brought to mankind by modern inventions and their consequent increased control over the forces of nature. But how many creditor nations are there? In reality only two of supreme importance, Great Britain and France. Holland is doubtless in the same category, and Belgium likewise. Isolated groups of citizens, moreover, in Germany, Italy, Austria, and even Spain and Russia, may hold certain portions of the debts of countries foreign to them, the aggregate of which might mount up to a considerable total, but it is to London and Paris that every other country has to resort in the first instance, and almost exclusively, when it wants to put itself in pawn. Of late the United States has taken some share in this business of international enslavement, and the German Empire is likewise ambitious to enter the charmed circle, but neither of these countries is financially strong enough to be able to compete against England and France. There is only too much

reason to believe that the loans of Japan, for example, which New York has partly subscribed within the past twelve months may find their lodgment in London after a time, either in part or altogether. The New York financiers make a profit by their underwriting, but the bulk of the stock they contract to take up gradually filters over here.

It is, therefore, true that England and France are the head centres of this system of finance whereby all countries aiming to be civilised and to make progress are brought into and kept in bondage to the usurer. From some points of view the part thus played by our own country and the French Republic is not a noble one, but neither is it one to be denounced as evil unless when the wealth of the two leading countries is freely bestowed, for a consideration of course, upon other countries, to be wasted by them in waging war. Then, from many points of view, the business of the moneylender seems to us nothing short of mischievous. We must, however, take the evil with the good, and recognise that, in the long run, it is possible that the good may outweigh the evil. Where debt is raised in order to enable a country to open up its territories by railways, to increase its productiveness by irrigation canals, to improve its harbours and waterways, to create a new industry or half-a-dozen of them, then the result ought to be beneficial even to the community laid under obligation to the usurer, provided the pawning is not carried to excess. And a good deal of the modern indebtedness has taken this shape. It is so with our own dependencies in great part. The money may not have been wisely expended; there may be waste, speculation, downright robbery, but works are completed, and do increase the resources of the countries in which they are placed, so that the burden of the debt is to some extent taken off. It is always, however, a burden upon labour, and where the interest paid upon the loans has to leave the country in the shape of the produce of that labour exported and sold in foreign markets, the result must be, at the very best, a check to enduring progress; at the worst, social misery, discontent, and possible revolution.

In our view, the end of this system of debt accumulation upon the backs of the toilers the world over must be more or less universal revolt, an upheaval from below that may now and then dissolve society. We have seen what has been going on in Russia since the beginning of the present year. The strikes of workmen there, the risings of the peasantry, the almost universal symptoms of rebellion, are merely the natural fruits of the deadly injury inflicted upon the country by the extent to which it has been exploited in the interests of the foreign creditor. In some countries the population appears to be so tame, so beaten down and enslaved, as to be incapable of anything like revolt. It meekly submits to all exactions, and trudges along to the grave without hope or ambition. But we are not sure that this is not a worse state of mind in the long run as security for the foreign creditor than a state of active discontent and seeming revolt, for it implies the coming of that inanition, that deadly decay which fell upon the outlying provinces of the old Roman Empire, whether the western or the eastern, as consequence of the same system of bondage less scientifically applied. It was the exactions of men like the patriot Brutus, with his lendings through intermediaries at 48 per cent. to towns in Asia Minor, that contributed to make that fair and fertile land the desert it is to-day. As one looks upon the past history of nations and notes how they have been, as it were, wiped out by the usurious exactions of those who got power over them, it is impossible not to fear that the fruit of our countrymen's zeal in loan issuing must one day be a decay of empires more far-reaching and irremediable than anything past history exhibits. The process of exhaustion appears to be slow when we look forward; its symptoms can be discussed for generations, but when the end comes, and we can look back, the retribution may seem to have come only too swiftly, and the ruin may be complete.

German Trade in 1904.

Often it would seem as though the natural law of action and reaction being equal has no counterpart in economics, as the depression following a boom is so much greater and more widespread than the few brief hours of apparent prosperity preceding it. Such, at least, has been Germany's sad experience of recent years. On the heels of the mad outburst of speculation in 1899-1900 trod a crisis which hit German trade and commerce very hard, and brought in its train much misery and dull times. Throughout 1901 the outlook in nearly every direction was black and gloomy, and though the next year saw here and there a few glimpses of light, improvement was slow and uncertain, and through 1903 a fear was ever present in the minds of merchants and manufacturers that the small gain might be succeeded by a greater loss. Fortunately this fear was not realised, and the results for 1904 marked a considerable and satisfactory advance on those of its immediate forerunners, and resembled in many ways 1898, the last year of legitimate expansion in the era that led up to the boom. There were certainly a few dark clouds still left, the most noticeable being that overhanging the iron, steel, and allied industries, but on the whole business was distinctly better and displayed a healthier tone that seemed to augur well for the near future at any rate. To quote from the last report of Mr. Oppenheimer, our Consul-General at Berlin, "the ordinary barometers of the economic life, such as the railway traffic, the yield of the income-tax, the total of the issues at the Stock Exchange, the Bank rates, all show improved figures." Moreover, as Mr. Oppenheimer points out, this change for the better has taken place notwithstanding the fact that the economic development of a number of countries, with which the commercial intercourse of Germany is closely bound up has been far from satisfactory. From this it would appear that the improvement has been largely domestic, economic conditions having become more consolidated throughout the country. Possibly the best way to gauge this is to examine the income-tax returns for 1903 and 1904. In 1903 the number of persons liable to pay the tax was 3,897,782, and the yield 186,358,311 marks on an aggregate of incomes amounting to 9,091 millions of marks. Last year the number of persons liable had risen to 4,133,539, an increase of 6 per cent., the yield to 191,230,947 marks, an increase of 4.2 per cent., and the aggregate to 9,470 millions of marks, or 2.6 per cent. more than in 1903. Moreover, the tax is a progressive one, and as the increase in the percentage of the yield is greater than that of the aggregate, it follows that the largest expansion must have taken place among the lower grades of income or, in other words, the yield has been swollen by the creation of new small incomes liable to taxation rather than by the augmentation of those previously in existence.

Yet at the same time the statistics show a steady and pleasing development in foreign trade, imports and exports alike having risen during the year under review. The imports totalled 488,860,000 met. centners, worth 6,789,000,000 marks, and compared with those of 1903 were in value 467,000,000 marks and in quantity 18,500,000 met. centners higher, while if the comparison be made with 1902 the increases are respectively 983,000,000 marks and 55,500,000 met. centners. Certain commodities it is true showed signs of decreasing both in weight and value, but this in every case was not a bad sign; the chief fall, for instance, was in corn, the imports of which, thanks to the good home harvests, fell 3,700,000 met. centners. Tar, asphalt, wool, and cattle also decreased, but all other groups increased. The exports, owing to the smaller volume of trade in iron and iron goods, did not display such remarkable expansion as the imports, their total volume being 388,540,000 met. centners and their value 5,259,000,000 marks. Still notwithstanding that the iron group fell 7,100,000 met. centners below 1903, and that there was also a decrease of 3,200,000 met. centners in groceries, the total value was

129,000,000 marks higher, while the volume was 5,700,000 met. centners greater than in the previous years. Probably the fact that the existing commercial treaties with various other nations were known to be drawing to a close may have had something to do with the big increase in the imports, yet even allowing for this there can be no question that a change for the better has for the time being come over German commerce. It may be mentioned that this year's figures will certainly be affected by the expiration of these treaties, since the new ones which come into force on March 1, 1906, are far less favourable to importers. Under them the Customs duties are to be increased, and this has given a momentary stimulus to trade, for manufacturers are naturally anxious to get as much benefit from the, comparatively speaking, low rates now in force. The operation of the new treaties is generally viewed with considerable anxiety in mercantile circles, and the fictitious activity now present will only serve to accentuate the difference in the conditions existing under the old and new tariffs.

But what is the reason of this return to prosperity? In Mr. Oppenheimer's opinion it is due almost entirely to the syndicates which have sprung up like mushrooms throughout the Empire. They have, he contends, regulated supply and demand, prevented that anarchy of production so frequently indulged in by unfettered trade when times are good, and brought the country back to a state of convalescence in a far shorter time than if they had not existed. Probably they have, but in doing so they have not eradicated the germs of the old disease, and may indeed have sown those of a far greater one. For in Germany the formation of the manufacturers' syndicates has been followed by selling syndicates, and the two together, as Mr. Oppenheimer himself admits, have practically wiped out free and independent commerce. The original bands of plunderers were content to control the output of their members and with trampling on any independent concerns that dared to compete with them. Each individual firm within the magic circle was allowed to produce a fixed quantity and no more of iron, coal, leather, or whatever it might be, the quota being fixed by the decree of the controlling committee, and woe betide the firm that disobeyed. This arrangement naturally lifted prices up, and the middlemen after a time began to see their profits grow beautifully less, until rather than let them vanish altogether they also formed syndicates to buy up the whole or the greater portion of the output of the original combinations. Now the consumer has a hard time indeed, as prices have soared higher than ever. The selling bureaux have not only to recoup themselves for the exactions of the producers, but also want a handsome profit on the transaction—and they get it—while the poor consumer grins and pays. Mr. Oppenheimer himself recognises the danger that underlies these combinations of manufacturers and sellers, tinged as his views are, we fancy, by the Zollverein heresy. The producing syndicates will slowly but surely annihilate the healthy competition which is the very life blood of a strong and expanding trade, and check the spirit of enterprise so necessary to economic progress. For when production is fixed, made inelastic by pains and penalties of various degrees, the individual firm loses its desire to fight for the markets, its initiative and its interest in improved methods of manufacture, as it knows full well that should it adopt them it will reap no benefit. Moreover, the price of one unit of the combine is the price of all, as the consumer quickly finds. Had syndication stopped here it would have been bad enough, but when it is carried a step further, when the retailers, too, band themselves together to shear the ultimate buyer a little closer, the situation becomes atrocious and the future fraught with grave dangers. The middlemen combinations, or selling bureaux, move prices to an even higher level than that which they would attain under the influence of the manufacturing syndicates alone, inasmuch as any advance the latter make

is intensified by the retailers. What will it end in? For a time no doubt the consumer will be able to stand the strain. Wages will remain fairly constant and employment fairly steady so long as no abnormal circumstances arise. But a day will come when the industrial development of the country must in the natural course of events slacken, and then the crisis promises to be even more disastrous than that following on the boom of 1899-1900. Wages may, probably they will not, remain at their previous level, but there will be fewer earning them; for at the first sign of a check the soulless syndicates of producers will assuredly cut down the output of each individual, though not prices. The rest can be left to the imagination of the people here. Let them exercise it and realise that under the shadow of Protection alone can these combinations, like evil fungi, flourish.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE PEACE TREATY.

Pending the ratification of the Russo-Japanese Peace Treaty by the respective rulers, which must take place within 50 days, it is rather improbable that the terms will be officially given to the world, but there seems no reason to doubt the accuracy of the version cabled to the *Paris Matin* by its correspondent at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The conditions appear to us to be thoroughly satisfactory, and will, we trust, prove the basis of a lasting peace between the two nations. They will be so if determination is shown to honourably carry out the obligations of the treaty, and while Russia must renounce for ever her ambition to be a great Far Eastern Power, we shall hope and expect to see the Japanese people utilise the opportunity which the fortune of war has given them in a manner that will at once be of benefit to themselves and to the other nations of the world. Some people profess to discern the seeds of a renewal of the trouble in the seemingly long period allowed for the evacuation of Manchuria—eighteen months—declaring that the end of this time will still find Russian troops in evidence, but we hesitate to believe the Petersburg authorities guilty of any such dishonest intention. The length of time allowed is merely evidence, to our mind, that the Japanese realise to the full the immense difficulty of moving home, and finding accommodation for, an army of perhaps half a million men, and has no desire to harass or distrust her beaten enemy and new-found friend. The peace treaty was signed at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, at ten minutes to four on September 6, 1905, just about nineteen months from the time war broke out, and we think it may be useful to put the terms of such an historic document on record:—

TERMS OF THE TREATY.

The Peace Treaty opens with a preamble reciting that His Majesty the Autocrat of all the Russias and His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, desiring to close the war now existing between them, and having appointed their respective plenipotentiaries, and furnished them with full powers, which have been found to be in form, have come to an agreement as to a Treaty of Peace, and have arranged as follows:—

Article 1.—The first article stipulates for the re-establishment of peace and friendship between the Sovereigns of the two Empires and between the subjects of Russia and Japan respectively.

Article 2.—His Majesty the Emperor of Russia recognises the preponderant interest, from political, military, and economic points of view, of Japan in the Empire of Korea, and stipulates that Russia will not oppose any measures for its government, protection, or control that Japan will deem necessary to take in Korea in conjunction with the Korean Government; but Russian subjects and Russian enterprises are to enjoy the same status as the subjects and enterprises of other countries.

Article 3.—It is mutually agreed that the territory of Manchuria shall be simultaneously evacuated by both the Russian and Japanese troops, both countries being concerned in this evacuation, and their situations being absolutely identical.

All rights acquired by private persons and companies shall remain intact.

Article 4.—The rights possessed by Russia in conformity with the lease to Russia of Port Arthur and Dalny, together with the lands and waters adjacent, shall pass over entirely to Japan; but the properties and rights of Russian subjects are to be safeguarded and respected.

Article 5.—The Russian and Japanese Governments engage themselves reciprocally not to put any obstacles in the way of the general measures, which shall be alike for all nations, that China may take for the development of the commerce and industry of Manchuria.

Article 6.—The Manchurian railway shall be operated jointly between the Russians and the Japanese at Kwang-cheng-tse. The respective portions of the line shall be employed only for commercial and industrial purposes.

In view of Russia keeping her line with all the rights acquired by her convention with China for the construction of the railway, Japan acquires the mines in connection with such section of the lines as falls to her. The rights of private parties or private enterprises, however, are to be respected.

Both parties to this Treaty remain absolutely free to undertake what they may deem fit on the expropriated ground.

Article 7.—The Russians and the Japanese engage to make a junction of the lines which they own at Kwang-cheng-tse.

Article 8.—It is agreed that the lines of the Manchurian railway shall be worked with a view to ensuring commercial traffic between them without obstruction.

Article 9.—Russia cedes to Japan the southern portion of Sakhalin Island, as far north as the 50th degree of north latitude, together with the island depending thereon.

The right of free navigation is assured in the bays of La Pérouse and Tartary.

Article 10.—The tenth article deals with the situation of Russian subjects in the southern part of Sakhalin, and stipulates that Russian colonists shall be free and have the right to remain, without changing their nationality. Japan, on the other hand, shall have the right to force Russian convicts to leave the territory ceded to her.

Article 11.—Russia shall make an agreement with Japan giving Japanese subjects the right to fish in Russian territorial waters in the seas of Japan, Okhotsk, and Behring.

Article 12.—The two high contracting parties engage to renew the Commercial Treaty existing between the two Governments prior to the war in all its vigour, with slight modifications of detail and the most-favoured-nation clause.

Article 13.—The Russians and Japanese reciprocally engage to exchange prisoners of war, paying the real cost of the keep of the same, such cost to be supported by documents.

Article 14.—This Treaty shall be drawn up in two languages—French and English—the French text being evidence for the Russians, and the English for the Japanese. In case of difficulty in interpretation the French document will be decisive.

Article 15.—The ratification of this Treaty shall be signed by the Sovereigns of the two States within fifty days after the signature of the Treaty. The French and American Embassies shall be the intermediaries between the Japanese and Russian Governments, and will announce by telegraph the ratification of the Treaty.

Additional Articles.—The following two additional articles have been agreed to:—

1.—The evacuation of Manchuria by both armies shall be completed within eighteen months from the signing of the Treaty, beginning with the retirement of the troops of the first line. At the expiration of eighteen months the two parties will only be able to leave as railway guards 15 soldiers to every kilometre of the line.

2.—The boundary which limits the parts owned respectively by Russia and Japan in Sakhalin shall be definitely marked off on the spot by a special Boundary Commission.

THE NEW ANGLO-JAPANESE TREATY.

No details of this important document have yet been made public, and all we know is that it exists and has been signed. Speculation as to its scope and its provisions seems therefore rather futile. The changes in the political situation in the Far East brought about by the war and clinched by the treaty just made at Portsmouth, U.S.A., have practically reduced the Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902 to a dead letter, and it was a foregone conclusion that sooner or later some fresh arrangement would be made. Korea, the guarantee of whose integrity was one of the main features of the old agreement, has now become in fact, if not in name, a province of Japan, while Russia, so far as the practical politics of the Far East are concerned, is for the time being out of the arena. China certainly remains, but in a few years' time, when Japanese influences begin to make themselves felt, it will be a very different China from what it is now or has been in the past. Probably it was the possibilities underlying China's future

which induced our Foreign Office to enter so hurriedly into this new treaty with the latest star in the political heaven, a treaty which may in time do infinite harm to Great Britain. For, if rumour has not lied for once, the new agreement contains a clause which enables either of the contracting parties to call on the other in case of attack by some other one Power, instead of as in the 1902 arrangement an attack by a second Power when already at war. Another feature report puts into the treaty is the limitation of spheres of influence, those feeble creations of modern diplomacy and the cause of more trouble and annoyance than almost anything the Chancelleries have invented. However, the text will set all these speculations at rest, and until it appears the only thing to be done is to possess our souls with patience.

But was a closer and more binding alliance necessary? We say "No," differing therein from a good many people. An understanding between the two nations is certainly necessary and most desirable, but this could have been attained without recourse to pens and ink and the language of statesmen. When agreements between nations require to be set out in black and white they incline to become rigid and to remove from the relations of the parties that power of expansion and adaptability which enables a change in circumstances and conditions to be met with the least possible friction. Moreover, there is always a tendency to construe a treaty according to the strict letter of the document containing its terms, even though the point to be settled was not, and could not have been, provided for when the treaty was made. In the case of the present treaty, if rumour is correct, the clause that seems to us most likely to cause trouble is the one providing for mutual assistance in case of attack by a third Power. Japan, it is true, has borne her victories with surprising modesty, yet at the same time she has the consciousness of having measured her strength against one of the mighty nations of the West and won. This knowledge will undoubtedly affect her dealings with other Western powers, and if she undertakes the reorganisation and emancipation of China, as she means to do, a quarrel with some of the land-grabbing European countries located there is by no means outside the pale of possibilities. Should such a thing occur, what would be our position? Would we have to go to our ally's assistance willy-nilly, endangering our commerce by a war with one of our neighbours? If so, we should pay dearly for our alliance, for while Japan would be operating far away from her enemy's main bases, we should be in the unhappy position of having our foes on the threshold. And, besides, if we were involved in a war as well as Japan, where would the latter find the wherewithal to carry it on?

AN ECHO OF THE WESTRALIAN SCANDALS.

In his annual report to his Government, the Agent-General for Western Australia (Mr. Walter James) deals at some length with the inquiries by the Royal Commission into the Boulder Deep Levels and Boulder Perseverance affairs, with its report thereon, and with the effect it had upon mining circles in London. At the annual meeting of the Great Boulder Perseverance Company last February, Sir West Ridgeway, the chairman, spoke rather bitterly on some of the findings and opinions of the Royal Commission, especially on the accusations made against certain directors. Afterwards, readers may remember, the directors of the same company submitted the report of the Royal Commission, together with some additional evidence, to the Right Hon. Sir John Bonser, K.C.M.G., who expressed himself to the effect that there was nothing to justify such charges against the present directors of the company. The Agent-General accordingly severely criticises Sir John Bonser, saying:—"As Sir John Bonser was a judicial member of the Privy Council, I was surprised that he should have been mixed up in such a matter, and have allowed the weight naturally attaching to his judicial position to be used to

convey the impression that his opinion was a judicial one, following upon a judicial inquiry." For Sir John's opinion was immediately published, and was evidently treated by the directors as a complete personal exoneration. "As, however," the Agent-General says, "we were not concerned with individuals, but with practices, I did not deal with this exoneration, though I fully anticipated that at the ensuing general meeting of shareholders it would be used, not only as a defence of the directors mentioned, but as a means of closing the incident, and thereby leaving matters in the position they were before the Commission sat." This appeared to him most undesirable, so he wrote personally to a certain newspaper dissenting emphatically from Sir West Ridgeway's advice to let the past alone, and to avoid recriminations, while he was anxious to prevent the real question being obscured by the personal exculpation given by Sir John Bonser to the Perseverance directors. Being disinclined to let the matter drop at a stage where there were indications that some good might result from further action, the Agent-General decided to send to the directors of West Australian companies and others interested in the industry a letter requesting their opinions upon the best method of carrying out the recommendations of the Commission. The letter was sent to about fifty persons, and several replies were received, copies of which Mr. James has sent to his Government. He pays a high tribute to the support given by the London Press to the findings of the Commission. "There can be little doubt," he says, "that had it not been for this support, the reports would have been ignored or discredited. As it is, the responsibility is now recognised as resting with London methods, and the honesty of the State in its efforts to expose scandals and endeavours to check them has been most widely approved. I am afraid, however, that our market is not yet free from troubles which may depress it; but the air is undoubtedly clearer, and the way of the manipulator made much more difficult." Well, perhaps the air is clearer, but, unhappily, it is still insufferably murky and unwholesome. And if the way of the manipulator is much more difficult, it is not because he has become more honest, but because the public are more cautious, and, may we add, some portions of the financial Press more awake to the machinations of these gentlemen.

NON-DIVIDEND KALGOORLIE MINES.

A correspondent has drawn our attention to a letter which has recently appeared in the *Glasgow Evening Times*, under the above heading, and thinks it gives us a good text from which to preach an instructive sermon. He himself scoffs at the letter, as expressing the sentiments and exposing the ignorance of the "typical mining investor." It certainly does to a lamentable degree, and no one could feel indignant with the "knowing" individual who bubbled over with laughter on reading the strange effusion. In these quiet, holiday times it will be as well, perhaps, to reprint this letter, and act on our correspondent's advice to enlighten those who may be suffering from similar delusions. So here it is:—

SIR,—Many of these mines continue in the most unsatisfactory manner, and although a large number of them have been developing for the past ten years yet there are no signs of regular monthly crushings being commenced, consequently it must be in the distant future before many of these mines, such as Great Boulder Main Reef, North Boulder, Paringa, &c., are placed on the dividend-paying list. Mines that pay no dividends are of little use to mining investors.

There can be no question about it but that the Kalgoorlie goldfield is by far the richest in the world. Then why is it that so many of these mines have up to the present been a complete failure? It seems to me, considering that many of them having been developed for the past 10 years, and also considering the richness of such mines as the Great Boulder Proprietary, Golden Horseshoe, Kalgurli, and others, that if the development of these non-dividend mines had been carried out on an active policy, instead of being developed at a snail-pace policy, many of them would probably have been paying dividends long before this. If only about a dozen of these could commence paying dividends within the next six months, what a tremendous impetus it would give to the mining industry of Western Australia. A

large number of mining investors seem to think that until they commence regular monthly crushings there will be no improvement. Whenever a large number of the shareholders are dissatisfied with the position of a mine the first thing they should turn their attention to is

A COMPLETE CHANGE OF DIRECTORS.

The plain reason why so many mines have not commenced regular crushings after being in existence for several years is—they have nothing to crush. Managers and directors would only be too delighted to crush if they could find any ore, but if ore is not discoverable after years of searching, what are the poor fellows to do? They cannot create it, and "salting" is a risky and non-paying business; but as long as they can find shareholders to pay their fees and salaries why should they not go on developing, or even pretending to develop? How many directors are there who would voluntarily and magnanimously give up a good fat fee when they can get it for nothing? Human nature is not made of that kind of clay—at any rate, not the peculiar nature of the average guinea-pig. Because a promoter or a vendor chooses to describe a hole in the ground as a mine is not necessarily proof that there is gold in it. That is why in the course of years so many "mines" have had to be abandoned when directors have found it impossible to raise any more money from destitute shareholders. When that source of income dries up there is no profit to be gained by attending board meetings, so the gentlemen merely go about their business and look round for the next remunerative job. The idea of the writer that some mines, after dragging on an existence for many years, are likely to become dividend-payers in the remote future is very quaint. If a mine has not proved itself a profitable venture after ten years of development work, shareholders would, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, be well advised to abandon all hope of dividends, and to write off their losses. The capital already sunk in such has been unremunerative for ten years, and even were any dividends paid they would never be likely to make up for that long waiting. "Mines that pay no dividends are of little use to mining investors." Quaint again. But these are just the companies whose shares the market gambler best likes, for he can then talk glibly and alluringly of "prospective merits," "intrinsic values," and so on, and thus tempt the mug to buy. A genuine mining investor would not put his money into any other than a proved paying mine, administered by respectable and honest directors. If he sinks it in an unproved, undeveloped property he well deserves what his folly will be sure to bring him. In some parts of it the Kalgoorlie goldfield is undoubtedly exceedingly rich, but it is not true to say it is the richest goldfield in the world. All the rich gold seems to be concentrated in one tiny spot—locally called the Golden Mile—and it is ridiculous, of course, to argue that because half-a-dozen or so good mines have been opened up here there ought to be room for many more dozens equally as rich. If anybody is to be blamed for this it is Nature—and we cannot control Nature's vagaries. We have to trust to luck in our search for the exact spot where she has hidden the best of her treasures, and those who fail to tumble on the magic place must resignedly accept their fate. This is the simple answer to the question as to why so many mines have failed to find gold and to commence monthly crushings. It has nothing to do with active or snail-pace policies. The one and only practicable policy is to dig and search, for speed will not call forth gold where gold is not. The Great Boulder Main Reef, the North Boulder, the Paringa, and others will not become Golden Horseshoes and Kalgurlis by speedy working only, if they have not the rich reefs that have been and are being worked in these more fortunate mines. The rest of the letter is absurd. Naturally most of us would be pleased if a dozen failures could suddenly pay dividends, but wishes will not alter dismal facts. If there is nothing but mud and rock in a mine how on earth can it earn dividends? Of course there will be no improvement until gold is

found in payable quality and quantity. Mills cannot crush air, and it is better to keep them idle than break road stones with them. To argue that there will be no improvement until there is an improvement, as the writer practically does, exposes his deficiency as a logician. A mere change of directors would not alter the condition of a mine—would not make poor ore rich and payable. Such a suggestion is nonsense. The miracle is not in the power of any man to perform.

CALICO PRINTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The preliminary announcement of the results attained by this monster combine during the twelve months ended June 30 last left people in considerable doubt as to the actual extent of the profits. The wording of the directors' statement caused the greatest confusion, and although some guessed one thing and some another, it was necessary to await the issue of the accounts in order to get at the true facts. These have just been published, and show the revenue to have been somewhat better than was generally imagined. After allowing about £22,000 less for maintenance, depreciation and repairs the trading profit is returned at £358,598 or an improvement over the preceding twelve months of £50,526. Other items of revenue gave £6,271, making £364,869 compared with £314,706, and after providing a few pounds less at £41,189 for administrative and legal charges and £128,000 for debenture interest the balance is £195,680 against £145,433. On the other hand, there was a decline from £154,179 to £123,941 in the credit from previous account, and we find the directors allowing an additional sum of £12,513 for depreciation, so that the actual disposable sum is only £7,496 larger at £307,108—not a very startling gain after all. As before, the capital reserve account will be credited with £50,000, and shareholders are to receive another dividend of 2½ per cent., the carry forward being increased by the first-mentioned sum of £7,496 to £131,437. All which goes to show how easily an apparent increase in earnings can be whittled down to almost nothing, and we have yet to learn why the depreciation allowance was divided into two sums. It is in this way that confusion and misunderstanding arise, and but for the auditors, who favour us with a clear and businesslike report and who enter a protest against the method of rendering the accounts, we should not be placed in possession of any facts at all.

	Twelve Months to Dec. 31, 1901.	Six Months to June 30, 1902.	Twelve Months to June 30, 1903.	Twelve Months to June 30, 1904.	Twelve Months to June 30, 1905.
Trading profit	£ 213,825	£ 321,182	£ 698,426	£ 522,589	£ 551,165
Depreciation, maintenance, repairs, &c.	191,685	99,614	206,175	214,517	192,567
Debenture interest	22,140 127,982	221,568 64,000	492,243 128,000	308,072 128,000	358,598 128,000
Surplus	105,842	157,568	364,243	180,072	230,598

‡ Deficit.

Hitherto all depreciation has been charged before trading profits were brought out, as it should be, and the net balance was stated after deducting the credit to capital reserve, because it appears that this money is required to complete the real wastage allowance for the year. But on the present occasion a portion of the depreciation charge and the £50,000 allocated to capital reserve appear as special appropriations from profits, when they are actually nothing of the kind, and the auditors have taken the right course in making this clear. Indeed, the sums set aside even now appear somewhat short, although not sufficiently so to render necessary a readjustment of the accounts. Let us just follow the auditors through their analysis, starting from the beginning, because it is more than interesting. Capital expenditure for the year was £60,717, but £20,267 came in from proceeds of sales, so that the

net additions were £40,449, making a total of £6,043,071. Of this £1,984,740, consisting of land, water rights, reservoirs, effluent works, &c., £1,229,524; designs, engravings and samplings as at December 31, 1901, £244,924; and goodwill £510,292, is not depreciated at all, leaving the sums appropriated to be spread over the buildings, machinery, plant, colliery, &c., standing at £4,058,331. In passing, it is useful to note that of the above-named £6,000,000 odd no less than £763,161 represents closed works—that is to say, properties acquired by the company for which uses cannot be found. The productive portion of the capital has to bear the burden of this deadweight. Coming now to the depreciation question, it has already been noted that the sum allowed was £192,567 against an actual outlay of £205,080, leaving a balance, afterwards provided for, of £12,513 and reducing the credit to the depreciation fund from £225,452 to £212,940, made up in this wise. Since the association was formed the total amount charged for repairs, maintenance and depreciation was £1,130,162, against an expenditure of £917,222, so that £212,940 remains and appears on the debit side of the accounts. To last year's allocation of £192,567 the auditors add the £50,000 placed to capital reserve and the further sum of £12,513 set aside, making £255,080, and declare this amount still £5,000 short of what they consider sufficient for the year's wastage. Moreover, the whole of this money should have come off profits before the net balance was struck, because it represents depreciation actually taken place and not provision for further shrinkage in book values. The various funds, however, now add up to £512,940, and that they are by no means real reserves is pretty well proved by the fact that the whole is involved in the business. Sundry creditors are a little higher at £299,366, but debtors are down two or three thousands to £555,478 and stock-in-trade has advanced from £1,552,472 to £1,566,596. Cash is £810,409 or £54,202 more, including the standing secured bank loans of £500,000, and copper and other rollers show a reduction of £27,310 to £881,290, copper being taken at the old valuation of 8d. per lb., which is far too high.

WEST RAND CONSOLIDATED.

News is to hand to the effect that 500 coolies arrived on August 18 for the West Rand Mines and the Violet Consolidated; that they have been quartered in the compounds erected for them; that the building of hospitals has been completed; and all the necessary sanitary arrangements have been provided, to comply with the requirements of the local authorities. The initial work of the new programme of re-equipment, consisting of the dismantling of the old headgears and plant at the outcrop shafts of the West Rand Mines, has been well advanced, and the new equipment of these shafts is ready for installation. Unwatering of the Battery Reef workings on the Violet Consolidated is to be started forthwith, and vigorous development of the Main Reef on the West Rand Mines ground and the Battery Reef in the Violet Consolidated is to be put in hand without delay. The programme of work laid down consists of sinking three development inclines and two main hauling shafts to deal with the main and south reefs on the West Rand Mines, and one development shaft and two hauling shafts on the Violet ground to handle the Battery Reef. On the property of the West Rand Consolidated 300 natives will be employed to exploit the Battery Reef, which, after leaving the Violet Consolidated, continues into the property in a southerly direction. Seventy Europeans are at present engaged on the different properties. It is just two years ago that the West Rand Consolidated was floated as a member of the Albu group, with the large capital of £1,525,000 in £1 shares, of which 1,500,000 are ordinary shares and 25,000 deferred. These are entitled to 25 per cent. of the profits after an amount equal in the aggregate to £1 per share has been paid on the ordinary capital. The assets acquired by the new parent concern con-

sisted of 216,696 shares in the West Rand Mines, Limited, owning 639 claims; 93,009 shares of the Violet Consolidated Gold Mining Company, Limited; £237,170 six per cent. debentures of the Violet Consolidated, since converted into 118,585 shares; an option to purchase further Violet Consolidated shares, together with a number of other claims. 1,175,964 of the ordinary and the whole of the deferred shares were issued as fully paid in part payment for the assets, and of the balance of the ordinary shares 250,000 were disposed of at £2 per share to provide working capital. There are over 74,000 ordinary shares held in reserve. In the Violet Consolidated the company's holding is equal to 65.95 per cent. of the issued capital, and in the West Rand Mines to 43.33 per cent. The properties of both these companies, together with other ground owned by the West Rand Consolidated, form a compact block of 1,761 reef claims, bounded on the west by a number of the Randfontein subsidiaries, on the east by the Lancaster and Lancaster West properties, and on the north by the outcrop of the Botha's or Main Reef series, which extends for a distance of over two miles through the property of the West Rand Mines. It contains, therefore, the outcrop and deep level of the last-mentioned series, the deep horizon of the reefs worked in the Randfontein Mines, whilst the Battery Reef outcrops throughout the whole length of the property of the Violet Consolidated. Prior to the war much of the work carried out by both the Violet and the West Rand Mines was conducted on a small scale, with insufficient working capital and a limited knowledge of the values and characteristics of the various reef bodies. The operations of the Violet Company have hitherto been confined to the Battery Reef, but a borehole put down on the southern boundary has demonstrated the existence of the Main Reef series in its ground at the depth of 1,884 feet. It has been planned to develop and equip the properties of these companies and the adjoining 555 claims as one huge proposition, the idea being that by installing one reduction plant of considerable capacity and establishing a central administration both economy and efficiency of working will be attained. From the latest particulars to hand it will be seen that no great progress has been made, but doubtless this will be attributed by the management to the scarcity of labour. Coolies are now coming forward, so it is to be presumed the work to be done will be accelerated. But water has to be pumped out first and new plant installed, which will take a long time to carry out. Shareholders must not expect profits, let alone dividends, therefore, for many years to come.

CROWN CORK COMPANY.

To be frank, we have a considerable dislike to a proposal just laid before the shareholders of this none too flourishing undertaking. Proprietors are being asked to take a step in the dark—one that heavily commits the company in an entirely new enterprise, of which little or nothing is known—and we shall be much surprised if the scheme now put forward by the directors is accepted without much closer investigation. It involves an increase in the capital of no less than £140,000, and the board has no right to ask the shareholders to sanction such a heavy addition on the flimsy details at present available. Quite true that shareholders were asked to attend an extraordinary general meeting held yesterday to listen to further explanations, but the board took the precaution to ask for proxies so as to be on the safe side in case the opposition proved more than usually obstreperous. From the particulars so far known, it can be gathered that the directors have long had under consideration the acquisition of "certain important and valuable inventions for bottle-stoppers, machinery for making and applying the same, also tools, &c., the same being owned and controlled by a company of great experience and capital, who have established one factory in London and had arranged to start others in the principal countries of Europe and elsewhere, thus creating a serious competition and the cutting of prices." No real informa-

tion is forthcoming about these "valuable and important inventions," but shareholders will doubtless recall the Crown Cork prospectus, in which it was implied that nothing could ever supersede the company's methods. Now we hear of "serious competition and cutting of prices." However, the company is to acquire the rights in Europe, Asia, Africa and Australasia of letters patent covering the inventions, together with all machinery, tools, machines, materials and other effects in use at the London factory, as also the goodwill, and will be furnished "free of cost" with six complete sets of machinery for manufacturing two forms of the new bottle-stoppers. We rather like that "free of cost," because the purchase price for these rights is the trifle of £140,000 in equal amounts of preference and ordinary £1 shares. Such a sum of money is not to be lightly voted away, and proprietors should have been frankly told the value of the tangible assets to be acquired and what they are paying for mere paper rights. A lot of fuss is made of the "six sets of machinery," and we shall be most interested to hear what they are really worth. Needless to say, the directors anticipate a large increase of business, but if the new inventions are so wonderful it is reasonable to suppose that the Crown Cork patents will be entirely superseded. What, then, is to become of the patent rights and goodwill of that concern, for which such a large sum of money was paid? Has their value disappeared? Why was the circular kept away from the Press until too late for effective criticism before the meeting held yesterday? The business has the appearance of being "rushed," and as it stands we do not like the look of the thing at all.

OUR AUGUST FOREIGN TRADE.

If the July Board of Trade returns were of a nature to damp the ardour of the Birmingham prophets, those of the past month are calculated to give them the cold shivers. Both imports and exports have gone up in a highly satisfactory fashion, and once more it may be noted that the increase in imports is mainly in raw materials, while that in exports is due to manufactured articles. The improvement in imports comes to £4,423,048, or 10.4 per cent., and to this everything in the list, except a few unimportant items, contributed, food, drink, and tobacco especially being £1,714,463 up, and raw materials £1,929,207 higher. Of food stuffs, wheat showed an increase of 1,078,800 cwt. in weight and £456,628 in value, and the whole of this was due to the larger quantities from Russia, Argentina, and India, the receipts from the United States and our colonies showing a falling off. Oats and maize also show moderate increases, but barley, wheat, meal, and flour were smaller in quantity and value. Although fewer cattle and sheep came in, the trade in dressed meat is steadily growing, and fresh beef rose by 249,700 cwt. and £344,848, while mutton was 93,594 cwt. and £174,209 up, and bacon likewise showed a moderate increase. More butter was received, owing to the larger supplies sent from Canada, but sugar, while smaller in quantity, cost more. Less tobacco of all kinds was received, the decrease in unmanufactured tobacco especially being heavy. Raw materials of nearly all kinds again showed fair increases. Iron ore, scrap iron, and steel rose by £134,141, other metallic ores by £39,528, cotton by £1,250,789, other textile materials by £239,741, and hides and undressed skins and miscellaneous items were also substantially higher. Wood and timber, however, again fell off £147,421, wool was £142,804 lower, while oil seeds, oils, &c., and materials for paper making showed further small decreases. In articles wholly or mainly manufactured, which, of course, include such things as iron and steel bars, hoops, strips, &c., properly regarded as raw materials for our manufacturers, we find a small increase of £11,315 in iron and steel, and £197,588 in other metals and manufactures, but machinery is down by £23,136. Cotton yarns and textile fabrics rose by £172,568, wool yarns by £43,170, apparel

was £22,754 higher, chemicals £79,877 up, and leather and manufactures thereof £94,554 up.

IMPORTS.

	August.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise	£ 42,761,456	£ 42,439,943	£ 46,862,991	+ 4,423,048
Gold	1,734,962	2,154,951	4,796,029	+ 2,641,078
Silver	673,657	901,681	1,234,728	+ 333,047
	45,170,075	45,496,575	52,893,748	+ 7,397,173

EXPORTS.

	August.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 25,664,884	£ 26,359,880	£ 23,517,836	+ 3,157,956
For. and Col. M'dse..	5,854,912	5,378,489	6,427,636	+ 1,049,147
Gold	2,361,092	912,690	3,731,107	+ 2,818,502
Silver	853,322	1,301,474	1,260,281	— 41,193
	34,738,210	33,952,533	40,936,945	+ 6,984,412

IMPORTS.

	Eight Months ended August 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise.	£ 348,819,362	£ 355,316,302	£ 364,692,457	+ 9,376,155
Gold	17,764,599	21,309,416	26,768,177	+ 5,458,761
Silver	6,118,455	8,502,494	8,882,204	+ 379,710
	372,702,416	385,128,212	400,342,838	+ 15,214,626

EXPORTS.

	Eight Months ended August 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 194,063,054	£ 195,260,129	£ 213,045,108	+ 17,784,979
For. and Col. M'dse..	47,568,298	47,735,208	52,255,407	+ 4,520,199
Gold	12,412,727	16,605,744	18,101,154	+ 1,500,410
Silver	6,917,625	9,550,294	9,509,636	— 40,658
	260,961,704	269,151,375	292,916,305	+ 23,764,930

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	August.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports	£ 45,170,075	£ 45,496,575	£ 52,893,748	+ 7,397,173
Exports	34,738,210	33,952,533	40,936,945	+ 6,984,412
Excess value of im- ports over exports	10,431,865	11,544,042	11,956,803	+ 412,761

	Eight Months ended August 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports	£ 372,702,416	£ 385,128,212	£ 400,342,838	+ 15,214,626
Exports	260,961,704	269,151,375	292,916,305	+ 23,764,930
Excess value of im- ports over exports	111,740,712	115,976,837	107,426,533	— 8,550,304

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

Exports of British and Irish produce for the month showed an advance of £3,157,956 or 12 per cent., and the total amounted to no less than £29,517,836, while foreign and colonial merchandise re-exports were £1,049,147 or 19.5 per cent. up at £6,427,636. In the exports of British and Irish produce food, drink, and tobacco were increased by £211,894, the only item in this class to show a falling off being meat. Raw materials also showed a small improvement of £213,785, of which £103,541 came from wool, £38,247 from coal, coke, and £58,212 from hides, and

it was in articles wholly or mainly manufactured that the greatest expansion took place. Wood and earthenware and glass fell off a little, but the decreases were trifling, and against them we have iron and steel manufactures up £411,297, other metals up £233,384, cotton yarns and textile fabrics £364,005 higher, and wool and other materials respectively £101,621 and £129,233 higher. Telegraph cables and apparatus were sent out to the value of £389,952 more than in 1904. Machinery rose by £271,156 and new ships by £329,446. The same story is told by our re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise, an all-round improvement having taken place. Grain and flour and tobacco, it is true, both dropped a few thousands, but the net increase under the head of food, drink and tobacco was still £94,914. Raw materials sent out were £629,762 more, thanks chiefly to increases in cotton, wool and hides, and in manufactured articles metals other than iron and steel rose by £128,375 and cutlery by £10,664 against a decline of £15,879 in iron and steel manufactures. Cotton, wool and other yarns and textile fabrics, too, were from about £18,000 to £20,000 higher, and, in fact, look where you like it will puzzle the tariffites to find foundation for their claims that our trade is leaving us.

Passing Events.

The Board of Trade has officially issued the list of members of the new Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, the names being:—Sir Frank Forbes Adam (of Manchester), Lord Avebury, Sir Alfred Bateman, Sir Hugh Bell, Mr. H. Birchenough, Mr. T. F. Blackwell, Mr. F. Brittain (of Sheffield), Mr. T. Craig Brown, Mr. A. Wilson Fox (of the Board of Trade), Mr. C. A. Harris (of the Colonial Office), Mr. T. W. Holderness (India Office), Sir William Holland, M.P., Sir Francis Hopwood (Board of Trade), Mr. Algernon Law (Foreign Office), Mr. R. L. Paterson, Sir Albert Rollit, M.P., Mr. H. Llewellyn Smith (Board of Trade), Lord Strathcona, Mr. W. H. Mitchell (Bradford), and Mr. D. A. Thomas, M.P., with three others, not yet appointed, who are to represent South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The terms of reference are as follows, but pending consideration by Parliament of the Bill for the creation of Secretaries of State for Trade and Local Government, they can only be considered as of a provisional character:—To advise the Board of Trade on the work of their Commercial Intelligence Branch and on such matters relating to foreign tariffs and other commercial questions as the Board may refer to them; to improve the means of obtaining and diffusing information for the benefit of British trade by means of commercial missions and correspondents abroad and otherwise as they may think fit. The chairman of the Committee will be the President of the Board of Trade, and Mr. W. F. Wintour will act as secretary.

Russian trade and industry will have cause to remember the Far Eastern war long after the army has been brought back from Manchuria and Japan has entered into possession of her hardy won prizes. Any revival in business is rendered practically impossible for a long time to come owing to the scarcity of rolling stock upon the railways. During the summer months, when traffic is light, the opportunity is usually taken to rearrange the position of the goods wagons on the various lines in readiness for the heavy autumn demands, but the war has altered all that. More than 52,000 wagons have been requisitioned by the military, and when a few do find their way back they are in such a damaged condition as to be practically useless. During August the trucks conveying coal from the Donetz district were reduced by from 37 to 90 per cent. according to the more or less privileged character of the railway's customers, just enough wagons being allotted to each colliery to prevent the entire stoppage of the works. The cessation of the Donetz coal supply, however, has proved a fine opportunity for British coal dealers, whose produce has been requisitioned by the

Vistula railways and will probably continue in strong demand for some time to come. According to the Assistant Minister of Russian Highways, whose report contains these facts, the greatest tension is felt in the south, causing great disturbance to the oil industry at Baku, and at present no relief is in sight. All the railway factories of the country are working to their full capacity and a large number of engines are to be sent this month towards the Far East, but the Trans-Siberian railway must necessarily be blocked for very many months to come by the movements of troops and war material. Meanwhile it is practically impossible to move anything like the whole of the harvest and the industrial products of the country. A black outlook indeed, particularly in view of the internal unrest and threatened famine in many districts, but the fruits of war are always bitter.

At the general meeting of Lawes Chemical Manure Company held at the end of last week the chairman mentioned a suggestion put forward by a preference shareholder that the dividend on the preference part of the capital should be reduced in consideration of some corresponding advantage to the proprietors. The only reason underlying this rather extraordinary proposal is that the preference dividend is at the somewhat high rate of 7 per cent., but that does not seem particularly excessive considering the risks involved, and shareholders are not likely to view the proposal with much favour. They would have to be compensated to an extent that would leave the company with no advantage, and so far as can be seen the only result would be a rather useless muddling of the capital account. Best to leave well alone.

Investigation into the affairs of the Economic Bank, which suspended payment on May 27 last, has been advanced another stage by the issue of the Assistant Receiver's report to the creditors and shareholders. The statement of affairs shows total liabilities of £62,148, of which £47,014 is unsecured, and assets valued at £14,884, the deficiency as regards contributors being £82,178. A sum of £74,879 is supposed to be due from the Financial and Commercial Bank, whose insolvency brought down the Economic, but this debt will probably realise £12,705 only. The assets of the Financial Bank are nominally of very considerable value, so it is said, but they chiefly consist of securities which are not at present realisable, and it is quite impossible to estimate what sum will be received by the Economic Bank, whose claim amounts to one-half of the total liabilities of the Financial and Commercial Bank. Mr. Winearls, the Assistant Receiver, states that the affairs of the Economic are being strictly investigated, and the Official Receiver will report to the Court with a view to an order being made for public examination. Unfortunately Lord Chas. Pratt, the chairman of the bank, died on the 8th ult., after an operation.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is conducted with much more energy and ability than it used to be, and we should like to see a new departure just inaugurated by the directors meet with success. After a lapse of many years the company has decided to resume the service from Jamaica to New York, and announces that, commencing with the fine passenger steamer *Tagus*, sailing from Southampton on Saturday, September 30, for Barbadoes and Trinidad, the usual fortnightly service with the West Indies will be continued, but the main line steamers, after leaving Trinidad, will proceed *via* La Guayra, Puerto, Colombia and Colon to Jamaica, and thence on to New York direct, returning by the same route. By using the ordinary British liner between America and this country the latest development will give to Jamaica a new alternative twelve-day route by "all British steamers" to England *via* New York, instead, we suppose, of part of the journey having to be performed in American coasters. Justifiable prominence is given to the fact that since the termination of the subsidy in June the company has maintained practically the same service as before without any help from the Govern-

ment, but in the long run the undertaking will doubtless find it an advantage to be untrammelled by Government obligations.

It never causes surprise to hear of some notable gift to charity from a member of the Stock Exchange, the "House" being ever noted for its generosity, but it is none the less a pleasure to record the munificence of Mr. E. G. Bawden in giving the handsome sum of £100,000 to be applied to purposes of charity and benevolence and for the advancement of knowledge, especially in aid of human suffering. Excellent conditions surely, and the distribution of the money could not have been placed in better hands than those of Mr. Edgar Speyer, to whom Mr. Bawden has entrusted its division. In all thirty-three organisations will benefit from this Stock Exchange liberality, in sums varying from £1,000 up to £16,000, and the selection is without a fault. Put to such uses, no one will grudge Mr. Bawden the fortune he has accumulated.

The North Atlantic Shipping Conference has collapsed, thanks primarily to the withdrawal of the White Star Company and the independent attitude adopted by the Cunard Company. With these great enterprises standing out, the usefulness of the conference had, of course, ceased to exist, and all agreements with regard to passenger traffic may be said to have terminated. This applies to vessels trading from British and Continental ports to the United States and Canada, the position now being that all Atlantic companies will be free to seek passengers where they like and charge what fares they please. Not a bad thing to our way of thinking, provided another rate war does not break out, because artificial restrictions on industries of any kind are rarely productive of much good in the long run. At present there is no sign of disagreement, and if all decide to work harmoniously there should be ample business to go round.

There is good news for Clyde shipbuilders. From Glasgow come the tidings that the Nippon Steam Navigation Company, Japan, is about to place orders on the Clyde for no less than eight new liners. The orders are in the hands of the Japanese Consul at Glasgow, and the contracts are expected to be concluded immediately. Numerous inquiries are also noticeable for second-hand medium-sized vessels for Japanese coasting trade, and altogether the outlook is decidedly promising.

Some important developments are announced in connection with the Mexican Central Railway Company, whose position gave rise to so much unrest not so very long ago. Conditions are said to have materially improved since then, thanks to a big expansion of traffic, and we now learn that the company has sold to various banking and financial interests \$9,000,000 5 per cent. three-year notes out of an authorised issue of \$10,000,000. This transaction marks the consummation of certain important plans which have been in contemplation for some time, including provision, through the Mexican Pacific Railway, of the extension from the present terminus of the Mexican Central at Tuxpan to the port of Manzanillo; the acquisition of the Mexican National Construction Company as well as of the Coahuila and Pacific Railroad of about 200 miles, which later on will be operated in the joint interest of the Mexican Central and the National Railroad of Mexico, an undertaking which is playing an important part in Mexican railway development. In addition to the works mentioned a connection is to be made from the present terminus of the Coahuila and Pacific Railroad at Saltillo to Paredon, forming a junction with the San Pedro division of the Mexican Central Company, construction will be begun of the first section of the short line between Tampico and the city of Mexico, there will be partial equipment of engines for the use of oil, improvements on the Monterey and Gulf division of the Mexican Central, and sundry other extensions and improvements. There is probably no doubt at all that this energetic policy is the right one if the latent resources of the system are to be adequately developed,

and we hear much less talk nowadays of the possibilities of default on the Mexican Central Railway securities "B" bonds.

As a result of the putting of thick heads together, the mine bosses of the Rand, through the instrumentality of their philanthropic institution, the Chamber of Mines, have made certain proposals to the Government, which have been adopted, to prevent the Chinese from purchasing and carrying lethal weapons. The passport system is also in future to be rigidly enforced, and a warning posted in the compounds containing restrictions upon Chinese leaving the locality of the mines, except when carrying special passes. But would not the wisest and most beneficial measure be, if the lives of all citizens are to be safe, to pack off the 45,000 coolies to their homes and write off the loss? Would it not be cheaper in the long run to engage Kaffirs and pay them a little higher wage? In fact, would it not be to the greater advantage of investors if the mines employed white labour? But we forget. The mine bosses do not desire to benefit investors, and they do not wish a British colony to be inhabited by white helots who will clamour for political liberty. They desire to be supreme rulers of the Transvaal; but what an honour it will be to rule Chinese cut-throats! The boss will descend even to be a common jailer so long as he can hug the delusion that physical domination over criminals is a sign of power. What minds and hearts these cosmopolites must possess!

And, speaking of the terrorism caused by the advent of the Chinkee reminds us that General Botha and members of the Head Committee of Het Volk formed a deputation which waited upon Lord Selborne with a view to bringing to the official notice of the Government the uneasiness caused by wandering Chinese. In reply to them, Lord Selborne said he expected the mines to take all possible steps to prevent desertions and farmers to report the presence of Chinese on their farms and apprehend them when possible. When possible? But if a Chinaman takes a long pot at a farmer, how will apprehension be possible? And if gangs of them enter lonely farmsteads in the dead of night and murder the sleeping occupants, how is a dying man to lug them by the ear to the nearest police-station? Prevention is better than idle, silly words, and the only effective prevention will be to pack the whole tribe off to the Far East again. These measures will not alter the natures of the robbers and murderers. Any white, in the absence of constabulary, says his lordship, will have power to arrest Chinese, and permits are to be given to all whites residing near the Witwatersrand to possess arms, except magazine rifles. That will be an additional expense to the poor fellows, as well as keep them in a constant state of mental fear and unrest. And how can they pursue their avocations with vigour if they are constantly on the watch for prowling murderers?

It looks as if the wages dispute on the Kalgoorlie goldfield has now been settled. We dealt somewhat lengthily with this in our "Mining Notes" in past weeks, for it is a matter that has had some adverse effect upon the West Australian market. The various mine owners have been trying to induce the workers to accept a lower rate of wages, the plea being that the mines tend to become lower grade in depth and so might reduce profits. But the miners would not hear of it, and seeing what large dividends are being paid by the leading companies, they cannot be blamed for the attitude they have taken up. The cable received from the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia runs:—"The general rates of wages on the Kalgoorlie field are practically settled, and a new industrial agreement will be signed after the ballot of the unions, to be taken within the next fortnight. In the meantime the present agreement, which has now expired, will be extended. The rate of wages for filter press workers has not yet been settled." So the mine owners have given way, which is the most prudent step they could take. How would directors like shareholders to agitate for a reduction in their fees because the mines may become less remunerative in depth? It would be

just as reasonable and justifiable. And are not company directors more plentiful than skilled miners?

Mr. Thomas W. Lawson, of Boston, is again to the fore with an advertisement reiterating his warning that the price of copper, the metal, is about to break "wide open." Can it be the case that "old man Haggin" is about to set to work on his wonderful property in Peru? This mine is described as being a solid mountain of copper ore, so rich and so easily worked that the copper could be profitably sold at a price below the actual cost of production in American and other mines.

We shall probably get the full text of Mr. Kidston's Budget speech in due course, but in the meantime may refer to the telegraphic summary published this week. From this it appears that the total expenditure in Queensland was no less than £893,000 smaller than in 1902-3, the last full year before the present Government assumed office. This is decided progress, and it is very encouraging to find that the policy of strict economy is to be closely adhered to. The estimates for the current year show that revenue and expenditure are expected to balance, the income being put at £3,680,000 and the outgoings at £3,678,000, leaving a mere £2,000 of surplus. Mr. Kidston referred to the condition of the chief industries of the State, and said that the hope of an improvement in all branches of trade and commerce was brighter than it had been for years, but that it was necessary to make provision for reproductive development work. In order to meet the need and yet avoid further borrowing the Government proposes to devote to capital account the proceeds of all future auction sales of Crown lands. This plan should have been adopted from the outset, but better late than never, and we trust that Mr. Kidston and his successors will see that it is strictly followed, especially if it be true that its adoption will render it unnecessary for Queensland to borrow for the next five years. Another reform which should benefit the community is the imposition of a graduated land tax, with a view to breaking up large estates and promoting closer settlement. Estates of less than 2,000 acres are to be exempt and from that up to 40,000 acres provided the average value is not more than 10s. per acre, but, even so, it is calculated that the impost will yield £45,000.

Shareholders of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company are summoned to an extraordinary general meeting on the 14th inst., to hear a statement from the directors concerning the progress of the business. The past season was the first in which the company traded without protection from tyre patents and in open competition with the world, so that shareholders will be delighted to hear that the phenomenal output of last year has been greatly exceeded during the current season. So enormous, indeed, has been the business that a large number of orders could not be executed, and the directors feel that the necessity for the erection of another and completely equipped factory is immediate and imperative for the maintenance of the business. It is proposed to meet the expense of the fresh works and its equipment without disturbing the financial policy hitherto pursued. That sounds well enough, but we gather that there will be some connection between the provision for this new factory and the reorganisation of the company's finances.

Promoters may be delighted to learn that there is plenty of scope for building up a mining industry in Manchuria, but we hope they will not be mad enough to attempt to create a Manchurian boom now the war is over. In the report just published by the American Consul at Niuchwang he says there are valuable mineral deposits in the country. Coal has been mined for several years in a primitive way. Gold, both in quartz and placer, is found, together with copper, silver, and other minerals. "Indeed, some of the samples of ore," says he, "promise fabulous results, but, as a rule, the question of entering into the operation of and as yet, indeed, the securing of title to, good pro-

perties is indefinite and too nebulous at this particular time to prove attractive to capital." This is a warning the public should take note of; it will also serve to remind investors of their painful experiences in the Jungle, owing to the insecurity of titles. In many parts of China, as well as in various other countries, there exists a belief, the Consul adds, that the mineral deposits of Manchuria are enormously rich, "but this belief may, in part, be accounted for by the popular idea that an unknown mineral or gold district possesses great wealth." Is it not on such belief that promoters build their hopes of gain?

In the Legislative Council on Monday last at Pretoria the Attorney-General made a lengthy statement on the subject of Chinese desertions. He said that the total importations numbered 46,895, and the convictions 2,543, of which 1,994 were for breaches of the labour regulations. There were in gaol at the present moment 921 coolies, 68 of whom were serving sentences exceeding six months. He admitted that he recognised the danger of the desertions and the necessity of taking preventive measures, and described the steps that had so far been taken. The Government would, he declared, assist the Council in the passing of the further measures in connection with the amendment of the Chinese Labour Ordinance, but he warned members against committing a breach of the labourers' contracts or of treaties. In conclusion he repudiated Government responsibility for the desertions, which it was the duty of the mines to prevent. The Government may not be directly, but it is indirectly responsible for and morally guilty of the terrible crimes committed and the state of unrest in the country. Had it had the moral courage to say "no" to the bosses the situation would not be as it is. But it has played the game of the millionaires and cannot disclaim its equal responsibilities.

Writing on August 4 the correspondent of the *Financial News* describes a very gloomy state of things in Johannesburg. "There is absolutely nothing doing in any of the financial houses, and many members of their staffs are, in consequence, in daily fear of retrenchment. Trade is almost at a standstill, and, in spite of the steady progress of the mining industry, the share market is virtually non-existent. The weaker speculators have long since been drained of their limited resources, while many of the stronger are at present very shaky, and it is an open secret among insiders that several big firms of brokers will not be able to keep their heads above water much longer. A move from your side is, naturally being most anxiously awaited, and intense interest is centred in the proceedings at Washington. Those who have survived the depression cherish the hope that peace will ensue, and will bring in its trail the long-looked-for improvement. The opinion most generally favoured here seems to be that at least another two or three months of depression will have to be survived before any active revival of business in the share market can be expected." Well, peace has ensued since the correspondent wrote, and the bosses have commenced to manipulate the market. So now is the opportunity for weary holders to clear out by selling to the potentates before the latter dump their own heaps of rubbish on the market.

An American paper, the *New York Times*, challenges the right of a director of a railway or any other company to sell or buy stock by making use of the inside knowledge which his position gives him. The same newspaper quotes the opinions of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy upon the point, who said:—"The president or director of a railway in Canada or England would not think of operating in the stock of his road. Such transactions would be looked upon as being unfair to the outside holders of stock. When a director deems it necessary to convert a part of his holdings into cash he always consults with the other directors about it, or notifies them of his intention in advance. An honest board of directors will not, directly or indirectly, make

use of the information they possess for speculative purposes." We all know what directors ought to do, but how many are so virtuous that they act up to this ideal? Their moral responsibilities are great, but far too heavy for some of the weaklings to carry. In the board room they may profess to be honest and righteous, but out of it may find temptation irresistible. Some may not operate on the market themselves, but they may not deem it immoral to give "tips" to relations and friends.

None of our readers apparently thought it worth while to send us the effusion sent out by the London office of the New York Equitable in the end of July, and we have had to wait for the September number of *Everybody's Magazine* to get a sight of it. The precious document is, of course, intended to minimise the effect of the disclosures in America, and with that view the offences of the officials are glossed over and belittled in the usual fashion. Mr. Reginald T. Naish, who signs the circular, must believe that his policy holders have not followed the developments in America, and perhaps he is right in so doing, because it is only with those who know nothing of the actual facts that his version will find favour. Our readers know that the Hyde faction in the company was only forced out after a struggle, but according to Mr. Naish the president and officers decided that in the further interests of the policyholders the time had now come when the control should be taken out of the hands of the stockholders and placed in the hands of those most interested in the welfare of the society. It is as well to make a virtue of necessity, and perhaps these gentlemen did so decide—after they had received a very plain hint that it was the only thing left for them to do. Policy-holders are further told that although the investigations of Mr. Francis Hendricks, Superintendent of Insurance of New York State, and of the committee of directors were perforce followed by the resignations of both Hyde and Alexander, the matters in question only affected a small portion of the society's investments. But the examination into the society's affairs has only just begun, and until the results are made known it is impossible to say how far the assets are affected. In any case the low standard of morality shown even by the disclosures already made gives sufficient ground for uneasiness, and it is adding insult to injury to state as Mr. Naish does that policy-holders can congratulate themselves that they are connected with a society which has had the courage to take its own affairs in hand and eliminate from its midst everything that is inimical to the interests of policy-holders without waiting for any outside pressure or influence.

Last week's revenue was again small, the total being only £1,546,333, and although another £25,000 came in from the Exchequer bond issue the receipts fell considerably short of the outgoings. Supply services took £2,631,464, another £16,166 was disbursed on account of the consolidated fund, and £29,391 was paid out under the Cunard Agreement Act, making £2,677,021, so that the accumulations at the banks were reduced by £1,105,688.

Matters were wearing a rather unpleasant aspect in Morocco when the Sultan thought it wise to change his attitude towards the French demands, and so averted serious trouble. Anything in the nature of an armed invasion of Moroccan territory would have been particularly regrettable at the present juncture, with the general conference of the interested powers coming on, although many professed to see great advantages for France if she could enter the negotiations with her troops in possession. She is supposed to have scored a diplomatic triumph this week in securing the recall of Count von Tattenbach, who is to be succeeded by Dr. Rosen, and can probably be depended upon to realise that precipitate action is unlikely to be fruitful of good.

Advices from Baku tell a terrible story of murder, pillage, and anarchy, and when the full facts become known, we fear they will make ghastly reading. The Armenians are said to have started the trouble by

indiscriminate firing upon Russians and Tartars, but whatever the cause, the district was soon in a state of seething riot, and massacre, accompanied by wholesale destruction of property, seems to have gone on unchecked. It is said that three hundred naphtha wells are ablaze, owing to incendiary fires, the loss being estimated at several million roubles, and the Russian oil industry, in which English investors are so largely interested, has been struck a severe blow. The Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Co. has issued the following:—"Telegram received from Baku, September 6, advises fighting continuing; position serious; 250 wells burnt on Bulukhan. Bibi Eybat continuing partial working. Oleun, two wells on plot four burned. Production for whole district first half of August, 22 million poods." How it is all going to end none can say, as it seems certain that the state of the country is getting worse instead of better.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* has some very tasty things to say about the German Welsh coal purchase, over which the *Daily Mail* and other jingo sheets made themselves more than usually foolish. It appears that a company has been formed to exploit the Whitworth Estate with a capital of £600,000, of which £475,000 is in £5 shares, and the balance in debentures. The purchasing syndicate sells for £450,000, thereby leaving itself a tidy profit, you may be sure, the balance of £150,000 being devoted to shaft-sinking to the lower series. In addition to this, £250,000 will be required for the working equipment, to be temporarily advanced by the parties interested, so the venture will be loaded down with the nice little share and loan capital of £850,000. But if we can get foreign money to open up our speculative coalfields, taking all the risk, so much the better for us, because not many companies' fortunes have been made out of coal mining yet. The shares are offered at £5 5s. each, and the *Frankfurter Zeitung* refers to certain fantastical calculations as to the profits which the mines will yield—we know the kind of thing—while certain important facts are quietly ignored. Not even the names of the directors are stated, and the *Zeitung* does well to emphasise the speculative nature of the enterprise.

The peace rioting in Tokio is a little disturbing, but the Government of the Mikado can no doubt be trusted not to be influenced by the passions of the mob which has been indulging in a kind of inverted "Maffick." The war was fought chiefly by means of foreign loans, and the Japanese authorities were morally bound to come to terms with the enemy, provided the conditions were consistent with national safety. They were that without question, and probably there would have been no upset at all but for the jingo advice so freely tendered by newspaper writers on this side, who caused the ignorant section of the Japanese populace to think they were entitled to and could obtain a large money payment from the Russians. To exact an indemnity was a physical impossibility, as we time and again pointed out, and there is no real excuse for the present rising. Have we done a good thing in allying ourselves with a people who cannot honourably abide by the actions of their appointed representatives?

LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK.—Current and deposit accounts on Aug. 28 amounted to £19,003,032 and acceptances to £1,227,846, against which there were Government stock and other investments £3,648,244, cash in hand and at Bank of England £2,315,603, money at call and short notice £5,317,805, and bills discounted, advances and other securities £10,203,817.

LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK.—The balance-sheet for August 24, shows that current, deposit and other accounts were £47,196,645 and acceptances on account of customers £3,758,730, against which there were cash in hand and at the Bank of England £7,015,456, money at call and short notice £6,955,483, investments £6,939,652, bills of exchange £4,718,808, and advances on current accounts, loans on security, &c., £26,398,750.

UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK.—Deposits and current accounts on August 30 came to £35,498,435, acceptances and liabilities by endorsement to £3,455,213, and other liabilities to £424,264, while assets consisted of cash in hand and at Bank of England £6,091,838, money at call and short notice £6,560,500, investments including reserve fund £6,450,012, and discounts, loans and other advances £20,174,145.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended August 31, \$4,774.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended July 21, \$16,076, increase \$3,435; aggregate from January 1, \$511,929, increase \$111,179.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 5, Rs. 57,156, increase Rs. 5,624; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,89,642, increase Rs. 24,118.

British Columbia Electric Railway.—Net receipts for July \$40,390, increase \$11,944.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 31, \$126,600, increase \$25,500; total from July 1, \$753,000, increase \$146,400.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 5, Rs. 22,946, increase Rs. 262; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,29,126, increase Rs. 12,118.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipt for week ended July 13, £435, decrease £162.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of July, \$33,353, decrease \$3,884; aggregate from January 1, \$526,758, decrease \$5,240.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 5, Rs. 10,498, decrease Rs. 12; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 64,422, increase Rs. 1,358.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended August 21 amounted to \$76,780.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending September 2, £1,178, decrease £83; aggregate from July 1, £10,378 decrease £409.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending September 2, £973, decrease £168; aggregate from July 1, £9,635, decrease £1,180.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for June, £4,214, decrease £94.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending September 2, £349, decrease £35; aggregate from July 1, £2,508, decrease £537.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 1, £1,331, increase £406; aggregate from July 1, £22,719, increase £4,564.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 3, £41, increase £7; aggregate from July 1, £310, decrease £20.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 1, £5,035, decrease £459; aggregate from July 1, £49,019, decrease £521.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending September 1, £30,239, increase £2,218; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £931,107, increase £82,991; 446½ miles, against 420½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, £1,167, increase £50; aggregate from July 2, £10,462, ncrease £509.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 3, £196, increase £18; aggregate from July 1, £1,715 decrease £31.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 1, £160, increase £2; aggregate from July 1, £1,370, increase £12.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 1, £5,521, decrease £271; aggregate from July 1, £51,190, decrease £174.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, £4,599, decrease £246; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £170,262, increase £12,339.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 1, £258, decrease £44; aggregate from July 1, £2,542, decrease £159.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 31, £701.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, £1,369, decrease £249; aggregate from October 1, £28,351, decrease £2,404.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending August 26, £15,505, increase £2,106; aggregate from April 1, £323,618, increase £54,890. Miles 51½ against 46.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, £21,053, decrease £1,530; aggregate from July 2, £221,367, decrease £2,985.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, £6,809, decrease £214; aggregate from July 1, £74,259, increase £930.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 1, £181, increase £2; aggregate from July 1, £1,829, increase £102.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, £13,313, increase £2,009; aggregate from January 1, £461,232, increase £29,839.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, £2,215, increase £217; aggregate from January 1, £77,192, increase £9,391.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, £288, increase £20; aggregate from January 1, £10,571, increase £1,368.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of August, £12,771, increase £838.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to July 31, \$89,398, increase \$18,093. Net earnings from July 1 to July 31, \$40,390, increase \$11,944.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending August 27, £3,492, increase £449; aggregate from January 1, £115,400, increase £4,386.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, \$42,345, decrease \$3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, Rs. 42,266, increase Rs. 5,792; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 3,81,754, increase Rs. 60,559.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for January: Cape Town, £14,964; Port Elizabeth, £4,489.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of August, £5,235, increase £2,214. Total to August 31, £31,841, increase £6,066.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, \$435,104, increase \$49,336; aggregate from January 1, \$2,606,574, increase \$161,544. Net traffic receipts, \$248,051, increase \$39,961; aggregate from January 1, \$1,379,994, increase \$100,527.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr	Sept. 3	£ 2,125	+ 76	9	£ 19,693	—	96
Cambrian	" 3	8,670	— 550	9	81,740	—	5,995
Central London	" 3	5,520	— 81	9	50,943	—	1,236
City and South London	" 3	2,330	— 109	9	20,363	—	332
Furness	" 3	11,716	+ 1,299	9	102,594	+ 4,124	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 3	73,278	+ 5,511	9	654,225	+ 37,476	
Great Eastern	" 3	122,300	— 2,200	9	1,097,500	— 26,100	
Great Northern and City	" 2	1,455	+ 311	9	12,840	—	3,767
Great Northern	" 2	127,100	+ 3,783	9	1,102,788	—	15,337
Great Western	" 3	266,100	+ 2,500	9	2,368,200	—	20,000
Hull and Barnsley	" 3	10,290	— 62	9	84,979	—	5,427
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 3	128,500	+ 4,620	9	1,158,636	+ 24,574	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 2	83,568	+ 3,931	9	696,192	—	7,415
London & North Western	" 3	316,000	+ 12,000	9	2,799,000	+ 19,000	
London & South Western	" 3	108,300	+ 2,600	9	979,500	+ 2,000	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 3	12,064	+ 223	9	117,646	—	663
Metropolitan	" 3	16,395	+ 82	9	152,379	—	292
Metropolitan District	" 3	6,259	— 86	9	56,860	—	2,922
Midland	" 2	246,714	+ 2,501	9	2,073,107	+ 40,276	
North Eastern	" 2	198,883	— 1,540	9	1,777,648	+ 542	
North London	" 3	8,715	— 108	9	76,394	—	2,199
North Staffordshire	" 3	17,272	+ 100	9	158,381	—	203
Rhymney	" 3	5,366	— 652	9	51,239	+ 1,093	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 2	116,920	+ 358	9	999,547	+ 183	
Taff Vale	" 3	19,048	— 688	9	159,625	—	5,007

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Sep. 3	91,780	— 2,987	5	458,252	— 4,426
Glasgow & South-Western	" 2	41,222	— 519	5	216,768	— 2,137
Great North of Scotland	" 2	10,928	— 1,240	5	55,045	— 2,188
Highland	" 3	13,630	— 935	5	70,294	— 1,831
North British	" 3	101,635	— 4,909	5	505,223	— 10,260

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Sept. 1	3,344	— 453	9	36,909	— 44
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 1	2,016	— 182	9	18,201	+ 523
Great Northern	" 1	21,303	— 1,064	9	199,471	— 1,670
Midland Great Western	" 1	14,112	+ 717	9	103,462	— 4,568

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED **£5,500,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 3 PER CENT. (Advanced from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
on September 7.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

So flush of credits has the market been all week that occasions when the charge for overnight loans rose to $1\frac{1}{2}$ or even $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. have been rare, and seven-day fixtures could be had at $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. at any rate until Thursday. This condition of affairs led to a report that the Japanese Government had been lending freely in the open market, but such does not appear to have been the case, and the real cause of the large floating balances was the unwillingness of the joint-stock banks and bill brokers alike to put their money into bills, and the consequent accumulations of funds for which they were glad to find employment at any rate they could get. On the announcement of the advance in the Bank rate to 3 per cent. the joint-stock banks raised their rate for seven-day loans to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the discount houses put up theirs to $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for call and notice money respectively, but so far as the market was concerned quotations remained much about the same, and lenders who succeeded in obtaining $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for weekly fixtures were the exception rather than the rule. The India Council, however, was able to raise its rates for money lent or renewed for a month first to $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and then to 2 per cent.

The influences referred to above as causing money to be abundant and cheap operated in the opposite direction when discount rates were in question, and these hardened steadily day by day. Paris again snapped up all the raw gold which came into the market, and although the price was increased by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 77s. $9\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. seemed anxious for more. In addition to this the drain on the Bank's stock of gold for South America and Egypt promises to be very severe this autumn, and fears were entertained that the demands from the United States in connection with the crops would also prove exceptionally heavy. No increase in the Bank rate would stop the exports to South America or to Egypt, nor, if it is true that there is a big "bull" account now open in the Yankee market here, would it have much effect on American withdrawals, but it might prove efficacious in stopping the competition of the French for the new supplies coming forward, and so enable the Bank to replenish its stocks. The market consequently was quite prepared for an early advance

in the Bank rate, but it was hardly looked for before the end of this month or the beginning of next, and some even went so far as to predict that the change would be postponed until November, so that Thursday's decision took the majority of brokers and discount houses somewhat by surprise. While money continues so plentiful the higher rate cannot be made effective, and steps may have to be taken in order to bring the market under the Bank's control, but even when that is done it is thought in certain quarters that the present advance will not prove sufficient, and that another rise is inevitable within a month.

Discount rates rose steadily day by day throughout the week, and the tendency appeared to be towards still higher levels. For short dated paper the quotation touched $2\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{5}{8}$ per cent., and for full three months' bills $2\frac{5}{8}$ — $2\frac{3}{4}$, but to-day an easier feeling prevailed. Sellers were by no means willing to dispose of their bills at the rates quoted, and it was only when brokers gave way that business became possible, so that to-night the fine rate for three months was really no better than $2\frac{1}{4}$ — $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Four months' bills being January maturities are not wanted and are difficult to dispose of at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., but sixes were more acceptable to the market, and were readily taken at the same figure.

Treasury bills for £2,000,000 falling due on the 16th are to be renewed for six months, and at the same time the remaining £500,000 of the amount paid off on May 13 will be reissued. This will bring the total of this class of Government indebtedness up once more to £20,933,000, including the £1,200,000 issued privately to the India Council. Tenders for these bills are to be sent in on Monday, but it is believed that the market will not get many of them, as the Japanese Government still has a good deal of money in hand and is likely to tender at a much higher price than the market would care to give. Market conditions at present are so unsettled that much may happen between now and Monday, and it is therefore useless to attempt to forecast the probable rate.

On Monday the Bank announced that £400,000 of the £1,000,000 on its way from India had been intercepted for Egypt and that a similar amount had been set aside here on account of the Secretary of State for India in connection with the paper currency reserve. Including this as being virtually an export to Egypt, the loss of gold by the Bank for the week ended on Wednesday was £783,000, making with Thursday's shipment of £751,000 a total of over £1,500,000 within eight days, and it is currently reported that another £1,000,000 has been engaged for South America for next week. The price of gold in the open market has gone back $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 77s. 9d. per oz., but it is by no means certain that the Paris demand has ceased or that the Bank will get any of next Monday's arrival, amounting to £406,000.

In addition to the export of gold the Bank return shows that £174,000 went into the country during the week, reducing the stock of coin and bullion to £35,694,000 compared with £37,591,000 at this time last year. The domestic demand, however, was more than counterbalanced by a return of £214,000 notes from circulation, so that the net decrease in the reserve was £743,000. Government disbursements were on a large scale, involving a decrease of £1,221,000 in the Treasury balances or public deposits, which no doubt helps to account for the continued ease in the money market, and as other securities were £925,000 up other deposits show an increase of £1,100,000.

The Bank's half-year having ended on August 31, the profits have been adjusted this week by the addition of £271,217 to "rest" account, bringing it up to £3,677,242, and it is therefore possible to calculate the dividend which the directors are likely to declare at the meeting. As the "rest" is never allowed to fall below £3,000,000, this leaves £677,242 to be dealt with, or sufficient to maintain the distribution at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum which has been paid for the last three half-years, with a surplus of £22,357.

SILVER.

During the early days of the week prices for bar silver continued their steady recovery, reaching 28½d. per oz. for cash and 28½d. for delivery two months forward. Russia was still a good buyer, and Indian and local orders also came into the market, so that with supplies short the lifting of quotations was a comparatively easy matter. At the higher figures, however, the demand slackened off, and prices went back to 28½d. per oz. and 28½d. per oz. respectively, closing rather dull. For the Rs. 80,00,000 Council drafts on India offered on Wednesday the applications for bills were Rs. 6,71,00,000 and for telegraphic transfers Rs. 1,30,00,000. The allotment in bills was Rs. 71,26,000 and in transfer Rs. 8,74,000, tenders at rs. 4 1-32d. and rs. 4 1-8d. receiving 6 per cent. Next week another Rs. 80,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 6, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	52,374,070	Government Debt ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	33,924,070
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£52,374,070		£52,374,070

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	18,667,070
Reserve	3,677,242	Other Securities ..	29,802,287
Public Deposits (including		Notes	22,925,090
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,769,753
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	11,272,294		
Other Deposits	43,571,477		
Seven Day and other Bills	90,187		
	£73,164,200		£73,164,200

Dated September 7, 1905.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Sept. 2.		Aug. 30, 1905.	Sept. 6, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,740,209	Rest	3,406,025	3,677,242	271,217	—
7,393,580	Pub. Deposits ..	12,493,331	11,272,294	—	1,221,037
41,872,061	Other do. ..	42,470,932	43,571,477	1,100,545	—
113,465	7 Day Bills ..	68,012	90,187	22,175	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
18,260,841	Gov. Securities ..	18,676,283	18,667,070	9,213	—
24,969,260	Other do. ..	28,876,930	29,802,287	—	925,357
24,442,214	Total Reserve ..	25,438,087	24,694,843	743,244	—
				2,146,394	2,146,394
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
29,508,960	Note Circulation ..	23,656,685	22,925,090	—	731,595
35,501,174	Coin and Bullion ..	36,051,047	35,993,823	—	57,224
49½ p.c.	Proportion ..	46 p.c.	44½ p.c.	—	1½ p.c.
4 "	Bank Rate ..	2½ "	3 "	½ p.c.	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £383,000 out.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Aug. 29.	Aug. 31.	Sept. 5.	Sept. 7.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12 1/8	12 1/8	12 1/2	12 1/2
Do. do.	3 months	12 3/8	12 3/8	12 3/8	12 3/8
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25 35	25 35	25 36 1/2	25 37 1/2
Hamburg	3 months	20 62	20 61	20 61	20 62
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20 62	20 61	20 61	20 62
Paris	cheques	25 17 1/2	25 17 1/2	25 17 1/2	25 18 1/2
Do. do. do.	3 months	25 30	25 28 1/2	25 30	25 31 1/2
Marseilles	3 months	25 30	25 30	25 30	25 31 1/2
Switzerland	3 months	25 41 1/2	25 41 1/2	25 42 1/2	25 42 1/2
Austria	3 months	24 26	24 25	25	24 27
St. Petersburg	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Moscow	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25 42 1/2	25 42 1/2	25 42 1/2	25 42 1/2
New York	60 days	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2
Lisbon	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Oporto	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Copenhagen	3 months	18 39	18 39	18 39	18 39
Christiania	3 months	18 40	18 40	18 40	18 40
Stockholm	3 months	18 40	18 40	18 40	18 40

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Sept. 2.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance ..	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£2,677,021	£2,677,021

* Exclusive of £80,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £3,337,570.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for Treasury bills to the amount of £2,500,000 will be received at the Bank of England on the 11th inst., at one o'clock, of which £2,000,000 will be in replacement of bills falling due on the 17th inst., and £500,000 to complete the replacement of bills paid off on May 13. The bills will be dated September 16, and will be payable at six months after date.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 17	1 19 10
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4 1/2
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	6 months	Jan. 2 1	1 18 7
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 3
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	2 11 10
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 9 0
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	
20 433,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148	94,657,000	—
Week ending				
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	199,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 25	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
" 30	174,559,000	190,242,000	—	15,683,000
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
	8,461,040,000	7,155,774,000	1,305,266,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday, Germany	Saturday, S. America ..
Friday, Bars	Monday, Egypt
	Wednesday, Egypt
Net Efflux	Wednesday, Portugal ..
	Thursday, Portugal
	Thursday, S. America ..
Total	Total

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25 15 ³ / ₄	25 17 ³ / ₄	Antwerp	short	25 19	25 21 ³ / ₄
Brussels	chqs.	25 18	25 20	Italy	sight	25 12 ³ / ₄	25 14
Amsterdam	sight	12 08 ³ / ₄	12 11	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110 04	110 05
Berlin	chqs.	20 45	20 45	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	17 11	18 7 ³ / ₄
Do.	3 mths	20 34	20 28 ³ / ₄	Valparaiso	90 dys	15 14	15 14
Hamburg	chqs.	20 43 ³ / ₄	20 42 ³ / ₄	Calcutta	T.T.	1 4 7 ³ / ₄	1 4 7 ³ / ₄
Frankfort	short	20 43 ³ / ₄	20 42	Bombay	T.T.	1 4 7 ³ / ₄	1 4 7 ³ / ₄
Vienna	sight	23 97 ³ / ₄	24 01 ³ / ₄	Hong Kong	T.T.	1 10 18	1 11 18
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94 25	93 95	Shanghai	T.T.	2 8	2 8
New York	60 dys	4 84 ³ / ₄	4 83 ³ / ₄	Singapore	4 mths	2 18	2 18
Lisbon	sight	50 1 ³ / ₄	51 1 ³ / ₄	Yokohama	4 mths	2 0 18	2 0 18
Madrid	sight	33 21	33 10				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	1 1/2 1 1/2
Berlin ..	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Hamburg ..	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Frankfort ..	3	February 25, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Amsterdam ..	2 1/2	March, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Brussels ..	3	December 28, 1903	2 1/2 2 1/2
Vienna ..	3 1/2	February 3, 1904	3 1/2 3 1/2
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	4 1/2 4 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2 7 1/2
Madrid ..	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	3 1/2 3 1/2
Lisbon ..	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	4 1/2 4 1/2
Stockholm ..	4 1/2	February, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Copenhagen ..	4	January, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Calcutta ..	4	August 17, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Bombay ..	4	August 10, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
New York call money ..	2 1/2	—	—

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 23, 1905.	Aug. 15, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1904.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 46,390,583	£ 46,843,833	£ 46,824,208	£ 48,265,791
Silver reserve ..	12,619,208	12,711,541	12,688,916	12,445,416
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,831,458	1,761,375	1,747,041	1,812,941
Note circulation ..	69,469,416	65,932,208	66,209,833	71,669,875
Bills discounted ..	16,381,875	12,807,333	13,289,875	16,068,500

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 24, 1905.	Aug. 17, 1905.	Sept. 1, 1904.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 4,815,360	£ 4,782,600	£ 4,793,080	£ 4,800,240
Other securities ..	23,584,840	22,815,360	22,491,960	21,614,200
Note circulation ..	27,523,080	26,342,360	26,213,400	25,584,160
Deposits ..	2,929,640	3,284,960	3,187,160	3,021,900

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Sept. 2, 1905.	Aug. 26, 1905.	Aug. 19, 1905.	Sept. 3, 1904.
Specie ..	£ 42,758,000	£ 43,890,000	£ 44,238,000	£ 54,252,000
Legal tenders ..	16,672,000	19,960,000	17,060,000	16,102,000
Loans and discounts ..	227,384,000	228,922,000	229,220,000	223,440,000
Circulation ..	10,620,000	10,462,000	10,318,000	7,796,200
Net deposits ..	£ 233,318,000	£ 236,216,000	£ 237,710,000	£ 243,420,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,100,000 against an excess last week of £1,796,000.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 23, 1905.	Aug. 15, 1905.	Aug. 29, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£ 46,584,250	£ 49,468,550	£ 48,174,000	£ 46,256,400
Bills discounted ..	45,474,350	42,263,350	42,741,050	39,191,350
Advances on stocks ..	3,318,500	2,856,250	3,396,550	2,899,550
Note circulation ..	65,377,000	62,272,150	63,280,150	62,547,800
Public deposits ..	26,384,750	29,991,950	28,180,950	25,755,850

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 2, 1905.	Aug. 26, 1905.	Aug. 19, 1905.	Sept. 5, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 14,923,102	£ 14,914,737	£ 14,908,211	£ 14,782,328
Silver ..	22,638,595	22,594,596	22,446,533	20,431,485
Foreign Bills ..	2,279,525	2,227,586	2,178,906	1,632,694
Discount and Short Bills ..	45,332,130	45,484,255	45,527,188	38,650,696
Treasury Account ..	20,848,533	20,834,914	20,896,792	22,464,938
Notes in circulation ..	62,444,569	62,448,621	62,704,726	65,203,635
Current account deposits ..	22,628,042	23,260,723	23,085,159	25,870,891
Dividends Interests ..	2,585,501	2,223,974	2,376,411	2,695,669
Government Securities ..	4,988,208	4,271,922	4,004,282	5,355,606

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 24, 1905.	Sept. 8, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£ 118,977,680	£ 118,845,160	£ 118,766,720	£ 106,661,120
Silver in hand ..	44,292,120	44,332,120	44,386,680	44,724,880
Bills discounted ..	19,220,760	26,950,880	18,893,880	19,324,080
Advances ..	19,171,280	18,583,680	18,640,000	20,261,480
Note circulation ..	174,228,360	177,164,880	169,591,160	167,231,480
Public deposits ..	9,703,360	11,997,520	12,621,000	6,671,960
Private deposits ..	23,901,760	24,756,400	24,751,720	22,901,960

Proportion between bullion and circulation 93³/₄ per cent., against 92³/₄ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 16/29, 1905.	Aug. 8/21, 1905.	Aug. 1/14, 1905.	Aug. 16/29, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 91,623,725	£ 91,813,964	£ 91,783,113	£ 86,006,765
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	5,548,388	5,707,650	5,819,530	8,580,39
Advances and bills discounted ..	35,194,145	34,852,361	34,771,332	37,360,20
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	9,143,485	5,458,033	5,367,453	4,675,462
Notes in circulation ..	99,588,624	97,779,536	96,157,784	71,351,393
Deposits and current account ..	44,413,654	45,074,936	46,753,089	40,981,063
Treasury account ..	17,641,108	11,969,440	12,790,457	30,953,700

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	July 31, 1905.	July 20, 1905.	June 30, 1905.	July 31, 1904.
Reserve ..	£ 27,800,360	£ 27,828,040	£ 27,435,520	£ 26,246,600
State notes and small change ..	482,760	620,600	623,800	464,880
Discount and loans ..	11,884,600	11,358,160	13,828,960	10,258,960
Public stock and State loans ..	7,947,400	8,210,640	8,420,280	8,421,680
Credits ..	5,783,200	5,081,840	7,151,400	6,645,240
Note Circulation ..	39,012,640	38,106,720	37,640,320	35,110,320
Current account ..	4,373,000	3,959,720	4,569,760	4,326,240
Deposits ..	3,123,400	3,555,080	2,408,160	3,865,800

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	2 1/2
Three months ..	2 1/2
Four months ..	2 1/2
Six months ..	2 1/2
Three months fine inland bills ..	2 1/2
Four months ..	2 1/2
Six months ..	3 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	3
" " short loan rates ..	—
Banks' rate on deposits ..	1 1/2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	1 1/2
" " 7 and 14 days' notice ..	1 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	1 1/2
" " for call loans ..	1 1/2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

The condition of markets is still decidedly interesting. They were inclined to sober down towards the end of this week after bubbling up a bit further in the beginning, and the pause may be taken advantage of to have a look round. Of course, we are full of admiration for that skilfully engineered boom in the Kaffir Circus, and feel quite grateful to the "shops" and other gambling cliques for affording the worn-out investor another opportunity to get clear. Do not throw over shares in a hurry, but carefully measure prices against the true values revealed in the expert analysis of the position and prospects of leading mines now appearing in these columns, and where there is a hopeless discrepancy sell. From careful inquiry amongst leading Stock Exchange men dealing in the Mining section we are assured that the bait of rising prices has entirely failed to excite the cupidity of the public as the magnates, with their enormous burden of paper to unload, so confidently expected, and when the "bear hunting" is done and the "shop lifting" is over, as one broker ingeniously described the play, we may expect to see quotations all back to former figures and perhaps below. It is a notorious and significant fact that practically every advance in Kaffir prices during the last two or three years has been followed by a slump of such severity that values have shown an ever-increasing loss to unfortunate holders. How can an industry be expected to flourish which depends for its success on the lowest class of slave labour forced to work by the free use of the whip and other barbarities almost worthy of the Congo itself? Who can wonder that hundreds of these Chinese serfs are roaming the country murdering and pillaging at every opportunity, and that organised police "drives" are being resorted to in order to get the miserable wretches back into the compounds? What a soul-stirring picture it is, and how stable the basis for the latest boom!

What is the Yankee market going to do now that money in New York begins to show signs of scarcity, with every prospect of many sharp spasms of stringency during the autumn—fall to pieces? Not quite that, perhaps, but much skill will be required during

the next few months if quotations are to be maintained anywhere near their present heights, even though the manufacture of credit is still one of the simplest things in the world. The drain of currency to the interior is certain to be on an enormous scale because the crops to be moved this year are amongst the largest ever known, and the surplus reserves of the New York Associated banks are at the painfully low figures of 5½ million dollars compared with 47½ millions a year ago, when the harvest requirements were on a much smaller scale. That is not at all a cheerful outlook, and those inclined to believe the stories told them of the future of Canadian Pacific shares may spend a profitable half-hour in studying the analysis of the company's latest report given on another page. But, oh! people say, New York has power to take any quantity of gold from this side because her exports of agricultural produce will beat all former records. Yes, and drive our Bank rate up to 4 per cent. and perhaps higher. It was put to 3 per cent. this week on account of the heavy exports of metal already taking place to Egypt and the Argentine, and we know that the demands of both countries are certain to be large, and every withdrawal of gold is pretty sure to find reflection on what are known as Home markets, such as Consols and Corporation stocks, Home Railway stocks, and investment securities, because they, more than any others, are influenced by monetary considerations. We are striking no alarmist note, but merely preaching words of caution, and Wall Street speculators may find to their surprise that New York's ability to take gold from the English market is materially lessened by the transfer of the Japanese balances from the other side to this. We do not say that the money will be so transferred, but these are contingencies which must not be left out of account.

Happily Paris seems to be surmounting her sugar troubles without much difficulty, although a smash of such magnitude is bound to work a good deal of mischief by creating suspicion amongst the investing classes, which may be said to embody the entire population of France, and there has been a noticeable absence of enthusiasm on the Paris bourse during the past week or so. Not a bad thing perhaps, because France's particular playthings, like Spanish, Turkish, and Portuguese look pretty fully priced, and Tinto shares must indeed be dangerous to touch just now. They broke rather badly this week, following a heavy drop in the price of the metal, which may or may not have been due to the operations of Frenzier Financier Lawson. Japanese bonds, amongst others, also had a reactionary tendency, thanks to the riots in Tokio, and it would be curious indeed if the Peace of Portsmouth, which was at once to raise prices of Japanese securities and make them the soundest of stocks, had an exactly opposite effect. Do you begin to perceive how many are the obstacles in the way of successful speculation in any market?

We rather fancy the upward movement in Foreign Railway stocks is done for the present, although on any sharp recoil some of them may again be worth attention; and we had Hudson's Bay shares down to 80 this week, the close being little above that figure. That means a very heavy drop from the fabulous price touched last week, but not too heavy, and it may be useful to again remind readers of Lord Strathcona's words of warning at the last meeting. A study of all the facts rather throws a shadow over those brilliant autumn prospects.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The autumn boom did not make very much headway this week. Markets opened cheerfully enough, and, although it was chiefly professional, a far amount of buying was noticeable during the first day or two, but there was a decided pull-up before the end and in the majority of instances prices closed lower. The imminence of the fortnightly settlement, which begins on Monday in the Mining departments, may have had something to do with this, but the rise in the Bank rate

gave the market a sharp reminder that the period of monetary stringency is near at hand, while the dreadful happenings in the Caucasus, as also the riots in Tokio, were a grim commentary on the blessings of external peace. The chief break was in Yankees, as might have been expected, but Home securities, Foreign Railway stocks, active Foreign Government securities and mines all suffered in a greater or

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	—	91½	90½xd
91½	87½	Do. Account (Oct. 4) ..	91½	90½xd
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	90½	89½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100½	100½
95½	89	Irish Land (2½) ..	93	92½
101	96½	Local Loans (2½) ..	101	100½xd
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	99½	98½xd
99½	98½	Do. Account (Oct. 4) ..	99½	98½xd
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100½	100½
30½	29½	Bk. of England Stock. (9 p.c.) ..	30½	30½
109	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1931 ..	106	105½xd
99½	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948 ..	98	97½
85½	80½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	82	82
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66½	66½

less degree. The quarterly dividend came off Consols, and allowing for that they ended about 10s. lower, taking sundry other British Funds down as well, such as Annuities, Irish Land stock, War Loan and Transvaal 3 per cent. The Bank of England dividend for the past half-year will probably be 4½ per cent., the same as before, and the price of the stock was not affected. Home County and Corporation stocks improved when they moved, about a dozen showing improvements of ¼ to 1, and there were also a few changes to the good in the Colonial Inscribed division.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	99½	101½	101½	101½
102½	97½	100½	100½	100½
106½	100½	102	102	102½
104½	98½	101½	101½	101½
93½	85½	92½	92½	92½
92½	85½	92½	92½	92½
90½	85½	92½	92½	92½
104	99½	103½	103½	103½
90½	84½	89	89	90½
101	94	100½	100½	98½xd
106	101½	104½	104½	104½
89	82	88½	88½	89½
102½	93½	100½	100½	101
95	87½	95	95	95
96½	89½	95½	95½	96
96	88½	95½	95½	96
102½	96	100½	101	101
97½	91½	95½	96	97
103½	103½	105	105	106
105½	100½	104½	105	106
100½	92½	99½	100	98½xd
105	97½	104	105	105½
59½	28½	54	54	54
51½	24½	44	44	44
45½	26½	44	44½	47
109	104½	109	109	100½xd
107	104½	105½	105½	106
103½	99½	102½	102½	102½
106½	102½	104	104	106
91½	82½	89	89	89½
54½	47	54	54½	54½
55½	48½	54	54½	54½
44	38½	43	43½	43½
54½	47	—	53½	53½
100½	96½	96½	96	97
106	101½	104½	104½	105
101½	88½	100	100½	101½
102½	88½	101	102½	101½xd
89½	76½	88½	89½	90½
106½	97	104	104½	104½
105	102½	104	104	104½
70½	64½	69½	70	70
94½	86½	88½	94½	95
81	76	80	81	81
95½	89½	90½	91½	92½
10½	100	102½	102½	102½
105	100½	104½	104½	104½
91	86½	90	91	91½
74½	63½	71½	71½	72½
99	80½	95	98	98
50½	42½	48½	49½	49

A firm opening and heavy close would be a fair description of the Foreign Government market. Japanese issues are still ahead of all others in the matter of dealing, a very large business being put through each day, but after displaying further improvement prices had a decided tendency to give way, partly due no doubt to the "peace" disturbances in Tokio. Most of the realising was said to come from America, which

may be selling the bonds to prevent the transfer of the loan money to this side. Scrip of the latest $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loan at one time touched $4\frac{1}{2}$ premium, but closed sensibly below that, and the reaction extended to the Internal bonds, which have been in considerable favour during the past few days, especially the 5 per cent. silver loan, which by comparison looked remarkably cheap. Chinese securities usually managed to maintain early gains, but Russians were adversely affected by the dreadful news from the Caucasus. Weakness was likewise displayed by Spanish and Turkish, although the decline was quite slight compared with the improvements of the first few days. Leading South American stocks were not freely traded in as a rule, but the splendid traffics now being gathered by the Peruvian Corporation Railways helped prices onwards. In addition there is talk of the early conversion of the 6 per cent. debentures into 4 per cent., thereby releasing £75,000 a year, which would mean another 1 per cent. on the preference. Guatemalas are still being "tipped" in the Central American group, accompanied by the usual stories of an early arrangement, but they weakened with other things. Venezuelans were steady, Colombians irregular, and Paraguayans higher.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	135	136
165	152	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	158	158
131	116	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	120	122
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	114	116
83	77	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79	80
38	33	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	35	36
54	90	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	89	91
86	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78	78
17	15	Chatham Ordinary ..	15	16
47	38	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	41	41
62	51	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	58	59
34	28	Great Central Pref. ..	32	32
18	15	Do. Def. ..	17	17
93	82	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	84	83
108	98	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	100	99
42	33	Do. Def. (1) ..	36	37
145	136	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	137	137
55	52	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	53	53
49	41	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	44	44
112	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	105	105
100	90	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	92	92
42	35	Metropolitan District ..	36	36
71	65	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	69	69
70	62	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	65	65
83	76	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	80	80
49	43	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	45	45
144	134	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	136	137
160	147	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	151	153
94	85	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	88	89
134	122	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	126	127
58	48	Do. Def. ..	55	54
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	160	160
111	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
60	52	Do. Def. (a p.c.) ..	55	56

The Home Railway market has been comparatively quiet, but the flow of investment orders, although small, has been very steady, and as dealers are not over well provided with stocks quotations in several cases show substantial gains. North-Western especially was in strong demand, and North-Eastern was also bought with some vigour, while the other "heavies" were fractionally higher. Great Eastern recovered a little of the loss occasioned by the Witham accident, but the traffic return was not of a nature to encourage buying and the price was still down on the week. The Brighton return was a good one and all Southern lines hardened in consequence, but the South Eastern figures proving disappointing the improvements in that company's deferred stock and in Chatham ordinary were wiped out. Both of the Scotch railway dividends announced on Tuesday as well as the Highland company's distribution on the following day were considered satisfactory, but the good impression produced was not maintained by the North British declaration. A few people had hoped that the Caledonian would have been able to pay an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., seeing that the gross earnings for the half-year were £14,700 up, but they were not greatly disappointed when the dividend was announced at the same rate as a year ago with £9,000 more carried forward. The Glasgow and South-Western also repeats last year's distribution and carries forward about the same amount, although the published traffics showed a decrease of £12,600, and

the Highland Railway follows the same course, except that the balance over is down from £4,100 to £2,000. The North British Company, however, only managed to pay $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on its ordinary stock against $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and carries forward about £2,000 less at £10,000. Quotations for this company's stocks went back sharply on this result and Caledonian deferred flinched a little in sympathy.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95	80	Atchison Shares (4) ..	92	91
108	103	Do. Pref. (5) ..	108	107
118	104	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	116	114
102	97	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100	100
61	46	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	57	55
192	173	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	186	181
38	27	Denver Shares ..	36	35
93	85	Do. Pref. (5) ..	91	91
53	38	Erie Shares ..	53	50
87	77	Do. Pref. (4) ..	86	84
80	58	Do. and Pref. ..	79	77
185	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	181	180
158	140	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	155	151
35	24	Missouri and Texas ..	35	34
169	140	New York Central (5) ..	157	151
90	77	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	88	86
96	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	95	95
65	41	Ontario Shares ..	57	55
76	67	Pennsylvania (6) ..	74	73
61	40	Reading Shares ..	61	60
48	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	48	48
49	43	Do. and Pref. (2) ..	49	49
74	59	Southern Pacific ..	69	66
38	28	Southern ..	36	35
103	97	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103	103
140	116	Union Pacific (4) ..	138	138
102	98	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
24	18	Wabash ..	22	21
49	37	Do. Pref. ..	44	42
108	102	Do. Income Debs. ..	75	74
112	108	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	106	107
24	19	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106	107
103	99	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109
114	107	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	24	25
105	97	Do. Guar. (4) ..	103	104
58	50	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	113	114
109	107	Do. and Pref. (5) ..	105	106
109	107	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	58	59
109	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109

American Railroad shares enjoyed a further upward burst in the end of last week and the rise was continued here on Monday in spite of Wall Street being closed for Labour Day. It is believed that a big "bull" account has been built up on this side on the strength of the fine crop reports now coming forward, but Lawson does not admit that the rise was due to this and claims that it was caused by operations undertaken in

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
221	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	220	211
127	144	Do. Def. (15) ..	315	315
131	113	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	127	123
84	77	Do. Pref. (5) ..	128	128
148	134	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	84	84
131	127	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	144	143
136	117	Do. Pref. (5) ..	131	132
118	108	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	136	134
109	99	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
112	101	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	110
107	103	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	112	111
169	161	Do. do. Deferred (7) ..	104	103
109	103	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	169	160
137	127	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108	108
90	79	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	137	136
109	110	Central Uruguay (3) ..	88	87
94	88	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	109	109
70	58	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	94	94
32	28	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	68	68
73	59	Costa Rica (1) ..	2	3
128	104	Cuban Central ..	7	7
107	104	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	12	11
90	72	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	106	106
66	5	East Argentine (4½) ..	87	87
84	50	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6	6
97	86	Leopoldina (3) ..	84	84
110	106	Do. Deb. (4) ..	97	97
108	104	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	109	109
20	19	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	105
121	103	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	25	25
57	36	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	117	116
69	48	Do. and Pref. ..	48	48
150	107	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	59	59
198	162	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	158	153
208	178	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	191	191
193	122	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	205	205
193	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	193	190

order to give him "a good footing to sell on" in connection with his £2,000,000 pool. Whether there is any foundation for this assertion or not, Wall Street is not at present in a condition to stand a big inflation of prices and is decidedly nervous as to the effect the demands for money from the interior for moving

the crops will have upon the market supplies. The surplus reserves of the New York Associated Banks are down to about £1,100,000 compared with £9,500,000 at this time last year, and as farmers' requirements are likely to be considerably heavier there is good cause for the nervousness. Prices consequently recoiled heavily on Wednesday, as New York sold freely pretty nearly everything in the list, and Union Pacific especially suffered severely. Reading things, on the contrary, were strongly supported, in spite of the reports that the prosperity of the road is rousing the employees to demand higher wages, an agitation which, it is prophesied, will result in trouble next spring. The selling became more pronounced on Thursday, Union Pacific especially being offered, and the declines range from \$1 to \$5.

Canadian railways are in high favour just now, on the wonderful prosperity which that country is said to be enjoying, and Canadian shares at one time rose to 171. Wall Street, however, is largely interested, and with money growing dearer there realisations became the order of the day, and the price dropped steadily back to 167 but it rallied to near the best, closing strong. Grand Trunk stocks were also strong in the early part of the week, being helped by a better traffic return than had been expected, but they were equally unable to hold the higher levels reached, and finished with comparatively small improvements.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	20	Allsopp Ordinary.. ..	20
71	44	—	City of London Ord. ..	42½
566	508	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20)	530
27½	21½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23½
27½	21½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	22½
68½	49½	49	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20)	32
35	15	17½	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	50
102	99	—	Do. Def. Ord. Stock ..	19½
78½	56½	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	102
6½	5½	6	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	68
6½	5½	6	Aerated Bread (30)	6½
6½	5½	6	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½
1½	1½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½
1½	1½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	12
3½	2½	—	British Westinghouse Pref.	2½
6½	5½	—	Brunner Mond (35)	6½
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	10½
5½	4½	10/9	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½)	5½
502½	483½	500/-	Coats Ordinary (20)	500
1½	1½	14/3	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	2
1½	1½	21/6	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1½
1½	1½	—	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1½
13½	10½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3)	6½
5½	3½	4	Henley's Telegraph (15)	12
18½	14½	26/7½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	4
111	106	108	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	108
16½	15½	17½	Do. Debenture (42)	108
16½	15½	17½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	17½
16½	15½	17½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	17½
16½	15½	24/6	Nelson James Ordinary (10)	17½
16½	15½	17½	Russian Petroleum (5)	17½
7½	5½	8/6	Savoy Hotel (5)	5½
15	13½	—	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	15
15	13½	9/9	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	14
104½	102½	103½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	103½
85	49½	81½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	81½
48½	36½	46½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	47½
108½	99½	106	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-)	106½
98½	8½	—	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	9
11½	10½	—	Do. Debentures (6)	11½
8½	6½	7	National Discount (10)	7
13	10½	10½	Union Discount (11)	11½
104½	95½	—	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	104½
134½	120½	—	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	100½
3½	3½	3½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48)	132½
5½	3½	3½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	3½
1½	1½	1½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15)	3½
11½	9½	9½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20)	3½
39½	26½	37½	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	10
109½	93½	107½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	107½
2½	2½	2½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3)	2½
14½	11½	—	United States Steel Ordinary ..	12
231	214½	—	Do. Preference (7)	229½
37	28½	—	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	35½
37	8	—	Cunard Steam ..	12
109½	101½	106	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	106
17½	10	15½	Royal Mail ..	15
147½	134½	144	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	144½
147½	134½	144	Anglo-American Telegraph—	144½
133½	100	108½	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	108½
147½	134½	144	Do. Def. Ord. ..	14
16½	13½	14	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	14
16½	13½	14	Eastern Extension (7)	14
16½	13½	14	National Telephone Def. (5)	14
16½	13½	14	Western Telegraph (7)	14
16½	13½	14	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	8½
129	110	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	9½
10½	9½	—	London General Omnibus (8)	126½
10½	9½	—	London Union Trams Pref. (5)	10

The recent improvement in Leopoldina stock has naturally been followed by a good deal of realisation

to secure profits, and the price dropped back sharply. Antofagasta ordinary was also sold freely, and finished substantially lower, and a few of the leading Argentine companies' issues were likewise depressed. Argentine Great Western ordinary and North-Eastern preferred and ordinary and debenture stocks, however, were harder, and most Brazilian things showed fair improvements, San Paulo in particular being strong on the dividend announced on Wednesday. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock, which was another favourite for a time, after being rather under a cloud during the early days of the week came back into prominence, and the greater part of the loss was recovered, but other Cuban things were inclined to give way. Colombian National debentures were bought with some vigour, but fell back almost immediately, and finished below the best. Mexican Central bonds were in demand on the excellent start made in the new year, as shown by the net increase of \$98,000 for July, and Interoceanic of Mexico 4 per cent. debenture stock was also supported, but the "B" debenture stock fell back and the stocks of the old Mexican company were likewise weak. Russian Railway things were again lifted smartly, and Ottoman, Smyrna and Cassaba bonds and Piraeus, Athens, and Peloponnesus 3 per cent. and 5 per cent. bonds all showed substantial gains.

Hudson's Bay shares are still the centre of greatest interest in the Miscellaneous markets, business being large and the fluctuations wide. Early prices were good, the best touched being 86, but there was a steady set-back from this, and bargains were marked as low as 80½. Pekin Syndicates are still being manipulated along with the Shansi and Yangtse Valley shares, but, like most other things, the close was not quite at the best. London Docks lost part only of a good rise. Financial Trust issues steadily appreciate, also Bank shares in General, Insurance, and Gas securities, Waterworks debentures, and Indian and Ceylon Tea shares. A decidedly better tendency, too, was noticeable in the Brewery division, a large number of stocks, including Watney Combe, Allsopps, and City of London, closing some pounds better. Aerated Breads went up with jump on dividend talk, but fell back, while Lyons and Slaters, which first showed weakness, recovered smartly. Nitrate issues were again in good request. Telegraph Construction and Maintenance shares had a good rise, only to lose it again. Iron and Steel issues usually had an upward tendency, and Textile things recovered from a dull start. Russian Oil shares were naturally depressed by the widespread destruction at Baku, and shareholders are entitled to a good deal of sympathy in their misfortune. Brunner Mond shares were wanted. Amongst Telegraphs Anglo-Americans were somewhat dull, and Great Northern gave way as much as £1, but National Telephone issues kept quite steady. Things like Gramophones, Harrod's "Stores Founders" shares, Bovril deferred, and Spencer Santos were all slightly harder, and Price's Candle shares rose £1. Eastman's Meat shares advanced to 7, and Nelsons ended a trifle easier.

This morning it looked as though the Stock Exchange would have another rather doleful day, but early dullness soon gave place to cheerfulness, and closing prices were often above those of yesterday. The recovery was never very striking, but the "bulls" did not want too much of their profits rubbed off before making-up day, and set to work to bring about a rally. Japanese showed decided weakness at the opening, but recovered smartly, and other things seemed disposed to follow the lead.

"FRENZIED FINANCE."—Owing to the pressure on our space this week we are compelled to hold over the contribution of Mr. Lawson's story on "Frenzied Finance."

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.—Liabilities on September 2 consisted of current accounts and deposits £27,961,954, acceptances and endorsements, £1,101,973, and other liabilities £563,441, against which there were cash in hand and at Bank of England £4,376,704, money at call and short notice £6,883,850, Imperial Government securities £3,885,000, bills discounted, loans, &c., £16,068,338, and other securities £1,511,502.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Prices of Kaffir and Rhodesian shares have continued to mount, thus happily giving tired and weary holders that chance to clear out, for which they have been waiting for a long, long time. For the bosses, not the public, are buying. And the motive of this buying is not far to seek. They want their boom, and think that peace has given them their opportunity to work the market. In the belief that rising prices will tempt the cupidity of the public, they have now started their game, and have kept it up desperately for a whole week. There is no evidence yet that many outsiders have been lured inside, and on the market it has to be admitted that the buying is confined to the controlling houses and the professionals helping them. This buying, too, has scared the "bears," and has helped to improve the surface look of the market, for their eagerness to cover has assisted the upward movement. Dealers, though pleased to see all this, are still sceptical as to its effects upon the public, for should the latter dare to come forward, they may suddenly find scores of "boss" dust-bins emptied upon their heads. Such an unpleasant experience would scare them away again, never to return for ages to come. There is the probability, on the other hand, that the bosses may be more cautious, and only empty their dust-bins gradually and stealthily, although they have long been crammed with refuse, so that lids can hardly be shut down. After official hours dealings have continued in the Street daily until after seven o'clock. The advance has been checked by profit-taking, but on the week the rises in the leading speculative counters have been pretty substantial. It was also reported on the market that the big houses had actually started selling some of their "wreckage," and probably there is some truth in this, for the magnates are not the most patient of individuals. Next week brings another settlement. Monday is carry-over day in mines, and some sanguine spirits hope to see the new account start off in animated fashion. Many also expect a large increase in the Transvaal output for August, the announcement of which will be made in the course of next week.

A tremendous effort has been simultaneously made to put life into the Rhodesian market. Mr. Griffiths' report on the "banket" properties, originally published in April, has been dug up out of dusty pigeon-holes and recirculated. Evidently the directors are too impatient to wait for results to show the public and prove there is something, after all, in the "banket" discovery. No; they want to lash the market into a boom on an old report. Anyway, they have failed so far to bring in the public, despite all their unblushing and obvious devices, for outsiders have had quite enough of things Rhodesian. They know well enough that certain people are merely anxious to unload on them. Reports are spread of favourable developments on the Ayrshire and other properties; in fact, all the old tactics are resorted to to explain plausibly this sudden outburst of activity in a market that a week ago was as dead as mutton. A cable is published by the Banket company reporting assays ranging from 2 ozs. to 7 ozs. 3 dwts. in the Eldorado mine. Have these made their appearance suddenly and miraculously? Is this all the result of the development work that has been done on the property in the past twelve months or so? What, indeed, has been done during the last year? Was it not anticipated that crushing would have been started early in the present year? Perhaps the lifelessness of the market here has paralysed the efforts of the managers and miners. Has the Ayrshire company constructed that light railway it promised to build from the Eldorado mine? We have heard nothing of it. It is stated that Mr. Garthwaite's report on the banket properties will arrive next week. Mr. Garthwaite is the consulting engineer of the Chartered Company, and it seems significant that we have heard nothing so far of the probable tenour of his report. However, the engineered rise has not been sustained from day to day, for wideawake parties have seized the opportunity to take their profits.

Westralians have been fairly cheerful, with prices, on the whole, better than a week ago. Boulder Deeps have strengthened on the cable reporting that the lode in the lowest level has improved 2 ozs. per ton over the full width of the drive. Associated have advanced on reported good developments in the mine. Lake View Consols, Great Fingalls, Ivanhoes, South Kalgurris, and Hainaults have also been conspicuous. Great Boulders, on the other hand, have eased on the lowest level having fallen into very poor ore. Sons of Gwalia have not been affected by the satisfactory results cabled in the No. 14 level, while Cosmopolitans have reacted on profit-taking.

Several shares in the Jungle group have firmed up, but Egyptians for the most part are lower on the week.

In the Miscellaneous list Broken Hill shares have displayed weakness on a small decline in lead. Le Rois, in the British Columbian group, have declined on the rumour that Mr. A. J. McMillan, the managing director, has severed his connection with the company. Esperanzas have smartly recovered an early relapse. Among coppers Rio Tintos are lower, while Mount Lyells have also eased. Indian shares have been steady.

APEX MINES.—In the report for the quarter ending June 30 the directors announce that boring operations have now been completed. This applies to the gold section, which, it is added, has been placed under the management of Mr. E. J. Way. Shaft sinking has now commenced. For some years past the shares of this company have been outrageously inflated, and only as recently as 1902 went as high as 11½; yet, despite the fact that

the company was formed in 1893, the principal work done on the gold section up to three years ago was the sinking of boreholes to test the existence of reef supposed to be a continuation of the Main Reef series. On May 30, 1902, the annual meeting of the company was held in Johannesburg, when the chairman confessed that the further development of the reefs had not come up to the expectations which the preliminary developments had led the directors to form. Further development, he admitted, "tends to prove that the particular area of the farm we are exploiting is situated in a poor zone. The total result of the underground workings is that out of the ground opened up only 20 per cent. of the Main Reef is payable and 13 per cent. of the North Reef. Throughout the workings the Main Reef leaders are all unpayable. The result of the boreholes has been that although the reef is practically located throughout the farm yet the outcrop portions intersected are all of a very patchy and disturbed nature. To form a proper opinion it will therefore be necessary to commence a series of deep level boreholes, as it is extremely probable that the country will become more settled and regular as depth is attained." Yet in that very year the price of the share was rigged to 11½! In the following year the company paid its first dividend at the modest rate of 15 per cent. out of the profits accumulated from the sales of coal, for it has a coal section in addition to what is called the gold section. Indirectly the dividend also came out of capital, for the appropriation account that year was credited with no less than £156,599 from premiums, less £45,779 written off profit and loss in the years 1897, 1898, and 1901. Under the heading of coal section, too, expenditure was treated as an asset in the balance-sheet when it should have been debited to revenue. Another twelve months went by and at the annual meeting on April 7, 1904, the chairman referred to the policy of sinking deep level boreholes. The first hole was not a success, he confessed, as far as values were concerned, while the second was not completed by the end of the financial year. But as further profits were earned by the coal section the directors courageously paid another 20 per cent. dividend. Depreciation was charged to premiums, but had it been charged to revenue in the usual way it would have made an appreciable difference. Boreholing was continued throughout 1904. In the report for that year it was stated that borehole "L" was completed and demonstrated the existence of the Main Reef beds, but the assay values were poor. In order further to explore the gold section two more boreholes—"M" and "N"—were sunk, and up to April the former had not intersected the Main Reef, while the latter met the series at a depth of 1,384 ft., but it was only six inches wide, with a value of 9.5 dwts. per ton. Accordingly, at the annual meeting the chairman said there was no necessity to delay any longer in sinking shafts. "We therefore intend to start at once shaft sinking, and as the labour conditions are now more propitious we contemplate starting up work with all energy and speed." This involved the problem of how to get the cash with which to do it, and from £150,000 to £200,000, it was estimated, would be required. "There are two practical methods of being able to carry this out," was the chairman's argument, "either by negotiating a loan or by making an issue of shares *pro rata* to shareholders with a guarantee at a reasonable price to ensure the money being forthcoming. Personally, I support the latter policy, because it is eminently fair to all, and consequently there can be no unnecessary quibbling as to the issue price. Of course, in making share issues the opportune time has also to be considered, and if it would appear to those most capable of judging that shareholders would not as a whole take up their *pro rata*, then we should have to fall back upon the alternative of borrowing money for the time being and making the best possible terms with those who are prepared to lend the money until the time is ripe for a share issue." A further dividend of 20 per cent. was recommended out of the coal profits, the premium account was reduced by £4,576 appropriated for depreciation—making an aggregate of £64,971 taken from premiums since 1897—and £37,846 was carried forward, but the dividend would absorb nearly £30,000 of this. So we now learn that shaft sinking has at last commenced. But how many years will it take the company to reach the reefs, and when they are at length reached will they be worked at a profit? These questions cannot be answered for a long time, but that is no reason why the insiders should not rig the shares to their hearts' content if they can tempt the public to buy. It will all depend upon the attitude of investors, not upon the uncertainties of the future. Yet all these great risks were priced as recently as 1904 at 8½ and never below 4½, and in the present year the extreme quotations have been 8½ and 5½! What prudent man would buy at such a figure?

CALEDONIA COPPER COMPANY.—One or two subscribers have written to us recently asking us what we think of the prospects of the Smelting and Refining Company of Australia. Something like an answer to their anxieties is now given in the scheme of reconstruction suggested by the directors of the Caledonia Copper Company and the committee of shareholders appointed on June 14, 1904, who express the opinion that the scheme is the most practicable under present circumstances. A company is being formed with a share capital of £500,000 in 1,000,000 10s. shares and £100,000 in 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, repayable on November 1, 1915, or earlier at the company's option. This company is to acquire:—(a) The undertaking of the Smelting and Refining Company of Australia (1901), Limited, which has an issued share capital of £507,111 and £100,000 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures. The price is to be the above-mentioned £100,000 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, which is to have the same security as the pre-

sent debenture stock of the Smelting Company, and the payment of certain law costs, rents, and other secured liabilities; (b) 75,000 £1 shares, and an option to January 15 next for a further 25,000 (making 100,000 in all, practically a controlling interest) in an Australian company having £200,000 issued capital, owning a property at Broken Hill. The price for the 75,000 shares is to be £50,000 cash, and another £20,000 cash will be paid for the 25,000 shares included in the option should this be exercised. A special report upon this property, it is said, is now being made by Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co. on the instructions of the Share Guarantee Trust, Limited; and (c) the undertaking of the Caledonia Copper Company, including the option of purchase held over certain properties in New Caledonia. This company has an issued share capital of £750,000, and the price is to be (1) payment of its liabilities, including winding up and the liquidation of Les Mines de Cuivre Pilon, Limited, and (2) shares. That is to say, the new company will issue 750,000 10s. shares, credited with 2s. 6d. paid up, and having 7s. 6d. liability. The subscription of these shares would provide the company with £281,250 cash capital, and the subscription of 400,000 shares will be guaranteed, the new concern being incorporated in Australia to enable this to be done. Shareholders in the Caledonia Copper Company are to be given the opportunity of subscribing for the shares, and those not applied for will be offered to the public at par. The scheme has been arranged by the Share Guarantee Trust, which holds a large interest in the Smelting Company's secured liabilities and debenture stock, mainly with a view to provide additional supplies of ore for that company's smelters, and as the trust will be put to considerable expense over the business a commission of 4 per cent. upon the new company's share capital is to be paid to it. It will also, in each year that 5 per cent. dividend is paid, receive 10 per cent. upon the net profit of the company for that year, after payment of interest upon its debenture stock, which percentage, it is explained, the trust will rely upon for its chief remuneration. On any cash capital subscribed over £150,000 the trust will be paid a brokerage of 10 per cent., and should this excess not amount to £35,000 the trust will, if required, lend up to that amount at the same commission, so that the minimum amount of cash payable to the new company will be £185,000. It is added that in the event of the Broken Hill shares not being acquired the Trust would, on the request or approval of the directors and committee of the Caledonia Copper Company, be prepared to accept this alteration, subject to a proportionate reduction of the guarantee of capital, in order to prevent the scheme falling through. This is a scheme that does not impress us very favourably. But money is needed, and if there are people prepared to find it probably this scheme is as good as any other that could be devised. It will be noted that the name of the Broken Hill company whose shares are to be acquired is not divulged, and we should like to know the reason why. Looking to the past histories both of the Caledonia Copper Company and the Smelting and Refining of Australia, we have little hope in their future. The former is a flotation of the famous London and Globe Corporation, and the operations of the Smelting Company in the year to June 30, 1904, resulted in a loss of £15,389. Better than the scheme of reconstruction and amalgamation would probably be the winding up of both concerns. But we shall see if the faith of the Australians is justified by events. Perhaps English shareholders would be wise to let them face all the risks of the future.

CHINESE LABOUR AND THE NEW DRAFT ORDINANCE.—The South African Press publish particulars of the draft ordinance which has been drawn up, with the object of conferring jurisdiction on the superintendent and inspectors of Chinese labourers, appointed under the Labour Importation Ordinance, to try certain offences, and is to be introduced into the Transvaal Legislative Council this session by Sir Richard Solomons, the Attorney-General. The draft ordinance, when approved of, will be cited as the Labour Importation Amendment Ordinance, 1905. Clause 1 of the draft ordinance confers on the superintendent and every inspector appointed under the ordinance of 1904 jurisdiction in respect of offences against the ordinance and regulations with regard to any offence summarily triable by a Court or a resident magistrate. This power will be granted provided such offences are committed under the ordinance and within the area of any mine or mine compound where such labourer resides. The fines to be inflicted in the case of a conviction will be the same as those imposed by the magistrates under the existing laws, and on conviction the labourer's employer will be notified, and the amount of the fine will be deducted from the labourer's wages, and paid over for the benefit of the Colonial Treasury. The procedure to be adopted upon trials will be exactly the same as the procedure in vogue in the Courts; in fact, the superintendent or inspector is practically constituted a magistrate with powers only to deal with the Chinese or other imported labourers. The usual imprisonment warrant will be issued and duly recognised by the prison authorities. All sentences imposed will be subject to review by an appeal to the Supreme Court. For the purpose of confining prisoners awaiting trial, it is provided that the employers of labourers should erect a lock-up on their properties, which lock-up shall be deemed to be a gaol. In the event of labourers on the mines organising a conspiracy, refusing to work, creating a disturbance, intimidating or molesting any person on the mine, the superintendent or inspector is empowered to impose a collective fine on the labourers. This fine will be apportioned amongst the guilty persons, deducted from their wages, and handed over to the Treasury. A further important power invested in the superintendent and inspectors is that of ordering

the return to the country of origin, and the cancelling of the contract of engagement at the expense of the public revenue, of any labourer who, the superintendent has reasonable grounds for believing, is a danger or menace to the proper control of the other labourers on the mine, but this is subject to the appeal of the Lieutenant-Governor. It is provided that labourers purchasing or being in possession of gum opium, extract of opium, poppies, &c., shall be liable to a fine, on conviction, of £20, or in lieu thereof, to imprisonment for three months, with or without hard labour. In the same way, persons selling or supplying labourers with opium, &c., except for medicinal purposes, shall be liable, on conviction, to imprisonment for a like period. Unhappily, however, all this will not change the nature of the criminal, nor save peaceful inhabitants from being robbed and murdered, any more than gangs of hooligans make life peaceable in certain districts of London.

NIGEL DEEP.—The Nigel Deep is a member of the Consolidated Gold Fields group of companies. As the position of this company is somewhat peculiar and exceptional we may explain that it has had to be helped greatly by the South African Gold Trust, although its capital is £500,000. In the year 1897 the company was reconstructed, when the capital was reduced from £500,000 to £250,000 by exchanging two old shares for one new share, after which it was again raised to £500,000 by the creation of 250,000 shares. Yet to enable the company to sink a shaft and develop the mine a loan was arranged with the South African Gold Trust to the extent of £100,000, at 7 per cent., to terminate on June 1, 1903, but was subsequently extended for a further two years to June 1, 1905, on the following terms:—(1) An option on 60,000 Sub-Nigel shares or any less number at 12s. 6d. per share, and (2) an option on 40,000 of the same shares at 15s. per share. Two years ago the directors anticipated that the mine would reach the crushing stage without compelling them to incur further liabilities on loans. Twelve months later, however, the indebtedness amounted to £98,000, and we expressed the opinion then that it must continue to grow for an indefinite time. In fact, negotiations were proceeding for a further advance to keep the company going for another year. "As it appears," said the chairman at the annual meeting, "that the labour problem, though not yet solved, is now in a fair way towards solution, it becomes necessary to consider the best means of providing the funds required for the resumption of active operations and of putting the finances of the company on a permanently satisfactory basis. The matter is now under consideration, and we hope in due course to lay a suitable scheme before the shareholders." We thought this scheme might take the shape of another reconstruction, but in the report for the year ending April 30 we read that the directors have found it necessary to enter into new agreements with the South African Gold Trust and the Gold Mines Investment Company, "in order to provide the necessary funds to unwater the mine and overhaul the machinery and plant previous to the commencement of crushing operations." Under these new agreements the company can borrow up to the sum of £112,000 from the Gold Trust and £20,000 from the Gold Mines Investment, both repayable on June 30, 1907. Of these amounts the company had received £102,500 up to the end of April last. The considerations given to the lending companies are:—To the South African Gold Trust, an option on 100,000 Sub-Nigel shares at 10s. per share to June 30, 1907, and to the Gold Mines Investment an option on 25,000 of the Nigel Deep's reserve shares at par. The Nigel Company has also undertaken, when required so to do by the creditor concerns, to execute in favour of the Gold Trust a first mortgage bond or bonds over its property and assets (with the exception of the 100,000 Sub-Nigel shares), to secure the repayment on June 30, 1907, of all principal moneys, not exceeding in the aggregate £132,000. In the past financial year the income amounted only to £361, while the expenditure totalled £15,199, thus there was a deficit of £14,838 to add to the previous debit of £39,476, to be wiped out by future profits, over and above the heavy loans. Thus shareholders must not expect dividends for two or three years yet, maybe longer.

RHODESIAN BANKET COMPANY.—Now that peace has come along the directors of the Rhodesian Banket Company probably hope they will soon be able to attract the public to their shares. "Look at our nice little lot, gentlemen, better than the rubbish you'll buy the other side of the street. All going dirt cheap, too—almost given away." They have re-published a report on the "banket" deposits by Mr. Harry D. Griffiths, a name that caused us to ask two or three months back: "Who is Griffiths?" The greater part of the report is a technical description of the geological character of the country, which can give us no idea as to the ultimate commercial value and payability of the deposits. Mr. Griffiths admits that it is not possible to estimate with accuracy the value of the ore above the first level, owing to the unknown values right along the bottom of the old workings, but he thinks it should be between 15 dwts. and 16 dwts. The ore between the first and second levels, he says, has the appearance of being much richer, and can be reckoned to have a value of 27 dwts. "It is impossible to ascertain the probable value of the ore below the second level, as the inclined portion of the main shaft has been sunk in the footwall, and not on the chute, but I feel confident that cross-cutting will not reveal decreasing values." On the whole, he speaks quite enthusiastically about prospects, but we cannot share his enthusiasm. "The ore so far explored," he writes, "is of a highly payable nature, and taken in conjunction with the length developed, the apparent considerable further extension of the pay-chute, the increasing values in the lower levels, and the evidence of another rich chute in the hanging-wall fully justifies the important developments now contemplated." As regards the size of the reduction plant which

will be required, he says it is too early to give a definite opinion, but from the present prospects of the continuation of the chute east and west, it will have to be of considerable magnitude." "Altogether I consider the Eldorado mine as a very high grade proposition with prospects second to none in Rhodesia, and bidding fair to become the largest gold producer in that country." Second to none! Where is the first? This report was originally published in April last. Why is it now resurrected? What has been done at the mines in the intervening months? Why do the Chartered directors say nothing of Dr. Garthwaite's reported examination? Why are they so dumb on "bankets?" Puzzling questions these? No, we think not.

NEW DE KAAP.—In a circular issued to the shareholders it is stated that, as it was imperative to decide within a limited period whether the option held by the company over the Ulundi property should be exercised and the purchase (on account of which heavy payments have already been made) completed or not, the major portion of the company's recent operations have been devoted to carrying out a thorough investigation of this area. In addition to the old workings being pumped out, explored and sampled, a considerable amount of driving has been done and reef exposed in entirely fresh ground. The directors say they are pleased to be able to report that sufficient evidence has been given of the value of the property to warrant the company's engineers in recommending final payments for the completion of the purchase. Accordingly the necessary instructions have been given to carry this advice into effect, and arrangements are being made for opening up and working the Ulundi mine. The company has not only succeeded in obtaining a further reduction in the amount of the purchase price, but also an increase of its proprietary rights therein, which practically ensures the control of it to the New De Kaap Company. But this does not make us in the least hopeful of the company's prospects.

FRASER GOLD REEFS.—The manager of this company cabled, during the period occupied by the reconstruction, that there were 12,000 tons of ore in sight of the value of 10 dwts. to the ton, and recently that he expected to resume crushing in October. He is preparing to drive north 125 ft. at the 300 ft. level to connect shafts Nos. 1 and 2, having always been of the opinion that a good chute of ore exists within this 125 ft. of ground. Several parcels of ore have been put through the mill for the public, and a portion of the mullock dump has been milled, the result of these operations to July 29 being a profit of £65. It is added that the mill has had a general overhaul, and is in a better condition than before.

NO. 2 SOUTH GREAT EASTERN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In their report for the past six months the directors state that the quantity of quartz raised and crushed was 24,120 tons for a yield of 16,504 ozs. of smelted gold, worth £58,963, from which £34,200 was divided, equal to 4s. 9d. per share. While the amount of crushing stuff put through the battery was a little more than in the previous term, the yield of gold showed a decrease, owing to the fact that though the quantity and average quality keep up, the specimen stone is not being obtained in such quantities as on former occasions, "but," says the report, "a recurrence of the previous richness of the lodes may be met with at any time as the mine is further opened up in the northern end. The lodes are all keeping their average size, while the auriferous country yet unworked is very extensive." Financially, the position is, as usual, very strong.

NEW SOUTH WALES MONTHLY GOLD YIELD.—In the month of August the gold output of New South Wales amounted to 26,473 ozs., valued at £87,032, compared with 14,271 ozs., of a value of £54,520 in the corresponding month of last year. For the eight months of the year the yield totals 197,613 ozs., worth £690,312, against 210,487 ozs., and £758,832 in value, in the first eight months of 1904.

BRITISH COLUMBIAN MINING.—It is stated in Rossland, B.C., that the local share market is now closely bound up in the London market, and that speculators on the other side are watching events in England with the liveliest interest. It is thought that the announcement may be made at any time that important changes have taken place in the control of the big Rossland mines. It is an open secret, so it is stated, that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is offering the Le Roi company exceptionally favourable smelting conditions at Trail, so much so, in fact, that it is surprising to the well-informed that the offer was not accepted long ago. This was dated August 16, since when it has been officially announced that the Le Roi company has made a contract with the Trail Smelter, which will be of material benefit to it. In reference to this, the local *Miner* says:—"As long as Le Roi ore goes to Northport Le Roi shareholders stand a slim show for dividends in the near future. Once, however, the Le Roi output is sent to Trail a great change for the better may be expected, and at the same time the whole camp will be benefited, because concentration of the product of the big mines here at one common smelting point must inevitably permit sweeping economies and consequently cheaper smelting charges all round. This would naturally be followed by general and lasting prosperity to all who are interested."

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN BANK.—The statement for Aug. shows current accounts and deposits of £13,496,251, other liabilities £380,367, and acceptances and endorsements £330, against assets consisting of cash in hand and at Bank of England £1,824,692, money at call and short notice £999,700, British Government and other securities £4,220,404, and bills discounted, loans, &c., £8,831,822.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

The annual report of this great undertaking comes to hand at a very opportune moment. During recent months the company's ordinary or common shares have been the medium of a somewhat unrestrained gamble, lifting the price to over 170 for the \$100 share. There has been some reaction from that readers perhaps will be able to judge for themselves, after following high figure, but even as we write the quotation is over 165, and lowering us through the analysis of the report and accounts we are now about to make, whether the position and prospects of the system justify present prices or the much greater ones which are said to be the object of the American speculators behind the latest outburst. In the 12 months ended June 30 the company's gross earnings reached a sum of \$50,481,882 or \$4,012,750 more than in the previous year, against which the working expenses went up \$2,750,767 to \$35,006,794, an advance greater than some people expected because of the very heavy outlays incurred during the early months of 1904 owing to the exceptionally severe weather. That left the net revenue larger by \$1,261,983 at \$15,475,088, but take careful note of the fact that it is still short some hundreds of thousands of dollars compared with the income of 1902-3, when the capital was millions of pounds less, and the quotation for the common shares was enormously lower. Ratio of working expenses for the past year was the merest trifle less than in the preceding period at 69.35 per cent., but is still 5.38 per cent. above the year before that, not an encouraging sign. To the net earnings must be added sundry other items of revenue aggregating \$1,584,663, a decline, by the way, of \$100,000 or more, making the total for disposal \$17,059,752 against \$15,904,373, a fair advance; but we immediately come to an ominous increase of \$367,970 at \$7,954,066 in the fixed charges, so that after again applying \$230,000 for steamboat depreciation and pension fund, the surplus remaining is \$8,875,686 an advance of \$787,439, which is not exactly brilliant out or a gross gain of \$4,000,000. Preference dividend takes \$1,514,132, but after again providing a dividend of 6 per cent. on a greatly enlarged amount of capital stock the surplus over is just \$118,350 better at \$1,784,553, a nice basis, truly, for a rise in the price of the stock since this time last year of \$40. We know the margin above the dividend now proposed is a very considerable one, and would have permitted a bigger distribution had the directors been so minded, but they are well aware that to maintain even this rate an extra \$500,000 will be required for the current year, owing to the heavier capital now fully bearing and the additional obligations do not end there. True, the traffics are still expanding in a most satisfactory fashion, but remember what a comparative trifle was retained out of last year's gross gain. We doubt if any extra surplus at all would have been shown had all charges been squarely met, because not even the directors could pretend that about \$150,000 was sufficient depreciation on steamboats valued at nearly \$13,000,000. Additions to the fleet, too, proceed apace, two big steamers for the Atlantic service, each of 14,500 tons register and 18½ knots sea speed, being under construction to be ready for service on the opening of the St. Lawrence navigation in 1906. Their cost and equipment will be approximately £800,000, and we gather that besides the common stock the company last year sold £1,406,575 debenture stock for acquisition of bonds on which interest was guaranteed and the construction of branch lines, besides £900,000 preference stock, so that altogether last year's capital creations reached the enormous sum of £5,687,000, which, at even 4 per cent., would mean an annual charge of £227,000. Beyond all this the company has given its guarantee to Minneapolis St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railway consolidated bonds to the amount of \$3,620,000, representing the cost of 181 miles of additional railway constructed in extension of its system, and has interested itself largely in the development of Vancouver Island by acquiring the control of the Esquimault and Namaimo Railway, extending from Victoria to Wellington, a distance of 78 miles. This company owns a land grant in Vancouver Island of approximately 1,600,000 acres, and the Canadian Pacific will lease the line for a term of years at a rental equal to 4 per cent. interest on bonds to be issued to an amount not exceeding \$30,000 a mile. A condition is that the Esquimault company shall apply the proceeds of all sales of land towards the redemption of these bonds at par until the amount outstanding has been reduced to a sum equivalent to \$14,000 per mile. We hope the line will pay because there is a very similar undertaking, only more onerous to the Canadian company, in connection with the Nicola Kamloops and Similkameen Railway. Then there is in contemplation the construction of a branch line to open a large district which is being rapidly settled, and an agreement with the British Columbia Electric Company for the electrification of certain parts of the line, and, of course, large sums of money are being laid out on the second track, urgently required, between Winnipeg and Fort William, and the construction of sundry canals. No doubt all these works are really necessary, and the flourishing conditions now ruling in Canada are no doubt an encouragement to take them in hand, but we hope the directors are proceeding with the fact always before them that prosperity cannot last for ever. In some of its enterprises, however, the company stands to directly gain, a coal mine now being de-

veloped promising not only to safeguard the fuel supply in the Banff district, but to be a considerable source of profit. The acquisition of the St. John Bridge and Railway Extension Company means an annual saving of \$30,000 on the basis of last year's traffic, and we are pleased to note that the redemption of land grant bonds is proceeding at a good pace. During the year 509,386 acres were sold for \$2,446,300, being \$4.80 per acre, and altogether from the proceeds of land sales a further amount of \$3,500,000 was deposited with the Dominion Government on account of the \$15,000,000 land bonds mortgage, leaving a balance due on account of this mortgage of \$8,000,000. Against this there are deferred payments on account of land and townships sold of \$14,659,179, so that the position here is rather encouraging. A readjustment of the capital account, legitimate enough in its way, has provided a free asset of \$7,676,552, which the directors state may be properly considered a surplus available for any purpose. This would make the total surplus \$27,587,551, a very fine sum, no doubt, but \$2,535,000 is to be set aside to a special fund for improvements and other purposes, and we have no doubt that uses could be found for all this money without giving it to the shareholders. Are the securities acquired, standing in the balance-sheet at \$52,300,534, worth that sum, because the return is very poor? In the freight traffic grain and lumber did best, followed by "other" and manufactured articles, and we find that the number of passengers went up 640,000, with a minute increase in the earnings per passenger per mile. Receipts from passengers came to \$13,583,052, against \$12,418,419, freight gave an additional \$2,489,469 at \$31,725,290, and there were also increases under mails, sleeping cars, express, &c., the item including profit from the ocean steamboats. We should like to know how much. On the expenditure side conducting transportation came to \$16,905,484, maintenance of way and structures to \$8,527,035, maintenance of equipment to \$6,616,257, and general expenses to \$1,634,699, all items showing important increases. On the whole a fairly good position, but it affords no justification for the recent inflation of the shares, because the fancy values placed upon the company's lands are probably a long way wide of the mark. At present prices the common stock yields less than $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and that we consider quite inadequate for a speculative security of such character.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

This important bank apparently derived some benefit from the Canadian business activity we hear so much about just now, and during the six months ended June 30 earned a net profit of £34,023 or £3,404 more than in the opening half of 1904. From this there is a transfer of £514 to the officers' widows and orphans fund and of £595 to the pension fund, so that after adding £6,590 brought forward the balance for disposal is £39,505. As usual the dividend will be at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, with an increase in the carry forward from £6,332 to £9,505. It may be noted that for the second half of last year the profits reached over £60,000, owing, we suppose, to farmers heavy requirements, and if the crops in the North-West turn out as good as reported the current six months will no doubt be equally flourishing. That may mean another addition to the reserve, which got £20,000 six months ago, increasing it to £420,000 against the paid-up capital of £1,000,000. The bank's resources continue to grow, deposits and current accounts showing an increase of £242,887 to £3,740,165 and the bills payable and other liabilities an advance of £225,746 to £3,234,403. Notes in circulation likewise show a moderate expansion to £559,280, but we note a very heavy drop in the cash and specie of £476,509 to £891,681. Against that the cash at call and short notice has gone up £368,255 to £1,557,431, the two items together adding up to £2,449,112 compared with £2,557,367, so that the effect of the additional resources appears in the bills receivable, loans and other accounts, larger by £610,579 at £5,797,899, which seems to bear out the contention that general business is improving. Bank premises are up from £178,009 to £181,871 in consequence of the opening of a new branch, and the item will no doubt continue to grow as three new offices have been started since the end of the half-year.

GOLDSBROUGH, MORT AND CO., LIMITED.

We are glad to note that this business made some progress during the year to March 31 last. The results are better than anything attained for a long time, and when addressing the shareholders at the annual meeting held in Melbourne the chairman described the immediate prospects of the pastoral outlook as very favourable. Bountiful rains fell in the autumn, followed by warm, growing weather, and lambing is now going on with satisfactory results. Unhappily there is one drawback to an otherwise good general outlook, only a partial rainfall having been experienced in the West Darling country of New South Wales and that part of Queensland west of Longreach, through the Gulf country and out to the South Australian border. Those districts are either comparatively dry or actually suffering from conditions of drought. Last year the company sold 19,838 bales of wool in excess of the quantity disposed of in the previous season, figures which will no doubt be exceeded during the coming season, and increased the gross profit by £16,984 to £159,869. Expenses of management were up £3,226 to £53,231, although still less than the 1902-3 charges, and general interest was over £3,000 larger at £8,106, but debenture interest showed a slight reduction owing to redemption of "A" stock, so that after providing £3,073 for depreciation of premises and plant the net balance is £17,436 compared with £6,634, increasing the primary reserve to £29,393. This fund must be built to £5,000

before the shareholders can stand in for a share of the profits. The balance-sheet shows a few important movements, the principal being a reduction of £111,554 to £2,118,143 in the advances on stock and station properties. Against that cash at bankers, on hand and on deposit is up over £56,000 to £186,387. Other changes worth mention on the credit side are an increase of £5,897 to £33,111 in bills receivable and a reduction in the freehold and leasehold premises of £6,306 to £343,203. The company's indebtedness on "A" debenture stock is £6,600 less at £1,217,925, but the "B" debenture stock remains at £727,695 and the amount due on mortgage is very slightly lower at £115,807. Sundry creditors, £29,899, show an advance of £5,336 and bills payable are up £1,000 to £5,000. Thus the financial position shows some improvement, and if the seasons continue favourable there may be hope for the shareholders yet.

MILLARS' KARRI AND JARRAH CO. (1902), LIMITED.

Although it would not be quite fair to describe the amalgamation of the West Australian hard wood companies as a failure, it would be equally beside the mark to say that the fusion had turned out a success. Probably enough the results attained by the present undertaking, which was formed in 1902 when cut-throat competition had brought most of the businesses to the verge of bankruptcy, are much in advance of what the individual companies would have displayed, but a lot more than half of the share capital gets no return at all, and the preference shareholders have to wait for their dividend until the condition of the company's finances permit of its payment. That certainly does not spell success, and we fear the immediate outlook is not particularly encouraging. The latest report is made up to the end of 1904, and during that year it appears that the company was unable to obtain sufficient orders at remunerative prices to keep all its mills running, so that in the autumn it was decided to reduce the output by about one-third. Sundry causes are assigned for this, including the usual trade depression, but the directors lay particular stress upon the high cost of production brought about by the great increase in the cost of labour and in railway and wharfage rates. In these respects New South Wales and other States are said to be much more favourably situated, so much so that successful competition with Jarrah was in some cases possible, although, apart from the question of cost, the company's products are still generally preferred. Naturally the directors are taking steps to bring about some melioration of the present condition of affairs, and are seeking the aid of the Arbitration Court, appointed by the West Australian Statute, with the object of securing a reduction in the charge of labour. With regard to the railway and wharfage rates, the company is in the hands of the West Australian Government, which three years ago increased the charges to an extent involving an addition of nearly 5s. per load to the f.o.b. cost of production, meaning an advance in wharfage rates of almost 100 per cent., and on the railway rates from 47 to 64 per cent. according to the situation of the mills. Such increases must seriously handicap the export business, especially in a weak market, but the directors are not without hope that the Government may see the wisdom of taking a broad view of this question, and of granting a reduction in these onerous charges. Encouragement to take this view comes from the manner in which the Legislature dealt with the difficulties arising from the application of the Truck Act towards the end of last year, when a Bill was passed limiting the time for bringing action under the Act, thereby relieving the company from the liability to pay over again large sums for wages which had already been paid once in the shape of stores. There seems to be some dishonesty of purpose on the part of the employees implied in this, and the directors refer to the fact that the action taken against the company by a few of the workmen was generally disapproved. Some alteration has occurred in the method of presenting the accounts, as it has been found expedient to transfer many of the expenses which formerly appeared in the profit and loss account to the trading account in order to make a clear distinction between the costs of production and distribution and the costs of administration. A proportion of the London expenses has therefore been debited to the trading account. This renders accurate comparison impossible, but we find the profit on trading account given at £104,175, dividend on Purfleet shares amounted to £2,850, and transfer fees were £68, making in all £107,093. From that there is a reduction of £8,222 for London administrative charges, and £2,750 for income-tax reserve, leaving £96,121 net, an advance of £5,326. Balance brought forward was £16,896, increasing the disposable sum to £113,016, and after providing £19,505 for debenture interest, &c., and £35,000 for depreciation reserve, the sum remaining is £58,511. Preference dividend for the first six months of the year has already been set aside, and the directors now seek authorisation to pay the balance dividend as soon as the position of the company justifies the distribution, carrying forward £26,753. Good to tell the amalgamation has now been finally settled, the arbitration with the Jarrah Timber and Wood Paving Corporation, referred to in the last report, having resulted in this company's favour on all points. The capital now consists of £529,297 in preference and £714,300 in ordinary shares, apart from the debenture stock of £424,980, so that the capitalisation is still severe. Including £16,168 added during the year, the purchase account now amounts to £1,313,118, against which the depreciation reserve is £70,000. There is also a property reserve of £11,365, but that can be disregarded, as it will do little more than pay the amalgamation and preliminary expenses, so far amounting to £9,791. Floating liabilities are exceedingly heavy, loans appearing for £100,073, bills payable

for £112,719, and sundry creditors for £111,840, to say nothing of £45,057 due to vendor companies, which has, however, been paid since the close of the accounts. A portion of the loans, secured on part of the shares held in the Purfleet Wharf and Saw Mills Company, the entire holding being 100,000 of £1 each, has also been repaid. These shares constitute the whole of the capital of the Purfleet Company, but the return is less than 3 per cent., and the valuation placed upon them is more or less arbitrary. Other important assets consist of stocks of all kinds £523,404, sundry debtors £148,849 and cash £36,191, so that measured against the liabilities the position is not very strong.

SMITH, GARRETT, AND CO., LIMITED.

This brewery company seems to have a good business and earned a satisfactory profit during the year ended June 30, although the report speaks of the higher price of materials and the general trade depression from which the company appears to have suffered. However, the bottled beer business is said to have exceeded expectations, and the gross profit on brewing was £50,697. Wines and spirits account gave a further sum of £2,169, and interest, rents and sundry accounts £28,671, in all £81,537, from which general charges, debenture interest, and provision for bad debts altogether absorbed £46,327, leaving £35,210 as net profit. Balance brought forward was £10,285 making £45,495, and after providing preference dividends and £641 voted as bonus to the staff the sum still for disposal is £37,353. An interim dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares took £5,802, and a final payment of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is now proposed, making 10 per cent. for the year, with £4,000 to suspense account, £500 to brewery and plant repairs account, and £9,643 carried forward. This suspense account will now be £5,698, and the repairs account £1,205, besides which there is the considerable reserve of £117,000, so that the position should be secure enough, even though a rare lot of money is locked up in loans, these with interest being £352,043. Other debtors come to £31,754, but cash is poor at £4,517, particularly in view of the large sum of £105,200 owing to sundry creditors, including £95,879 for deposits and interest. Stocks on hand are £43,072, and the brewery, freeholds, leaseholds, plant and machinery are all given under one head at £509,663. What is the depreciation allowance?

LEEDS AND LIVERPOOL CANAL.

During the half-year ended June 30 this company gathered a revenue of £85,762, compared with £84,058 in the corresponding period of 1904, against which the expenses rose only a couple of pounds to £63,877, so that the net profit benefits to almost the full extent of the gross gain at a total of £21,885. Some extra money was spent on maintenance, and trifling increases occurred under traffic expenses and salaries, but a considerable saving was effected in rates, which is somewhat unusual. To the net revenue must be added the balance brought forward and general interest, but the former shows the big decline of £3,757 at £1,947, so that the actual sum for disposal is more than £2,000 less at £24,353. Debenture interest takes the same as usual, but interest on terminable loans was less, as also general interest and commission, and after carrying £4,500 to special expenditure and subsidiaries account the balance over is £11,806, compared with £13,768. Preference dividend absorbs only £1,985, leaving £9,821, but the directors intend to follow the course indicated at the last general meeting, and have decided to defer the question of ordinary dividend until the end of the year. It appears that the winter's rainfall was unusually small, with the result that the summit reservoirs were not completely filled. Moreover, the spring and summer rains were also exceptionally light, which unfortunately led to serious interruption of the traffic for the current half-year, as the summit pool was closed on August 11. Some loss of revenue must result from this, hence the decision to postpone the dividend question. Capital expenditure for the half-year was £4,791, of which £2,398 went on reconstruction, necessitated by subsidences, £728 on the construction of the Pagefield Lock, and £460 on account of the Parliamentary expenses of the Bill promoted by the company. On the other hand, capital was received from various sources to the amount of £798, leaving a balance expended of £3,993, the whole of which has been debited to the subsidiaries and special expenditure account. It is anticipated that the Pagefield Lock will be completed during the current half-year.

UNITED HORSE SHOE AND NAIL CO., LIMITED.

A corner of the veil thrown over this company's affairs is slightly raised in the report for the six months ended June 30, and the directors take the shareholders so far into their confidence as to state that the trade discount on nails has risen from about 20 per cent. to 70 per cent. This in itself is significant of disaster, and there is no need to turn to the balance-sheet to learn that the company has again made a serious loss on the year's trading. Business, however, evidently picked up a little during the past half-year, as gross profits were £3,184 higher at £3,945, and the total income, including transfer fees and interest, rose by £3,180 to £3,964. Administration charges, depreciation and bad and doubtful debts having been provided for, the net profits were £656 against a loss of £2,305 in 1904, but the loss to December 31 was £2,213, and with a debit balance of £693 brought forward the total deficiency to date is £2,250. Nothing has yet been written off patents, trade marks and goodwill, which stand at £79,766, nor has plant suspense account been further reduced, although neither of these represent any tangible assets, while the only thing in the shape of a reserve is the provision of £809 against bad and doubtful debts, and it

might be worth while for shareholders to inquire as to how far this covers recognised losses. Sundry creditors are £3,185 up at £6,026 against increases of £3,421 to £13,131 in sundry debtors and £2,448 to £4,602 in cash, but stocks have been reduced by £3,341 to £15,229.

PRICE'S PATENT CANDLE CO., LIMITED.

During the six months to June 30 last this famous old company earned a profit of £36,548, which was reduced by an income-tax payment of £1,965 to £34,583. Adding £9,385 brought forward the total for disposal is £43,968, and after providing a dividend of 15s. per share, absorbing £28,125, the balance carried forward is £15,843. No accounts are issued at this time of year, but the annual statement due about March next is certain to be an excellent production.

NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE.

During 1904 the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department issued 3,227 new policies assuring £694,556, on which the new annual premiums were £23,487, in addition to single premiums of £1,631, and the total business now in force is 43,873 policies for £10,259,562 and £1,001,518 in bonuses, together with immediate and deferred annuities for £44,664. The income for the year was £480,716, of which £309,239 came from premiums, £13,272 from annuities sold and £158,205 from interest, &c. Against this claims including bonuses took £221,200 or 71.53 per cent. of the premium income, commission and expenses absorbed £60,490 or 19.56 per cent., and £24,646 was paid away in surrender values, and after meeting all other outgoings £153,522 was added to the funds, raising them to £3,665,283. Of these funds £1,966,913 was invested in mortgages on freehold property, £667,950 in Government securities, chiefly consisting of consolidated stock, £660,263 was lent on policies, and the balance was divided up over debentures of local authorities, landed and house property and miscellaneous assets.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Markets have not been animated, but have maintained a steady front, with a hardening tendency in values. English wheat generally was offered in good condition, and was readily taken at last week's higher prices, but here and there, owing to the showery weather of late, the quality was poor and prices maintained with difficulty. Supplies also have been more irregular and restricted during the past few days. Farmers' deliveries for last week were 92,630 quarters, averaging 27s. 11d., against 88,696, averaging 27s. 1d. the week before. Imports, too, were less, 444,850 quarters against 522,597 the week before, and shipments to the United Kingdom also lighter, the quantity on passage being put at 2,115,000, against 2,190,000. American markets fluctuated a good deal on their opening after Labour Day holiday owing to conflicting crop advices and other contradictory reports. Later they advanced, in spite of the bearish tone of "Prices Current," a good demand from export houses with a heavy cash trade helping to steady them; 21,705,000 bushels are estimated by Bradstreet to be in sight east of the Rockies this week.

LINEN.—The prospects of the trade seem fairly hopeful in most directions. No great burst of activity has yet arrived, but, what perhaps is better, the increase is gradual and steady. Transactions in brown power looms have been heavier, unions selling better, and demand for holland, paddings, elastics, &c., has been greater. Damasks alone rather hang-fire, but even here the worst is considered over. Bleached and finished goods for home and abroad do not show much greater consumption as yet, but everything tends to improvement, and much confidence is expressed as to the autumn and winter trade with the United States, Cuba, and European Continent alike. The yarn market also shows a pretty fair average, all descriptions selling at full current rates, but the scarcity in one or two weft lines and tows is said to be unprecedented. Irish flax is being offered at country markets in small lots, and another fortnight should see fairly large quantities coming forward. So far the average price obtained has been about 7s. per stone.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—No marked change of any kind has presented itself in the general state of our market during the week under review. It has been a quiet time with a small business. Piece goods for India have been in dull request at practicable limits. Shippers seem in no mood to operate freely. The Indian boycott at Calcutta appears to be assuming serious dimensions. August is probably the best month for deliveries to native dealers, and as they are refusing to take goods things will become rather awkward if the present irregular matters are continued. Monsoon news is better today. Beneficial rains are reported from the Central Provinces and Berar. China shippers continue inactive, that is to say, few orders of any kind for Shanghai have been given out. A moderate flow of business is being experienced from Egypt, the Levant, and South America, but altogether the production of the looms has not nearly been sold. Contract lists are lighter than at any time this year. Makers of narrow goods will soon be wanting orders. Home trade American yarns have been dull and irregular in price when tested. Users of cop twist and weft as well as ring yarns have operated only for pressing requirements. Here also the output of the mills has not been cleared and consequently order lists are getting lighter and lighter. The margin between the raw material and the finished yarn is narrower than for some time back. Shipping descriptions have been slow, some demand has been experienced from Russia, China, and Bombay, but it does not amount to much. Bolton

spinnings of carded counts have remained steady, though there has not been much trade about. Fine yarns generally are in a better position than a few months ago, but there is not much profit even now to the producer. Raw American spot in Liverpool is at 5.62d. to-day (Thursday), as compared with 5.90d. a week or so ago. The bears at the moment seem to be in a majority. Lancashire spinners are continuing to buy sparingly.

In Liverpool business at the beginning was on a very small scale, but steadied and firmed up later, a little more support coming forward. Subsequently there was a sharp decline, but a few repurchases improved the market a little. Dulness has since prevailed. Egyptian has been in fair request.

Cotton opened firm in New York 4 to 5 points up, and further strengthened on good cables, covering by shorts, an expected bullish Government crop report and Wall Street support, but afterwards the market eased on heavy selling, and a bearish Government report. Short rallies ensued on support from New Orleans, short covering and bullish private crop advices, which induced freer buying. Subsequent liquidation was succeeded by fresh bull support, and prices were lifted slightly. Weakness ensued, followed by another recovery, the market closing erratic and irregular.

Futures are quoted:—September-October, 5.54d.; October-November, 5.56d.; November-December, 5.58d.; December-January, 5.61d.; January-February, 5.63d.; February-March, 5.65d.; March-April, 5.67d.; April-May, 5.68d.; May to July, 5.69d.; July-August, 5.70d.

COAL.—There is very little to note in the trade this week. Little or no change has taken place in prices or in the demand for any particular sort. House fuel continues firm, and demand for steam keep satisfactory as far as most districts are concerned, though Wales reports little improvement, and most of the ports there are in an unsatisfied frame of mind.

COPPER.—At the beginning of the week copper prices recovered about 10s. per ton, the support given to the market being general. This was, however, followed by a fall on a less active market, the weakness becoming more pronounced later. It was suggested some days ago that the market for refined had seen its best, Standard being realised on fears of weakness in New York. Pressure on the part of one of the important sellers in New York to place electrolytic at a considerable reduction on prices recently ruling has also shaken confidence in the stability of the market. Quotations at the close are:—£68 15s. for cash and three months.

TIN.—At first realisations in the tin market were on a rather extensive scale, but the quantity offered was quickly absorbed, and prices smartly recovered. Buyers coming forward made sellers more cautious, and quite moderate orders sufficed to raise quotations 25s. a ton. Later, however, further sales were effected, without any regard to the cost of importing from the States, and values sharply declined again.

Closing prices are:—£146 cash, and £145 10s. three months. IRON AND STEEL.—In the Middlesbrough market there has been an excellent demand for all classes of iron, buyers readily placing orders at advancing prices. G.M.B. iron has had an active sale at 48s. 3d. East Coast hematite has also been briskly bought at improving prices. Finished iron and steel have likewise been purchased freely after a long spell of quietness. In the Midlands, too, business has been more active than for a long time past, and manufacturers report that they are working full time, while new orders are freely given for early completion. Steel makers have secured some important business for bars and structural sections and refuse to book further orders except at an advance. In Glasgow there is a stronger market for pig-iron warrants and Cleveland, whilst good trading has been done also in Cumberland hematite.

TEA.—Under the influence of heavy offerings, 43,194 packages, the Indian market was a little less confident, and prices showed even more irregularity than last week. Medium Pekoes over 9d. declined ½d. to 1d. per lb. in rare instances, and according to Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's circular this could not altogether be accounted for by the frequently inferior quality of the invoices. Demand for the choicest teas, however, still continued, and prices for these were very satisfactory. The average for Assam has risen to 11d. per lb., bringing up the average for the week to 8.66d., against 8.19d. last week, and 8.10d. last year. The Ceylon market, if anything, showed an improvement over last week, though medium and common kinds were again irregular and slightly cheaper. The higher grades, however, sold well, as in the Indian auction, particularly Broken Pekoes from 10d. upwards, 23,253 packages were offered, averaging 7.16d., against 7.06d. in 1904. About 2,395 packages of Java went in much the same way as Indian and Ceylon, good teas selling well, medium and commons slightly easier.

SUGAR.—The recovery noticeable at the end of last week continued until Monday, but a reaction then set in, which sent prompt sugars back to near the previous Thursday's values, whilst next crop retained nearly half the advance. Prompt granulated, owing to the low stocks in the hands of the trade, is still at a good premium over November-December, whilst 88 per cent. is at a discount, having been forced on to Hamburg, where only United Kingdom refiners are competing, as America remains out of the European market. The immediate future will, as Mr. Czarnikow points out, be somewhat affected by crop reports, but more by unfavourable than by favourable news, as the latter seem mostly discounted in present prices. The American market has been quiet at previous quotations. Landings in the three ports were 56,000 tons, meltings 40,000 tons, increasing stocks to 202,000 tons.

WOOL.—There is no doubt that the tendency of values in raw material is still upwards, and the situation for manufacturers

and spinners alike becomes more and more difficult. The feeling in the markets is more dissatisfied than it was a short time back, and business generally seems dull and hanging fire. Export of manufactured goods seem the most cheerful feature of it. Continental demand is good, the Canadian market is firm, and more is doing on South African and Australian account. Bradford exports to the United States last month were about £257,993 greater in value than in August of 1905. The total for the first eight months of the year exceeds the total for the whole twelve of last, and 1904 was the highest total on record since 1897.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Bridgwater.—Full preference for the half-year ended June 30, carrying forward, £1,052.

Caledonian.—On the ordinary stock at the rate of 3½ per cent per annum, carrying forward £21,000.

Copiapo.—Interim at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Glasgow and South-Western.—For the past half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, being at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary stock, and 1½ per cent. per annum on the deferred ordinary stock, carrying forward £6,510.

Highland.—At the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £2,018.

North British.—Full on the ordinary preference stock, and at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, carrying forward £10,000.

San Paulo (Brazilian).—For the half-year ended June 30 on the ordinary stock of 5 per cent., being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1 per cent., carrying forward £66,343.

MINES.

Brilliant Block Gold.—6d. per share, payable 21st inst.

Broken Hill Proprietary, Block 10.—No. 71, of 2s. per share, payable 27th inst.

Butters Salvador.—5 per cent. (1s. per share), payable September 14.

Great Fingall Consolidated.—Quarterly interim of 8s. per share, payable on October 5.

Kinta Tin.—Interim of 6d. per share.

Linares Lead.—5s. per share, payable 23rd inst.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—6d. per share, payable September 22.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. F. Stoddard and Co.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30, writing off £3,000 for depreciation, placing £600 to special reserve, and carrying forward £2,238.

Bank of British North America.—Interim of 30s. per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £9,595.

Bridgend Gas.—At the rate of 5 per cent. on the preference and ordinary shares.

British Gas Light.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Central Produce Market of Buenos Ayres.—Final of 4 per cent., making 7 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

Charles Kinloch and Co.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 on the preference shares, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

Chelsea Electricity Supply.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year to June 30 of 2s. 3d. per share, or at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, payable 15th inst.

Elands Laagte Collieries.—3 per cent.

J. R. Black and Co.—6s. per share for the year ended July 16.

Jay's.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended July 31.

Linkwood-Glenlivet Distillery.—After placing £500 to reserve, the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended July 31, carrying forward £372.

Lockett's Merthyr Collieries (1894).—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the first preference shares, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the second preference shares, and at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30.

Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron.—Usual half-year's dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, also a half-year's dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £8,082.

San Paulo Gas.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. (3s. per share), payable 30th inst.

South African Real Estate Trust.—Ordinary of 7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per share) for the year ended June 30, payable Nov. 7.

MINING RETURNS.

Abosso Gold.—Crushed 2,563 tons (of 2,240 lb.), 2,162 ozs.; 1,959 tons tailings cyanide, 472 ozs.; total, 2,634 ozs.

Alaska Mexican.—Crushed 20,607 tons, value \$30,476; saved 390 tons sulphurets, value \$26,871.

Alaska United.—Crushed 20,350 tons, value \$25,001; saved 385 tons sulphurets, value \$11,717.

Anterior (Matabele).—Crushed 1,010 tons, 514 ozs.; cyanide, 552 tons, 84 ozs.

Asbanti Goldfields Auxiliary.—Gold recovered, 264 ozs., value £1,056.

Associated Northern Blocks.—Milled 3,417 tons of ore, 482 tons slimes; yield, £15,710.

Associated (W.A.).—Milled 6,776 tons ore; treated 3,032 tons slimes; yield, £20,050.

Ayrshire Gold.—2,000 ozs. from 9,609 tons crushed; 1,008 ozs. from 6,160 tons cyanided; 500 tons reserve tailings cyanided.

Balaghat.—4,200 tons, 3,332 ozs.; 2,750 tons of tailings (cyanide), 289 ozs.; total, 3,621 ozs.

Barrett.—Output, 374 ozs.; value, £1,500.

Bibiani.—Crushed 2,838 tons, 1,525 ozs.; 2,610 tons of tailings, value £2,809.

Bombay Gas.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Bonanza.—Crushed 8,750 tons, 2,383 ozs.; cyanide and slimes 9,306 tons, 2,120 ozs.; total, 4,503 ozs.

Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 3,120 tons, for £7,963; cyanide, £1,240.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—5,148 tons crude ore produced 833 tons concentrates, containing 500 tons lead and 24,990 ozs. silver.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—12,277 tons of ore, producing 1,786 tons of concentrates.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—Fine silver, 358,614 ozs.; soft lead, 5,008 tons; antimonial lead (estimated), 28 tons.

Broomassie.—Crushed 576 tons of 2,000 lbs. each, 1,038 ozs.; 2 tons of concentrates, of an assay value of £37 14s. per ton.

Burma Ruby.—123,000 loads washed, producing rubies valued Rs.1,10,000; royalties, Rs.11,000.

Cassel Coal.—Output 17,274 tons.

Chillagoe.—Crushed 3,489 tons copper ore and 218 tons lead ore, producing 195 tons copper matte and 94 tons lead bullion, containing 154 tons copper, 94 tons lead, and 25,524 ozs. silver.

Coronation Colliery.—Output 12,600 tons; sales 13,500 tons.

Crown Reef.—Crushed 19,340 tons, 6,724 ozs.; from sands and concentrates, 3,470 ozs.; from slimes, 1,199 ozs.; from dump process, 953 ozs.; total, 12,346 ozs.

Duke United.—650 fathoms yielded 471 ozs.

Dundee (Natal) Coal.—Output 15,704 tons.

Durban Navigation Collieries.—Output 9,000 tons.

Durban Roodepoort.—Quartz milled 11,580 tons, 4,033 ozs.; tailings 7,620 tons, 1,217 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Crushed 9,970 tons, 2,874 ozs.; sands and concentrates treated 7,220 tons, 1,248 ozs.; slimes 3,234 tons, 224 ozs.; total yield, 4,346 ozs.

Elandslaagte Collieries.—Output, 13,505 tons.

French Rand.—Crushed 16,400 tons, 3,881 ozs.; tailings 11,202 tons, 1,463 ozs.; total, 5,344 ozs.

Gaika Gold.—Mill crushed 784 tons, 408 ozs.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output, 9,331 tons.

Glen Deep.—Crushed 15,000 tons, 3,444 ozs.; sands and concentrates treated 10,072 tons, 2,072 ozs.; slimes 5,030 tons, 452 ozs.; total, 5,968 ozs.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Crushed 24,310 tons, 6,205 ozs.; sands and concentrates treated 17,165 tons, 3,311 ozs.; slimes 7,556 tons, 669 ozs.; total yield, 10,185 ozs.

Geldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 16,870 tons, 4,233 ozs.; tailings by cyanide, 2,286 ozs.; slimes, 701 ozs.; total, 7,220 ozs.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,290 tons, 609 ozs.; cyanide, 1,530 tons, 602 ozs.; slimes, 760 tons, 177 ozs.; from old slimes, 115 ozs.; total, 1,503 ozs.

Golden Blocks (Taitapu).—Crushed 156 tons, 270 ozs.

Golden Horse-Shoe.—Ore treated, 18,769 tons (2,240 lbs. per ton), 13,159 ozs.

Golden Pole.—Crushed 1,314 tons, 1,789 ozs.; 960 tons sands worth 8 dwts. of gold per ton and 345 tons slimes worth 7 dwts. of gold per ton.

Great Boulder Perseverance.—Sulphide plant, treated 14,918 tons of 2,000 lb., 7,869 ozs. gold and 1,104 ozs. silver; tailing and slimes, treated 10,064 tons of 2,000 lbs., 1,280 ozs. gold and 1,308 ozs. silver; total, 9,149 ozs. gold, 2,412 ozs. silver.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—At sulphide mill treated 11,223 tons, 12,382 ozs.; tailings (old) 2,110 tons, 300 ozs.

Great Eastern Collieries.—Output of coal 18,900 tons.

Great Fingall.—Crushed 17,877 tons, 9,310 ozs.; tailings, 17,577 tons, 2,880 ozs.; concentrates, 300 tons, 1,460 ozs.; total, 13,658 ozs.

Hainault Gold.—Crushed 4,449 tons, 1,935 ozs.

Himan Concessions.—Bogoso Mine: 238 ozs. from 405 tons crushed.

Hutti (Nizam's) Gold.—1,107 ozs. from 2,200 tons crushed; tailings, 110 ozs. from 1,300 tons.

Ivanhoe.—Crushed 17,030 tons of ore, 3,182 ozs.; 7,980 tons of sands, 1,973 ozs.; 7,780 tons of slimes, 3,152 ozs.; 1,270 tons of concentrates, 2,277 ozs.; totals, 17,030 tons (2,000 lbs.), yielded 10,584 ozs.

Jumpers.—Crushed 12,240 tons, 2,725 ozs.; concentrates, 78 ozs.; tailings by cyanide, 1,615 ozs.; total, 4,418 ozs.

Jumpers Deep.—Crushed 16,540 tons, 3,106 ozs.; 11,475 tons sands and concentrates, 2,009 ozs.; 5,211 tons slimes, 358 ozs.; total, 5,473 ozs.

Kalguni.—8,000 short tons, 5,880 ozs.

Kamfersdam.—Diamonds recovered, 2,911 carats.

Killarney Hibernia.—Crushed 3,720 tons, 1,305 ozs.

Koffyfontein.—3,250 carats diamonds recovered.

Lake View Consols.—Treated 10,096 tons, 3,425 ozs.; old tailings 3,445 tons, 635 ozs.; total, 4,060 ozs.; profit, 3,190.

Lancaster Gold.—Crushed 11,650 tons, 2,867 ozs.; cyanide, 8,795 tons treated, 1,465 ozs.; total, 4,332 ozs.

Lancaster West.—Crushed 6,670 tons, 1,595 ozs.; cyanide, 5,428 tons, 827 ozs.; total output, 2,422 ozs.

Lancefield Gold.—Crushed 6,462 tons, 435 ozs.; sands cyanided, 2,970 tons, 572 ozs.; slimes, 2,842 tons, 427 ozs.; from slags treated, 65 ozs.; total, 1,499 ozs.

Langlaagte Deep.—Crushed 20,104 tons, 4,294 ozs.; 14,604 tons sands and concentrates, 2,362 ozs.; 4,676 tons slimes, 357 ozs.; total, 7,013 ozs.

Le Roi No. 2.—Shipped 780 tons. The net receipts are \$2,563, being payment for 191 tons shipped and \$2,098 being payment for 63 tons concentrates shipped. In all \$4,661. In addition received \$4,125 for 350 tons ore on dump. The total receipts for the month are \$8,787.

Maryborough Leviathan.—Crushed 1,105 tons, 222 ozs. gold.

Merton's Reward.—Crushed 3,170 tons, 595 ozs.; 1,728 tons sands cyanided, 202 ozs.; 1,942 tons slimes, 361 ozs.; total, 1,158 ozs.

Meyer and Charlton.—Crushed 11,330 tons, 2,810 ozs.; 1,748 ozs. from cyanide: total, 4,558 ozs.

Middleburg Steam coal.—Sales of coal, 7,737 tons.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 710 tons, 348 ozs.; 24 tons concentrates, value £340.

Morven Rhodesia.—Crushed 1,305 tons, 899 ozs.

Mount Boppy.—4,600 tons, 1,333 ozs.; cyanide, 3,264 tons, 1,077 ozs.; slimes, 1,300 tons, 608 ozs.; concentrates—the estimated tonnage is 34,250 ozs.; total, 3,268 ozs.

Mount Morgan (Queensland).—23,501 tons chlorinated, 10,705 ozs.

Mount Zeehan (Tasmania).—Silver lead—530 tons silver lead ore, containing about 300 tons lead and 34,400 ozs. silver.

Mysore.—16,050 tons, 15,012 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 14,175 tons, 1,853 ozs.; gold in copper ingots, 174 ozs.; total, 17,039 ozs.

Mysore West and Mysore-Wynaad.—Crushed 2,112 tons, 1,001 ozs.

Natal Navigation Collieries.—Output 19,555 tons.

New Hillgrove Proprietary.—Crushed 350 tons, including 80 tons screenings, yielding 1,322 ozs. bullion and 6 tons concentrates, value 24 ozs.; value of tailings, 5 dwts. 4 grs. per ton. Cyanide, 135 tons, 300 ozs.

New Modderfontein Gold.—Crushed 9,788 tons, 3,519 ozs.

New Vaal River Diamond.—Diamonds registered by the diggers on the Vaal River Estate, £3,050.

North Broken Hill.—Crude ore treated, 180 tons, 360 tons concentrates, containing 248 tons 8 cwt. lead, and 6,480 ozs. of silver.

North White Feather Gold.—Crushed 1,780 tons, 1,208 ozs.; cyanide, 1,472 tons, 117 ozs.; total output, 1,325 ozs.

Nourse Deep.—Crushed 15,050 tons, 4,034 ozs.; sands and concentrates treated 10,794 tons, 2,334 ozs.; slimes 4,191 tons, 406 ozs.; total yield, 6,774 ozs.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—Crushed 4,900 tons, 2,587 ozs.

Nundydroog.—Quartz 6,500 tons, 4,666 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 7,290 tons, 705 ozs.; total, 5,371 ozs.

Ooregum.—10,314 tons, 4,430 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 10,201 tons, 1,076 ozs.; total, 5,506 ozs.

Oroya Brownhill.—Crushed 10,280 tons, 12,955 ozs.; development, £2,816; plant, machinery, &c., £202.

Peak Hill Goldfield.—Crushed 5,243 tons, and 6,533 tons slimes and sands by cyanide; yield from battery, 461 ozs.; yield from sands and slimes, 506 ozs.; total, 967 ozs.

Penhalonga.—Crushed 6,200 tons, yielding over the plates 712 ozs.; concentrates 86 tons, 658 ozs.; total, 1,370 ozs.

Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—118,250 loads, yielding 66,735 carats diamonds; percentage .56.

Princess Estate.—Crushed 7,092 tons, 2,197 ozs.; cyanide treated 4,722 tons, 775 ozs.; total, 2,972 ozs.

Queensland Copper.—Ore treated, 1,115 tons; production, 218 tons of matte, containing 131 tons copper.

Robinson Central Deep.—Crushed 14,902 tons, 5,799 ozs.; 10,800 tons sands and concentrates, 2,882 ozs.; 4,010 tons slimes, 460 ozs.; total, 9,141 ozs.

Roodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,703 tons, 2,381 ozs.; cyanided 5,524 tons, 927 ozs.; total output 3,308 ozs.

Roodepoort United M. R.—Crushed 9,540 tons, 3,013 ozs.; 1,323 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,336 ozs.

Rose Deep.—Crushed 25,562 tons, 4,563 ozs.; sands and concentrates treated 18,000 tons, 3,540 ozs.; slimes 7,863 tons, 770 ozs.; total, 8,873 ozs.

St. David's Gold.—1,140 tons crushed, 551 ozs.

St. George's Coal.—Output 10,566 tons.

St. John del Rey.—Output £26,450; yield per ton .58 of an oz. troy.

Sheba.—Output 2,750 ozs.

Sons of Gwalia.—Crushed 10,055 tons, 3,518 ozs.; tailings by cyanide 6,035 tons, 1,072 ozs.; concentrates 226 tons, 725 ozs.; total, 5,315 ozs.

South Kalguni Gold.—Crushed 6,224 tons, 3,321 ozs.

Sulphide.—3,595 tons middlings and 3,718 tons tailings treated, producing respectively 1,139 and 1,531 tons of zinc concentrates; 2,265 tons lead concentrates, 338 tons residues, and 2,104 tons purchased ore smelted, yielding 1,460 tons lead, containing 99,280 ozs. silver and 6,935 ozs. gold.

Surprise.—Crushed 3,000 tons, 1,052 ozs.; cyanide, 2,800 tons, 430 ozs.

Talisman Consolidated.—4,260 tons, value £10,198.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained 830 tons lead, 127,000 ozs. silver, 184 ozs. gold.
 Tolima Mining.—46 tons, worth £2,400.
 Tomboy Gold.—Crushed 9,500 tons; value, \$40,000. Concentrates shipped, 535 tons; value, \$36,500.
 Transvaal and Delagoa Bay.—Output, 32,750 tons.
 Transvaal Coal Trust.—Output, 39,200 tons.
 Transvaal Gold Mining Estates.—Crushed 10,103 tons, 2,014 ozs.; central cyanide, 4,470 tons, 947 ozs.; central slimes, 3,100 tons, 422 ozs.; Kameel's cyanide, 1,284 tons, 222 ozs.; Kameel's slimes, 770 tons, 118 ozs.; total, 3,723 ozs.
 Van Ryn Gold.—Crushed 22,220 tons, 5,745 ozs.; 15,400 tons of tailings treated, 2,603 ozs.
 Village Main Reef Gold.—Crushed 25,150 tons, 6,558 ozs.; cyanide 18,825 tons, 2,427 ozs.; slimes 6,480 tons, 411 ozs.; total, 9,396 ozs.
 Vivien Gold.—Milled 1,031 tons, 301 ozs.; 650 tons tailings treated, 70 ozs.; 318 tons current slimes, 76 ozs.; 34 tons accumulated slimes, 6 ozs.; total value, £1,921.
 Vogelstruis Estates.—Milled 5,420 tons, 1,674 ozs.; tailings treated, 3,800 tons, 434 ozs.; total, 2,108 ozs.
 Wankie (Rhodesia) Coal.—Output, 10,403 tons; sales, 7,736 tons.
 White Feather Main Reefs.—1,770 tons milled, 626 ozs.; cyanide, 39 ozs.; total, 665 ozs.
 Zeehan-Montana.—275 tons of silver lead ore, containing about 165 tons lead and 16,000 ozs. silver.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

During August the output of the mines in the Colar Gold Field amounted to 50,541 ozs., compared with 51,086 ozs. for July, showing a decrease of 545 ozs., although the months were of equal length. Small declines were returned by the Mysore, Champion Reef, Nundydroog and Mysore Wynaad, but the Ooregum and Balaghat increased their yields.

Name of Company.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.
Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.
Balaghat	4,000	3,401	3,950	3,426
Champion Reef	19,025	18,104	19,150	18,410
Coroimandel	16,500	16,976	16,350	17,051
Mysore	16,500	16,976	16,350	17,051
Mysore W. and				
Wynaad	2,033	1,010	2,295	1,027
Nundydroog	6,700	6,121	6,650	6,154
Ooregum	10,063	5,483	10,011	5,485

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1905 and the previous five years:—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	41,185	42,829	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999
February ..	39,238	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629
March ..	40,674	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629
April ..	40,774	42,038	38,329	48,271	49,991	52,324
May ..	40,021	42,110	28,093	48,628	50,445	51,095
June ..	39,872	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,553
July ..	39,355	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086
August ..	42,763	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	50,541
September ..	41,765	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	—
October ..	41,834	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,031	—
November ..	41,772	41,669	48,332	51,559	50,442	—
December ..	44,089	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	—
Total ..	493,342	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	408,856

Answers to Correspondents.

R. J. C.—No, we are disposed to think these shares are quite high enough. The recent rise has discounted all known possibilities.

J. J. W.—(1) Sell only if you have a profit to take; otherwise you might hold a little longer. Even if you can sell without loss you might do so. (2) That depends largely on the price you paid for them. If you have a profit it may be worth taking in part, because the company is only just covering its debenture interest. (3) For the reason just stated we do not think these are a desirable purchase at the figure you name.

J. B. Price.—(1) These shares are pretty certain to receive a dividend on account of the past year, as business was good, and when distributions are resumed it is not very probable they will cease again. At current prices, therefore, there would not be much risk of loss, but having got some ordinary why not buy a few preference shares, which give a very fair return? (2) There are speculative possibilities in both these securities, but they have already had a big rise, and should hardly go much higher. Try the debentures, if anything. (3) The prospects here are undoubtedly good, the traffics of the railway being excellent, and if you do not mind market fluctuations there seems a fair chance with a small purchase.

N. E.—(1) No. The company's position seems to be improving and there is no reason why you should sell at a loss. (2) The company does a steady-going business, but the shares have had a big rise within the last month and are now, we fear, fully valued.

Olivé.—(1) These are even more risky than the other shares you mention, and we should leave them alone. (2) The shares are not quoted officially and have not been for a very long time, so that you might have difficulty in realising when you wished to do so. In the present condition of markets we do not care to take the responsibility of suggesting a security. Prices are already high in all directions and your capital is too small to face the risk of losses.

Nomen.—We had not overlooked the fact you mention, but considered that any probable benefits in the near future had

been discounted by the advance of about £1 which has taken place. We will endeavour to let you have the list of securities early next week.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11.

Millar's Karri and Jarrah (1902).—Winchester House, noon.
 United Horse Shoe and Nail.—North Greenwich, noon.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13.

Plymouth, Devonport, and South-Western Railway.—Devonport, 12.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14.

Australian Mining.—42, New Broad-street, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

Leeds and Liverpool Canal.—Liverpool, noon.

MINING IN MANCHURIA.—Some interesting particulars are given respecting the mineral resources of Manchuria in the report of the American Consul at Niuchwang. He says it is known that there are valuable mineral deposits in that country. Coal has been mined for several years in a primitive way, and the operations of the Russians in this direction attracted attention near Mukden. "Many agree that Manchuria is one vast field of mines and rich farming and grazing lands," but all matters pertaining to the development of mining properties are practically at a standstill. "Previous to the war," he says, "several coal and a number of gold quartz prospects held out inviting inducements, although the Chinese in a primitive way have for years been taking gold out of the country. But, as a rule, there has been comparatively little thoroughly scientific prospecting or investigation. With favourable conditions following the war, the mineral resources of Manchuria will no doubt warrant thorough prospecting; without favourable conditions foreign capital will very likely proceed with great caution. Applications for mining concessions covering apparently valuable areas in Eastern Manchuria have been put aside for the time being, for one reason and another, but in the main on account of the war. The natives are doing some prospecting, mining, and development work in Manchuria, but foreigners are not thus engaged. The war has temporarily, at least, paralysed mining enterprises. Under what conditions they may be revived remains to be seen. However, it may be said the samples of ore exhibited at Niuchwang and elsewhere in Manchuria indicate the presence of highly valuable deposits in the various minerals, with several, such as iron, coal, and copper, in similar districts, covering wide areas. Galena ores, recently assayed, show, for instance, 1.14 ozs. in gold, and 1.18 ozs. in silver per ton. Various quartz samples assayed showed an average of 0.54 ozs. in gold, and as high as 1.25 ozs. in silver."

NEW SOUTH WALES MINERAL INDUSTRY.—The following statement, supplied by the Agent-General of New South Wales, shows the quantity and value of the gold won in the colony in the half-year to June 30:—

	Quantity.	Value.
	Ozs., fine.	£
For the First Quarter	69,907	296,945
April	6,882	29,231
May	28,473	120,947
June	6,607	28,066

Total

Quantity.	111,869
Value.	475,189

The quantity and value of the silver, copper, tin, and coal exported during the same period were:—

	Quantity.	Value.
	Ozs.	£
Silver, ingots and matte	210,056	23,746
Silver-lead, concentrates, &c. ..	224,380	1,176,981
Copper, ingots and ore	3,762	234,137
Tin, ingots and ore	1,152	138,387
Coal	1,653,716	667,615

— 2,243,876
 The above figures indicate a net increase for the half-year of £205,104, compared with the corresponding half of 1904. Exports of silver, silver-lead, &c., show an increase in value of £255,478, and it is said the output for the year bids fair to be the largest during the past decade. The value of the coal exported is less by £22,621; shipments to Australian ports advanced £26,490, but the quantity despatched to other ports fell off by £49,111. In copper and tin there were decreases of £9,245 and £18,508 respectively. On comparing the figures of the second quarter with those of the first quarter increases are shown under each heading. For the June quarter the exports were valued at £1,242,299, against £1,001,577 for the March quarter, an advance of £240,722.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.—NOTICE.

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Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
 Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

THE FLOGGING OF CHINESE COOLIES.

DESCRIPTION BY AN EYE-WITNESS.

Mr. Frank C. Boland sends to the *Morning Leader* a vivid, painful description of the barbarities and tortures to which the Chinese coolies are subjected in the way of punishment. He claims that his descriptions are not based entirely upon hearsay and report, but upon his own personal experience, upon "the evidence of his own eyes." We take the liberty of requoteing a section of his lengthy article. Is it any wonder the slaves desert and take terrible vengeance in other ways?

"I now propose to tell you, from the evidence of my own eyes, and from the descriptions given by men who ordered floggings in innumerable cases, how various kinds of punishment were being, and are being, inflicted. Take the Witwatersrand mine, for instance. The average number of coolies flogged daily for one month early this year was 42, Sundays included. This information was given me by the official whose duty it was to make a record of the registered numbers of those men who were punished. Here is the method of procedure. A coolie is reported either by a white shift boss or by a headman for an offence. He is called into the compound manager's office, charged, and given a fair trial (except where the compound manager does not know the Chinese language, and has to trust to his yellow interpreter). Then the sentence is passed by the compound manager—10, 15, or 20 strokes, according to the crime. The coolie, with a Chinese policeman on either side of him, is taken away about ten paces. Then he stops, and at the word of a policeman drops his pantaloons, and falls flat on his face and at full length on the floor. One policeman holds his feet together; another, with both hands pressed firmly on the back of his head, looks after that end of his body. Then the flagellator, with a strip of thick leather on the end of a three-foot wooden handle, lays on the punishment, severely or lightly, as instructed. Should the prisoner struggle after the first few strokes, another policeman plants a foot in the middle of his back until the full dose has been administered. In another form of flogging, practised, if not at the Witwatersrand mine, at the Witwatersrand Deep, a short bamboo was used. The coolie would strip to the waist and go down on his knees with his head on the floor. His castigator would then squat beside him, and strike him across the shoulders with lightning rapidity. The blows, though apparently light, always fell on the one spot, and raised a large red weal before cutting the flesh. During the first quarter of this year no fewer than 56 coolies were whipped after eight p.m. one evening at the Witwatersrand mine, the dose varying from five to fifteen strokes. At the Nourse Deep severe punishment was meted out. Every boy who did not drill his 36 inches per shift was liable to be, and actually was, whipped, unless he were ill, and could show that it was a physical impossibility for him to do a day's work. A sjambok was used; it was laid on relentlessly by Chinese policemen, the part of the body selected being the muscles and tendons at the back of the thighs. Even the sight of blood did not matter. The policeman would go right on to the last stroke. Having been thus punished, the coolie could walk away; but after sitting down for a time the bruised tendons would refuse to work. Many of the coolies were sent to hospital to recover.

"At a later date of this mine strips of rubber were substituted for a sjambok. This rubber, while causing very sharp pain, does not cut. After a time the mine officials found that the coolies were not maintaining the monthly increase, and the management urged the Chinese controller to "do something." He refused to thrash the coolies unless they had committed some crime; and being informed by the manager that his policy would not suit, he gave two months' notice of his resignation.

"Meanwhile, the management issued instructions, because of advices from England, that flogging should be stopped so far as possible, but asking that other forms of punishment should be substituted. Thereupon certain forms of torture well known in the Far East were adopted. One of these was to strip erring coolies absolutely naked, and leave them tied by their pig-tails to a stake in the compound for two or three hours. The other coolies would gather round and laugh and jeer at their countrymen who stood shivering in the intense cold. A more refined form of torture was to bind a coolie's left wrist with a piece of fine rope, which was then put through a ring in a beam about 9 feet from the ground. This rope was then made taut so that the unhappy coolie, with his left arm pulled up perpendicularly, had to stand on his tip-toes. In this position he was kept, as a rule, for two hours, during which time, if he tried to get down on his heels, he must dangle in the air hanging from the left wrist."

PARR'S BANK.—Liabilities on current and deposit accounts, &c. on August 31 amounted to £28,568,050 and on drafts current, acceptances on behalf of customers, &c., to £1,840,542, against which cash in hand and at Bank of England stood at £4,589,506, money at call and short notice £6,029,606, Government and other first-class securities £3,261,256, bills of exchange £2,497,406, and loans and advances to customers £15,108,617.

LLOYDS BANK.—The balance-sheet for August shows liabilities consisting of current and deposit accounts £56,961,599, and bills accepted or endorsed £1,493,644, and assets of cash in hand and at Bank of England £8,883,971, cash at call and short notice £6,316,292, bills of exchange £6,951,336, Consols and other investments, £10,575,115, and advances to customers and other securities £28,816,746.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and September 2, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 2, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 3, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	14,031,000	15,126,000
Excise	30,200,000	11,838,000	12,233,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	5,908,000	5,072,000
Stamps	8,000,000	3,296,000	2,955,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	520,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	4,898,000	5,281,000
Post Office	16,500,000	5,390,000	5,200,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,670,000	1,570,000
Crown Lands	470,000	170,000	170,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	674,573	608,422
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	592,070	624,337
* Revenue	142,454,000	48,867,643	49,359,759
Total, including balance		56,297,921	53,623,601
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	300,000	250,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	100,000	123,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..	—	—	230,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	410,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	—	6,413,999
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	8,925,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..	—	—	500,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency	—	—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..	—	—	12,000,000
Total		66,272,921	77,087,591
* Revenue as above	142,454,000	48,867,643	49,359,759
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	58,629	65,155
Excise	5,291,000	1,438,851	1,431,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	1,899,839	1,811,242
Total	9,756,000	3,337,319	3,308,070
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	52,204,962	52,667,829

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 2, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payment from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 3, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 11,599,721	£ 11,742,412
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	685,916	688,731
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,304,000	41,597,057	46,008,252
Expenditure	142,084,000	54,114,869	58,671,605
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	220,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	90,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	500,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	300,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903	—	1,663,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	900,000	800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	23,000	—
Under Public Building Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	105,000	81,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	188,977	—
Deficiency Advances repaid	—	—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—	—	3,420,000
Total		58,104,846	74,358,105
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 7,373,720	£ 2,004,207	£ 2,004,207
Bank of Ireland	794,355	725,279	—
Total		8,168,075	2,729,486
Total		66,272,921	77,087,591

Treasury, September 5, 1905.

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The Investors' Review.

What is Credit?

"You have fallen into the habit of using the phrase credit jobber," people say to us; "what do you mean by it? Is it not money that the people so designated deal in?" It is and it is not. In the money markets of the world as now constituted the old-fashioned language does not fully express the nature of the commodity dealt in by bankers, bill brokers, and dealers in floating capital in general. These people deal in an abstraction which in current phrase is called money, but whose real nature is extremely composite and difficult to define offhand. We can all understand the simpler development of credit-giving, of making advances of money capital for a definite object. The cultivator gets an advance to enable him to till his land, to plant it, and pay the wages of his labourers until the crops come to maturity. When he has sold his produce the account is balanced, assuming that the year has been an average one and the loan is paid off. So with the manufacturer, the merchant on a large scale, and the retailer. They all, by means of bills of exchange discounted, by credits opened in the books of their bankers, or other expedients calculated to facilitate their operations, get the use of means not yet earned on the understanding and in the hope that their manufacturing or trading will enable them to make good their engagements, with profit to themselves. From this point of view credit is an anticipation of the as yet unreaped fruits of labour, and it is a most legitimate and valuable application of actually existing capital.

But we have travelled very far beyond these simpler methods of employing accumulated wealth, lent at agreed on rates of interest in order to facilitate the production and transfer of commodities from hand to hand. Modern credit embraces an almost endless variety of other forms of capital, as it may be called, and the "money" dealt in by brokers and jobbers on the great capital markets of the world, as has often been insisted upon in these columns, may be composed of sham capital to a much greater extent than real—of capital, i.e., which is itself credit, a force created very skilfully out of purely hypothetical ingredients. Money market operations are no longer the simple and safe actions of men working within their definite and ascertained capacity as measured by really accumulated wealth. It has become possible to create wealth out of nothing and gravely to treat such as substantial capital which can be lent, and whose efficiency as money appears to be just as complete and potent as actually accumulated wealth resulting from industry. All wealth may be said to be based upon labour, all stored or hoarded wealth the product of labours completed. Without human labour, assisted by tools or otherwise, there could be no realised wealth whatever; but the business of the modern capitalist goes much further than the mere assistance of actual labour through lending the accumulations of past labour, than the lending implied in the description we have given of the simplest form of credit giving. Modern capitalists aim at securing for themselves as a narrow and exclusive class, through the manufacture and manipulation of fictitious wealth, the benefits arising from those aids to human labour brought into existence by the ingenuity of inventors, new discoveries of natural

sources of wealth, such as minerals, every fresh conquest over Nature attained by human labour and ingenuity. To do this they create joint-stock companies with capitals based not upon a fair and reasonable estimate of the benefits to accrue from industry skilfully applied, but upon the imagined assets and the cupidities they excite, upon the fashions in gambling that may arise to permit the founders of the company to attract to themselves more than their fair share of the proceeds of the work done. Hence in all joint-stock companies now existing, or being brought into existence, we find the element called "goodwill" sometimes large, even monstrous, as in the case of the Harmsworth amalgamation recently floated or the Watney Combe Reid Brewery, sometimes small; but whether large or small, this addition to the capital represented by genuine assets, buildings, tools, patents, special facilities of manufacture, ore in the ground, whatever they may be, represents the efforts of those who founded the company to lay hold of all possible benefits that might accrue from consolidation, better management, or other economies in working, or merely to absorb at once in a single *coup* the fruits of generations of future labour. This kind of addition to the credit value of property, however, is treated by market and public alike as if it were genuine capital, representing a solid and durable property, and credit called money is continually put upon the market and utilised there often for the people's undoing based upon security of this description.

Another form of credit with which we are all too painfully familiar is that represented by national debts. These also have as their real security the products of human labour, and they are all in their degree a tax upon that labour. It looks a small matter to issue a loan for a government in need of money to be spent on wars, to be thrown away in building unwieldy fleets, or otherwise wasted, in the sense of being spent without chance of profit to the community on whom the burden is placed. Those who subscribe for a security of this description rarely or ever give a thought beyond whether it will be a market success or not, but each such debt involves the fortunes of the whole community made subject to it. It is a mortgage upon the earnings of the people, as we are beginning to find out from our experiences arising out of the South African war, as we should have found out long ago. The interest charges upon the debt created for this war are equivalent to about 2s. per week deducted from the wages of nearly a million of workers, or put in another way are equal to a charge of about £1 per annum upon the earnings of the entire body of workers, male, female, and juvenile, engaged in the 15 most important industries carried on within the United Kingdom. Pile a burden of this description too high, and the consequence is social disintegration, the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the few, with augmenting sufferings for the multitude. But who is to say when the load is too onerous? We can but follow general indications. Note how much has been said of late about hungry children sent to school to be taught to read and write, while insufficiently fed, and sometimes still more inadequately clad. Note also the sham "unemployed" Bill, promoted by the Government that wasted £500,000,000 in South Africa. What are these outcrops of social distress but the indirect admission that the debt and other public burdens laid upon the people by authority, although without their direct consent, are proving destructive to the well-being of an increasing portion of them.

All forms of modern capitalisation, however, no matter whether in the shape of fraudulently manufactured capital, representing the extortionate prices at which businesses are joint-stocked and sold to the investing classes, the multiplication of national debts, which are generally an unrelieved burden upon those who provide the public revenue, or the monstrous creations of those American trusts or South African mining combinations which dazzle the world and

burden all markets with piles of dishonest rubbish, swelling often to mountain height, are equally useful as modern money, the money of the banker and loan jobber. No sooner is a new security created than a large proportion of it can be turned into money by the market. When the recent Japanese loan was issued some complacent bankers advanced the deposit money to their customers so that they might put in large applications. "A perfectly safe operation," they said, and it doubtless was so, but their advances made against nothing in being were money as long as they remained uncanceled, and one great source of the low rates generally prevalent for loans in all money markets is to be found in just this facility for creating credit out of nothing in anticipation of nothing except the forgotten and the unmeasured capacity of the toiling human animal to carry the burden placed upon his back. Each new mortgage becomes "money" of the market in proportion as it is borrowed upon—pawned. It is for reasons like these that we prefer the phrase credit jobber or dealer in credit to moneylender. Money in the old sense, cash, is no longer in question, except in ways more and more remote from actualities in wealth. If you possess some shares dealt in on the market or otherwise, in some property, be it a mine or a mill, which has never yielded any revenue, and is never likely to yield any, but which, none the less, have a market price, no matter how fraudulently created, and can get a banker to advance upon these shares as security, the amount of that advance becomes "money" of the loan market, just as good as if it were sovereigns, good as long as the banker does not call his advance back, or stand compelled to acknowledge his loss. So with every description of marketable security; all may instantly, up to a certain percentage of the current market price, be turned into market money, and as long as bankers do not become bankrupt and cause a break in the smooth machinery of credit, there appears to be no end or limit to the amount of fancy or faith money of this kind which may be brought into existence. The more securities representing burdens upon human labour multiply, the larger becomes the supply of such money. It does not matter whether the security is good or bad, whether it is honest or dishonest in origin, whether the paper upon which the banker gives credit to the customer is the flimsy creation of some all-devouring trust, some wild-cat mine, or a debt laid upon a nation which may or may not be able to bear the load. As long as it can be used for the purpose of procuring advances from bankers, it is valuable as the generator of market money—as good as gold.

But if this be the origin of so much of the money dealt in on all markets, what is the use of gold at all? Gold is necessary for the soothing of the popular imagination, and, as a last resource, should a credit disturbance arise disclosing in some degree the extent to which credit abuses have devoured wealth. In consequence of its uses in these directions, gold is valuable above everything else as a begetter of confidence in the public mind. A sub-consciousness exists in all markets that there may be unsoundness behind the fair show of perfect credit stability, and it soothes the mind to look upon a large stock of gold, or what looks a large stock. If this stock is being diminished, the uneasiness of the market mind is expressed in advancing rates for loans; if it is increasing absence of anxiety finds expression in reducing rates for advances. But the gold itself forms only one amongst the innumerable commodities upon which market money can be created. It is the last resort in all cases, but an increasing amount of the banking credit called money utilised upon all markets is founded upon paper securities. Every form of debt, public or private, may become money as well as every dishonest share creation of the company-monger.

It is for reasons such as these that we speak of credit so constantly instead of using the word money, which seems to us misleading in existing circumstances, and it is well to bear in mind the true nature

of most of this credit called money. It may have a substantial basis or it may have no basis at all. One thing, however, seems reasonably deducible from this brief and imperfect description of the nature of the elements composing the material in which modern money markets deal, and it is that market wealth thus brought into existence may be exhausting the community instead of enriching it. We have given the example of a national debt and what its increase implies to the workers. That is the most concrete and striking illustration the present age furnishes in all countries called civilised, but all forms of unreal capital, of capital represented by imagined assets, not by realities, are wealth draining. They tend to the impoverishment of the people in a variety of ways—by extracting interest from them on false pretences, by prompting the dissemination of ideas of wealth and habits of extravagance, by using up savings giving nothing in return. Every pound of railway capital, whether borrowed or a mere copartnership share, is, if interests and dividends are paid upon it, a mortgage upon labour, but it may reward that labour in a variety of ways easily understood. But it is otherwise with the fancy capital of joint-stock undertakings which have been over-valued by those who brought them into existence. Thanks to the overburden of false capitalisations due to trust concoctors and the never-resting energy of the company promoter, the market money itself produced by the free pawning with banks of all such forms of capital, honest and dishonest, may be a drain upon a community's real and demonstrably fertile resources. It would take us too long to discuss this aspect of the subject at great length, especially as we should have to restate our theory regarding the transitory nature of all human improvements, the changing conditions of even the most solidly established industries or appliances and tools employed to lighten, supplement, or give conquering force to mere human labour. We do not believe that any undertaking should create capital to be laid as a permanent and everlasting load upon a community. Apart, however, from that far-reaching aspect of the subject, it is obvious that impoverishment, the crippling of a nation's resources at their very source, might have made devastating progress before any suspicion of it could arise in the money market. As long as the securities used to generate money there continue unsuspected everything runs with perfect smoothness, money is abundant and cheap on the market, and a country might only wake up to discover that it had been eating up its real capital, anticipating the wealth of future generations, when the aerial structure collapsed. The cultivator anticipates his harvest by getting a loan from his banker, his lawyer, or other money-lender. The entire money market may be anticipating the wealth of generations yet unborn by its unreflecting trading in lavish capitalisations, its thoughtless elevation of market prices by the facilities it gives to the pawning of securities, good and bad, all utilised to create "money," in the language of the market, and only discover the havoc played with its own and the country's true wealth when too late.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.

The announcement is made by the directors of the Durban Roodepoort Deep, that a special meeting was held in Johannesburg on September 13, at which resolutions were passed increasing the capital to £450,000 by the creation of 100,000 shares. This company is a member of the Wernher-Beit group, and a subsidiary of the Rand Mines, Limited. Of the new shares, 90,000, together with 20,000 reserve shares, are to be offered, at a date to be fixed by the directors, at £2 per share. The issue has been guaranteed by Messrs. Van Hulsteyn, Feltham, and Fry. The commission is to be 5 per cent. on the total amount realised, less the *pro rata* proportion subscribed for by the Rand Mines, Limited. But that proportion will not be large. At

the end of 1904 the issued capital of the Durban Roodepoort Deep was £330,000, of which the parent company held £59,000, or a little over 18 per cent. So it will not cripple the company to subscribe its share of the new capital. It is significant and instructive to note that the holding of the Rand Mines in this particular company is by a long way the smallest of its holdings in any of its subsidiaries, but it is not surprising seeing that it is one of the least remunerative of the whole group, and promises to be comparatively valueless for a long time to come. Such stuff is better to be well distributed amongst the public, and the burden thrown upon it. In the other companies the percentages of the holdings of the parent concern at the end of December last were:—Langlaagte Deep, 87.65 per cent.; Crown Deep, 67.62 per cent.; Ferreira Deep, 49.92 per cent.; South Nourse, 34.70 per cent.; Nourse Deep, 63.86 per cent.; Jumpers Deep, 57.64 per cent.; Geldenhuis Deep, 40.85 per cent.; Rose Deep, 36.28 per cent.; and Glen Deep, 41.92 per cent.

Most of these are dividend payers, but the Durban Roodepoort Deep has never distributed a penny. The increase of capital is to provide for the liquidation of the current liabilities, with the exception of the debentures, and to enlarge the mill from 60 to 100 stamps, with the necessary addition to the cyanide works, &c. The inference may therefore be that the directors are not very hopeful of paying off the liabilities in the near future out of profits only, but must get the where-withal from another source. Milling originally started in July, 1898, in which year the profit averaged only 8s. 1d. per ton, increased to 13s. 3d. per ton in 1899. Crushing was resumed in the early part of 1902, but eight months' working resulted in a loss of £1,603, or 9d. per ton. In the following year there was a considerable improvement, the average profit per ton increasing to 13s. 10d. In 1904 it rose to a little over 13s. 11d. per ton, a record in the working of the mine, but there has again been an appreciable falling off during the current year. At the end of 1903 the liabilities of the company amounted to £197,054, after deduction of cash and cash assets, inclusive of £139,900 of debentures. During 1904 the indebtedness was reduced to £132,635, the debentures outstanding at the end of the year amounting to £119,900. This reduction was brought about in the following manner:—The company earned a net working profit of £65,951; interest on loans and on debentures took £11,295; £12,378 was spent on capital account; the 10 per cent. tax was estimated at £5,623; premium on redeemed debentures required £600 and sundry shares subscribed for absorbed £1,561, leaving £34,494 available for the reduction of liabilities. In addition to this, the option on 9,975 shares, given to Messrs. H. Eckstein and Co., which expired at the end of 1904, gave the company the sum of £29,925, or, all told, £64,419. Messrs. H. Eckstein and Co. also held an option on the 20,000 reserve shares at £3, in consideration of a loan of £70,000, but it is now announced that this firm has agreed to abandon its option in consideration of the repayment of the loan. This is not generosity, but is a businesslike bargain, for Messrs. H. Eckstein and Co. are not philanthropists, even towards their own companies. They are not fools enough to pay £3 for shares which they can buy at a much lower price on the market, and which are being offered by the 100,000 at £2. And if they see a chance of having their loan repaid they are not to be blamed for seizing it. In the accounts there is no credit balance, past profits having been absorbed in the manner above described. The company is not likely to do better on the average than it did in 1904. With the addition of 40 stamps it may earn a net profit of £90,000, after allowing for the profits tax, &c., and it may just as likely not. At the present rate of redemption it will take six years to pay off the debenture debt, thus reducing the profit to £70,000. Other liabilities are to be liquidated, but

after allowing for interest, calls on shares, and a balance carried forward, the directors may be able to divide £60,000, say, at the most. On a capital of £450,000 this is a little over 13 per cent., including no allowance for depreciation. Even for this dividend shareholders must wait a long time, for 40 stamps and cyanide works cannot be erected in a night. The money has to be subscribed first and the machinery bought. Another matter of great importance is that at the end of 1904 the ore reserves, estimated at 275,422 tons, showed a decrease of 15,218 tons. Taking into account the fact that 10,557 tons were developed during the year in excess of the tonnage mined, the reserves really showed a falling off of 25,775 tons, notwithstanding that the stopes were carried wider than the basis on which the calculations were made. This reduction was due to the exclusion of certain areas of doubtful value. There was also a slight decline in the value of the ore, the higher profit being the result of a reduction in the working costs, which were extremely high at over 27s. 5d. per ton. A record of the highest and lowest prices at which this company's shares have stood in the past eleven years will be found interesting:—1895, $8\frac{1}{16}$ —3; 1896, $4\frac{3}{4}$ — $2\frac{1}{4}$; 1897, $4\frac{1}{4}$ — $1\frac{5}{8}$; 1898, $4\frac{1}{16}$ — $2\frac{7}{8}$; 1899, $4\frac{3}{4}$ — $2\frac{1}{4}$; 1900, $4\frac{1}{4}$ — $2\frac{1}{4}$; 1901, $4\frac{1}{4}$ — $2\frac{3}{4}$; 1902, $6\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{4}$; 1903, $6\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{4}$; 1904, 5 27-32— $4\frac{7}{16}$; 1905, $3\frac{1}{16}$ — $2\frac{1}{4}$.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE PEACE.

We are glad to see that the ferment in Japan is dying down. It was a perfectly natural and, indeed, inevitable outburst. The Japanese victories were so unbroken and to all appearance overwhelming, that the population of the Empire might well form the most extravagant estimates of the capacity of their Government to humiliate Russia. Japanese statesmen, however, knew better, and they have exhibited the same level-headed caution in arranging terms with Russia that has characterised their behaviour throughout the struggle. As was continually insisted on in these columns, Japan, in spite of her great military and naval triumphs, was in no position to exact an indemnity from Russia, and would not have been in any such position had the war been continued by her triumphantly for another 12 months. It was, therefore, better to come to an agreement than to continue the struggle, for victory to Japan in a continued war might easily have been more disastrous than defeat. Already the war has overstrained Japanese resources, and had the expense of further campaigning been laid upon the country, it might have broken down under the unbearable load. Or if it had not broken down, it would have found its capacity to grow greater interfered with. Presently, we have no doubt, the people of Japan will come to recognise the truth of this statement, and to acknowledge that the Mikado and his Ministers have been wise in concluding peace, even though the terms accepted look on the surface far short of what Japanese success in the field and on the ocean might have led the people to expect.

In estimating what has been gained by Japan, it is not wise to confine the attention merely to the stipulations of the treaty. These apparently leave Russia in many respects unharmed, and the Japanese have not been able even to retain the whole of the island of Sakhalin; but surely in the direction of what is called prestige, Japan has gained a victory of enormous importance, and by sweeping away the dominance of Russia in the councils of China, by delivering Korea completely from Russian machinations and concession plots of the Rhodes-Beit type, as well as by rescuing Manchuria from Russian occupation in any form, a way has been opened up for the intellectual and industrial dominance of Japan in the Far East, which may lead to far-reaching consequences in the near future, which cannot fail

to bring her people much gain. Her prosperity should be assured, for the wealth of Manchuria alone in minerals and soil is incalculably great and almost entirely undeveloped. It will be for Japan now to throw her energies into the building up and developing of new industries in that extensive and, over large areas, most fertile region. Also Japan should now be able more and more to guide the foreign policy of China, and in doing so to assume a leading position in the trade and industrial evolution of that Empire. Gains of this description cannot be shadowed forth in the cold language of a treaty, but they none the less constitute some of the real and most abiding fruits of Japan's victory—fruits worth a hundredfold the amount of the most extravagant indemnity the Japanese people ever dreamed of exacting from the defeated Russians. Russia, in short, has ceased to be a bugbear in the Far East—an overbearing, overmastering dictator, and will be compelled henceforth to stand on the ground common to all Powers henceforth seeking to deal with China and Japan. This may not be Russia's loss in the long run, and we do not think it will be, remembering the history of her follies and waste of money in Manchuria—but it would, perhaps, have been worth her while to pay Japan £250,000,000 over and above the entire cost of the war to be back again in the position she held before the war broke out. Japan has set the yellow races free from the tyrannies of Europe by what she has done. There is the true reward of her career of victory.

BOND INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Last week we printed a letter from the chairman of this concern, and this week the managing director, Mr. Hector Coulevas, has forwarded the documents referred to in that letter, but not sent with it. These documents have engaged our earnest attention, and we regret to be unable to say that they have modified to any appreciable extent our feeling of distrust. One of the enclosed papers is a little pamphlet headed "Is Five Shillings Worth Saving?" and filled with the usual catch-gobey clap-trap that recent developments of American methods of advertising in this country have rendered us only too familiar with. "Thrift is the foundation stone of fortune," "Be careful of your small change," "No sum is too insignificant to be saved." These are among the truisms with which the booklet starts, and from this point it goes on to develop most engaging prospects of gain through confiding 5s. a month to the care of the corporation. If this is done for 14 years it undertakes to return £50 to the subscriber. In that the period is 14 years instead of 10 this "corporation" is behaving rather better than some of its rivals, but the foundation of the business is none the less unreal, and the promises made extravagant, and therefore treacherous. We are, therefore, surprised to see an actuarial testimonial to the soundness of the system from Mr. George King stuck at the end of this pamphlet. Other actuaries also accord their blessing to the enterprise, but as they are men of less prominence we may pass them by. Not so Mr. King, who appears to us to incur a most serious responsibility in lending his name to a concern of this description, about which no genuine information whatever is vouchsafed in the documents sent to us. Nothing is said as to what the ratio of expenses is, nor is any information given about the capital behind the business, the directions in which the money gathered in by this kind of puffing is to be invested, or indeed about anything vitally important. Additional attraction is offered in the "coupon" system, in virtue of which amounts of £5 lottery bond, forming part of the £50 ultimately to be paid, may be drawn and consumed by anticipation at irregular intervals as reward for thrift. "At every division of profits," the pamphlet says, "taking place, the amount available for the bondholders is used for the redemption of these coupons. Thus for every £1,000 provided to be divided amongst them, 200 coupons of £5 each are redeemed, and the amount is immediately paid to the bondholders whose coupons are called for payment, or if preferred it may be left with the corporation on deposit at 3½ per

cent. per annum interest." Are these coupons called in by lot or how, and in what manner are the "profits" ascertained? We notice that on the scale of surrender values, if the enterprise is abandoned by the subscriber at the end of one year, only 30 per cent. of the instalments paid by him is refunded—he will have paid 60s. and get back 18s. After two years 40 per cent. of the amount paid in is refunded, after three 50 per cent., and so on gradually until after the end of 13 years the whole £50 will be paid back. This scale leads to the inference that the working expenses are high, and as it would be impossible to accumulate £50 out of the stipulated instalments, after allowing for moderate working expenses and for the drain upon the resources involved in the intermediate payment of coupons, the whole concern appears to us to promise nothing except ultimate loss and disappointment to those who embark in it.

THE "TIMES" LIBRARY AND BOOK STORE.

A considerable amount of unpleasantness has already arisen in the book trade over this latest development of the American, or Yankee-Levantine, enterprise which now guides the destinies of this venerable and once great journalistic institution. "We should not mind fair competition," the booksellers say, "but when the *Times* uses its dominating prestige to coerce publishers into giving it better terms than those open to us, to the ordinary trade, we feel the time has come to protest with vigour." Accordingly, there is an intention expressed to boycott publishers like Murray and Cassell—these names were specially mentioned to us—because they have submitted to coercion. The books published by them will no longer be stocked. Cassell and Co. are said to have sold to the *Times* 1,000 copies of Sir Donald Wallace's "Russia"—a book sold to the public at 24s. nett—at 10s. per copy. "That is unfair and dishonourable trading," an indignant bookseller said to us; and, if the story be true, we cannot but agree. Most of the publishers, however, appear to be acting straightforwardly enough. They have decided to give the *Times* trade terms and nothing more; but once their ranks are broken by defections like that alleged against Mr. Murray's house, there is no knowing how far the demoralisation may spread. And amid all the disturbance and stirring of bad blood, how is the advertisement revenue of the *Times* going to come out? It used to be an honour and a valuable privilege to be able to advertise effectively in its special columns of new books; but that day, we fear, has passed, and a harassed publisher is now only too likely to give the newspaper the go-by altogether, especially if he be pressed, as is also alleged, to take so much advertising space in payment for the books bought of him by the *Times'* Bond Street store. At present, however, the important point is the attitude of the retail trade towards the publishers who have gone over to the enemy. Will the booksellers combine in self-defence? Will Mudie's and Smith's, the great leading librarians, accept their threatened fate in all meekness, or wait to see how much money the proprietors of the *Times* may be willing to sink and lose by their latest effort to grab other people's business?

ASSOCIATED PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS (1900).

It can be regarded as certain that this monster combine will never fulfil the promises held out when the prospectus was placed before the public in 1900, and the reason is not far to seek. We hear everlasting talk these days of foreign rivalry, and there is no doubt at all that the cement trade is now as always subject to very severe German competition, but the great manufacturers in this country did not go the right way to ward it off. "Sell the businesses to the public at an enormously inflated figure and then use the wretched foreigner, who has no right to live, as the excuse for the absence of dividends." That seems to have been the real purpose of the people responsible for the formation of the agglomeration, and the worst of it is that a very large

part of the assets disposed of were so out of date as to be worse than useless, involving very heavy expenditure on modern appliances as the only means by which the competition from abroad could be successfully met. Thus it is that to the original floated capital hundreds of thousands of pounds have been added, with many more to come we may be sure, until the capitalisation of the thing promises to be so swollen that not all the trade of the world would produce an adequate return. It was a case of pockets first and the future to look after itself, the vendors, in effect, selling their worn out properties at a fancy figure, and leaving the public to find further money to freshen things up a bit, to the accompaniment of a mournful wail about unfair competition. In the 12 months to June 30 last the capital expenditure on additions to rotary and other plant, buildings, and machinery was £81,228, but property to the value of £30,324 was sold, so that the net addition was reduced to £50,904, compared with £154,884 added a year ago. That marks some improvement, but the property valuation now amounting to £6,525,876 is truly staggering, and is quite unsupported by the profits earned. We have very little doubt that if this great mass of assets was properly overhauled and revalued the deficiency would wipe away a large part of the ordinary capital. How, indeed, can we think otherwise when the ordinary £10 shares are worth about £1 on the market, the preference shares £6, and the debentures £15 less than their par value? Curiously enough the share capital is a trifle less than a year ago, a few more shares being cancelled, forfeited by those who were cute enough not to pay up the calls, and who have somehow got free. The amount issued is now £4,083,860, and on top of that the company has a debenture debt of £2,455,244, up on the year by £55,000, and mortgages £295,100, happily £10,000 lower. The certificates of indebtedness, that is deferred payments, the company having no means to provide its ever-growing outlay, on account of rotary patents have been reduced by £10,953 to £140,571, but the certificates against capital expenditure have gone up from £115,440 to £175,350, the amount redeemed being only £4,450 against additions of £64,360. Ordinary creditors, however, have been reduced by the large sum of £81,185, to £128,999. Sinking funds are now £64,749 against £49,595, and the depreciation and bad debts reserves have been lifted £29,847 to £118,561. This, of course, is ridiculously inadequate against the large quantity of wasting assets, and we are wondering what has become of part of the "reserve and provisional accounts," formerly standing at £31,211 and now down to £19,702. On the other side the rotary patents have been reduced £10,000 to £151,514, debtors owe rather less at £342,188, and stocks are down £42,946 to £323,925, but cash and bills amount to £154,496 compared with £114,188. The Wouldham Cement Company is in debt to the company to the extent of £31,252, a decline of £2,221, and we note an increase from £36,964 in the sinking fund investments. Now as to profits. These, we are pleased to say, are a good deal better than the stories current a short while back led people to believe, there being talk, even, of a partial failure to provide the preference dividend. Happily matters have not turned out so badly as that, although we are reminded that the profits, such as they are, "have been earned in the face of difficulties even greater than those of former years." "But for the good effects having been increasingly felt of the large expenditure of capital on improvements, which include labour-saving machinery, and for many other economies effected during the year, the result of the company's trading would have been much less favourable than that shown in the accounts." Not a very stirring address, and it is to be observed that the profits of £331,909 are less by £3,548 only solely because the expenditure on repairs and renewals was pulled down by £25,293. Transfer and registration fees gave £369 and interest £916, while the balance brought forward was £17,658 compared with £6,972, so that the actual sum for disposal shows an advance of £8,156 at £350,852. Managing directors' salaries, directors' and trustees' fees are heavier at £22,532, a very large sum, and shareholders will learn with some gratification

that the new arrangements foreshadowed last year for a reduction in the number and emoluments of the directorate have nearly all come into operation since the end of the financial year. The details will be fully explained at the meeting, but we gather from a resolution to be submitted, that the vice-chairmen will in future get only £500 a year instead of £1,500, and ordinary directors £100 in place of £200. Moreover two members of the board who retire now do not seek re-election. Interest payments on the aggregate are a good deal higher, £4,000 is again placed to bad debts reserve, and depreciation, sinking funds and reserves are this time allowed to the extent of £31,196 against £7,578, leaving the available balance £4,471 lower, at £157,072. As before, a sum of £25,000 is credited to the depreciation reserve, and by reducing the carry forward from £17,658 to £13,187, the preference dividend is just squeezed out. The ordinary shareholders have never yet received a dividend, and so far as human probability goes, never will, because any surplus shown must be set aside to help strengthen the general finances, at present in very poor condition.

MCCRACKEN'S CITY BREWERY COMPANY.

More space than we should care to give would be required to set out in detail the miserable history of this Melbourne enterprise, and the causes which have dragged it into its present deplorable position, but it has long been obvious that another capital juggle and reorganisation were inevitable. Although regularly met the debenture interest has not been earned for some time, the payments coming out of capital, and since this kind of thing cannot go on for ever the directors set to work to formulate yet one more scheme of reconstruction. It is issued to the debenture-holders through the solicitors to the board on this side, and receives faint praise from part of the debenture-holders' committee, which, though without legal status since the appointment of new trustees in 1903, has continued to hold a kind of watching brief, discussing from time to time the position of the company and the various questions which seemed to affect the interest of the debenture-holders, and keeping itself in constant communication with the trustees and the board with a view to the protection of holders' interests. No doubt the proper course would be to hand over the property and business to a receiver, but the board resolutely refuses to accede to this suggestion, and legal squabbles being highly inadvisable at the present juncture, the committee, or some of its members, think it well to accept the scheme which the board is prepared to recommend to the shareholders. It is a very drastic affair, involving the forfeiture of both capital and rights, but holders are to have a preponderating voice in the future management of the company, and perhaps the new arrangement is better than a continuance of the present order of things, which is pretty certain to further jeopardise and prejudice the security for the debentures. At present the debenture debt is £500,000, bearing $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, the preference capital £38,000, and the ordinary £251,638, and the scheme provides for the complete cancellation of half this debenture money, leaving holders with £250,000 at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. instead of £500,000. It seems a tremendous sacrifice, but since the smaller amount is much more than the property would ever realise, even as a going concern, the immolation is more apparent than real. Should this be agreed, the present ordinary and preference shares will be reduced and consolidated into a single amount of £70,000, all in ordinary shares, and debenture-holders will be given as compensation £50,000 in new 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares and £100,000 in ordinary shares. Thus the capital would be £250,000 in $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. mortgage debentures, £50,000 in preference shares, and £170,000 in ordinary shares, and the debenture holders instead of being entitled to £27,500 a year would have the first right to receive annually £13,750, and also ten-seventeenths of anything which might remain. A condition to the acceptance of the scheme is that three members of the board of five should

be appointed by the bondholders, thus giving complete future control, and under these circumstances the proposal might be found agreeable. One of the trustees is in favour of the recommendations, and there seems little doubt that the other will also give them his support.

THE RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Both these enterprises of the State Government did well last year. The railways yielded £3,684,016 gross, and as working expenses took only £2,192,147, it followed that the net balance was £1,491,869, or £247,603 more than in the previous year ended June 30, 1904. As the working expenses showed a decline of £66,793, the increase in net income from the railways was £314,396, and the total was just £35,079 short of the sum required to pay the interest on the railway debt, including the interest on £600,000 of capital advanced by the Government about 25 years ago to purchase material and general stores. Capital expenditure, however, on the railways was £774,033 last year, and we can never be sure that the English method is not freely employed of relieving revenue by drafts upon capital. Be that as it may, the capital cost of the railways of the colony has been enormous, and it is a source of doubt to find that the larger business done in all branches by the railways last year involved smaller expenditure under each of the important heads. Maintenance of way, for instance, cost only £491,164, against £519,389 in the preceding year. Locomotive power was down about £27,000 to £843,925, and traffic expenses were over £5,000 less at £596,313. Business was fairly good also for the tramways, which yielded £127,887 of net income, as against £129,360 in the previous year, working expenses in this instance having risen by about £12,000, as against an increase of about £10,000 in the earnings. The percentage of expenses to receipts on the railways is brought out at 59.50, and on the tramways at 84.28 for the year ended June 30, 1905. Including the amount above mentioned the total outlay upon the railways has been £43,062,550, without including the annual loss borne by the revenue to meet interest upon this capital. Per mile of line open the cost is £13,126. On the tramways capital expenditure to the same date is £3,637,922, or £28,931 per mile, including everything. Both these figures are unquestionably high, and cause us to doubt whether the business can be remunerative to the extent indicated. Still, last year's traffic was good in all departments, and the statistics of passengers and tonnage carried showed substantial increases. From the number of railway passengers, which aggregated about 31,881,000, one is led to infer that the inhabitants of New South Wales are about as much addicted to travelling around as the German Kaiser. On the tramways, indeed, the number of passengers carried was 139,669,459, a figure which shows how continually the population of Sydney and neighbourhood must be on the move. As the harvest in the colony has again been good, while the flocks of sheep continue to increase, the current year's business ought to show further improvement, but we trust the future capital expenditure will be cut down, if not stopped altogether, especially as many of the lines of railway are at present disastrously unprofitable without much prospect of being anything else in the future, near or distant.

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY'S LATEST DODGE.

Several months ago, when Horatio Bottomley and Mr. Tanqueray Todd launched their philippic against a certain Stock Exchange firm for "bearing" the shares of Hannan's Trust, they ingeniously announced that jealousy had been aroused, or something like it, because it had been proposed that the Trust should buy the assets of the Joint Stock Corporation. But when Hannan's Trust went into liquidation in the month of August the Senior Assistant Receiver announced, amongst other interesting revelations, that nothing had resulted from the negotiations for the amalgamation of the two concerns. It appears,

however, that shareholders in Horatio's corporation will not pay up their arrears of calls, prudent men as they are. So the astute one has conceived a scheme whereby he is trying to tempt them to pay up. Assuming that they are anxious to avoid the forfeiture of their rubbish, he has been considering, the kind and benevolent man, what arrangements he can make "to close the matter without the necessity for any unpleasant proceedings." He hints in a communication to his distressed followers that he has an important arrangement on the eve of completion which "will be the outcome of some very prolonged and delicate negotiations upon which I have been engaged for a considerable time past, and will, I firmly believe, have the effect of restoring our shares to their par value. This being so, I will take upon myself the responsibility of carrying out the following plan: The amount due from you is, I understand, £4. If you will send me a cheque for £3 (payable to the Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, Limited) and sign the enclosed undertaking I will arrange matters on your behalf, and obtain and send you your certificate for the fully paid shares." The undertaking is that the individual shareholder will send on the balance of £1 as soon as the shares are quoted and dealt in at their par value—5s. each. The offer is to hold good for seven days only, and the mysterious arrangements are "shortly to be announced." If Horatio were a mere ordinary man, with a commonplace intellect, we would ask him why he refuses to enlighten the shareholders first upon these arrangements, so that they might be able themselves to judge of their worth. But, like the wideawake street acrobat, he will have the coppers first before he performs, lest many might sneak away without paying for the entertainment. The letter is written in that inimitable prophetic and mystery-man style of his which ordinary bamboozlers must envy. But the shareholders are no longer enthralled. The rhetorical spider knows as well as anyone that his power is fast waning, that the multitude of his followers has melted away to a few lean and hungry enthusiasts only. Most victims will be only too delighted if their shares are forfeited, thus to be rid for ever of the very "dear" Horatio's persistent attentions. We would congratulate them on their loss of interest in such a concern, and thus be rid of never-ending worry and loss. There is, it is true, little probability of the balance of £1 ever being demanded, for no living shareholder is likely to gaze on the astounding spectacle of the shares at par. But £3 is better than nothing, Horatio? Ha!

THE ROYAL MINT.

The number of coins struck at the Royal Mint during 1904 was about 14,500,000 less than in the preceding year, and 31,000,000 less than in 1902, owing to the abundance of bronze coins in circulation, and the consequent suspension of further issues. Over 11½ millions of gold coins were struck, a total which has only once been exceeded since 1892, and the actual issue to the Bank of England reached a value of £11,042,000, compared with £10,144,000 in 1903, and an average for the ten years 1894-1903 of £6,362,228. The silver coins issued, too, amounted to £48,554 more at £605,801, although this figure was still well below the average of £1,170,677, but a decrease of £36,000 in the demand for bronze coins brought the issue down to £77,895, or rather less than three-quarters of the average. Including silver, bronze, and nickel coins for the colonies the output reached a total of 95,137,437 pieces, or a decrease of over 19½ million pieces, but of this 10½ millions was due to structural alterations in the operative department having necessitated the execution of two colonial coinages at the Mint, Birmingham.

The weight of gold bullion imported into the Mint was 1,578,470 ozs. standard, valued at £6,146,166, in addition to which 533,222 ozs. of light gold coins, worth £2,100,000, were received, and for the first time in the history of the department 500,000 ozs. of United

States gold coin, worth £1,911,006, were melted and converted into bars of the British standard. Of the light coin £954,000 was in sovereigns and £1,146,000 in half-sovereigns, on which the average loss in weight per piece was 2.179d. and 1.581d. respectively, compared with 2.174d. and 1.573d. in 1903. The gold coins received and weighed at the Bank of England numbered 49,773,627 against 50,075,958, and the percentage of light sovereigns was 2.89, or 0.26 more, while that of half-sovereigns was higher than in any year since 1897 at 14.52. This increase is ascribed to the inclusion of a considerable percentage of the 1892-3 coinage, when unusually large issues were made. Of the totals of £28,179,358 in sovereigns and £19,244,769 in half-sovereigns, accepted as light, £9,448,346 in sovereigns and £6,818,823 in half-sovereigns were dated 1892, and represented 29.49 and 69.70 per cent. of that year's issue received. Silver coins to the value of £184,000, or £57,000 more, were issued to the Bank of England, mostly in florins and sixpences, and £9,300 was taken by the Bank of Ireland against nothing a year ago; but the Scotch banks took nothing in either year. Treasury chests' requirements fell from £12,500 to £1,915, and the demand from colonial agents dropped from £417,175 to £409,975, but in addition to this sum £27,400 in shillings, which had already been in circulation, were obtained from the Bank of England and shipped to West Africa. The worn silver coin sent in from the Bank reached the exceptional figure of £630,388, compared with average withdrawals of £328,397 for the previous 10 years and £279,813 for the 20 years 1884-1903. Worn coins from the colonies, on the other hand, only came to £8,450, or little more than half the amount in 1903, and less than in any year since 1891. The total weight of this coin was 2,100,923 ozs., and at 5s. 6d. per oz. showed a loss of £61,084, or 9.56 per cent., but if the loss on £20,000 in shillings specially withdrawn for conversion into florins is excluded the percentage would be 9.74. Silver bullion to the value of £53,139 was purchased, yielding a profit equivalent to 149.06 per cent., but with the worn coin included the net profit was at the rate of only 2.62 per cent. Owing to the existence of surplus stocks of bronze coin in the hands of various firms the issue of pence in London was suspended from the end of April to the beginning of November, and that of halfpence practically throughout the year, and there were also partial restrictions of the issue of farthings. In the provinces, too, and especially in the North of England, bankers and private firms were inconvenienced by their accumulations of bronze coin, and the issue of new pence and halfpence was in consequence discontinued in Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Hull, and other important centres for varying periods. The Deputy-Master of the Mint remarks that "It may be worth while to correct an erroneous idea which is entertained by some of the public that pence of various years possess a greatly enhanced value, and are received by the Mint and paid for at various extraordinary rates, the amount which was last quoted by a correspondent being no less than £7 11s. 4d. each!" The year 1864 is generally selected as the lucky one owing to the scarcity of pence of that year, but this was due to the very much smaller number coined, and not, as the gossips have it, to the accidental upsetting of a pot of gold intended for sovereigns into the mixture for pence remaining undiscovered until the coins had been put into circulation. The Deputy-Master concludes by saying that it is perhaps hardly necessary to add that no pence are purchased by the Mint at either their nominal or at any fictitious value.

In addition to the coinage, the Mint has the work of preparing medals of all kinds, and on the accession of His Majesty was authorised to prepare the new Great Seals for the United Kingdom, Scotland, and Ireland. This work was carried out entirely at the Mint, and were struck in silver in the large medal press, a method never before used, but one which proved entirely successful. An enormous amount of labour seems to have

been involved, as in order to reduce as much as possible the work of engraving, it was decided to produce the three seals and the counter seals of the United Kingdom and Ireland by striking in silver blocks with hardened steel punches. These punches took a long time to make, as each required four successive cuts, the last of which occupied 289½ hours for the seal and 286 hours for the counter seal. After this the engraver was occupied for about a month on each punch in working up the surface, and when they had been hardened the actual striking and annealing took another five weeks for the seals and three weeks for the counter seals.

THE DEPRECIATION IN RAND YIELDS.

Recently we drew attention to one of the most important questions now agitating the minds of shareholders in Rand mining companies—namely, the falling off in the quality of the ore. This is the reason, as has been pointed out, for the non-declaration of a dividend by the Wemmer directors and for the reduced profits earned by a number of other prominent companies. The following table, showing the profit per ton earned by leading mines in the year 1899, and present profits, will illustrate this more vividly and impressively than mere statements, and we ask our readers to study the figures for their own benefit:—

Company.	Profit per ton. 1899.		Profit per ton. 1905.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Angelo	1	11 0	1	1 10
City and Suburban	1	4 0	13	5
Crown Deep	13	0	14	2
Crown Reef	1	7 0	1	6 3
Driefontein Consolidated	16	2	16	9
Durban Roodepoort Deep	13	0	8	9
Durban Roodepoort Gold	18	0	15	6
Ferreira	2	17 0	1	5 3
Ferreira Deep	1	17 0	1	14 3
Geldenhuys Estate	1	9 0	18	10
Geldenhuys Deep	1	3 0	15	7
Glencairn Main Reef	9	0	7	0
Glen Deep	17	0	11	5
Henry Nourse	1	11 0	1	2 9
Jumpers Deep	1	3 0	0	10
Langlaagte Deep	17	6	7	3
Meyer and Charlton	18	0	15	10
May Consolidated	1	3 10	17	4
New Goch	9	1	5	0
New Comet	11	7	4	7
New Kleinfontein	13	0	5	6
New Primrose	9	9	15	0
Nourse Deep	12	4	12	6
Robinson Gold	2	14 9	1	12 7
Robinson Deep	1	4 5	1	1 11
Roodepoort United Main Reef	16	2	12	0
Rose Deep	1	2 7	10	3
Simmer and Jack Proprietary	14	0	9	10
Treasury Gold Mines	1	0 9	12	8
Van Ryn	8	0	11	4
Village Main Reef	1	13 11	12	0

The above fall in profits is not due entirely to depreciation in the quality of the ore, but is partly the consequence of higher working costs, which, in their turn, are the direct results of the employment of Chinese labour. We have also drawn attention to three or four instances of this as illustrative of the deplorable effects of the arrival of Chinkees, which has actually here and there turned profits into losses, and postponed the earning of dividends. It takes many months to train these men into efficient workers, but their wages have to be paid and they have to be fed and housed during this unremunerative period. No wonder the bosses are dissatisfied with them and are agitating for further concessions to make living and materials cheaper. Had they stuck to their black labour, which enabled them to earn such high profits in the past, all would have been well, comparatively speaking, but no labour—white, black, or yellow—will improve the grade of the ore. In the year 1899, we explained, managers hastened to mine as much rich ore as they possibly could before the war broke out, and henceforth, willy-nilly, they will have to crush the poorer ore they left behind them. An attempt is made to explain and to belittle this by saying that the depreciation in the ores now being treated is not so much due to any falling off in the grade in depth as to the

intentional lowering of the grade by milling more of the poorer grade main reef and main reef leader. But what difference would that make to profits, even were it true in every case? Can it be said to be true in the case of the Wemmer, for instance? The managers cannot help themselves; necessity compels them to mine the lower grade stuff. In practically every mine there are three reefs—the south reef, the main reef leader and the main reef—and of these the south reef is by far the richest, the leader less rich, but payable, while the main reef, the largest body in size of the three, has hitherto been unpayable. There is a certain limited quantity of ore in each reef, and if a disproportionate quantity of the south reef has been taken out in the past the mines will in the future have to rely more and more upon the poorer reefs, unless they wish to have a merry but a very short life. Directors desire, however, to eke out the lives of the mines, if only out of regard for their own pockets. The longer the life the more they will stand to gain. That is why they are all so anxious to cut down costs in the hope of making the main reef itself payable. In order to keep up the supply of ore to the mills it is necessary to mix the ores from two if not from three of the reefs, so “intentional” is a misleading word to use in this connection. Managers and directors have no choice in the matter. We may thus conclude that the fall in the grade is permanent. There is the possibility, it may be granted, that in the course of years, when sufficient coolies have been trained to the work, the costs will be lower than they are now, but there is little likelihood of that happening. As soon as the Chinamen are trained their term of service will expire and they will return to their homes. Batches will be continually coming and going, and we shall constantly read the explanations, as we have been reading them for months past, that “the reduced profits are due to the arrival of a fresh batch of Chinese labourers.”

We quoted recently, too, the remarks of a shareholder of the New Modderfontein on this subject, and a further quotation from his speech will support our own arguments:—“A fall in the grade had taken place since the war. The average grade had been 42s., but since the war there had been a drop of several shillings. It was not quite clear to him why there should be this fall, and he had not yet heard any satisfactory explanation of it. They all knew that the mines had grades of varying value, and previously the habit was to mill up to a standard grade and leave other grades lying until conditions were more favourable. He did not think that the conditions had changed very much, but still the grade had fallen, and the impression outside was that the mines had become poorer. The result of this policy had been to diminish considerably the margin of profit. People not acquainted with the conditions could not quite explain why the mines should apparently be working at a smaller profit than they were some time ago. Personally he was inclined to think that a mistake had been made in not keeping up the milling grade to the higher average before the war, for the simple reason that they were passing through a period of some strain, and it was unfortunate that confidence in the fields should be shaken by causes which were perfectly understood by those on the spot, but not by those at a distance.” Unfortunate! We think it fortunate that the public should know these facts, rather than remain in ignorance. Is the knowledge likely to be more to their gain or their loss? The more light is thrown on the Rand mining industry, its conditions and prospects, the better for everybody but the mine boss himself.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: THE JUBILEE.

The Jubilee is not only one of the oldest of the Rand outcrop companies, but it has for 18 years been one of the most regular and consistent of dividend payers. It belongs to what is known as the Natal group of companies, its head office is at Pietermaritzburg, and it is a notable instance of a company that can pay high divi-

dends because it has never been over-capitalised. There is not, and never has been, so much as a drop of water in its capital, hence the shareholders have always been certain of receiving good dividends. On the directorate of the company there is no name that is familiar to the public at large, no mine boss of the standing of Mr. Wernher, Mr. Beit, Sir George Farrar, Mr. Albu, Mr. Robinson, Solly Joel, &c., nor even so influential a personage as our own Lord Harris. The original vendors have never tried to make themselves millionaires at the expense of the shareholders who came after, or bestow upon them merely the crumbs left over. The Jubilee was formed as long ago as 1886, and commenced to crush in the following year; it paid its first dividend in 1887 also, and since then the yearly distributions have only been interrupted by the war. Its dividend record, indeed, as may be seen from the following table, compared with the majority of the Rand mines, may be described as brilliant:—

Year.	Dividend. %	Capital. £
1887	25	15,000
1888	45	22,000
1889	25	26,000
1890	50	26,000
1891	40	26,000
1892	60	30,000
1893	120	30,000
1894	120	30,000
1895	90	50,000
1896	60	50,000
1897	80	50,000
1898	100	50,000
1899	50	50,000
1903	50	50,000
1904	50	50,000

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In addition to the above the shareholders in 1898 received a bonus of 80 shares in the Village Main Reef Gold Mining Company for every 100 Jubilee shares, and in 1902 were given 37½ South City shares for every 100. It is a pity that such a mine as this cannot last for another generation. Unfortunately it will soon be exhausted. Some give it a life of three and a-half years, others think it will last another four. During that time it should continue, if all goes well with it and the grade of the ore keeps up, to pay good dividends. The highest paid by the company were 120 per cent. in 1893 and 1894, but the last three distributions, including 1899, have been at the rate of 50 per cent. On the profit earned last year the directors could easily have paid 80 or 90 per cent., but for some prudent reason they carried forward as large a balance as £40,695, inclusive of nearly £30,000 brought in. But even were 100 per cent. per annum paid in the next four years the shares are too high priced to make a purchase remunerative, looking at all the uncertainties to be faced. The dividend is not likely to average above 90 per cent., even if it reaches that. Taking the yield at 30 per cent., say, the return in four years would be £120 per £100 invested, leaving £20 for dividends or 5 per cent. per annum. Should the dividends be no higher than 50 or 60 per cent., then a loss would have to be faced. To redeem £100 in four years, a little over £23 would have to be set aside at 3 per cent. per annum, so the net yield would be nearly 7 per cent., calculated on dividends of 90 per cent. But it is impossible to forecast how much the directors will pay in the future, and each individual must deduce his own inferences from the following statement made by the chairman at the last annual meeting:—"Dividends amounting to 50 per cent. have been declared during the financial year, with considerable liquid assets carried forward to the current year's accounts. It might, indeed, be considered that a further dividend should be declared for the period under review, but the directors are averse to dividing up to the hilt, and deem it prudent policy to preserve the strong financial position always maintained by the Jubilee company, and provide for any unforeseen contingencies that might arise, as they are always liable to do, in mining companies." Who can foresee "unforeseen contingencies?"

THE CRITICAL STATE OF CAPE COLONY.

Wednesday's *Westminster Gazette* contained a most interesting letter from a correspondent in Cape Town dated August 23. The picture drawn by this writer will not come as a shock to readers of the *INVESTORS' REVIEW*, for we have never missed an opportunity of pointing out the unreal character and rather unscrupulously bolstered-up quality of the alleged prosperity of this colony after the war. Now comes ample confirmation of the worst of our fears. After describing the efforts made by mercantile houses to cut down expenses, the absence of trade, the impossibility of collecting accounts, and other symptoms of reaction ominous of approaching trouble, the correspondent proceeds as follows:—

Although the banks have stopped discounting, they are not pressing their customers very severely as yet; as a matter of fact, it would be worse than useless. But unless a sharp revival of trade takes place before the end of the year, next January must inevitably witness a mercantile cataclysm in Cape Town. As for the export trade, it has almost ceased to be. The war knocked the sheep farmers on the head, and one does not see a bale of wool in a week's march in Cape Town. A little argol, a few ostrich feathers, a paltry lading of fruit and wine, represent the exports of Cape Town. Port Elizabeth and East London still ship some wool and hides, but only a fraction of what they handled 10 or 20 years ago. The wool-washing industry, which used to be represented by some dozen establishments, employing many hundreds of natives at Uitenhage, has dwindled to a mere nothing. Of other colonial industries, the jam and confectionery manufacturers are about the only ones that may be said to be keeping their end up. Business on the Cape Town Stock Exchange is confined to pettifogging deals, contemptuously termed "ticky-snatching" by Johannesburg brokers, and more money changes hands at Tattersall's rooms on the night before a Kenilworth race meeting than a week's transactions on the Stock Exchange represent. Most of the Cape Town hotels are empty half the time, and though the theatre and music-hall contrive to keep their doors open, nobody can explain the mystery.

The streets are full of unemployed, many of whom do not scruple to beg; the suburbs are similarly overrun, and house-breaking and robbery from the person, frequently with violence, are becoming alarmingly common. Private charity is powerless to relieve such wholesale misery. Government, the churches, the Salvation Army, and other public bodies are doing all they can to minimise the distress; but, in spite of their efforts, hundreds of starving men are sleeping out in the open on the slopes of Table Mountain or along the shore. As is always the case when distress overtakes the weak-minded, petty thefts and embezzlements are rife amongst those who have the handling of money for their employers. And in the train of these back-slidings there has followed an appalling crop of suicides. Whichever way one looks the prospect for the next few years in Cape Colony is hopeless in the extreme. In the past we have invariably been rescued from utter collapse, just when everything appeared at the worst, by some lucky accident. There may be a *deus ex machina* lying in wait to save us from our present troubles, but if so, he must be remarkably adept at concealing his whereabouts.

The end of the letter deals with the political situation, but into that we do not at present intend to enter. That the De Beers party, which labels itself "progressive," and is nominally led by Dr. Jameson, Rhodes's commander-in-chief in the abortive but disaster-fraught raid, would throw the finances and internal administration of Cape Colony into confusion we have never for a moment doubted. It is not in the nature of things that a band of dependents upon a monopolist industry such as this ministry really is, could govern any country well or enact measures for its good, but for the present it is in possession, much as Mr. Balfour's ministry is here, and the Opposition is feebly split into sections without trusted leaders, so that De Beers may remain in power until the storm predicted by this writer for the beginning of next year bursts upon its head. We hope it will keep office and reap the harvest its sowings of dragon's teeth have prepared.

Passing Events.

The citizens of Warwick are not altogether happy under the rule of the B.E.T. Company. Warwick is a place deservedly famous for its schools, and much of the prosperity of the sleepy little town depends upon the students. So good are these schools, and pre-eminently the Girls' High School, that many children from the neighbouring town of Leamington attend them,

and under the easy-going old company which owned the horse trams running between the two towns the children got school tickets for 7s. 6d. a term. Now the system has been electrified by a subsidiary of the B.E.T. Company and fares have been raised to 3d. each way per journey. This means that if the school children coming from and going to Leamington twice a day pay these fees the outlay will be 5s. a week instead of 7s. 6d. a term, or from £3 to £3 10s. per term according to the number of weeks embraced therein. Naturally such an exaction excites no small alarm amongst school managers, and representations have been made to the company with a view to obtaining some reduction. At first all concessions were refused, but after a time the company grudgingly consented to take children at half-fare. Even so this means 2s. 6d. a week to a great many pupils, and that is a very serious addition indeed to the cost of education borne by the less well-to-do families. Why cannot the company recognise the expediency of giving more liberal terms in view of the fact that Warwick depends so much upon its schools? The ordinary fare between the two places is ridiculously high at 3d., and should not be more than 2d., while school children might be carried at halfpenny fares each way if nothing better can be given. The new company will decidedly fail to attract custom and to attain popularity if it attempts to induce prosperity for its large ornamental capital by charging excessive fares.

Why do the owners of the various lines of cross-Channel steamers allow the stewards on board to rob passengers so shamelessly in the exchange of moneys? To the rich traveller it may not matter much that he should only be tendered 9s. 2d. for his last 10-mark piece, or 8d. for his last franc; but it is a vile extortion upon the poor, and one for which there is no sort of excuse. These Channel boats are often bad enough in other respects—cleanliness imperfect, food poorly cooked and usually very dear; but these discomforts can be put up with, especially when the passage is rough. It is otherwise with the exchange of moneys, and the robbery now practised therein ought to be stopped at once. Among the worst sinners are the Zealand Shipping Company of Holland, and the Harwich boats of the Great Eastern Railway, but they are all shamelessly bad.

It takes our memories back to boyish days to hear in the solitudes an echo of the once-famous—we had almost written notorious—Cerro de Pasco mines of Peru. It appears that efforts to place them on a producing basis have not been abandoned, so we learn that Mr. A. W. McCune, who has been looking after the details of this ambitious scheme, is now in the United States. He says it has been necessary to build a railway across the Andes Mountains to reach the district. The road was opened for traffic from the Pacific coast to the mines on July 4, 1904, and is now being extended to the coal mines, 17 miles distant, where the company will have its coke ovens located. The copper smelter is stated to be nearing completion, and will go into commission about November 1. Originally the plant was designed to handle 1,000 tons of ore per day, so equipment has been provided accordingly. And copper may offer greater chances of profit than gold.

Some wise sentiments are published by our French contemporary, the *Temps*, upon the happier relationships and their mutually beneficial possibilities now existing between ourselves and our neighbours. Dwelling on the cordiality which marked the recent festivities at Portsmouth, the *Temps* recalls that the origin and lasting justification of this good friendship lay in the commercial solidarity that unites both countries. It advocates the development of this solidarity, and to this end advises French merchants to improve their methods and, by means of French representatives who know Great Britain well, to seek British custom not only in London, but in the provinces. "These are," it goes on to say, "it will, perhaps, be said, questions of pounds, shillings, and pence, which have nothing to do with politics. If it is seen how commercial solidarity is the basis and guarantee of the friendship of which France and Great

Britain were able, when it came to the proof, to measure the political value, it will be understood why we give these questions a place among the problems that interest the two nations."

The "Natal Witness" butters no parsnips in its strong denunciation of the employment of Chinese on the Rand and the terrible consequences that have resulted from the importation of the scum of China. In an article written by Mr. A. H. Hawkshawe, which appeared on August 19, the author says:—"Few outside the charmed circle on the Rand can have any idea of the cruelty, nay, iniquity, that is being systematically practised on the Chinamen in the Chinese compounds there." This supports the description given in the "Morning Leader" by Mr. Frank Boland, from one of whose articles we gave quotations in our last issue. Mr. Hawkshawe gives an account of a state of affairs at one mine which became so bad that the general manager wrote to the compound manager and his assistants informing them that if their scandalous ill-treatment of the coolies continued they would be dismissed. Yet on the same day the same general manager wrote to the compound manager authorising him to flog certain coolies. "The section of the ordinance which says that flogging can only be inflicted by a magistrate's order is," adds Mr. Hawkshawe, "entirely ignored." He predicts a general rising all along the reef unless "prompt and drastic" measures are taken.

The same organ comments in a leading article upon Mr. Hawkshawe's statements, and says that in the past six months scarcely a week has gone by that has not seen an outrage perpetrated or witnessed a riot, and often three or four cases are reported in as many days. After speaking of the menace the Chinamen have become to all white people—men, women, and children—the article adds:—"The Chinese experiment has had a year's trial now. Whatever it has done to fatten the bank balances of the mining magnates it has done nothing to improve the economic condition of South Africa, and to-day things are worse everywhere than they were before there was a Chinaman in the country." So these cut-throats "must go," no matter what "the pockets of the Randlords may suffer from their exclusion." Why should these cosmopolites become wealthier at the expense of the lives of women and children?

Undeniably the imagination is stirred by that wonderful feat of engineering, the new iron bridge over the Victoria Falls on the Zambesi, in Central Africa. It was declared open this week by Professor Darwin, the President of the British Association, who made a speech in which he dwelt upon the astonishing journey of 1,700 miles "performed in luxury and comfort," which he and his brother members undertook in order to be present at the opening ceremony. While that bridge stands it cannot be said that the Chartered Company has entirely given itself up to play upon the Stock Exchange and nigger driving. Still the practical mind cannot help asking where the traffic is to come from which will render this bridge a profitable asset. The tendency of such business as may be developed in Central Africa must be to seek the coast by the nearest route, and when the Tanganyika Railway is built—as we are assured it now will be—all the great copper deposits which it is designed to tap will furnish it with traffic, not the "Cape to Cairo" line, which has from the first seemed to us a product of a fantastic imagination, alluring, no doubt, in its romance, but a long way remote from practical business.

Australian State Budgets are now being disclosed to the world, and every one of the Finance Ministers speaks in glowing language of the prosperity. Thus Mr. Carruthers, the State Treasurer of New South Wales, boasts of a "revenue" for the financial year closed on June 30 last of £11,514,327, or £29,137 more than the estimate. Reducing this to "net," he claims a surplus of £187,173, by which the deficiency brought forward on July 1, 1904, is reduced to £336,890. Nevertheless, the funded and floating debt of the colony increased in the course of the year by £1,122,141, raising the total on June 30 last to the appalling figure of

£83,662,431. Further details need not be given until we have the complete Budget before us for examination, but it may be added that a revenue of £11,327,300 is looked for in the current year which, on the basis of estimated expenditure, promises a further surplus of upwards of £45,000. All this is very nice, but further debt to the amount of nearly £1,500,000 is apparently needed to complete works in hand. However, the number of sheep in the colony has risen to 41,000,000 against 26,000,000 two years ago, and the export of wool shows an increase of £3,000,000, at £12,000,000. Moreover, New South Wales had wheat to export, and hopes to have 11,000,000 bushels more as the result of the current year's harvest.

The South Australian Treasurer, Mr. Peake, was also happy in a surplus. In the past year they had paid off £32,000 on account of the deficit of the previous year, and had expended £42,000 on relaying railway lines over and above the ordinary expenditure. Moreover, £135,000 had been credited to the public debt sinking fund, so here also there was jubility. For the current year Mr. Peake estimates a revenue of £2,659,551, and expects a surplus of £9,000, which is modest. The number of sheep in the state increased by 500,000, and of cattle by 28,000 in the past fiscal year, so our security is improving. The peace of the colony, however, is troubled by a proposal which the Ministry has brought forward for imposing a graduated land tax, with the object of relieving farmers and making holders of land of the value of over £10,000 pay an increased tax. Probably the squatters who control the Legislative Council will not allow this levelling down measure to become law.

Mr. E. B. Broomhall sends us a correspondence of his with the Post Office, from which we gather that the Postmaster-General has receded from a position taken up by his officials in reference to artificial words not exceeding ten letters, "pronounceable according to usage," and used in inland telegrams. Messages with such words were accepted for foreign countries, but refused for inland transmission. The expressions in question, says the Post Office, ought not strictly to pass as single words under the regulations relating to inland telegrams, but it has been the practice of the department to accept them by way of toleration, and instructions have been given that for the present this practice is to be maintained. There appears to be no valid reason why any restriction should ever have been imposed.

The latest wheat market report issued by Messrs. W. P. Wood and Co. contains some highly comforting details regarding the world's harvests, and we doubt if any of us need go short of bread this coming year unless it is our unfortunate Indian subjects and some of the Russian peasantry. A very severe shortage, if not an absolute famine, is threatened in India owing to the deficient rainfall. Russia naturally falls below the average, and the yield in France is said to be a little disappointing, but the United States crop is estimated at anything between 625 and 725 million bushels, and from Manitoba and the Canadian North-West something like 90 million bushels may be looked for, all of it good grade, far above that of last year. Not to be outdone, farmers here have put a much greater area under cultivation, an increase of 30 per cent., it is said, all without the aid of protection, and we may be pretty sure that the new Argentine crop will be quite satisfactory.

During the past week or so the market for English Brewery stocks and shares seems to have taken a turn for the better, and it may be that the long-drawn-out depression in this class of security has at length come to an end, for a time at any rate. The immediate cause of revival is said to be the abundant hop crop, but even in regard to that all kinds of contradictory stories are current. First we hear it is very good, then only moderate, followed by statements that rain and wind wrought a tremendous change for the worse, causing the abandonment of hundreds if not thousands of acres. So far as we can gather, however, the crop on the whole will be an excellent one, so plentiful, indeed, that the selling prices are hardly likely to go above £3 per cwt.

even for the best qualities, compared with a minimum of about £10 per cwt. last year. What this means to brewers is also a matter of considerable controversy, a suggestion that 2s. per barrel will be saved meeting with indignant denial from those in the trade. Others endeavour to prove by elaborate calculations that the difference is not 2s., but actually 2s. 6d., while a third party of experts ridicule anything above 9d. per barrel as the extent of the economy. We shall learn in good time, no doubt, and meanwhile it may be useful to remind those inclined towards brewery securities that it is not trade alone that has been lost, but huge amounts of capital as well, owing to injudicious and often reckless investments in times of public-house boom.

A correspondent draws attention to some efforts on the part of the *Daily Mail* and *London Opinion* to hoist the prices of Inter-oceanic of Mexico securities. The usual method is adopted, a method into which prophecy largely enters. Perhaps the *Daily Mail* does the thing more neatly by pointing out that the £10 preference share standing at 6½, though it does not look cheap when no dividends are paid, might really be worth more, because there are £9 16s. of accrued interest to be added to the nominal price. Better still, the "B" debentures are said to be the object of a "rumour" to the effect that they may be paid off at 120 this year; and even the ordinary shares are not left out of account, it being declared that the Mexican Government has acquired 51 per cent., of the issue by purchase in the market during the past three years. Bolder in tone is *London Opinion*, which roundly declares that the "B" debentures ought to receive a full 7 per cent. for the last financial year; and there is more of the same stuff. When we turn to the report of the chairman's speech at the meeting held in December last we find no indication whatever that these predictions are justified. He pointed out that the net profit for the first four months of the current fiscal year was only £35,000 as compared with £46,000 last year, and dwelt strongly upon the fact that the board requires money to improve the property, and has been devoting revenue to this purpose in accordance with a fixed policy not only of the Inter-oceanic Company but of the National Railroad Company, its principal shareholder. Considerable expenditure of this kind has still to come, and there is no warrant for the alleged rumour that the "B" debentures are likely to be redeemed at 120, the company having no funds with which to effect any such operation. The company might pay the full dividend on these debentures, but it is fully as probable that they will only get the 6 per cent. paid last year, and the distribution might easily be reduced.

Last week's revenue figures were not so bad, aggregating £2,730,000, of which Customs contributed £716,000, Excise £611,000, the Post Office £560,000, and the Telegraph Service £14,000. Income-tax still comes to small figures. The Exchequer, however, benefited to the extent of £30,000, money received on the April Treasury bond issue. In spite of the grand income, expenses exceeded the week's receipts by fully £249,000, supply services alone having swept away £2,371,000.

The trade figures for the first six months of the current year have now been issued by the Board of Trade for 10 foreign countries and for British India and Canada. They are of the anticipated complexion, and we again commend their study to those people who are unhappy about the future of a free trade country. In the matter of imports England has been far ahead of every other country. The imports of Germany, for example, only aggregated about 70 per cent. of ours in the first half of the year, and those of the United States, with its population of nearly 80,000,000, came to less than 53 per cent. of our total. As for thrifty and industrious France, its imports barely aggregated 41 per cent. of ours. These figures all relate to merchandise alone. In exports we also hold the lead, although our figures are not blown out by our necessities. We have not to pay foreign bankers to do our business, nor to meet interest on moneys borrowed abroad like the

United States, and yet the United States, with all their magnificent resources, in the first six months of the current year could not bring their export totals up to our figure. They were £4,000,000 less, and for the seven months to the end of July the States have fallen nearly £10,000,000 behind the United Kingdom. No other country except the United States comes anywhere near us, so poor old England is still subject to a singular kind of decay.

Now that there is a fictitious appearance of activity in the South African market, and punters hug the hope that it may eventually bring in the avaricious public, cables galore are coming from all parts, announcing a plethora of new and rich discoveries. Many months ago an effort was made to boom the Bushveld tin district, but it failed to interest the simpletons who usually are ready to believe any fantastic stories invented by market robbers. Suddenly, however, the old scheme is being revived. It is reported that tin alluvial has been discovered "carrying abnormally high values;" and that the African Farms, Limited, has acquired an option over the Zwartkloof property, whilst rumour adds that the Robinson Central Company is negotiating for 17 claims. But readers must be cautious not to be inveigled into promoting or other schemes which may be devised only to impoverish them. They will lose nothing if they wait many years for these so-called tin finds to be thoroughly developed.

Even a long period of prosperity is predicted by a well-known expert for the West Kootenay district of British Columbia. This gentleman is Mr. J. C. Gwillim, Professor of Mining, Engineering, and Metallurgy in Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, who has returned to England after spending a month visiting the mines in the above-mentioned district. A month is not long, to be sure, but it little matters, for the public are not likely to spend many shillings of their money in exploiting properties in any part of British Columbia; they have lost far too many thousands there in the past. Mr. Gwillim admits there is less excitement there than formerly, "but there is a steadiness and permanence about the work that strikes me, after some years of absence, as a new feature of British Columbia mining. . . . With the exception of the constant danger of labour troubles, there is nothing to prevent a long period of prosperity." Indeed! But is not such a "constant danger" sufficient to scare off prudent investors?

We are now gazing upon the third or fourth boomlet that has been worked up in Rhodesian bankets. Like previous booms this one is likely to fizzle out at any moment, as soon as the insiders think they have pocketed sufficient plunder. For many months, when markets were dull and the outlook as black as midnight, we heard no word of developments and finds from the property of the Rhodesian Banket Company, but now that the war is over good news of all sorts becomes suddenly plentiful. The stupid do not stop to wonder at the marvellous coincidence of this, but actually think the movement genuine and above all suspicion. Those, however, who have been attracted by the gamble and are excitedly playing with the knowing ones will soon be disillusioned. Let them suffer, then, the consequences of their folly. Insiders and outsiders alike are awaiting the report of Mr. Garthwaite, the consulting engineer to the Chartered Company. Rumour says that the report was written some time ago; that it has already reached London: that it is being considered by the Chartered directors; that the contents have already been circulated round the West End clubs; that it will not be published till November or December next; that it is really a private report, and so on. Meanwhile, the bosses are making the most and best of the mystery and secrecy, so that should the report prove to be a "damper" they will not be the losers, but the "mugs" they have lured into their nets with their flamboyant talk and hints. And when the banket boom collapses, so will in all probability the Kafir balloon burst.

The Equitable of New York is not the only American life insurance company which has been indulging in questionable practices, and the legislative inquiry now

being conducted in the States has brought to light several unsavoury particulars with regard to the New York Life. According to a Reuter's telegram, this concern, after being obliged to get rid of stocks in order to keep its business in Prussia, went on dealing without showing the stocks amongst its assets. To conceal these transactions, the Treasurer of the company admitted that loans of millions of dollars had been made to two clerks on their personal notes, but care had been taken to keep any record of these out of the books of the Finance Committee. He excused the proceeding on the ground that dummy bonds were a recognised custom in financial concerns, a statement which, if true, reveals the depths to which commercial morality in America has sunk, and fully justifies all our warnings against these monstrous companies. Another transaction investigated was still more reprehensible, as it was a deliberate concealment of the true position, undertaken in order to mislead the State superintendent of insurance, and through him the public. The New York Life it seems got mixed up in the Navigation Syndicate, by which we suppose the International Mercantile Marine is meant, and bought \$4,000,000 of the bonds from Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co. Apparently the laws of this country do not permit insurance companies to hold more than a certain amount of security, and so that the New York Superintendent's report would show no more than the amount, in this instance \$3,200,000, \$800,000 were sold to Messrs. Morgan and Co. on December 31, 1903, and bought back again on January 2, 1904.

The Paris correspondent of the *Financial News* gives publicity to the report that the business of the Grands Magasins du Louvre is to be turned into a limited liability company with a capital of £3,000,000. The report, he says, originated this time in London, and the company will be an English one. Already, the story goes, the English promoting syndicate has remitted £60,000 by way of deposit, and to clinch the bargain. But Paris remains sceptical, and no wonder. Why should the owners of so fine a property part with it to the London company promoter?

We do not believe that Sweden and Norway are going to come to blows. Military enthusiasts in both countries may be desirous of airing their truculence and, in the gratification of their cultivated passions not unwilling to stir up strife, but they are in a minority, and we rely upon the common-sense and pacific disposition of the mass of the people of both nations to prevent anything like an outbreak of war. Telegrams from both Christiania and Stockholm often wear a threatening aspect, and the question of the dismantling of the fortresses is doubtless a ticklish one, but it must be capable of solution for the simple reason that it is in the interests of neither country to make warlike demonstration against the other. Sweden is being pressed to agree to a treaty of arbitration so as to prevent differences of opinion from opening the way to bloodshed at a future time, and we hope Swedish statesmen will see the wisdom of acceding to Norway's demands on this head.

A more acute danger to the peace of Europe appears to us to lie in the position of Hungary. There popular demands continue to be met by the dogged *non possumus* of the Emperor Francis Joseph, and in Hungary itself there is obviously a ferment of political passions full of menace to the maintenance of peace between kingdom and empire. We hope the storm will blow over, but the rejection by the Emperor of the ejected Ministry's demands for universal suffrage, coming as it does at the end of a long series of checks to Hungarian aspirations, might very well precipitate a crisis. Baron Fejervary's Ministry has resigned, having no choice but to do so and it will be difficult for the Vienna Cabinet to persuade any other body of men bearing even the semblance of loyalty to Hungarian aspirations to form a new Cabinet. The consequences might be domestic chaos ending in a violent wrenching away of Hungary from the Austrian crown. But is not the whole Austro-Hungarian Empire in much the same condition of race cleavage and antipathy?

We hope Finland is not going to attempt to fight Russia. When recently in Helsingfors we found abundant indications that the dislike of Russian dominance is deep seated and abiding in the minds of the Finns and of the Swedish families who are the real masters of Finland's destinies. It was even boasted in our hearing that if the worst came to the worst Finland is ready to put 200,000 men into the field, men capable of giving a good account of themselves in any collision with the ill-drilled and badly-led hordes of Russia. But we trust this is only talk, and that the importation of arms which appears to be going on, if the tales told about that stranded ship are true, will not lead to any efforts to assert Finnish independence by force of arms. Time is on the side of Finland, as on that of every other nationality subjected to the brute rule of the Russian autocracy, and the true way to cope with the difficulties of the present position in Finland is by a quiet passive resistance.

That was a very interesting meeting of the Dunlop Tyre Company which took place on Thursday last, to hear an address on the progress of the undertaking from the renowned Mr. Harvey du Cros. There is not the slightest doubt that the company's tyre is by far the best in the world, and if the financing of the enterprise had been as honest as its products were good, the business to-day might have stood in a magnificent position. The trade at present being done is far in excess of the directors' most sanguine dreams, the output of more than 1,500,000 tyres in 1904 being easily beaten this year, and the board is faced with the necessity of providing further factory accommodation. That happily does not mean more money from the unfortunate shareholders, or a sacrifice of any of the company's assets, but merely a suspension of debenture redemption for a year, which is rather a clever expedient. The company now are not only tyre, but rubber manufacturers as well, completing the article from beginning to end, and evidently has a great future before it, notwithstanding the expiry of the monopoly-giving patents. But no concern can really thrive with a goodwill or plunder account of £4,000,000 for ever dragging it back, and the chairman dwelt at length on the necessity for reconstruction. Shareholders, too, recognise how essential it is that the finances should be straightened out, and a great majority has voted in favour of reorganisation; but we think it will be wise to reconsider the position of the ordinary shareholders, as, unless they are accorded better terms, we doubt if the proposal of the directors outlined in these columns a little time back will go through.

The news from the Caucasus is still very bad—about as bad as it could be, but we must not forget that during times of violent disturbance the imagination is apt to run riot, and the stories of slaughter and destruction to become exaggerated. We are inclined to think this has happened in connection with the statements of damage done to the Baku oilfields. That there has been a good deal of devastation admits of no doubt at all, but without any actual details before him Mr. W. A. Turner, the secretary of the Schibaieff Petroleum Company, when interviewed during the week, put the probable facts of the case very plainly. Surface plant has naturally suffered, although not so severely as reported, but you cannot hurt a petroleum well sunk 2,000 or 3,000 feet into the earth. "Subterranean lakes of liquid fire," and "flames spouting miles into the air," can therefore be regarded as a nice little bit of descriptive nonsense, following perhaps a bad nightmare. The worst that could happen would be a choking of the wells, involving fresh borings, but the average rioter does not go about his work quite with the system required to do much damage in this direction; and as to the yarn that 3,000 springs in Baku have been burnt out, involving a loss of £15,000,000—well, there are no springs at Baku. Nor can the oil industry be permanently damaged by the substitution of other kinds of fuel, because an important part of the railway and other engines used in Russia are constructed for oil fuel only, and could not burn coal or wood. The latest authentic accounts from Baku admit that the havoc caused to the property of British

companies is not nearly so great as first reported, the surface works, or at least the greater portion of them, belonging to three undertakings having been saved. Some time must elapse before anything like order can be restored and business resumed, but the wild stories about the industry being "wiped out" can be altogether ignored. What remains true about race demonism is lamentable enough, but then Russia has probably had no troops available with which to keep the human vultures apart. What of the forces were not fighting in Manchuria have been needed to preserve the Tsar from assassination.

Answers to Correspondents.

Rion.—(1) The outlook seems fairly favourable for this stock, as this market more than any other has lately attracted the attention of investors. (2) We do not see sufficient scope in these shares to make them worth buying as a speculative investment. (3) On the contrary, the prospects are, if anything, rather better, but you must not forget that any purchase must be regarded as a pure speculation.

Ascot.—A little speculative, of course, but the railway ought to do well enough, and the risk seems a fair one for a small amount. (2) There also seems a chance here, especially as Australian affairs are undoubtedly progressing, but it is not the kind of thing to load up with. (3) We note your remarks regarding Brewery securities, and will bear the matter in mind. (4) No, our statement was quite correct.

Nemo.—(1) Yes, we think the agreement will be renewed, as it would be most inimical to all the companies' interests to do otherwise. But the good effects of this seem fully discounted in present prices, and we doubt if quotations will go much higher. Regarded speculatively, some of the companies' shares may be worth attention. (2) These are a very fair investment, as the company's business shows steady expansion, but do not buy too many. The other bonds are also quite good to hold, but it is impossible to say whether they will reach par. (3) We hear favourably of these bonds, as there is talk of certain extensions likely to bring traffic, but, of course, the company's finances are very poor, and a few pounds profit should be taken. (4) No, it is not the kind of thing to load up with, notwithstanding that the outlook is much improved. Keep what you have, but do not increase. (5) No need to accept a loss, we think, although, as you say, the general financial position is not very grand. Anyhow, keep for the present as no particular fall need be apprehended. We have heard no fresh news of the law suit. (6) This bank's shares have the merit of being free from liability, and we see no reason why the dividend should not be maintained, but if you buy keep the purchase very small.

A. W.—The company is not a particularly strong one, but it has certainly improved its position wonderfully during the past two years, in spite of adverse conditions. It appears to be carefully enough managed, although we should have been better pleased to see some attention paid to depreciation of the property either by writing it down or commencing a reserve before the dividend was increased.

Mithra.—(1) You may have to wait a little for any return, but these shares seem a promising speculation. (2) Recent traffics have been wonderfully good, and the present price may therefore be justified. The shares, however, are a purely speculative counter, and unless you are prepared to face the possibility of sudden fluctuations they should not be touched.

W. P.—The dividend is guaranteed by an American concern, and should be safe enough as the business is a big one.

Olive.—(1) The paper you refer to is, we fear, too optimistic regarding the prospects of these shares, and as a speculation we think they would be too much of a "long shot" for your purpose. (2) We will see what we can do, and if a suitable security can be found it shall be sent you next week.

J. F.—We do not think you should sell after the recent fall unless you have a good profit which might be worth taking. Traffic receipts continue excellent.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.—Liabilities on August 30, consisted of £52,283,392 on simple contracts and £515,001 on notes or bills, against which were held cash in hand and at Bank of England £7,704,492, money at call and short notice £2,884,938, English Government and other securities £14,979,392 and bills of exchange, promissory notes and advances to customers £32,529,571.

NATIONAL BANK.—On July 28 the liabilities on simple contracts were £11,510,408, and on notes or bills, including bank notes in circulation, £1,197,523, while the assets consisted of £1,410,906 in Government securities, £3,783,939 in bills of exchange and promissory notes, £1,420,794 in cash on hand and at the Bank of England, £1,852,544 in money at call and at short notice, and £6,380,398 in other securities.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING.—Liabilities on August 31, amounted to £44,866,485 on simple contracts and £2,760,062 on acceptances, against which the assets were £9,329,114 in investments, £10,181,163 in bills of exchange, £17,661,385 in loans and advances to customers, £7,270,060 in cash at the Bank of England and on hand, and £3,072,310 in money at call and notice.

PELICAN & BRITISH EMPIRE LIFE OFFICE. A.D. 1797.

70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Total Assets exceed - £5,100,000.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 3 PER CENT. (Advanced from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on September 7.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Most of this week the Money market has been the victim of a gold fidget. At ordinary times, as explained elsewhere, anything may be market money—cheese, wool, even Chartered shares—but every now and again there is a gap, or threatened gap, which gold alone can be utilised to fill. Probably we are not far from a disclosure of some such empty space now, and, anyway, rumour has been busy this week conveying chunks of our not very formidable stock of gold, now to New York, now to Paris. In the middle of the week the discount market was quite frightened by a story that £1,000,000 or £1,250,000 in American eagles was going off that night to New York—by wireless telegraphy, we suppose, as there was no boat available. That tale gave place yesterday and to-day to assertions that Paris is hot-foot after all the metal it can find, and we were told this afternoon that French banks have secured the whole of the supply coming in next week. Not only so, but these banks are even alleged to have gone round the Australian bank offices in the City to see whether they had any parcels of sovereigns coming our way which might be intercepted at Port Said. To-night, also, it is declared that the eagles will after all go to the United States, a lump of them to-morrow. Whatever the facts are behind these statements, they certainly indicate the approach of a struggle for such supplies of gold as are available, and the terrible shock which has been given to French credit institutions and the market in Paris generally by the catastrophe in sugar would certainly point to an anxiety on their part to strengthen their bullion reserves. The United States also require a prop of this kind, and when we superadd the probable demands of Russia, the likelihood that Spain will float a loan for £12,000,000 nominal, and that other more or less imposing demands upon the world's savings are only waiting for a chance to display themselves, the worry of the market over the Bank of England's stock of gold is natural enough.

The immediate effect, however, is to keep short credits cheap enough at $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. as a pretty wide range, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. as the closing quotations this afternoon for seven-day advances. Bankers are not discounting bills, but sitting on whatever resources they may have, and willing only to lend for short dates, a sure indication that they expect a further advance in the Bank rate at no distant date. Many thought it was going up this week, and there was quite a feeling of relief when the directors separated on Thursday after their meeting without making any change. Short credits, however, are excellent for the discount brokers as long as they are able to get $2\frac{3}{4}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$, 3, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the discount of remitted bills of various usances. They have consequently been doing a profitable business, although a somewhat restricted one, and are quite willing to go on on these terms as long as the banks like. To-night the discount rate for three months' remitted bills was quite hard at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. as a minimum, but the bulk of the business had been done in the morning at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. What caused the change was the above-mentioned story of the French solicitude after gold.

What the prospects of the market are we must not be too dogmatic about. All depends upon whether the skill of the leaders of international finance proves adequate to cope with the unquestionably urgent gold requirements of more than one market. Should these

leaders be able to do this, with the help of the supplies of raw gold coming from the various mines, without the occurrence of any sensational withdrawal of metal from the Bank of England, we may get through the autumn with at worst a 4 per cent. Bank rate, and only a few such flurries as we have had to cope with this week to ruffle our equanimity. On the other hand, should gold leave the Bank to the extent of two or three millions within the next fortnight or three weeks, we shall have the 4 per cent. Bank rate, with everybody predicting that it is going higher. Is a higher rate probable? We are not sure; should not like to say definitely one way or another, beyond insisting that the actual position of markets and the probable further requirements to be imposed upon them render the depletion of our stock of gold between now and December in a high degree probable.

This week's Bank return does not require any substantial analysis. It shows that the market paid off about £939,000 of its debt on Other Securities. Thanks to this, to the suction of the Treasury, whose balances are up £417,000, and to a decrease of £189,000 in the Reserve, Other Deposits are down by £1,550,000 to £42,021,000. This total is still about £1,500,000 above the poverty line, which usually signals borrowings at the Bank—a slender enough protection.

SILVER.

Russia again came into the market this week, and there was also a good demand for silver, due to bears covering. At the same time, supplies of the metal for immediate delivery have been so small that the price gradually improved to $28\frac{1}{2}$ d per oz., or a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on the week, but the inquiry for future shipment was less pronounced, and it finishes only $\frac{1}{2}$ d. up at $28\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. Applications for the Rs.80,00,000 Council drafts on India on Wednesday amounted to Rs.6,01,60,000 in bills and Rs.80,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these, Rs.70,61,000 were allotted in bills and Rs.9,39,000 in transfers tenders at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. and 1s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per rupee, receiving about 11 per cent. Next week another Rs.80,00,000 will be allotted.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 13, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 51,918,690	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	33,468,690
		Silver Bullion	—
	£51,918,690		£51,918,690

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 18,667,070
Reserve	3,681,437	Other Securities	28,863,519
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	11,688,992	Notes	22,717,490
Other Deposits	42,021,387	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,788,492
Seven Day and other Bills ..	91,755		
	£72,036,571		£72,036,571

Dated September 14, 1905.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Sept. 16.		Sept. 6, 1905.	Sept. 13, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,753,860	Rest	3,677,242	3,681,437	4,195	—
7,117,298	Pub. Deposits ..	11,272,294	11,688,992	416,698	—
37,184,730	Other do. ..	43,571,477	42,021,387	—	1,550,090
118,502	7 Day Bills ..	90,187	91,755	1,568	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
16,950,841	Gov. Securities ..	18,667,070	18,667,070	—	—
21,655,875	Other do. ..	29,802,287	28,863,519	938,768	—
24,120,683	Total Reserve ..	24,694,843	24,505,982	188,861	—
				1,550,090	1,550,090
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
28,643,390	Note Circulation ..	22,925,090	22,717,490	—	207,600
34,314,073	Coin and Bullion ..	35,093,823	35,257,182	—	436,641
54½ p.c.	Proportion ..	44½ p.c.	45½ p.c.	½ p.c.	—
4 "	Bank Rate ..	3 "	3 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £746,000 out.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 5.	Sept. 7.	Sept. 12.	Sept. 14.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2	12'2	12'2	12'2
Do. do.	3 months	12'3	12'3	12'4	12'3
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'36	25'37	25'37	25'37
Hamburg	3 months	20'61	20'62	20'62	20'62
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'61	20'62	20'62	20'62
Paris	cheques	25'17	25'18	25'18	25'18
Do.	3 months	25'30	25'31	25'31	25'30
Marseilles	3 months	25'30	25'31	25'31	25'31
Switzerland	3 months	25'42	25'43	25'43	25'43
Austria	3 months	25	24'27	24'26	24'26
St. Petersburg	3 months	24	24	24	24
Moscow	3 months	24	24	24	24
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'42	25'42	25'45	25'42
New York	60 days	48	48	49	49
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35	35	35	35
Lisbon	3 months	50	50	50	50
Oporto	3 months	50	50	50	50
Copenhagen	3 months	18'39	18'39	18'40	18'40
Christiania	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'41	18'41
Stockholm	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'41	18'41

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended Sept. 9.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£2,730,402	£2,730,402

* Exclusive of £85,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure, making the total of such payments to date £3,422,570.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £2,500,000 in six months' Treasury bills were opened on Monday at the Bank of England, when the total amount applied for was £8,322,000. Tenders at £98 14s. received about 86 per cent., and those above in full, while the average rate of allotment was £2 10s. 6 3/4d.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,220,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 0 4 1/2
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5	2 17 4
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	—	Jan. 2 ?	—
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
20,933,000			

Issued privately to the India Council.
LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148	94,657,000	—
Week ending				
June 7	226,581,000	189,483,000	37,098,000	—
" 14	167,465,000	209,183,000	—	41,718,000
" 21	238,039,000	167,220,000	70,819,000	—
" 28	190,283,000	213,098,000	—	22,815,000
July 5	335,384,000	263,041,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 23	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
" 30	174,559,000	190,242,000	—	15,683,000
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
8,636,202,000	7,405,165,000	1,231,037,000	—	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'17	25'16	Antwerp	short	25'21	25'21
Brussels	chqs.	25'20	25'19	Italy	sight	25'14	25'14
Amsterdam	sight	12'11	12'10	Constantinople	3 mths	110'05	109'37
Berlin	chqs.	20'43	20'44	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	18'10	17'10
Do.	3 mths	20'28	20'28	Valparaiso	90 dys	15'10	15'10
Hamburg	chqs.	20'43	20'43	Calcutta	T.T.	1'4	1'4
Frankfurt	short	20'42	20'43	Bombay	T.T.	1'4	1'4
Vienna	sight	24'01	24'00	Hong Kong	T.T.	1'11	1'11
St. Petersburg	3 mths	93'95	93'85	Shanghai	T.T.	2'18	2'18
New York	60 dys	4'83	4'83	Singapore	4 mths	2'18	2'18
Lisbon	sight	5'18	5'18	Yokohama	4 mths	2'0	2'0
Madrid	sight	33'15	32'92				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	1 1/2 1 1/2
Berlin	4	September 11, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Hamburg	4	September 11, 1905	3 3
Frankfurt	4	September 11, 1905	3 2 1/2
Amsterdam	2 1/2	March, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2 1/2 2 1/2
Vienna	3 1/2	February 3, 1902	3 1/2 3 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	3 1/2 3 1/2
St. Petersburg	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2 7 1/2
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	3 1/2 3 1/2
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	4 1/2 4 1/2
Stockholm	4 1/2	February, 1905	4 4
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4 4
Calcutta	4	August 17, 1905	— —
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	— —
New York call money	2 1/4	—	— —

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Friday, France	Wednesday, S. America ..
Net Efflux	Thursday, S. America ..
Total	Total

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 23, 1905.	Sept. 7, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£46,328,500	£46,390,583	£46,843,833	£48,491,453
Silver Reserve	£12,478,833	£12,619,208	£12,711,541	£12,356,750
Foreign bills	£2,500,000	£2,500,000	£2,500,000	£2,500,000
Advances	£1,877,958	£1,831,458	£1,761,375	£1,786,416
Note circulation	£69,233,875	£69,469,416	£65,932,208	£70,192,875
Bills discounted	£16,215,625	£16,381,875	£12,807,333	£15,674,541

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 24, 1905.	Sept. 8, 1904.
Coin and bullion	£4,925,360	£4,815,360	£4,782,600	£4,851,240
Other securities	£22,674,200	£23,584,840	£22,815,360	£20,917,240
Note circulation	£26,315,200	£27,523,080	£26,342,360	£25,014,200
Deposits	£3,391,720	£2,929,640	£3,284,960	£2,963,800

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Sept. 9, 1905.	Sept. 2, 1905.	Aug. 26, 1905.	Sept. 10, 1904.
Specie	£41,494,000	£42,758,000	£43,890,000	£53,072,000
Legal tenders	£15,742,000	£16,672,000	£16,960,000	£15,700,000
Loans and discounts	£221,336,000	£227,384,000	£228,922,000	£226,100,000
Circulation	£10,740,000	£10,620,000	£10,462,000	£8,013,200
Net deposits	£225,084,000	£233,318,000	£236,216,000	£244,340,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £966,000 against an excess last week of £1,100,000.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 23, 1905.	Sept. 7, 1904.
Cash in hand	£45,443,200	£46,584,250	£49,466,550	£45,477,500
Bills discounted	£47,363,050	£45,474,350	£42,263,350	£37,971,400
Advances on stocks	£2,823,250	£3,318,500	£2,856,250	£2,752,950
Note circulation	£64,861,450	£65,377,000	£62,272,150	£62,080,750
Public deposits	£28,364,850	£26,384,750	£29,991,950	£25,997,850

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 9, 1905.	Sept. 2, 1905.	Aug. 26, 1905.	Sept. 10, 1904.
Gold	£14,923,347	£14,923,102	£14,914,737	£14,770,397
Silver	£22,478,570	£22,638,595	£22,594,596	£20,352,997
Foreign Bills	£2,363,524	£2,479,525	£2,227,586	£1,667,140
Discount and Short Bills	£45,309,426	£45,332,130	£45,484,255	£38,682,600
Treasury Account	£20,819,030	£20,848,533	£20,834,914	£21,961,519
Notes in circulation	£62,386,626	£62,444,569	£62,448,621	£65,150,901
Current account deposits	£22,604,992	£22,628,042	£23,606,723	£25,752,873
Dividends Interests	£2,054,571	£2,585,501	£2,283,974	£2,364,391
Government Securities	£4,860,211	£4,988,208	£4,271,922	£4,766,719

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 14, 1905.	Sept. 7, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1905.	Sept. 15, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£118,899,520	£118,977,680	£118,845,160	£106,143,760
Silver in hand ..	44,142,049	44,292,120	44,332,120	44,595,160
Bills discounted ..	20,115,280	19,220,760	26,950,880	20,364,320
Advances ..	18,820,160	19,171,280	18,583,680	19,965,280
Note circulation ..	173,965,840	174,228,360	177,164,880	168,307,520
Public deposits ..	11,038,240	9,703,360	11,997,520	7,442,080
Private deposits ..	23,544,440	23,941,760	24,756,400	21,471,320

Proportion between bullion and circulation 93½ per cent., against 93½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 23, Sept. 5, 1905.	Aug. 16/29, 1905.	Aug. 8/21, 1905.	Aug. 23, Sept. 5, 1904.
Gold ..	£91,022,530	£91,623,725	£91,813,964	£85,306,354
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	5,399,687	5,548,388	5,707,650	8,425,087
Advances and bills discounted ..	36,109,394	35,194,145	34,852,361	37,696,281
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	7,457,711	9,143,385	5,458,033	4,934,875
Notes in circulation ..	103,671,680	99,588,624	97,779,536	74,129,881
Deposits and current account ..	44,510,230	41,413,654	45,074,936	40,457,422
Treasury account ..	14,343,356	17,041,108	14,919,440	27,705,843

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Aug. 20, 1905.	Aug. 10, 1905.	July 31, 1905.	Aug. 20, 1904.
Reserve ..	£27,833,440	£27,819,280	£27,800,360	£25,996,760
State notes and small change ..	582,840	517,360	482,760	592,200
Discount and loans ..	11,207,020	11,248,680	11,884,600	9,864,200
Public stock and State loans ..	7,885,680	7,886,480	7,947,400	8,410,360
Credits ..	5,693,020	5,521,720	5,783,200	5,774,760
Note Circulation ..	37,720,700	38,418,640	39,012,640	34,211,680
Current account ..	3,924,080	3,991,800	4,373,000	4,010,720
Deposits ..	3,308,400	3,151,120	3,125,400	3,898,600

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	2½-2½
Three months ..	2½-2½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills ..	3½-3½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	3½-3½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	3
" " short loan rates ..	—
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	1½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	1½
" " 7 and 14 days' notice ..	1½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	1½-1½
" " for call loans ..	1½-1½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Recent movements on the Stock Exchange have illustrated the power of sentiment over markets. The lifting of the war cloud and the return of peace in the Far East has so exhilarated the minds of speculators everywhere that they have been unable to resist the impulse to buy anything and everything. In consequence of indulgence in this appetite, business has been larger on the London market during the last fortnight than for any similar period during the past two years at least. The consequence has been a substantial rise in prices and the dissemination of a spirit of cheerfulness which promises to carry prices still higher. We are thus witnessing a similar outburst to that which occurred when peace was arranged between us and the Boers in South Africa. Will the ultimate consequences be the same in both instances? That is a question which speculators would do well not to put out of sight. Reason, in other words, should not be allowed to be completely dislodged by what may be called a plutonic type of inspiration. We are delighted to find markets so strong, and above all to see that the opportunity has been laid hold of by the manipulators of South African shares to elevate quotations for their wares to heights that must make it possible for many a weary holder to escape, perhaps at a profit, certainly at a much diminished loss.

Would it be wise for all people who have profits upon speculative stocks to begin to think of taking them now? Our view naturally inclines that way, because we are unable to believe in the stability of quotations which have no solid foundation of steady dividends to support them. Isolated securities there are which may well be held after the rise because of the

intrinsic qualities of the security, but the mass of stocks, bonds, and shares which have been subjected to the enthusiastic manipulation of "bulls" within the account so triumphantly concluded on Thursday are not worth to-day more than they were a month or three months ago. The probabilities, indeed, are that a good proportion of them may be worth less now than they were then, for it must never be lost sight of that the aftermath of a war is stagnation, enormous demands upon the capital resources of money-lending institutions and a slow, often very slow, process of recuperation. Remember the experiences of the past three years.

Nor must it be overlooked that the money markets of the world are certain to be adversely affected during the winter months by quite ordinary influences as well as by influences extraordinary. We have witnessed a kind of dread developing in the money market this week lest large amounts of gold should be required to buttress the mountains of speculation built up on Wall Street and other Yankee stock markets. Our fears may be exaggerated; the manipulators of these markets roundly declare that they can get along without our gold, and their resources are so great, their power to shunt at perilous junctures portions of their burden on to European markets so apparently boundless, that they may be able to justify their boast; but quite apart from the United States, the permanent tendency is for gold to be required at our hands from all parts of the world during the next six months. This being the customary prospect at this time of the year, it is surely the reverse of imprudent to so conduct one's dealings as to be in no danger of getting caught by any sharp accentuation in the market price of bankers' credits. Already, too, rumour is busy with a coming Russian loan, and we know that when such a loan does come it must be for a very large sum. Were the Government of the Tsar to ask for as much as £100,000,000 we should not be surprised, and even were the decision arrived at to divide its requirements into sections, so that only a matter of £30,000,000 to £50,000,000 should be asked for at once, the call for the smallest of amounts just now would inevitably tend to cripple the wielders of credit in other directions. The exhausted state of Russian finance is, in short, the one prominently dark point on the financial horizon, and until we have light upon it, it will be well to play with caution and to secure profits when they offer. That is the general conclusion we must insist upon, because we are quite unable to tread the air in matters of finance any more than in the most humdrum affairs of everyday life. We like to feel the feet on solid ground. "But is the rise at its climax?" No, not if the money market keeps quiet and easy. It, however, is just nervous enough to forewarn all to be watchful.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The Stock Exchange was this week engaged upon the adjustment of one of the largest accounts met with for a very long time. It would be going a little too far, perhaps, to say that operators have experienced all the delights of a "peace boom," but the conclusion of hostilities in the Far East undoubtedly afforded excuse for an all round manipulation of prices, and professionals seized their opportunity with alacrity. The result has been a fairly general marking up of quotations during the past fortnight, and Contango day, which was Tuesday last, disclosed a pretty considerable increase in the account open for the rise. Continuation charges were, therefore, a good deal higher in places, partly due, of course, to the advance in the Bank rate, but everything was adjusted with ease, notwithstanding some little weakness in the Yankee market, and the way made clear for another outburst. There were other influences, however, to be reckoned with this week, and although the tendency on the whole is still decidedly good, the disposition in some quarters was to allow markets to slow down. The rise in the Berlin Bank rate on Monday and persistent talk of heavy gold withdrawals to the United States

caused fears that the Bank of England minimum would have to go up again this week, and experienced dealers are quite aware that markets are in no condition to withstand a period of acute monetary stringency. On Tuesday last fortnightly account loans cost $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as a rule, and although a little money was continued at 3 per cent., those who wanted additional accommodation were often called upon to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Now a 4 per cent. Bank rate would mean quite 1 per cent. added to these charges, and when stocks yielding 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cost $4\frac{1}{2}$ and perhaps 5 per cent. to keep open, the strain becomes too severe and prices usually begin to go down. As it happened, there was no advance this week, and dealers took heart of grace, and caused prices to finish up strong, but possible surprises must not be left out of account.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money)	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Oct. 4)	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Irish Land ($2\frac{1}{2}$)	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Local Loans (3)	100 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	National War Loan ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	98
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Oct. 4)	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	297	Bk. of England Stock (9 p.c.)	302 $\frac{1}{2}$	302 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	India $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1931	105 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. $2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1926	82	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$

Besides the prospects of dearer money, the gilt-edged market was rather disturbed by the announcement that another £2,000,000 will be wanted for Irish land purchase this year, particularly in view of the Budget statement in which it was asserted that no further money would be asked for during the current year. Consols were knocked down to $89\frac{1}{2}$ for money, rallying, however, towards the close. Irish Land stock lost almost £1, and annuities, War Loan, Exchequer bonds, Transvaal 3 per cent., and India Sterling issues were all fractionally easier. Nothing worth mention happened in the Home County and Corporation division, but amongst Colonial issues South Australia 5 per cent. and 4 per cent., 1929, rose $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 1. All Colonial stocks were carried over at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Peruvian Corporation issues attracted a good deal of attention in the Foreign bond market, fluctuations in prices being somewhat wide, but the tendency was always upward, and some people say the rise is not done with yet. Apart from the questions outstanding with the Government there is no doubt that the position of the Corporation is steadily improving, and it is now said that a delegate from Peru possessing full powers will shortly arrive in this country to submit a proposal from the Government for the settlement of all claims. Other important South American securities, although little traded in, were tolerably firm, and there was a big rise in Buenos Ayres Provincial Cédulas on statements showing that the province is in a position to make a large contribution for the service of this debt. Colombians were good in the Central American group, but Venezuelans were disposed to give way. The Paris bourse is still rather grumpy, and therefore did little in favourite European things, but prices kept up well, and Spanish was strongly supported in connection with a new loan of £12,000,000 to be raised for the conversion of Treasury bonds and the redemption of Colonial debt bonds. Japanese hardened up when the disturbances in Tokio came to an end, but the 4 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. issues again showed dulness towards the last. Chinese loans were little disturbed, but had a tendency to go back. Continuation rates on Tuesday were rather stiffer than on the previous occasion, but never became onerous, and this market continues to be very unprofitable to lend in. All South Americans, with the exception of Uruguays, which were done at 1 to 4 per cent., were taken in at 3 to 5 per cent., along with Chinese, and Central American things like Guatemalans, Venezuelans, Honduras, and Colombian, were continued at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. On Spanish the rate

was $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent., Portuguese $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Italian and Russian "even" to 2 per cent., while Turkish Unified sometimes commanded a small "back." The contango on Japanese was 2 to 4 per cent., and making up prices for these bonds showed gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$, the internal silver loan leading. Russians were up 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ for leading stocks, Spanish rose 2, Turkish $1\frac{1}{2}$, Greeks $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, Egyptians $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Hungarians $\frac{1}{2}$. All the Argentine issues were up $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Perus $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$, Brazilians $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, and Chilians $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, while Colombians put on $2\frac{1}{2}$, Guatemalans 3, Paraguay 3, Honduras $\frac{3}{4}$, and Uruguay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. $1\frac{1}{2}$. In Chinese the gains ranged from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, and where prices went back, such as Brazil, Western of Minas and Cuban 5 per cent., they merely reflected the dividend deductions.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. Funding	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c.	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs.	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1880	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c.	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892	101	101
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885	95	96
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886	96	97
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895	96	96
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	101	101
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver	97	97
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	106	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	106	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A	54	54
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B	44	44
107	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External	106 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	106 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt United 4 p.c.	106	106
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref.	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain	106	106
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c.	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Greek, 1884	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
44	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Funding	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	97	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c.	105	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c.	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. New	101 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c.	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	70	70
81 $\frac{1}{2}$	70	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	95	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Servian 4 p.c.	81	82
103	100	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. United	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
99	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
50 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c.	99	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Venezuelan, 1881	49	41 $\frac{1}{2}$

The excellent Board of Trade figures for August stimulated the interest of investors in Home Railway stocks, and at the same time there has been a fair amount of speculative buying. Prices consequently have moved steadily upwards, and even the talk of a further advance in the Bank rate at an early date failed to bring about any appreciable set-back. North-Eastern and North-Western especially have been in strong demand throughout the week, and Great Western, Midland deferred, Hull and Barnsley, Great Northern issues and Lancashire and Yorkshire all shared in the improvement, and close with fair gains. Great Central, too, met with a good deal of support from the provinces, while the deferred stocks of the Scotch railways were bought in Glasgow. The South-Eastern traffic was liked, and the stocks all rose smartly, carrying South-Western, Chatham and Brighton deferred up in sympathy. Great Eastern, on the other hand, was inclined to lag behind as its return was considered disappointing, and Metropolitan sagged a little on the accident at Moorgate Street on Wednesday, so that the gains on the week in these two instances were comparatively small. The confidence inspired by the declaration of peace in the Far East at the very commencement of the account, and the influence of the Board of Trade Returns was reflected in the

making-up prices by more or less substantial gains throughout practically the entire list. North-Eastern led the way amongst the more active things with a gain of $5\frac{1}{2}$, South-Eastern ordinary and preferred rose 4 each and the deferred $2\frac{1}{2}$, North-Western improved $2\frac{3}{4}$, South-Western ordinary and deferred $2\frac{1}{4}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Great Western, Great Northern deferred and Lancs. and Yorks. put on from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$. Great Central preferred advanced $2\frac{1}{2}$ and the deferred $1\frac{1}{2}$, Great Eastern was $1\frac{1}{2}$ higher, and Brighton issues rose from 1 to 3. Midland deferred was 1 up, but the preferred fell that amount. Amongst Scotch stocks Caledonian ordinary

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	136	136
165	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	158	158
131 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	122	123
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	116	116 $\frac{1}{2}$
82 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	36	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	91
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
17 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	16	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	41	41
62	51	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	59	61
34 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	17	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	84
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1) ..	37	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
145 $\frac{1}{2}$	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	139 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	44	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	90	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	92	92
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	36	36
71	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
70	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	67
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	134	North-Eastern (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	147	North-Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	153 $\frac{1}{2}$	157
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	89	91
734	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	127	129
56 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	160 $\frac{1}{2}$	162 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	107
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	56	57 $\frac{1}{2}$

gained $2\frac{1}{2}$ and the preferred and deferred $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$, but North British deferred dropped $\frac{1}{4}$. Contangos were by no means onerous considering that the Bank rate has risen since the previous settlement, and money seldom cost more than 5 per cent. Practically the only exceptions were North-Western, where the rate was between $5\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 per cent., and Lancs. and Yorks., Great Eastern, South-Eastern deferred and Great Central deferred which lost from 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to continue.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$
102	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	100	100
61 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	55	56 $\frac{1}{2}$
193 $\frac{1}{2}$	173 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	181 $\frac{1}{2}$	183 $\frac{1}{2}$
38	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	35	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	91	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie Shares ..	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
87 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. and Pref. ..	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
185 $\frac{1}{2}$	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	180 $\frac{1}{2}$	184
158 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	151	153 $\frac{1}{2}$
36 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
169 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	New York Central (5) ..	151	153
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	95	95
65 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ontario Shares ..	55	56 $\frac{1}{2}$
76 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (6) ..	73	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
63	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reading Shares ..	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	Do. 1st Prefd. (4) ..	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48
49	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Prefd. (2) ..	49	49
74	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
142 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (4) ..	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	135 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Wabash ..	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. ..	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	43
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Debs. ..	74	74
171 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	167 $\frac{1}{2}$	171 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107
112	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	110
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Siks. ..	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
115 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	115
107	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	107
61 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$

A bad Bank statement showing a further decrease in the surplus reserve which brought it down under

£1,000,000 caused Wall Street to finish up in a rather depressed mood, and a good deal of selling took place by those who fear a monetary stringency when the Western demands in connection with the crops commence in earnest. Further liquidation followed on the rise in the German Bank rate, but certain operators appeared to believe that the selling had been overdone and organised a bear raid, which carried values up as rapidly as they had fallen. The recovery was checked by the necessity of closing a large bull account in our market, but New York was determined not to let the reaction become serious, and their efforts were helped by the announcement that £240,000 in gold was to be shipped from this side, so that final prices in many instances show improvements of several dollars. The support was pretty evenly distributed, but was perhaps most prominent in Erie, Southern Pacific and Union Pacific. It was said that the "bull" account open here had reached very large proportions, but carrying over rates on Tuesday proved comparatively light, and only occasionally rose to more than 4 per cent. Movements on the account with unimportant exceptions were all adverse, and in some instances the declines were fairly heavy, Milwaukee being 7 down, Union Pacific 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ and New York Central 5 lower, while Louisville fell 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Baltimore ordinary, Chesapeake, Ontario, Pennsylvania and Union Pacific preferred lost from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	211 $\frac{1}{2}$	211 $\frac{1}{2}$
321	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (15) ..	315	315
127 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	123	124
131	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	128	128
84 $\frac{1}{2}$	77	Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	84	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
148 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	144
133	127	Do. Prefce (5) ..	132	133
137 $\frac{1}{2}$	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	134	136
118 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110
112 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	111	113
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	103	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
169	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	169	169
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108	108
137 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	136 $\frac{1}{2}$
90	79	Central Uruguay (3) ..	87	88
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	109	109
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica (1) ..	3	3
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuban Central ..	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
124	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	106	106
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	East Argentine (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	87	87
74	5	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	64	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
84 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina (3) ..	80	80
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4) ..	97	97
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	109	109
108	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	105
20 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Ord. Siks. ..	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	24
121 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	114
57	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	48	46
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	59	59
102	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nitrato Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	163	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
208 $\frac{1}{2}$	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	208	208
198	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock. ..	190 $\frac{1}{2}$	193 $\frac{1}{2}$

Reports that the harvest in Canada was practically over and that the crops would amount to between 90 and 100 million bushels gave Canadian railways a considerable impetus. The market was further helped by the Grand Trunk traffic increase of £15,300, which was more than twice the amount expected, and quotations consequently were pushed up vigorously. Grand Trunk ordinary and third preference stocks were bought very freely from the provinces, and when the advance tempted holders to take profits the stocks offered were readily absorbed by the Continent, and although there was a little setback at the end final figures were not much below the best. The same may be said of Canadian Pacific shares, which rose at one time to 171 $\frac{1}{2}$, but dropped back a little on a moderate amount of profit taking. On the account Canadian Pacific shares were 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ higher, Grand Trunk ordinary stock put on 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the third preference 5, while the first and second preference were 2 up, and the guaranteed improved 1. Money on the last named stock was by no means dear, and continuation charges seldom touched 5 per cent.

Dealings in Argentine railways have been on a rather more generous scale, and several of the leading stocks

show fair recoveries, amongst them being Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred, Cordoba Central income debentures of the Central Northern section, and Entre Rios ordinary and preference, and Villa Maria and Rufino preference. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock went up sharply on a rumour that the report to be issued shortly will show large profits and that the dividend will be at the rate of 11 per cent. for the year, but the improvement did not extend to other Cuban securities, which were steady without much change. Nitrate Railway shares have been in great request all week, and the prices of the ordinary and deferred in particular went rapidly up, but Leopoldina showed no further movement, and Brazilian things were left pretty much to themselves. The market is less sanguine regarding the dividend prospects for Mexican Railway stocks and quotations relapsed under the stress of liquidations, but Inter-oceanic preferred shares have been persistently tipped in somewhat irresponsible quarters, and were inclined to harden. Contangos on Argentine Railways ranged from 4 to 5 per cent., and on Mexican Railway stocks the charges were about 1 per cent. more. On the fortnight Antofagasta ordinary dropped 10, United Railways of the Havana ordinary was $1\frac{1}{2}$ down, Mexican Railway ordinary fell $1\frac{1}{2}$, the first preference 4, and the second $2\frac{1}{2}$, but Mexican Southern ordinary gained 2, and Inter-oceanic preference shares put on $\frac{1}{2}$. Argentine North-Eastern preference stock and debentures rose $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 5, Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred 3 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, Buenos Ayres Great Southern preference stock $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Entre Rios issues 2 and $1\frac{1}{2}$. Cordoba Central first preference and debenture stocks improved from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$, and most of the other Argentine things were fractionally harder, the principal exceptions being Buenos Ayres Western debentures and East Argentine ordinary, which receded 1 each. Leopoldina ordinary and debenture stocks advanced $1\frac{1}{2}$ each, Colombian National debentures were also that amount up, San Paulo ordinary rose 2, and Paraguay Central debenture stock $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Although not developing any real activity, Miscellaneous markets were unquestionably livelier than usual, and a few interesting movements were recorded. After being heavily depressed for months, if not years, past, Brewery securities took a turn for the better, and a large number of improvements occurred during the week with quite sensational advances in Bieckerts ordinary stock, City of London ordinary, and sundry Ind, Coope, Allsopp's, and Watney, Combe issues. The improvement was said to be based on the abundant hop crop. Hudson's Bay shares fluctuated more narrowly than usual and finished much where they began, while Pekins, after a good start, went back rather sharply, only to show recovery, however, before the end. Other Chinese descriptions followed the lead, while Deccans were hard throughout. Nitrates continue in request, and Russian Oil shares picked up part of some early losses when it became apparent that the stories of destruction at Baku were greatly exaggerated. Amongst Catering shares Spiers and Ponds were lifted to 3, and Aerated Breads, Lyons, Slaters, and such like showed a better tendency. Eastmans Meat shares were supported, causing a sharp rise, and James Nelsons moved up as well. Sweetmeats suffered slightly when the decrease in the August receipts was announced. Iron and Steel issues were steady to firm, as also Textile shares, Nobel Dynamites had a small rise, and Telegraph and Telephone securities, especially Anglo-Americans, were all distinctly firm. In the Tramways and Omnibus list London Generals and Anglo-Argentines fell back a little, while B. E. T. showed signs of recovery. Indian and Ceylon Tea Companies continue to be inquired after. Contango rates in this section were somewhat stiffer, and there was a quite sensational advance in the charge for continuing Hudson's Bays, which ran up from 5 to 10, and even 12 per cent., indicating that some of the recent speculation was decidedly weak. On Pekin Syndicates the rate was 6 to 8 per cent., Shansis were

arranged at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Yangtse Valleys at 4 to 6 per cent. Iron and Steel issues were continued at 5 to 6 per cent., London Docks deferred cost 3 to 5 per cent. to carry over, Anglo "A" 4 to 6 per cent., Coats 7 to 9 per cent., and Catering things 4 to 6 per cent., while Allsopps and Liptons were carried for nothing. Making up prices were mostly higher, and we find such rises as $\frac{1}{16}$ in Aerated Breads, $\frac{1}{16}$ in Eastmans, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ in Gordon Hotels ordinary and preferred, $\frac{5}{16}$ in Lagunas Syndicate, and $\frac{3}{8}$ in Pease and

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	15	22½	Allsopp Ordinary.	23	24
71	40	—	City of London Ord.	51½	65½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) . . .	550	550
27½	21½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23½	23½
27½	13½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) .	23	22
37½	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) . .	34	32
68½	48	60	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) .	57	60½
35	15	25	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	24½	24½
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) .	102	102
78½	56½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	71	71
6½	5½	6½	Aerated Bread (30)	6½	6½
27½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
68½	50½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	6½
37½	17½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
37½	5	—	British Westinghouse Pref. . . .	2½	2½
112	92	—	Brunner Mond (35)	6½	6½
51½	41½	58	Callender's Cable Ord. 12½ . . .	104	104
502½	483½	502½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) . .	51½	51½
15½	1	14/9	Coats Ordinary (20)	500	500
15½	1	14/9	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	500	500
15½	1	14/9	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1½	1½
15½	1	14/9	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) . .	6½	6½
15½	1	14/9	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) . . .	12½	12½
15½	1	14/9	Henley's Telegraph (15)	12½	12½
15½	1	14/9	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	31½	31½
15½	1	14/9	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) . .	108	108
15½	1	14/9	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
15½	1	14/9	Lipton Ordinary (7)	14	14
15½	1	14/9	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	52	52
15½	1	14/9	Nelson James Ordinary (10) . . .	12	12
15½	1	14/9	Russian Petroleum (5)	16	16
15½	1	14/9	Savoy Hotel (5)	6	6
15½	1	14/9	Sweetmeat Automatic	17½	17½
15½	1	14/9	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) . .	14	14
15½	1	14/9	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	103½	103½
15½	1	14/9	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	81	82½
15½	1	14/9	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) . .	48½	50½
15½	1	14/9	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/4)	106½	107½
15½	1	14/9	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	9	9
15½	1	14/9	Do. Debentures (6)	11½	11½
15½	1	14/9	National Discount (10)	7	7
15½	1	14/9	Union Discount (11)	106	106
15½	1	14/9	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) .	133	133
15½	1	14/9	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) . .	38	38
15½	1	14/9	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	37½	37½
15½	1	14/9	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) . . .	10	10
15½	1	14/9	Armstrong, Whitworth (15)	37½	37½
15½	1	14/9	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) . . .	105	106½
15½	1	14/9	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10) . .	12	12
15½	1	14/9	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) . .	229½	230
15½	1	14/9	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3½) . .	35½	35½
15½	1	14/9	United States Steel Ordinary . . .	9	9
15½	1	14/9	Do. Preference (7)	106	107½
15½	1	14/9	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	15	16
15½	1	14/9	Cunard Steam	145½	146
15½	1	14/9	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) . .	14	14
15½	1	14/9	Royal Mail.	108½	108½
15½	1	14/9	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	14	14½
15½	1	14/9	Ordinary (5)	8½	8½
15½	1	14/9	Anglo-American Telegraph—	8½	8½
15½	1	14/9	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	125½	124½
15½	1	14/9	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) . .	10	10
15½	1	14/9	Eastern Extension (7)	—	—
15½	1	14/9	National Telephone Def. (5) . . .	—	—
15½	1	14/9	Western Telegraph (7)	—	—
15½	1	14/9	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) . .	—	—
15½	1	14/9	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) . .	—	—
15½	1	14/9	London General Omnibus (8) . . .	—	—
15½	1	14/9	London United Trams Pref. (5) . .	—	—

Partners. Pekin Syndicates were up 7, Shansi shares 5s. 6d., Yangtse Valley priority shares $\frac{9}{16}$, Allsopps $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 6, Bieckerts Brewery ordinary and preference 18 and 10, Watney, Combe preferred 11, the deferred $7\frac{1}{2}$, the first preference 9, and the debentures $5\frac{1}{2}$. A rise of 2 was seen in Eastern Telegraph ordinary stock, Standard Bank of South Africa rose 3, and Commercial Union Assurance 5.

Business was not very brisk to-day on the Stock Exchange, but prices were generally good, only that a little setback occurred in the Kaffir Circus this afternoon, due to profit taking, we understand. French selling was not pronounced, the business between this market and Paris having been to-day quite limited. The weakness was, therefore, local, but in other directions prices closed at, or near, the best, and Home Railways, although not yet at all freely bought by the

public, were prominent in their strength. The terms of the Spanish loan are not yet known, and its issue may not take place for some little time, but the Russian loan is said to be getting ready fast.

In our advertisement columns will be found a notice to the effect that the National Railroad Company of Mexico has arranged with Messrs. Speyer and Co. for the extension of the issue of 5 per cent. Gold Notes of the National Railroad Company of Mexico, maturing October 1, 1905, until October 1, 1907, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, subject to redemption at the option of the company on any interest day on sixty days' notice by publication.

More Frenzied Finance.

I had just finished a particularly vicious flaying of Whitney and his crowd before the Massachusetts Legislature and had finally forced a public investigation of my charges. This was conducted in so drastic a fashion that the bottom facts were forced out. Such a state of criminality and corruption had been laid bare that the perpetrators were actually in bad odour among their intimate friends and associates. And in Boston, complacent to the errors of her first families and ever ready to forgive the sins of millionaires, this represents an extraordinary height of condemnation. One morning soon afterwards, at the National Horse Show at Madison Square Garden, where I was exhibiting some of my stock, I was driving from the show ring after having sent my horse to victory over, among others, William L. Elkins, Jr., of Philadelphia, vice-president and director of the New England Gas and Coke Company. As we dismounted in the hitching room he said:

"Tom, I congratulate you on having the best horse in America; I only wish I could congratulate the horse on his owner."

This was the first word he had spoken to me for a long time. We were well acquainted and had been friends before the Boston fight began; in fact, had done Europe together in 1894. "Billy" Elkins was not only a good fellow, but one of those brave hot-heads who say what they think as soon as they think it, or before—one of those fearless men who will out with their spleen regardless of consequences.

I was surprised at his words; more so at the snappy tone in which they were spoken. We were both warmed up after a hard drive and a hot contest—in that condition where heart dominates head.

"What do you mean by that, Billy?" I answered.

"I mean," he said, "I once thought you as good as your horse."

"Well, what changed you?"

"Changed me?" And he squared round on me. "By—, a man is bad enough who holds up others for money, but one who gets his price and then goes right back to his dirty work is outside the line of white men." From the tone of his first remark I had an idea that, for some reason or other, he was looking for trouble, but the force and acid of his reply dumfounded me for a second.

"Do you mean to say I ever held anyone up, much less that I did not keep an agreement?" I answered, in a tone which could easily be hitched double with his without throwing out the gait.

"Yes, I do," hotly came back. Our friends instantly closed in around us, for it was evident that something was going to happen.

"Billy," said I, "I know you understand yourself and that you have pluck and can properly weigh what I am going to say. You're a liar!"

He gasped. "Do you dare to deny that we paid you a million dollars of our stock for letting up on your legislative attacks?"

"I mean the man who says I was paid a million for letting up on my attacks on your company, or paid a dollar at any time, by anyone, for letting up on any attack I ever began on anyone, is a liar, and a — liar," I hurled at him.

He had clenched his fist ready to sail in. Now he looked right into my eyes for the fraction of a second. Something he caught there made him hesitate. He saw I was sternly sincere and righteously indignant. He did not strike, though we were within inches of each other, and nothing would have kept "Billy" Elkins from striking any man who called him a liar to his face but his sense of justice.

He continued to look. I waited for him to speak or act.

Finally, in a tone of shocked surprise, he said:

"Tom, will you put that down on paper?"

"Watch me," I answered. We all stepped into the restaurant. I wrote on a sheet of paper and handed it to him, "The man who says I ever took a dollar or anything of value from anyone, directly or indirectly, as the price of letting up on any fight I was ever engaged in is a — liar," and signed it.

He seemed dazed.

"Good heavens," said he. "I, with Robert C. Pruyn and Henry M. Whitney, were a committee of three appointed by our company to pay over to you \$1,000,000 of our stock in consideration of your abandoning your fight before the Legislature, and I would have made oath we delivered the stock to you and turned in your receipt to the company."

"Do you mean to say you ever gave me the stock?" I asked.

"A moment ago I should have said we did, sure," he replied, "but it comes back to me now that we made Whitney a sub-committee of one and he reported he had paid it to you. Tom, I am beginning to see where I have been wronging you terribly, but I did not intend to. Let us drop it right here for a day or

two, and I will go to work on it. If it is as I now suspect, I'll not rest until I run it down.

In a few days he said he had the story, and we both slipped down to New Haven, and after a dinner at the New Haven House, sat down to unravel the transaction. It took us well into the morning. Then it was plain—plain how Rogers and Whitney had done to me the foulest wrong it is possible for men to do a fellow man.

In the course of this story of mine I have so often reiterated I have always played the stock game fair that you may have thought my repetition egotistic. There is nothing I feel more deeply, more strongly about. Nothing is dearer to me, not life itself, than my reputation for fighting square. From the beginning of my business career I have been in the midst of dollar battles, and I had fully established it on Wall Street and on State that my fights were always according to the rules and that I had never struck a foul blow.

This is what was spread out before us, as plain as the Ten Commandments that, printed in big, black type, used to hang in a scroll in Sunday-school.

When I told Rogers on the eve of the legislative explosion that I would let up for the sake of the innocent people who must suffer if I persisted in my exposure, he and Whitney called together the directors of the New England Gas and Coke Company and told them I had agreed to quit for a million of the stock. Several of them were indignant, and proposed exposing me at any cost, but they were finally wheedled into voting the stock, and it was given to a committee composed of Whitney, Pruyn, and Elkins. Then Whitney showed this committee that it would never do to give me the stock in person, but that it must be passed through the hands of one of Rogers's dummies to me. The others asked Whitney to attend to this, and he delivered the stock to Rogers. Whether Whitney ever got a part of the proceeds or not, I have as yet been unable to find out. The middleman who was reported to the board of directors as representing me, and who receipted for the stock and in whose name the transaction stands to this day on the books of the gas company, was one of Rogers's confidential men, Hugh J. Grant, ex-mayor of New York City, a man whom I had never met and have never met yet.

The initial phase of the transaction was bad enough, but the manner in which they arranged to besmirch me showed such calculated treachery that, as I realised its malignant depravity, I was almost overcome with hate and rage. It seems that Rogers and Whitney, having accomplished the first act of their vile plot, were in fear lest the honest directors of the company should find out that I had never received the stock. They cast about for some way of involving me, and Rogers hit upon the scheme of having me sell the shares, so, day by day, there might appear tangible evidence that I had actually been paid my blood-money. Finally Whitney was able to lay my offer of 3,200 shares, the balance of Mr. Rogers's parcel, before the board, explaining that when they purchased them my attacks would cease—that settled for them my dishonesty. It established a clear line of adverse proof so that anyone could track the dirty trail from the day I had accepted the blackmail until I had bagged the last dollar of the proceeds.

The ways of all men are strange, stranger the ways of men obsessed by the greed for dollars. But ever at work is the law of compensation, and sooner or later it tips back the beam. Some little minor thing turns the scale. Than this there was never a more perfectly prepared plot or a more perfectly prepared alibi for the villains concerned. The directors knew that Grant got the million. Rogers controlled Grant and Whitney, and when Whitney and Rogers said Grant paid it to Lawson, and Lawson was on record as having sold it, how could Lawson ever prove the contrary? Nor was this all—other things happened. Brown, Riley, and Co.'s office burned, and books and records of all the sales were destroyed. It was a strange coincidence; no one took heed of it, for there had been no question raised which would call for the records. Indeed, the fact was hardly known at all until there came a trial in Boston in connection with a stock transaction, in which it was made public in the testimony that Brown, Riley, and Co.'s books had been destroyed in a fire. I can imagine Rogers's sigh of relief at the news. It was another instance of what Rogers has many times explained to me is the luck of "Standard Oil." I can well suppose that a thousand times this sort of thing has happened at just the right moment to preserve "Standard Oil" from its deserts.

Since then there have been other trials, one in New York and still another in Massachusetts, and Rogers, the doughty, has gone on the witness stand and sworn that he had never heard of this million dollars of stock nor of Hugh J. Grant in connection with any such transaction. Aye—sworn it—many times. Perfect the net, you say. From such evidence, what escape?

There is a providence, we are told, in the fall of a sparrow. While the evidence on the face of it made a full round showing of perfection, a canker was at work beneath the surface. There came the great trial of the Bay State Gas Company in the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, and Henry H. Rogers, a leading witness, swore solemnly that he had never heard of the transaction I have outlined here. The official records of the New England Gas and Coke Company, which had in the meantime fallen into the hands of the receiver, were brought into court in connection with another phase of the subject, when, accidentally, counsel for the Bay State put his finger on the item, "Hugh J. Grant, \$1,000,000, stock." Again Mr. Rogers was questioned, but he persisted in declaring he had never heard of such a transaction. After the master of "Standard Oil" had left the stand, I was called and manoeuvred my testimony so I was allowed to tell the things

I have just written here, and I would have my readers bear in mind this was before I had even begun my story of "Frenzied Finance." Then it was plain that someone had committed the vile crime of perjury—someone—Henry Rogers or myself.

To go further into the transaction in this case was not possible, for it had no bearing on the matter in dispute. After the trial I sent word to Mr. Rogers, "Make no mistake, there will be another trial, where you will again be compelled to testify about that million dollars, at which time you must stick to your first story, because you are on record under oath; therefore, if Brown, Riley, and Co.'s records, covering the sale of every share of stock and your receipts for the money, even the cheques with which you were paid and which are indorsed by you, should be in existence, your race, in spite of your cunning, will have been run. Whether the records are in existence or not is no part of this communication to you, but I enclose a memorandum containing a complete record of each sale, dates, amounts, and numbers of each cheque you have received. Compare them with your own records, for I know you have records, and you will know long before the world does who committed perjury."

Mr. Rogers still wonders at the miracle of my having these figures, and I still await the trial. And the little bird which the country mother tells her children will always bring her true tales of their doings whispers to its mate that once upon a time there was a man who did a good turn for a humble junk-dealer; that the humble junk-dealer, looking over one of his purchases from a burned building, found account books and papers, in which the name of his benefactor frequently appeared. Perhaps these slightly scorched records might be of value to his benefactor. It was a cow's tail trying to brush off a tiny fly that precipitated the burning of Chicago. If the twitter of birds is to be credited, perhaps it will be an humble junk-dealer who will be the instrument that will light the train leading to the heretofore impregnable "Standard Oil" magazine.

Many a time since, looking back at the affair, my blood has been chilled by the thought, "Suppose I had died in the midst of this scandal—died not only innocent of wrongdoing, but ignorant of the accusation against me—what a blackguard and cur I must forever have remained in the eyes of those who knew about it. My own family could not have denied, in the face of 'Standard Oil's' proof, that their father was a blackmailer." I have escaped that dishonour, thank God.

Is it surprising as I write "Frenzied Finance" that at times my ink turns to poison and my pen-point to a tiger's tooth?

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

* Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Monday last was contango day in the mining market. On some of the most speculative counters in the Kaffir and Rhodesian sections the rates were slightly stiffer than at the previous settlement, but in the majority of cases there was practically no change. On Gold Fields, for instance, the charge rose from 3-4 per cent. to 4-5 per cent., whilst on East Rands, Rand Mines, Randfonteins, T.C.L.'s, and Modderfonteins the contango hardened to 4½-5½ per cent., and on Barnato Consols, Johannesburg Investment, South African Gold Trust and Simmer and Jack Proprietary to 5-6 per cent. The general rate was again 5-7 per cent. On De Beers the rate eased from 2½-3½ per cent. to 2-3 per cent., and on Jagers from 4-5 per cent. to 3-4 per cent. The Chartered rate advanced to 5-6 per cent., whilst on the inflated, shop-rigged "Banket" shares the charge was 7-8 per cent. Most other Rhodesians were negotiated at 6-7 per cent., compared with 5-7 per cent. West Africans were again continued at 5-7 per cent. and Egyptians at 6-8 per cent. In the West Australian group the ruling rate was about 7 per cent., though there were, as usual, many exceptions. Thus 6-8 per cent. was charged on Associated, Northern Blocks, Great Boulder Perseverance, Boulder Deep, Lake View Consols, Brownhill Extended, and Cosmopolitan Proprietary. Oroya-Brownhill were continued at 5-7 per cent., whilst on Ivanhoes and Kalgurlis the charge was a little easier at 5½-7½ per cent. Great Fingalls were at first negotiated at 5-7 per cent., against 4-6 per cent., but subsequently were continued at the latter figure. The Golden Horse-shoe rate was 3-5 per cent., though later in the day only 1-3 per cent. was asked. Most miscellaneous shares were carried over at 5 to 7 per cent.

Owing to the support given to the market by the bosses as soon as peace was declared the South African making-up lists showed a goodly array of advances, the principal being in the Rhodesian section, above all places. Thus Tanganyikas were pushed up 1½, Bankets 1 21-32, Rhodesian Explorations 1½, Lomagundas and Northern Coppers ½ each, Rice-Hamiltons ¾, Scottish Mashonaland ½, Zambesi Exploring ½, Chartered 15-32, with a number of substantial rises elsewhere. In the Kaffir list Apex put on 1½, Modders improved ½, Ferreira's ¾, Rand Mines and Cason Blocks ½ each, with advances of ½ in De Beers deferred and S.A. Gold Mines, ½ in Gold Fields, East Rand Proprietary, and New Comet; ½ in Anglo-French Exploration, Geduld Proprietary, and 7½ and less in many others. There was no fall of any note. In the West African market there were rises of ½ in Amalgamated, 4s. 9d. in Broomassies, ½ in British Gold Coasts, 5-32 in Abossoes, and 3-32 in Wassaus, Effuenta and Hyman Concessions. Even several Egyptians strengthened,

United African Explorations to the extent of ¾, Egyptian Estates ½, and Egyptian Options ¼. The principal gains in the West Australian group were ¾ in Great Fingalls, ¾ in Associated and Lake View Consols, ¾ in Golden Horseshoes and Ivanhoes, and ½ in Hainaults and South Kalgurlis. Amongst the miscellaneous assortments Esperanzas made up ¾ higher, and Le Rois ½. Copper shares were mostly better on the fortnight, with the exception of a drop of ¼ each in Rio Tinto and Anaconda.

Insiders have shown a strong determination to keep up the excitement in the Rhodesian market; that is to say, in a few gambling counters, such as Bankets, Rhodesian Explorations, Tanganyikas, Zambesia Exploring and Chartered. After hearing nothing from the Banket company's property for months cables are now forwarded thence by the dozen, announcing "rich" discoveries. It is really wonderful how these funds are made to synchronise with the rigging tactics of insiders, but we cannot believe that nature is playing any part in this gambling movement. We asked last week why Mr. Garthwaite's report had not been issued by the Chartered directors, although rumour says that it has arrived on this side. Our advice to readers is as emphatic as it has always been—look on at the frenzied playing, but take no part in it, for it is not organised for your benefit. The advance in Tanganyikas and Zambesias is due to the strong financial backing given to the former company, which ensures the completion of the first section of the railway by about the beginning of next year, and its ultimate finishing at a cost of approximately £6,000,000. Profit-takers have, of course, come forward at intervals to take their plunder. To show the nature of the gamble the price of "Bankets" fell 15s. on Tuesday in the space of an hour. We have a note on the delay in issuing Mr. Garthwaite's report amongst our "Passing Events."

A similar game is being played in the Kaffir Circus, where insiders and the bosses are sending quotations up in the hope that this will lure the public into the market. The rise has failed to allure them up to the present; at any rate, they have not come forward to buy, only to sell, which is the wisest action they can take, seeing the opportunity that is given to weary holders to get rid of some of their rubbish. An effort has been made to create some enthusiasm over the "record" Rand output for August, but the public are not responsive. They regard the increase with indifference, for they know well enough they will not individually benefit from an extra few thousand ounces spread over seventy or eighty companies. So quiet was the market in the beginning of the week, immediately on the opening of the new account, that dealers came to the conclusion that the previous week's spurt had fizzled out, like so many similar movements during the past two or three years. But aggressive and sudden buying on the part of the controlling houses again sent quotations upwards, scaring the "bears," who rushed to cover themselves ere they could gulp down their midday coffee. Gold Fields and the allied concern—South African Gold Trusts, thus showing the source of the bidding—led the way, and other counters followed as gamely as they could, but insiders almost immediately took their profits. So the market has again relapsed into dulness owing to the apathy of the public, and alleged fears of dearer money. As though the bosses feared dear money or anything else if they could only entice a little cheap gold out of the pockets of willing victims.

The directors of the Crown Reef Gold Mining Company have declared the following dividend:—

	Dividend	%	Issued Capital.	Amount.
Crown Reef	110	....	£ 120,000	£ 132,000

This is for the half-year ending September 30, and is at the rate of 22 per cent. per annum, and compares with 90 per cent. declared this time last year. But the mine will not last many more years.

Diamond shares have again been a fairly good market, but only in sympathy with the rest of the South African section, not on particular or exceptional merits.

West Australians have displayed a little more than their customary vigour. The "shop" here has been jealous of the spurious activity shown elsewhere, hence the movement to improve the superficial appearance of this market. In a separate note we deal with the manager's estimate of the ore reserves in the Ivanhoe mine at the end of June, but the somewhat disappointing figures have had no influence upon the price of the shares. Kalgurlis have attracted a great deal of attention.

After their prolonged dulness some semblance of animation has been exhibited by Egyptians. Nile Valleys and "Mummies" have strengthened on cables from the mine. From the property of the first mentioned comes the news of a rich strike, the extent of which the manager says is not yet known.

In the Jungle section Akrokerris have improved on a report that the mine has now been cleared of water, and that a favourable development has been made, but the market generally is weak, some disappointment being felt by the delay in the publication of the Abbontiakoon Block 1's first crushing return.

Amongst miscellaneous shares Esperanzas recovered from an early loss and Le Rois became firmer, though both shares again developed weakness. But the most conspicuous incident has been a heavy fall in Rio Tintos, Paris being a considerable seller. Unfavourable rumours are in circulation on the Bourse as to the low grade character of the production of the mine, but there is probably an organised "bear" raid on the shares, the market being an artificial one.

NEW MODDERFONTEIN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Though this great Rand company has been in existence since the year 1888, it has not yet achieved the payment of a dividend, and that is the reason probably why it is one of the most active speculative counters in the Kaffir Circus. But, then, look at the vast quantity of water there is in the capital! Even should dividends be paid in the distant future, they are certain to be low, as profits will have to be distributed over so wide an area. The authorised and issued capital is no less than £1,200,000, in 300,000 shares of £4 each. In 1894 the company was first reconstructed, and in the following year it was again reconstructed, when the capital was increased from £200,000 in £1 shares to £1,000,000 in £4 shares. It has now come under the management of our old friends, Messrs. Wernher, Beit, and Co., and if they do not pump a few more gallons of liquid into the capital we shall admire their self-restraint. The financial year ending May 31 last was the best in the company's history, but, after all, it needed no extraordinary effort to surpass the poor results of previous years. There were crushed a total of 111,851 tons, for a yield of nearly 32s. 11d. per ton as against 30s. 4d. per ton in the preceding year, an increase of over 2s. 6d. per ton milled. In addition, 34,016 tons of slimes of a value of 2.4 dwts. per ton were stored for future treatment. Working costs were reduced by 1s. 10d. per ton to 25s. 6d. per ton, leaving a working profit of £41,087, or 7s. 4d. per ton, compared with only 2s. 11d. per ton in 1903-4. The total output from the mill, concentrates and sands, was 43,827 fine ozs., realising £183,955, at the rate of nearly £1 12s. 11d. per ton, whilst the expenditure amounted to £142,867. To the above-mentioned profit has to be added £10,075 from rents, interest, owners' share of claim licences, &c., and after deducting sundry charges the net profit was £50,495. This is subject to a deduction of about £1,000, the estimated amount due for the profits tax for the period. The higher yield per ton is not due so much to an improvement in the quality of the ore as to the fact that it was possible to increase the amount of waste rock sorted out by 4 per cent. On the other hand, the decrease in the costs seems to be due to an effort of the management to economise. With the help of the profit earned the directors have been able to change the debit of £45,994 in the last balance-sheet to a credit carried forward of £4,500, which it will take the company a very long time to swell out into a distributable surplus. During the year the directors disposed of the balance of 10,000 reserve shares at the price of £10 15s., which enables them to show cash assets to the tune of £212,899 and to shout that the financial position is very strong. This money will not last long, however, as it will all be needed to increase the plant. The general manager estimates the ore developed, of a value of over 6 dwts. per ton, at 594,668 tons, whilst there were 332,450 tons developed of too low a grade to be payable.

ASHANTI SANSU MINE.—It is an extremely disappointing report that is issued by the directors of this West African company for the twelve months to the end of March. But, then, has there ever been issued a report by any jungle company that may be considered satisfactory? We cannot ourselves recall such a document. The Ashanti Sansu is a subsidiary of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, the painful history of which concern has been fully told in past issues of the REVIEW. The general supervision of the Ashanti Sansu mine was placed under the late manager of the Corporation, with a sub-manager at the mine itself, and, says the report, "the Board were repeatedly assured that all was going well. These assurances continued for several months after Mr. Daw (who was then the company's consulting engineer) arrived on the Ashanti Goldfield's property in October, 1904, but your directors were not at all satisfied, as the promises that were made were not fulfilled." Accordingly, it was decided to separate the Sansu mine from the control of the late manager of the corporation, and put it on an entirely independent basis under its own manager, so in February last Mr. A. C. Hodge, A.M.I.C.E., &c., was appointed to this position, and arrived on the property on March 8, "when he found matters in a very unsatisfactory position. Mr. Daw has resigned his position as consulting engineer." The recovery of gold continued to decline, and on the advice of the manager it was decided to stop milling for a time, in order that the whole attention of the staff might be given to developing the mine in depth and getting a reserve of ore well ahead of the mill, which was stopped on June 12 last. Whilst regretting they have such a report to present to the shareholders, the directors say they are "glad" to be in a position to announce that the recent developments of the mine in the No. 5 level "are of such a promising character that there is every reason to believe the position and prospects of the mine have undergone an entire change since Mr. W. R. Feldtmann made his inspection and prepared his report." Marvellous, verily! In consequence of the milling being stopped, the income also has ceased, and for the past two months the work has been carried on on borrowed money. It is announced that it is necessary to raise further capital to the amount of £15,000. The value of the gold recovered, was £27,339, £68 was received from transfer fees, and a few pounds from interest, making a total income of £27,418. Including £3,520 written off plant and machinery, the expenditure is put at £34,383, a loss of £6,964 being shown in the profit and loss account. But the auditors in their certificate point out that certain expenditure has been charged to the development and buildings account which ought properly to have been borne by revenue, and they expressed their views on this in their report read at Thursday's meeting. They also observe that no depreciation has been written off the main shaft and buildings and roads accounts, whilst nothing appears to have been charged against

revenue for their maintenance or repairs. "Nor has any provision been made for the redemption of the cost of the lease of the mine. Stores on hand are entered at book values, and are unsupported by certified inventories." With nearly £22,000 owing and with a debit of £5,798—after allowing for the credit brought in—the finances are very weak, but many philanthropists will doubtless come forward to put that right. Accompanying the accounts is a lengthy report from Mr. W. R. Feldtmann. In this he says that the Sansu main vein, on its past record, holds out some likelihood of paying for its own mining and treatment, for the development of the main workings and testing for new makes of ore. While at the No. 4 level there is some appearance of a deterioration in values, he thinks there is reason to hope that further work will serve to raise the average to the standard of the ore in the upper levels. "The prospects of discoveries on the extension and in the 'pay'-carrying medium of the district are sufficiently good to warrant a continuance of operations to the extent, at least, of thoroughly proving No. 5 level, and putting a few trial adit cross-cuts into the hills on the line of the main vein. And, finally, the prospects of opening up payable ore on the other veins within the considerable area owned by the company—and all the more if, as has been suggested, that area is shortly to be increased—are sufficiently attractive to justify a reasonable expenditure on points outside of the main workings and off the line of the main vein." But what vague and shadowy prospects of dividend-paying do these guarded and unenthusiastic opinions and theories hold out!

TRANSVAAL GOLD RETURNS.—Punters manifest their delight over the returns of the Transvaal for the month of July, for they make a "record," the yield never before having reached so high a figure in any single month. The mines on the Witwatersrand proper produced 410,859 fine ozs., and those in the outside districts 17,722 fine ozs., a total of 428,581 ozs., valued at £1,820,496, against 419,505 ozs., worth £1,781,944 in the preceding month. Thus the increases were 9,076 ozs. and £38,552 respectively. It was a real improvement, too, for the daily average was 13,825 ozs., compared with 13,532 ozs. "Who says it's not good enough for a boom?" the gamblers exultantly ask. We reply that it is not good enough, for if prices were too high a fortnight ago, they are certainly too high after the manipulated rise. The labour returns show a net loss of natives of 2,844, the number employed at the end of August being 88,829. As regards Chinese, no statistics are given, but we know that large numbers find it easier and more congenial to their natures to get gold out of the pockets of murdered farmers than deservedly out of the pockets of the bosses, or even out of the mines, seeing how untrained they are in any work but that of homicide. According to the report for July of the executive committee of the Witwatersrand Chamber of Mines the number of coolies at work at the end of July was 43,140.

THE MADAGASCAR CRAZE.—A few weeks ago we published a cable we received from Messrs. Julius Weil and Co., of 1, Gresham Buildings, Basinghall Street, respecting the disappointing results of the examination of certain areas of ground belonging to the W. and B. Syndicate, since when we have dealt with succeeding developments of the Madagascar craze. The principal French gold-crushing company in the island is the Compagnie Lecomte, which has a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares. Its concessions are near Fianarantsoa. A Mr. Pope went to Madagascar to inspect the claims of this concern. On August 15 the above-mentioned cable was received by Messrs. Julius Weil, and on the 19th of last month Dalziel's Agency said Mr. Pope's report had been received at Johannesburg, and was declared to be "extremely favourable." Now the entire report is published on this side by the Lecomte Company, accompanied by a circular, in which the secretary says:—"They (the directors) think it is their duty to the shareholders, to the public in general, and also to Mr. Pope and themselves, that this report should be made public at as early a date as possible. In view of the disquieting rumours which have been circulated for the past week, my board have communicated with Mr. Pope, informing him that statements have been made that the property is salted and valueless. My board thinks (the secretary uses the plural and singular verb with pleasing variety and indifference) that Mr. Pope's report in itself should be sufficient answer to all such rumours, but should Mr. Pope wish to qualify his report in any manner, opportunities have been given him to do so, and a reply from him can be expected within the next few days." Mr. Pope gives a lengthy description of the country through which he had to travel to get to the property, the roads being in a very bad condition, for many miles being practically only mountain bridle paths. On the whole, his report is favourable, as far as mere opinion goes, for this is his concluding sentence:—"I have pleasure in stating that I think your property one of immense value, and when working on a large scale, as one of the premier gold producers of the age. Samples I am bringing with me to be assayed at Johannesburg." This, of course, savours of enthusiasm, and we do not hesitate to say that such an opinion is utterly ridiculous. How many hundreds of times have experts declared new properties, which they have looked at on the surface, to be second to none in the world? But when they have afterwards dug below the grass roots the gold they expected to find has not been there. Until properties have been thoroughly developed and shafts sunk to great depths, it is preposterous for any expert to dogmatise in this fashion. If any expert does so, then he is an individual who has not profited from past experience. There is nothing whatever in Mr. Pope's report on which to base such an astounding opinion. On one claim, he says, the soil in the various creeks showed gold more or less, "but there has not been sufficient work done to form any opinion as to its being of a payable nature." On other

claims he appears to have taken a few samples carrying gold in small quantities, and he confesses that "practically no work has been done on any of the other claims on your property beyond testing the various creeks, all of which carry gold." Yet the man talks glibly of "immense value," and "premier gold producer," as though ordinary human beings reading his report were less intelligent than savages. Whoever buys shares in the newly-formed Madagascar syndicates on a report of this kind will well deserve to suffer the consequences of his folly. Let the prudent wait until the properties have been thoroughly tested, and are actually producing gold on a payable commercial scale. If the mine bosses believe in the value of such properties, they can afford to exploit them themselves. And it will take many years and require incalculable thousands to exploit properties which are approached by roads in a very primitive condition and by mountain bridle paths.

IVANHOE GOLD CORPORATION.—The Ivanhoe Gold Corporation issues the following summary of ore reserves at June 30 last:—

Lode.	Total Tons.	Assay Value per Ton.	
		dwts.	grs.
East	314,416	16	23
Middle	287,277	12	18
New	62,546	11	3
Boulder	30,923	20	6
	695,162	14	20

The manager adds:—"You will note the ore reserves work out at 695,162 tons, of an average of 14 dwts. 20 grs. per ton. This is slightly under the figures at December 31 last, but in our opinion they are most satisfactory. There are several other blocks which at the present moment we do not consider should be included, such as on the east lode, 1,010 ft. level, south of leading stope in section 11, where the lode has been thrown east of its proper course, and the values impoverished, although from the values at this point in the level above there might be a large block of payable ore standing." At the end of last year the ore reserves were computed at 715,120 tons, of an assay value of 15 dwts. per ton. Looking at the fall in the tonnage and quality shareholders are hardly likely to share the opinion of the manager that the figures are "most satisfactory."

LE ROI MINING COMPANY.—There are dissensions on the board of Le Roi Mining Company. It appears that the directors of the company asked Mr. A. J. McMillan, the managing director and general manager, to resign, and as this gentleman refused to do so, he received a notice of ejectment under a clause in the articles of association which does not require the shareholders to be consulted on the subject. It will be recalled that Mr. Landau was removed in a similar manner from the board of the Associated Northern Blocks, but afterwards reinstated by a vote of the shareholders. Mr. McMillan has forwarded some correspondence to the Press in the shape of copies of his letters to the board. "You tell me," he writes, "that my presence at board meetings is not agreeable owing to the fact that the directors wish to discuss and proceed with amalgamation proposals which I do not approve, and you, therefore, suggest that I should resign my seat on the board. Believing, as I do, that the policy you (Sir Henry Tyler) and Mr. Waterlow are pursuing in regard to amalgamation, if persisted in, can end only in disaster to the Le Roi, I cannot consent voluntarily to resign the trust committed to my care by the shareholders." The directors announce that Messrs. Bradley and Mackenzie have been requested to take charge of the mine "pending arrangements for amalgamation, which will shortly be considered at meetings of the Canadian companies in Canada before being submitted to the shareholders in England."

LONDONDERRY GOLD MINE.—We thought this company died years ago, and had been buried deep out of sight. But in these happy days, when peace has brought sunshine and gold to every dark and desolate home, the joyful news comes that the Londonderry has not been buried, but has only been in a comatose condition. The directors have issued their accounts for the three years to the end of June 1904. So they are not so hoary and mildewed after all, and shareholders should be thankful for a balance-sheet dated only fourteen months back. The gentlemen regret the delay, but it appears they have been suffering from heartrending "anxiety before calling the shareholders together to have some scheme to lay before them which they could conscientiously recommend for their consideration and adoption." They have tried hard evidently to see if anything could be got out of the famous "hole," but the gold has given out entirely, "which unfortunately appears to have been the case with most of the properties in Coolgardie and in the neighbourhood of this property." Accordingly, the directors cast longing eyes to West Africa, where they acquired a property in which the company holds a large interest. During the past three years, it seems, the jungle market has been depressed, so the directors have been unable to place the balance of the working capital shares, and without money no work could be done. Then they went back to Western Australia, where they took up several working options, but these had to be subsequently abandoned. Other propositions have been submitted by the local director, "but they have not been of such a nature as to show any reasonable certainty of success." Some little time ago the directors were approached by a concern called the Field's Reward Gold Mines, Limited, with a view to an amalgamation with that company, and this is the scheme they now submit. They speak highly of the prospects of this mine, and make the most of the fact that the gold won to date therefrom is officially

stated to be £100,000. They think more gold is left behind, but offer no opinion as to whether or not it may cost more to get it out than it is worth. The arrangements made are that in consideration of the Londonderry transferring its undertaking and assets to the Field's Reward this company will issue to all shareholders for each share held by them in the Londonderry a 10s. share in Field's Reward, with 8s. paid, leaving a liability of 2s. per share, to be payable in instalments. We cannot advise shareholders to pay this assessment, for if the Field's Reward were a rich and promising property surely the shareholders in that company would be ready to find all the necessary money themselves, and when all is said, can the board be considered to have earned its fees? They have bagged over £1,300 in three years.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY.

The increase in this company's gross revenue for the half-year ended July 31 compared with the corresponding period of 1904 was £20,418 at a total of £2,147,906, all miscellaneous income and the receipts from the Forth and Clyde navigation included. Against that the expenditure rose £5,634 to £1,121,547, the railway being worked at 53.90 per cent. of the gross income compared with 53.97 per cent., and the steamers at 35.17 per cent. against 37.98 per cent. First-class passengers showed an improvement of £609 and third-class advanced £7,879, but season tickets gave slightly less, as also parcels, horses, carriages, &c., and mails, the aggregate coaching revenue being £821,057 or a gain of £7,990. Next comes an increase of £22,754 in merchandise business, but a good deal of that was wiped away by a falling-off of £12,793 in the mineral traffic, so that counting in a small rise under live stock the actual railway receipts were £2,042,670 against £2,024,312. The Forth and Clyde steamers gave nearly £3,000 less, while rents of property advanced £4,385 and other miscellaneous items showed improvements. On the expenditure side there were rather important increases in maintenance, locomotive power, and carriage and wagon repairs, which were only neutralised to a small extent by lesser outlays for traffic expenses and general charges, but help came from an additional £6,000 received for working other lines. Law and arbitration charges and compensation each went up a few hundreds, Parliamentary expenses fell £397 and there was a welcome decline of £1,248 in rates and taxes. The relief was not very startling, but any movement in the right direction under this head must be particularly gratifying, and the success which has so far attended the efforts of the Scotch railway companies to get their assessments reduced will no doubt urge them to further exertions. Following the fall in receipts the expenses of the river steamers were lowered by £2,744 but although these boats earn a seemingly satisfactory profit it falls far short of a decent return on the heavy capital involved. To the net balance on all operations of £1,026,359, which is better by £14,784, must be added the credit brought forward, a trifle down at £14,935, and dividends on shares held up £7,770 to £34,779, the sum for disposal being £22,452 higher at £1,076,072. Fixed charges, however, including £15,000 again reserved for bridge renewals, displacements, and contingencies, advanced some £14,000, so that for dividend purposes the credit remaining was £704,867 against £606,110. Preference and guaranteed dividends require the same or nearly so, and it is therefore easy to maintain the dividend on the ordinary stock at 3½ per cent. per annum, giving 3 per cent. per annum to the preferred and ¾ per cent. per annum to the deferred ordinary stock, with an improvement from £12,252 to £21,009 in the carry forward. On the whole a fairly satisfactory display, but the most gratifying feature of the report is the evidence that a genuine effort is being made to keep the capital expenditure within more modest limits. Not so very long ago the company thought nothing of spending any sum up to £1,000,000 each half-year on account of capital, but that kind of thing could not go on without seriously crippling its finances, because in those, the war days, money was even harder to come by than it is now. Therefore a short time back the chairman announced the directors' intention of proceeding with nothing except absolutely necessary capital outlay, and we are now getting the fruits of this policy. Quite true that last half-year the expenditure was still important at £487,262, but £112,500 of that took the form of subscriptions to other railways and £99,528 went in the Grangemouth Harbour extension, work to which the company is definitely committed. Moreover, in the current six months only £265,176 is to be spent and projected future outlay is not at all disturbing at £392,868, especially when we bear in mind the tremendous sums it was at one time intended to lay out. With a continuance of this policy of caution there may yet be some hope for the ordinary stocks, whose dividends must presently have suffered severely. Looked at in another way, the directors were really compelled to make a virtue of a necessity because, notwithstanding their efforts at retrenchment, the debit to capital account reaches the excessive sum of £1,662,352, and some big stock issues will be necessary to put even this straight, let alone provide for further expenditures. Just now the company is living on its employees' savings and other funds, temporary loans, &c., and there is mighty little cash in hand to go towards dividend payment still to be made

of almost £700,000. That means further heavy borrowing before the dividend warrants can be paid on October 1, and stockholders must be prepared to find some more money at an early date.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY.

For the half-year ended July 31 the gross revenue of this railway was £2,297,334, an increase over the corresponding period of £30,039, but the expenditure was larger by £36,481 at £1,190,330, the ratio of outlay to income being 52.95 per cent. against 52.06 per cent. Receipts from passengers rose by £3,892, parcels increased £6,309, goods £4,128, and live stock £1,924, while in the aggregate the miscellaneous receipts were better by £195. Coming to the details of expenditure, there is a very big increase of £15,482 under maintenance of way, followed by a rise of £7,748 in traffic expenses, attributable to the larger business handled. Parliamentary expenses showed the very big advance of £7,771 to £8,906, so large an outlay may not recur for a long time, carriage and wagon repairs were up £3,275, general charges £805, ferries and steamers expenses £1,216, and rates and taxes £4,492. Against that locomotive power cost £1,180 less, compensation went down £3,140, a satisfactory sign, and there was a small decline under law and other charges. Like all the others, the company fails to afford proper information concerning the working of its steamers, and it is fortunate that the capital outlay upon this part of the business is small. Balance of net revenue was down £6,441 to £1,107,004, and a rise of nearly £4,000 to £10,573 in the credit from previous account was partly offset by a fall of over £3,000 in general interest, the actual sum for disposal being £4,652 down at £1,119,037. Thanks, however, to a great saving in the interest payable to bankers for loans and the absence of any payment on account of the West Highland Railway, the fixed charges were so considerably reduced that the sum available for dividend shows an advance of £7,299 to £753,164. Conversions into the ordinary issues reduced the dividend charges for some of the preference stocks, but the 1904 issue ranked for a full payment, absorbing £20,520 compared with nothing, the net increase in the preference dividends being £5,447. Thus the additional net income is not quite exhausted, but nevertheless the dividend on the ordinary stock must be reduced $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, after providing the usual 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary preference stock, because the above-named conversions automatically increase the nominal amount of both these securities. Balance carried forward is £10,234, compared with £11,869. Actual capital expenditure in the half-year was £218,342, of which £166,434 went into lines already open for traffic and £51,691 for new construction, but there was a nominal increase of £105,424 on conversion of stocks, making the total addition £323,767. In the current half-year the outlay is put at £285,420—not an onerous amount, but quite large enough considering that the capital account is already overdrawn £1,010,613, with practically no funds in hand to provide the dividends on October 5. When these are met the company will undoubtedly be heavily in debt, and more money will have to be sought at the earliest opportunity.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

Gross revenue for the six months ended July 31 was £872,837 a decrease of £9,603 against the corresponding period, but the working expenses were reduced by £14,642 to £499,666, steamboat outlay included, the ratio of expenditure to income for the railway only being 55.33 per cent. against 56.05. Revenue from first-class passengers showed an increase of more than £1,000, but that was neutralised by a shrinkage in third-class, so that the income from ordinary travellers was down £240. Season tickets gave a trifle less, and parcels, horses, carriages, &c., rather more, but the principal movements were in merchandise and minerals down £5,161 and £3,778 respectively. Live stock gave £500 more, and amongst miscellaneous income there were small decreases in rents and transfer fees. Mileage and demurrage involved the payment of £1,528 against £897 and proportionately reduced the gross income. As already mentioned, there was a considerable decrease in expenditure, and we hope the saving of almost £10,000 under maintenance of way was justified, because it seems a very big drop. Locomotive power cost a little less and so did the carriage and wagon repairs, but traffic expenses and general and law charges were up by more or less infinitesimal amounts. Parliamentary expenses showed a decline, compensation was higher, rates and taxes were down by £648 and the working expenses, depreciation and insurance of the steamboats absorbed £3,548 less at £28,894, the sole information we get of this important branch of the business. The difference between the shrinkage in revenue and the saving in expenses means a gain to net profit of £5,039 at £373,171, and the balance brought forward was a little larger at £5,984, but other income was a few hundreds lower at £480 and from all sources the available credit is £370,635 compared with £374,762. Fixed charges rose £1,000 or almost and preference dividends £4,293, so that the amount available for ordinary dividend was really a trifle down at £128,469; not enough, however, to affect the dividend, which will again be at 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, giving $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum to the preferred and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum to the deferred ordinary stocks, with a drop of £400 to £6,511 in the carry forward. Capital expenditure for the six months was £142,262, of which £105,775 was on lines already under traffic and £34,360 on lines and works in course of construction. With this outlay the deficiency in the capital account is £677,874, a very large sum, and it is good to hear that the only work now on hand involving heavy expenditure is the Mardens and Dunure Railway. On that the outlay in the current six months will be about £46,000,

other items bringing the total expenditure on capital account to £115,601. Dividends payable September 30.

GREAT NORTH OF SCOTLAND RAILWAY.

Gross receipts for the six months ended July 31 fell off by £4,632 to £243,134, the decrease being spread over all classes of traffic. Competition by the Aberdeen City and Suburban Tramways is blamed for the reduction of £2,535 in passenger receipts and trade depression for declines of £1,650 and £2,024 in merchandise and minerals, as much smaller quantities of agricultural produce, building materials and coal were carried, while the herring fishing was also short compared with the previous season. At the same time considerable savings were effected in the expenditure, £2,090 less being spent on maintenance of way, locomotive power costing £2,100 less and repairs and traffic expenses being £1,032 and £673 lower, so that the ratio to revenue was only 49.96 per cent. against 52.48 per cent. Net revenue was consequently £1,010 up at £121,656, but as the balance brought in was £1,631 smaller at £3,936, and general interest gave £62 less at £92, the total available came to £125,684, compared with £126,367. Fixed charges absorbed £35,783 or £535 more, and as the directors take nothing from contingent account in aid of revenue against £4,500 so appropriated a year ago the disposable balance is only £89,901, or a decrease of £5,718, and after providing for preference dividends and paying 3 per cent. on the preferred ordinary stock the dividend on the deferred stock is cut down from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum, and £2,722 or £114 more is carried forward. Capital expenditure in the half-year came to £21,599, of which £13,807 was on lines open for traffic and £7,772 was on working stock, including £4,599 for road motor omnibuses. Against this, however, £6,601 was written off for land sold, and as £10,000 was raised by a debenture issue during the six months the debit balance on this account is only £202,703.

HIGHLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

This company's total revenue for the six months ended July 31 was £252,025, a decrease of £7,923 against the corresponding period, and expenditure came to £147,211 or £530 less, the ratio of outlay to income being 59.27 per cent. compared with 58.41 per cent. Passengers alone gave additional revenue, being up £544, against which goods and minerals were down £4,272, live stock £1,150, and parcels, horses, carriages, &c., £1,137. On the expenditure side there were decreases of £1,867 in maintenance and £2,001 in locomotive power, besides a saving of £393 in general charges, but these were all neutralised by small advances under carriage and wagon repairs, traffic expenses, and mileage of carriages and wagons, and a big rise of £1,901 to £2,510 in compensation. Rates and taxes were also up by a heavy sum, while Government duty and tollage to Caledonian Company took the same. Net balance of £104,815 shows a decrease of £7,392, which was only made up to a small extent by an improvement to £8,819 in the sum brought forward, the actual credit for disposal being £113,633 compared with £120,154. Fixed charges were a little higher and in order to keep the dividend up the directors pass over the reserve, which a year ago got £3,000, and reduce the credit to bridge renewal fund by £2,000 to £1,000. That reduced the shortage to about £2,000 at £66,688, and after providing the preference dividends the directors again propose a dividend at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £2,000 less at £2,019. Capital expenditure in the half-year was £10,016, increasing the debt to £165,642, and the amount to be laid out in the current half-year is £7,638. Dividends payable October 11.

LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANY.

In the year ended June 30 last this important coal road earned \$31,275,843 gross, or \$1,394,105 more than in the previous fiscal year. Working expenses came to \$18,929,701, or only \$59,400 more, so that the ratio of expenses to receipts, not apparently including taxes, fell to 60.52 per cent., compared with 63.15 per cent. in the previous year and 79.50 in 1901. The net revenue was accordingly up \$1,334,704 to \$12,346,141, and at all points the year's business appears to indicate prosperity. Receipts from coal freight, which came to \$13,530,337, went up \$695,261, and other freight rose \$437,882 to \$12,432,583. The passenger business of the company is always small, but that also showed an increase of \$354,110 last year, the total being \$3,509,825, and the remarkable thing about the business of the company is that its great increase in gross earnings has been obtained with no appreciable increase in working expenses. This is ascribed to the way in which the equipment of the road has been steadily improved out of the revenue during the last few years. One decisive mark of this improvement is shown in the average train load of revenue freight, which last year was 500.76 tons or 14.61 tons more than in the previous year. Including the company's freight, the average train load was 518.64 tons, a very fine total, and a proof that the utmost diligence has been exhibited in developing the channels of economy in the shape of heavier rolling stock, larger cars, and labour-saving appliances of all kinds. After paying interest on bonds and devoting \$1,411,551 to additions and improvements, the net income of the road was \$5,392,889. Adding in \$635,548, the net income of the dependent Lehigh Valley Coal Company, there was a free balance of \$6,028,437. As to this coal company, it did rather badly last year, in spite of the increased output of coal, but then it is the tribute of dependents of this kind to minister to the prosperity of the controlling line. Last year the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company sold \$20,100,000 of its general consolidated mortgage bonds, and by means of this redeemed a

number of outstanding small debts mostly bearing a higher rate of interest; in fact, it is claimed that \$28,385,000 of various issues have been cancelled altogether against this new issue of general consolidated mortgage bonds, and the position of the company is unquestionably strong from this point since it has very little floating debt. The various car equipments by which rolling stock is furnished and gradually paid for out of revenue are now of small amount, and at the end of the year the cash on deposit and in the hands of the treasurer was \$4,191,337 up at \$8,862,550. It may be added, that the aggregate capital involved in the two companies, the railroad company and the coal company, is now about £26,000,000, that the funded debt and the floating debt of the coal company being \$23,500,000 and of the railroad company \$54,100,000. If the property is not hurt by many absorptions and extensions there appears to be no ground whatever for anticipating a worse story in the years to come, and the resumed dividends on the common stock ought henceforth to be uninterrupted. For the past year 3 per cent. was paid on this common stock, and out of the surplus balance left over the company might easily pay 6 per cent. on that stock for the current year, and have more than as much again left to play with.

BANK OF AFRICA, LIMITED.

The shrinkage in gross profits noted for the second half of 1904 has been followed by a decrease of no less than £16,705 to £165,769 in the six months ended June 30, in spite of the fact that the business done appears to have been considerably larger. On the other hand a saving of £3,876 was effected in working expenses at £108,255, but notwithstanding this and the increase of £2,755 at £20,548 in the balance brought forward, the amount available only came to £78,062 compared with £88,136 a year ago. The reserve fund consequently is again passed over, but even then the dividend is reduced from 13 to 11 per cent. per annum, and after transferring the usual £3,000 to pension fund, £20,062 or £486 less is carried to the new account. Deposits, current accounts and other liabilities were £1,711,911 higher at £7,866,818, and notes in circulation rose by £38,418 to £340,612, but bills payable were £10,193 down at £483,812. To meet these liabilities cash on hand or at bankers and at call and short notice was £426,639 up at £2,116,788, cash, bills, &c., in transit were £127,128 higher at £304,459, and investments were increased by £54,971 to £1,093,887. Loans, temporary advances, &c., rose by £758,274 to £3,595,087, and bills receivable came to £343,929 more at £1,585,746, but bills discounted were £102,712 down at £1,134,291. Bank premises have been increased from £274,987 to £429,136.

PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL AND IRON CO., LIMITED.

This company's profits for the year to June 30 last showed an improvement over those of the previous twelve months of £10,438 at £57,186, a very fair gain, and although the balance brought in was a little less at £6,355 the sum for disposal is £63,542 against £53,939. The directors therefore propose to advance the dividend from 3 to 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares after providing the usual 6 per cent. for the preference capital. Reserve fund receives £10,000 as before, the capital expenditure for the year, £6,810, is written off and the balance forward goes up to £8,081. This is a very fair display, bearing in mind the directors' words about the unsatisfactory state of the general trade of the country in both coal and iron, work being scarce and on the whole unremunerative. The balance-sheet, moreover, reveals a very sound position, as besides having written off the whole of the colliery leases and goodwill of colliery and ironworks amounting to £315,560 the company has accumulated a reserve fund of £110,000, most of it kept in separate securities. Creditors on open account and bills payable are light enough at £47,992, as debtors alone reach £106,362, and cash and bills in hand and at bankers amount to the excellent sum of £90,441. Stocks, £226,208, may seem big considering the extensive fluctuations in the company's principal commodities, but we never hear of losses on realisation, and may take it that this asset is valued on a very conservative basis. Freehold and leasehold land, buildings, collieries, ironworks, railways, cottages, &c., are set down at £561,401, including additions and after deducting depreciation and removals.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Trading has not been very brisk, and American advices have had a fluctuating effect upon markets, particularly in speculative positions. But on the whole, without being animated, a fair amount of business has been done, and prices for spot parcels, at any rate, have been firmly held. English wheat when in good condition maintains its price in spite of the larger quantities now coming into the market. Farmers' deliveries last week were 78,589 qrs. averaging 27s. per quarter against 46,116 qrs. last year averaging 30s. Imports for the week were larger, 544,416 qrs., against 444,850 qrs. last week and 347,200 a year ago. Quantities to the United Kingdom on passage, as estimated by Dornbusch, are 2,010,000 qrs. or 105,000 qrs. less than last week. American markets were dull and rather easier early in the week, good Indian crop news and poor exports helping to depress them. Later, unfavourable reports from the North-Western regarding the new wheat both in quantity and quality and a good cash demand sent prices up again. Bradstreet's estimate of the quantity in sight east of the Rockies at 19,656,000 bushels against 21,705,000 last week also helped to give markets a fillip.

WOOL.—The markets are again more cheerful, but holders of raw material are not very anxious to do business till after next

week's London sales. Home-grown wools increase steadily in favour, and demand is greatly in excess of supply, but here also staplers are holding back till they see what the trend of prices is likely to be. Yarns are again busier, and, though still somewhat checked by the high rates of raw material, spinners are beginning to insist on more adequate prices. In manufactured goods also prices are slowly but surely following the upward movement. Prospects for the winter in home trade of piece goods is fairly healthy, and better class goods are being asked for. In the shipping department more activity is noticeable.

LINEN.—Markets remain in much the same position as in the previous week—that is, prices hardening, business fairly good and steadily improving; but neither in yarns nor piece goods is there any quotable change. Advices from abroad show that Russian yield will be about 25 per cent. less than last year, and that the bulk of the Courtrai crop is deficient in long-thread flaxes, and will be suitable mostly for weft and medium warp. Foreign trade tends always to increase, and for August the total value of linen piece goods exported to all markets from the United Kingdom was £395,428 as compared with £340,645 in August last year. The United States alone took goods to the value of £210,814 compared with £175,506 in the same month last year, while for the eight months there is nearly £200,000 to the good.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent)—It has been a quiet week again in all directions, the aggregate sales in cotton piece goods and yarn being of comparatively small dimensions. Buyers have been in no humour to give out orders. They have continued the policy of buying from hand to mouth, in view of the large supplies, especially in cloth, that shippers have to come in at lower prices than to-day's rates. Shippers to Bombay and Calcutta seem to be indisposed to operate, even at slightly lower prices than to-day's quotations. The boycott in Bengal is still looked upon as a serious matter, and if prolonged it will cause considerable financial inconvenience in Manchester as well as Calcutta. China buyers have been for the most part inactive this week, but a little demand has sprung up for heavy goods such as Mexicans. The nearer markets off the Continent may be described as quiet, with no fresh feature. Lancashire manufacturers are running down in orders, but they have still plenty of work to proceed with. American yarns have continued slow, with small sales. Spinners' contract lists are lighter to-day than seven days ago, but an irregular state of affairs has prevailed. The supply of cop twist is abundant, and, speaking broadly, the output of the mills seems greater than the consumption of the looms. Shipping yarns have been in better demand for Japan, notably gassed descriptions and in doubled American counts. Buyers for China have given out orders that have been "nursed," it is said, during the last few weeks. Extra hard yarns for the Levant are well sold. Bolton shippings of Egyptian yarn have been steady, with a quiet demand. Raw American cotton has been easier again. On September 7 middling was quoted at 5.62. On Tuesday last it had been reduced to 5.49, but on Thursday the figure was 5.53. Crop accounts are undoubtedly better, and some authorities in Liverpool and also America believe the yield will not be far off 12 millions of bales. Egyptian cotton in the better grades is scarce at nominal quotations, with a good supply in the commoner qualities.

The cotton market in New York has been pronouncedly weak. It opened 9 to 15 points down, on weak cables, selling by spot traders, bear pressure, and the disappointing attitude of spinners. There was a partial rally on covering, but prices continued to decline on selling by houses with foreign connections, stop loss selling, and bearish estimates as to the crop movement and a favourable weather report. Subsequently New Orleans bought simultaneously with a better inquiry from New England spinners, but the recovery was momentary, for a reaction speedily followed.

In Liverpool the market for American futures was dull, with a general decline in rates. Later better support was forthcoming, and prices recovered a little, to be succeeded by further weakness. Towards the end of the week prices moved a trifle higher on New York cables, but it closes with a tendency to dulness. Futures are quoted:—September to October, 5.49d.; October-November, 5.52d.; November-December, 5.55d.; December-January, 5.57d.; January-February, 5.59d.; February-March, 5.61d.; March-April, 5.63d.; April-May, 5.64d.; May to July, 5.65d.; July-August, 5.66d.

COAL.—The improvement recently noted in the condition of the coal market has been maintained, though trade is anything but brisk. Seaborne rules quiet, with little or no business passing. In the Sheffield district there has been a moderate demand for steam coal, heavy consignments going to Hull, whilst the demands of the railway companies are also large. The troubles in Baku have likewise stimulated Russian orders for steam coal, as it is expected there will be a great scarcity of oil fuel. The price of best steam coal in the north is about 9s. 3d. f.o.b. In South Wales the output has only been normal, and best steam is quoted 12s. 9d.; best seconds, 12s. 3d. to 12s. 6d.; seconds, 11s. 6d. to 12s.

COPPER.—Prices at first sharply recovered from the attack made upon the market a week ago, and for the greater part of the past week quotations advanced daily. Subsequently, however, it developed flatness again in sympathy with the share market, and on rumours of greater ease in the position of the metal in the United States. Good support was then forthcoming on the decline, and with continued buying on the part of influential houses values recovered their early loss. Closing prices are:—£68 17s. 6d. cash and £68 15s. three months.

TIN.—At the beginning of the week there was a small drop in prices, but the latter afterwards recovered on good buying. Later tin came 20s. higher from the East, and quotations on this side moved upwards in sympathy, only to decline again on free selling by importers and liquidation. Subsequently the market exhibited a stronger tendency. Efforts were made to depress quotations, but there was no real effort to sell, and when buyers came forward they experienced some difficulty in executing orders. Closing quotations are:—£146 10s. cash and £145 15s. three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—The condition of the iron and steel trades continues to improve, with business broadening out in all directions. The absorption of raw material by steel manufacturers has considerably exceeded the estimates of some months ago; in fact, the magnitude of the genuine needs in this direction has imparted marked buoyancy to the trade generally. Hematite was the first kind of material to feel the effects of this, consequently it has advanced more appreciably than other descriptions, and the demand is becoming stronger practically daily. The Scotch output of hematite is apparently inadequate to meet current needs, so that Scotch consumers will be compelled to draw supplies from other districts, as the furnaces running on ordinary iron in the north are fully engaged. Strong advices come both from America and Germany. As for the storing of Cleveland iron, it is claimed that the bulk of the syndicate's holdings has been liquidated during the recent advances. Middlesbrough pig-iron, No. 3, is quoted 48s. 5d., or 48s. 8½d. one month. Hematite warrants, mixed numbers, and Cumberland, 61s.; Welsh merchant bars, £6 5s. to £6 7s. 6d.; Bessemer steel tin plate bars, £4 7s. 6d.; Siemens best, £4 10s.

TEA.—The irregularities in the Indian market were, if anything, still further accentuated this week, though auctions were rather lighter. Even the higher grades suffered, while mediums fell another ¼d. per lb. and commons about ¼d. 37,266 packages were offered, and the most satisfactory feature of the auction was the sale of over 2,000 packages from Darjeeling at an average of over 1s. 3d. per lb. The average on the whole of the week was 8.07d. against 8.66d. last week. Ceylon market was fairly steady except for teas under 5d., and these again went a little lower. The export demand helped the market considerably, and the quality continues to show an improvement. 23,714 packages were brought forward, and obtained an average of 7.19d. against 7.16d. last week. Java market, with 2,888 packages brought to auction, was steady for medium and good sorts, but weaker for the commonest.

SUGAR.—During the week the weather has been rather favourable in Austria, though not quite so good in Germany and France. Paris crystals declined about ¼d. and 88 per cent., beet about ¼d. per cwt. We have gone back to prices, says Mr. Czarnikow, which should inspire confidence, even if sugar is plentiful during the coming season. Of course, temporary fluctuations we are bound to experience. If the fabricant does not sell somebody else will sell for him, or sell second-hand holdings, and when with reports of favourable weather the trade or speculators are holding back temporary depressions are natural. The old stocks to be carried over will be larger than anticipated some months ago, but they will be chiefly held in Cuba, America, and afloat. Some of the European excess production is in non-convention countries, and the old Russian stocks are said to have been much reduced, prices being considerably above those ruling in convention countries. These were doing a large trade to the East, even while the war lasted; and it seems that the Java shipments westwards during September-May will fall off considerably, whilst a quantity much larger than last season will go from Europe to India. The American market has been very quiet. Landings in the three ports were 39,000 tons, and meltings 48,000 tons, reducing stocks to 193,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

African Gold Dredging.—Output, 143 ozs.
Akrokerri (Ashanti).—Crushed 1,090 tons, 998 ozs.; sands by cyanide, 630 tons, 150 ozs.; total, 1,148 ozs.
Angelo Gold.—Milled 11,448 tons, 3,797 ozs.; sands, 8,141 tons, 2,515 ozs.; slimes, 1,515 tons, 252 ozs.; total output, 6,564 ozs.
Ashanti Goldfields.—Obuasi Mill—Crushed 3,210 tons, 2,250 ozs. (this includes 1,190 ozs. from cyaniding the current tailings and rich tailings from the old No. 1 mill). Ayeinm Mill—Crushed 2,380 tons, 240 ozs.; total, 5,590 tons, 2,490 ozs.
Broken Hill Proprietary.—Fine silver, 358,614 ozs.; soft lead, 5,008 tons; antimonial lead (estimated), 28 tons.
Burbank's Birthday.—Crushed 2,215 tons, 752 ozs.; cyanided 1,650 tons, 70 ozs.
Burbank's Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 630 tons, 401 ozs.; cyanided 700 tons, 82 ozs.
Cape Copper.—Ookiep: 1,527 tons of 15 per cent., equal to 229 tons fine copper. Nababeep: 4,505 tons of 4 per cent., equal to 180 tons fine copper.
Carrington's Lion.—Crushed 133 tons, 605 ozs.
City and Suburban Gold.—Crushed 25,000 tons, 8,941 ozs.
Clitters United.—Ore treated 2,035 tons, mineral sold and on hand £1,727.
Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand. Crushed 5,612 tons, value £8,979. Golden Fleece.—Crushed 1,188 tons, value £2,398. Wealth of Nations.—Crushed 1,040 tons, value £1,731.
Consolidated Main Reef.—Crushed 16,610 tons, 6,491 ozs.
Copiapo.—820 tons copper ores, averaging 15 per cent.
Crown Deep.—Crushed 30,193 tons, 6,822 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 22,800 tons, 4,713 ozs.; slimes 7,944 tons, 638 ozs.; total yield 12,173 ozs.
Driefontein Consolidated.—Milled 20,575 tons, 4,408 ozs.; sands

17,039 tons, 3,689 ozs.; slimes 3,762 tons, 428 ozs.; total output 8,525 ozs.

Durham Prospect.—Crushed 751 tons, 301 ozs.

Durban-Rodepoort Gold.—Crushed 11,580 tons, 4,033 ozs.; treated 7,620 tons tailings, 1,217 ozs.; total, 5,250 ozs.

East Gwanda.—Crushed 5,229 tons, 1,796 ozs.; concentrates 133 ozs. Geelong—cyanide produced 182 ozs. Geelong—mine tributed produced 740 ozs. Eagle-Vulture—tailings tributed 123 ozs. Total 2,974 ozs.

Elandslaagte Gold.—Milled 2,550 tons, 220 ozs.; cyanided 1,900 tons, 381 ozs.

Ferreira.—Crushed 20,796 tons, 7,703 ozs.; concentrates 1,400 tons, 837 ozs.; sand 13,440 tons, 2,896 ozs.; slimes 5,845 tons, 822 ozs.; yield from dump, 212 ozs.; total, 12,470 ozs.

Ferreira Deep.—Crushed 20,268 tons, 7,512 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 14,400 tons, 4,064 ozs.; slimes 6,175 tons, 782 ozs.; total yield, 12,358 ozs.

Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 6,280 tons, 3,454 ozs.; cyanide 4,000 tons, 943 ozs.

Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Crushed 796 tons, 265 ozs.; royalties from tributors, £161.

Henry Nourse.—Treated by mill, cyanide and slimes 24,072 tons, 6,005 ozs.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—New Primrose, 17,074 tons, 7,895 ozs.; Glencairn Main Reef, 14,980 tons, 4,231 ozs.; Ginsberg, 8,572 tons, 3,514 ozs.; New Rietfontein, 8,448 tons, 4,306 ozs.; New Unified Main Reef, 9,025 tons, 3,155 ozs.; £13,401; Consolidated Langlaagte, 16,484 tons, 5,662 ozs.; Buffelsdoorn, 3,000 tons slimes, 603 ozs.

Jubilee Gold.—Mill 1,267 ozs. from 5,625 tons crushed; cyanide 604 ozs. from 3,835 tons.

Knight's Deep.—22,869 tons, 8,239 ozs.

Langlaagte.—Ore crushed 27,060 tons of 2,000 lb., 5,530 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 570 tons of 2,000 lb., 798 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 18,480 tons of 2,000 lb., 2,147 ozs.; total, 8,475 ozs.

Lisbon-Berlyn.—Milled 689 tons; cyanided 612 tons; from mill 51 ozs.; cyanide 251 ozs.; total 302 ozs.

May Consolidated.—Crushed 14,020 tons, 3,995 ozs.; cyanide, 9,970 tons, 1,851 ozs.; slimes, 4,101 tons, 291 ozs.; total output, 6,137 ozs.

Mills' Day Dawn United.—Crushed 1,088 tons, value £5,400, including tailings and concentrates; also a clean-up of the plates, £2,600.

Montana.—Drumlummon, Montana: Tailings plant treated 11,013 tons tailings and fines, producing cyanide precipitates represented by 910 ozs. gold and 13,590 ozs. silver. Lucky Girl Group, Nevada: Crushed 1,600 tons of ore, producing bullion bars and cyanide precipitates represented by 680 ozs. gold and 960 ozs. silver, estimated to realise \$14,000; estimated profit, \$4,200.

Mungana (Chillagoe).—440 tons ore, containing 24½ tons copper, 6,264 ozs. silver, and 48½ tons lead shipped.

New Comet.—Milled 14,268 tons, 3,628 ozs.; sands, 10,627 tons, 2,418 ozs.; total output, 6,046 ozs.

New Heriot.—Crushed 9,480 tons, 3,937 ozs.

New Kleinfontein.—Milled, 28,401 tons, 6,949 ozs.; sands, 20,575 tons, 3,143 ozs.; total output, 10,092.

New Rhodesia Ophir.—Crushed 799 tons, 324 ozs.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 1,966 tons; value £6,079.

Nigel Deep.—2,900 tons, 1,953 ozs.

Nigel Gold.—3,690 ozs.; crushed, 6,500 tons.

North Broken Hill.—1,800 tons of crude ore treated, producing 300 tons concentrates containing 207 tons lead, and 5,700 ozs. silver.

North Randfontein.—Ore crushed, 15,029 tons of 2,000 lbs., 3,152 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,410 tons of 2,000 lbs., 451 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 8,460 tons of 2,000 lbs., 1,753 ozs.; slimes, 5,215 tons of 2,000 lbs., 595 ozs.; total, 5,951 ozs.

Porges Randfontein.—Crushed 13,503 tons of 2,000 lbs., 3,721 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,304 tons of 2,000 lbs., 391 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 8,613 tons of 2,000 lbs., 1,136 ozs.; slimes, 3,645 tons of 2,000 lbs., 262 ozs.; total, 5,510 ozs.

Raub Gold, Malay Peninsula.—Crushed 6,100 tons, 750 ozs.

Robinson Gold.—Crushed 29,000 tons; from mill, 12,829 ozs.; from tailings (by cyanide), 3,399 ozs.; from own concentrates (by chlorination), 905 ozs.; from slimes, 1,520 ozs.; total own ore, 18,653 ozs.; from purchased concentrates, 918 ozs.; total yield, 19,751 ozs.

Robinson Deep.—29,173 tons, 15,426 ozs.

Robinson Randfontein.—Crushed 14,530 tons of 2,000 lbs., 3,144 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,360 tons of 2,000 lbs., 366 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 7,980 tons of 2,000 lbs., 1,392 ozs.; slimes, 5,220 tons of 2,000 lbs., 426 ozs.; total, 5,328 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce £7,750, yield per ton, .57 of an oz. troy.

Salisbury Gold.—Crushed 5,150 tons, 1,840 ozs.

San Miguel Copper.—Copper, 42,004 kilos; ore, 4,116 tons; washed ore, 4,655 tons.

Selukwe.—Crushed 6,360 tons, 1,040 ozs.; cyanide, 4,288 tons, 561 ozs.

Simmer and Jack.—52,420 tons, 19,829 ozs.

Simmer and Jack East.—12,141 tons, 2,327 ozs.

South Randfontein.—Ore crushed, 14,886 tons of 2,000 lb., 3,590 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,260 tons of 2,000 lbs., 344 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 9,070 tons of 2,000 lbs., 1,331 ozs.; slimes, 4,682 tons of 2,000 lb., 472 ozs.; total, 5,737 ozs.

Theta Gold.—Crushed 1,461 tons, 685 ozs.; 949 tons, by cyanide, 211 ozs.

Treasury Gold.—Crushed 5,925 tons, 2,359 ozs.

Tyee Copper.—Tyee ore, 2,018 tons; customs ore, 318 tons—2,336 tons; matte produced from same, 320 tons.

Um Rus Gold of Egypt.—Crushed 679 tons of ore, 350 ozs.; 543 tons of tailings stored of an average assay value of 3 dwts. per ton.

Village Deep.—Crushed 13,055 tons, 3,238 ozs.; 11,250 tons of sands and concentrates, by cyanide, 2,165 ozs.; 3,394 tons of slimes, 378 ozs.; total yield, 5,781 ozs.

Wanderer (Selukwe) Gold.—15,066 tons, 2,349 ozs.

Wemmer.—Crushed 8,520 tons, 2,675 ozs.; 6,240 tons sands, 606 ozs.; 2,340 tons slimes, 128 ozs.; 200 tons concentrates caught with an average assay value of 63 dwts.; total, 4,039 ozs.

West Rand Central Gold.—Crushed 2,550 tons, 562 ozs.; 2,100 tons by cyanide, 558 ozs.

Willoughby's Consolidated.—North Bonsor: Crushed, 2,248 tons, 533 ozs.; cyanide 1,367 tons, 342 ozs. Bonsor: Crushed 1,221 tons, 303 ozs.; cyanide 1,033 tons, 268 ozs. Queens: Crushed 2,363 tons, 433 ozs.

Windsor.—Crushed 5,035 tons, 790 ozs.; cyanide 3,776 tons, 724 ozs.; total yield, 1,514.

Witbank Colliery.—Output 31,630 tons.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Crushed 22,670 tons, 6,431 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 22,904 tons, 2,613 ozs.; total, 9,044 ozs.

Witwatersrand Gold.—Treated 28,000 tons, 9,194 ozs.

Wolhuter Gold.—8,900 tons, 3,863 ozs.

Worcester Exploration.—Output, 1,385 ozs.

Ymir Gold.—Crushed 1,580 tons of ore, 280 ozs.; 146 tons of concentrates shipped, value \$3,950; cyanide plant treated 1,140 tons of tailings, value \$935.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.

Callander and Oban Railway.—Glasgow, 3 p.m.

Caledonian Railway.—Glasgow, 1 p.m.

Caledonian Copper.—Winchester House, noon.

Glasgow and Renfrew District Railway.—Glasgow, 3 p.m.

Glasgow and South-Western Railway.—Glasgow, noon.

Great North of Scotland Railway.—Aberdeen, noon.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

Associated Portland Cement.—Winchester House, noon.

Bank of Africa.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.

Bolckow-Vaughan.—15, Philpot Lane, 2 p.m.

Glasgow District Subway Railway.—Glasgow, 12.15 p.m.

Peck Bros. and Winch.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11 a.m.

Royal Bank of Ireland.—Dublin, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.

Bank of England.—Bank, noon.

North British Railway.—Edinburgh, 12.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22.

Lambeth Waterworks.—Brixton Hill, 2 p.m.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Copiapo.—Interim at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30 last.

Wellington and Manawatu.—Interim of 3 per cent. for the half-year, payable 25th inst.

MINES.

Butters Salvador.—Interim of 1s. per share.

Crown Reef Gold.—110 per cent. (being at the rate of 220 per cent. per annum) for the half-year ending Sept. 30.

Kalgurli Gold.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share.

North Broken Hill.—First of 1s. 6d. per share, payable Oct. 19.

MISCELLANEOUS.

African City Properties Trust.—Interim on the ordinary shares of 9d. per share, being at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30, payable 26th inst.

Bombay Gas.—Interim of 3½ per cent. for the half-year ended June 30, or at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Chamberlain, King, and Jones.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and at the rate of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended July 31.

Chas. Baker and Co.—Interim for the half-year ended July 31 on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 10.

Colonial Bank.—3½ per cent. for the half-year ended June 30, 1905, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Glasgow and South African.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £1,001.

Glasgow District Subway.—At the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £1,405.

J. Mandleberg and Co.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 19.

Jones and Higgins.—Interim for the half-year ending Aug. 20 last at the usual rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Lanarkshire Steel.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, first issue, and at the rate of 7½ per cent. on the 1899 preference, the latter being the arrears of dividends for the year 1903 and the first half of 1904.

Lincolnshire Chronicle Newspaper.—6 per cent. for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £537.

National Bank of India.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with £25,000 to reserve and £61,510 carried forward.

Newton Heath Brewery.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Aug. 12.

Ocean Accident and Guarantee.—Interim at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, payable 30th inst.

Oswaldtwistle Collieries.—1s. 6d. on the £3 paid shares, and 2s. 6d. on the £5 paid, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Palace Theatre.—Final of 7 per cent., making 12 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £13,789.

Reynolds Brothers.—10 per cent., and a bonus of 10 per cent.

on both the ordinary and deferred shares, placing £8,000 to reserve and carrying forward £3,132.

T. R. Roberts.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 4.

United South Africa Association.—Final of 1s. 6d. per share for the year ended June 30.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and September 9, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 9, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 10, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	—	6,352,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	14,747,000	15,800,000
Excise	30,200,000	12,449,000	12,792,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	6,102,000	5,177,000
Stamps	8,000,000	3,449,000	3,095,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	520,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	4,975,000	5,348,000
Post Office	16,500,000	5,950,000	5,750,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,810,000	1,710,000
Crown Lands	470,000	170,000	170,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	674,573	608,422
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	592,070	626,337
*Revenue	142,454,000	51,318,643	51,596,759
Total, including balance		58,748,921	55,860,601
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	300,000	250,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903	—	—	230,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	410,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	8,955,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904	—	—	500,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency	—	—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (in, including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)	—	—	14,500,000
Total		68,753,921	81,824,591

*Revenue as above	142,454,000	51,318,643	51,596,759
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	58,629	65,155
Excise	5,291,000	1,438,851	1,431,073
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	1,924,839	1,975,242
Total	9,756,000	3,422,319	3,472,070
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	54,740,962	55,068,829

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 9, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payment from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 10, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	28,000,000	11,938,392	12,142,931
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	686,366	688,751
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	232,175	232,210
Supply Services	111,304,000	43,968,338	48,010,918
Expenditure	142,084,000	56,825,271	61,074,790
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	240,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	90,000	—
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	500,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	300,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903	—	1,663,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	900,000	1,700,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	105,000	81,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	188,977	—
Deficiency Advances repaid	—	—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—	—	3,450,000
Total		60,835,248	77,661,290
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	1905. Sept. 9. 7,084,768	1904. Sept. 10. 3,300,022	
Bank of Ireland	833,905	863,279	
Total		7,918,673	4,163,301
Total		68,753,921	81,824,591

Treasury, September 12, 1905.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended September 7, \$3,534.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 11, \$16,434, increase \$2,511; aggregate from January 1, \$561,168, increase \$125,115.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 12, Rs. 61,508, increase Rs. 6,649; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 3,51,149, increase Rs. 30,767.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 7, \$73,400, increase \$10,800; total from July 1, \$826,400, increase \$157,200.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 12, Rs. 21,953, increase Rs. 608; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,50,257, increase Rs. 11,904.

Mersina Tarsus and Adona Railway.—Traffic receipt for week ended August 26, £317, decrease £189.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 1st week of September, \$17,365, increase \$2,846; aggregate from January 1, \$544,123, decrease \$2,394.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 12, Rs. 9,338, increase Rs. 977; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 72,316, increase Rs. 891.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended August 21 amounted to \$76,780.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending September 9, £1,125, decrease £57; aggregate from July 1, £11,503, decrease £466.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending September 10, £901, decrease £89; aggregate from July 1, £10,537, decrease £1,269.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for June, £4,214, decrease £94.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending September 9, £356, decrease £39; aggregate from July 1, £2,864, decrease £576.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 8, £1,442, increase £533; aggregate from July 1, £14,161, increase £5,097.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 10, £34, increase £7; aggregate from July 1, £345, decrease £12.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 8, £5,116, decrease £179; aggregate from July 1, £54,135, decrease £700.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending September 1, £30,239, increase £2,218; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £931,107, increase £82,991; 446½ miles, against 420½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, £1,061, decrease £76; aggregate from July 2, £11,523, increase £433.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 10, £182, increase £2; aggregate from July 1, £1,896, decrease £28.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 8, £154, increase £26; aggregate from July 1, £1,524, increase £39.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 8, £5,278, increase £205; aggregate from July 1, £56,468, increase £7.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, £4,696, increase £190; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £174,958, increase £12,528.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 8, £274, decrease £10; aggregate from July 1, £2,816, decrease £169.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 7, £716.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, £1,333, decrease £206; aggregate from October 1, £29,684, decrease £2,610.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 2, £14,527, increase £819; aggregate from April 1, £338,145, increase £55,709. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, £22,696, decrease £668; aggregate from July 2, £244,063, decrease £3,653.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, £7,344, decrease £64; aggregate from July 1, £81,603, increase £949.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 8, £202, increase £1; aggregate from July 1, £2,031, increase £104.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, £13,783, increase £1,164; aggregate from January 1, £475,051, increase £31,003.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, £2,276, increase £263; aggregate from January 1, £79,468, increase £9,654.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, £306, increase £30; aggregate from January 1, £10,877, increase £1,398.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of August, £12,771, increase £838.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to July 31, \$89,398, increase \$18,093. Net earnings from July 1 to July 31, \$40,390, increase \$11,944.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending September 10, £3,928, increase £88; aggregate from January 1, £123,222, increase £5,349.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, \$42,345, decrease \$3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, Rs. 44,456, increase Rs. 6,705; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 4,26,210, increase Rs. 67,264.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of August, £5,235, increase £2,214. Total to August 31, £31,841, increase £6,066.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, \$435,104, increase \$49,336; aggregate from January 1, \$2,606,574, increase \$161,544. Net traffic receipts, \$248,051, increase \$39,961; aggregate from January 1, \$1,379,994, increase \$100,527.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.			Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr	Sept. 10	£ 1,941	—	122	10	21,635	—	218
Cambrian	" 10	8,556	—	175	10	90,296	—	6,170
Central London	" 9	5,673	—	208	10	56,616	—	1,446
City and South London	" 10	2,557	+	2	10	22,920	—	330
Furness	" 10	10,751	+	722	10	113,345	+	4,846
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 10	72,564	+	875	10	726,789	+	38,351
Great Eastern	" 10	116,100	—	2,500	10	1,213,600	—	28,600
Great Northern and City	" 9	1,445	+	286	10	14,285	+	4,053
Great Northern	" 9	121,800	—	6,750	+	1,224,588	—	22,087
Great Western	" 10	259,800	+	1,400	10	2,628,000	—	18,600
Hull and Barnsley	" 10	10,033	+	21	10	95,012	—	5,406
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 10	115,296	+	1,228	10	1,273,932	+	25,802
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 9	71,304	+	745	10	767,996	—	6,670
London & North Western	" 10	297,000	+	4,000	10	3,096,000	+	23,000
London & South Western	" 10	102,700	+	1,200	10	1,082,200	+	3,200
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 10	11,684	+	788	10	129,330	+	125
Metropolitan	" 10	16,969	+	15	10	169,348	—	277
Metropolitan District	" 10	6,356	—	261	10	63,216	—	3,119
Midland	" 9	235,727	+	4,727	10	2,308,834	+	45,003
North Eastern	" 9	192,292	+	2,640	10	1,969,940	+	3,182
North London	" 10	8,718	—	575	10	85,112	—	2,774
North Staffordshire	" 10	18,445	+	196	10	176,826	—	7
Rhymney	" 10	5,345	—	194	10	56,583	+	899
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 9	108,793	+	4,426	+	1,108,340	+	4,243
Taff Vale	" 10	17,703	—	717	10	177,328	—	5,724

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Sept. 10	88,903	—	680	■	547,155	—	5,106
Glasgow & South-Western	" 9	36,671	—	469	■	253,439	—	2,606
Great North of Scotland	" 9	11,336	—	44	6	66,381	—	2,232
Highland	" 10	12,197	—	410	■	82,491	—	2,241
North British	" 10	96,870	+	418	6	602,093	—	9,842

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Sept. 8	3,285	+	222	10	40,194	+	178
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 8	2,011	—	59	10	20,212	+	469
Great Northern	" 8	20,218	—	988	10	219,689	—	2,658
Midland Great Western	" 8	11,647	—	509	10	115,109	—	5,077

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The Investors' Review.

Russian Financial Necessities and Resources.

When in Petersburg lately we heard a tale of an English financial agent—his name was given to us but was unrecognised, and since our return we have been unable to identify the individual—full of Munichausenish talk, telling those he met in the Russian capital that bankers in London were ready, not to say eager, to subscribe a loan for Russia of any amount—up to £200,000,000, so far as we recollect. He professed to be the spokesman of a group of English bankers and financiers "from which every Jew was excluded," and to be in a position to enter into negotiations for the issue of a big loan forthwith, peace being assured. We could only utter a word of caution when we heard the story, not knowing what fantasy might have taken hold of moneyed men here. Still we expressed doubts about the authenticity of the non-Jewish combination, and while admitting that there might be less hostility towards Russia in London financial circles than at former periods, felt certain that no loan of the magnitude sketched out by this man of exuberant imagination could be placed on our market.

The incident is interesting mainly because it revealed to us as a casual and transitory observer the desire in Russian minds to get access to the London market, and pointed to the pressing necessities of the Treasury. Loans large and frequent must be raised by the empire of the Tsar if it is to surmount the financial troubles the war with Japan has undoubtedly created, although they have not yet come to the surface. Superficially, indeed, Russian budgets persist in being made to look remarkably strong. We have before us the latest volume of that valuable and excellent bird's-eye view of the finances of the world's leading states issued every year by Mr. Arthur Raffalovich, *Le Marché Financier* for 1904-5, and turned at once to the essay therein on Russia, knowing that we should find an exposition at once authoritative and lucid of all that the Russian bureaucracy chooses to make public about the empire's finances. And the tale Mr. Raffalovich sets forth is not only consistent, but encouraging to an astonishing extent. The war does not appear to have hurt Russian development to any serious degree. During its progress it only involved the issue of loans to an aggregate of £94,000,000—exclusive we presume of the abortive attempt to issue bonds for 200,000,000 roubles made just before we reached the capital. The revenue has not been seriously interfered with, and confident anticipations are indulged in by the Minister of Finance that the yield this year will be good in spite of the war, thanks to the generally excellent harvest of the past year. Some parts of the country then suffered from short crops, and famine was not absent from the drought-stricken districts last winter; but, as a whole, Russia had unusually good fortune, and the result of bumper crops in many parts of the country was an elasticity in the revenue which served to disguise for the moment the ravages of the war. Nevertheless, the writer of the essay in *Le Marché Financier* admits that "future budgets will feel the repercussion of the war with Japan. They will be budgets of

liquidation, and also of a renewed consolidation of the economic forces and the finances of the country."

That is to say, Russia must now enter upon a period of more or less arduous and incessant borrowing. Her development in recent years has been to no small extent the product of free borrowing, and a comparative return of the debt, given on page 525 of the volume before us, reveals the fact that its aggregate increased between January 1, 1889, and the same date in 1904 by no less than 1,660 million roubles, or, say, £170,000,000. That is the State side of the tale, but during the same time private capital in tens and hundreds of millions has been poured into the country by France, by Belgium, by Germany, and even by the United Kingdom. We in England are reminded of this fact by the disasters which have overtaken the Caucasian oil industry, disasters wholly the product of bad government, and although the people of this country no longer hold many Russian Government bonds, investors are still solidly interested in many of the Russian railway issues, as well as in the country's nascent industries. What the aggregate amount of foreign capital absorbed by Russia may be between the two dates above given we cannot say, but it must be at a very low estimate twice the amount of the increase in the imperial debt. Thanks, however, to this constant appeal to the foreign capitalist Russia has been able year after year to proceed with the expansion of her railway system, to indulge in all the extravagances incident to her brief occupation of Manchuria, to create new industries whose prosperity is dependent on State orders, and the consequence was that when the war broke out there was one branch of the national expenditure which it was possible at once to curtail, viz., the construction of further railway lines. In the completed accounts for 1903, 145,195,000 roubles were shown to have been devoted to railway building, but in the budget for 1905 the assignment is brought down to rather less than 61,000,000 roubles. It was lowered by 20,000,000 roubles in 1904, in spite of the urgent demands of the Siberian Railway and other lines along which reinforcements had to be sent to the front for additional accommodation. Various other economies were also effected in the ordinary expenditure, and it is triumphantly pointed out that in consequence of these the ordinary budget for 1904 ended with a surplus of upwards of 107,000,000 roubles, the revenue having risen to 2,017,500,000 roubles against a prevision of only 1,980,000,000 roubles, at the same time that the expenditure was reduced by 60,000,000 roubles to 1,906,400,000 roubles. It would thus appear that the war had stimulated consumption in certain directions. People seem to have drunk more, and to have been able to pay their additional taxes without visible inconvenience.

Probably, however, Russia will go through the same experience which has been undergone by the United Kingdom, and the aftermath of the war is only too likely to be prolonged stagnation, if not recoil. Even as it is some branches of taxation showed a disposition to contract in the past year. Direct taxes, for instance, gave 349,000 roubles less than in 1903, and the indirect taxes nearly 21,000,000 roubles less. There was likewise a decline of over 3,000,000 roubles in the various stamp duties, but posts and telegraphs and the drink monopoly gave increases, which after deducting the decline in mining royalties and in the profits of the Mint aggregated nearly 8,000,000 roubles. State demesnes also yielded rather more, but there was a decline of 7,166,000 roubles comparing the yields of 1904 and 1903 in the payments made by the ex-serfs to redeem the land allotted to them in community. Nevertheless the result of the budget was as stated, and as the war burden has not yet been fully imposed, the superficial aspect of Russian finance is much better than might have been expected.

Russia's losses in war material, however, have not been included in any category of the budget. She has no longer a fleet worth counting; her stocks of murder stuff both for sea and land use must have been de-

pleted to an extent quite unparalleled in modern history. All this loss and waste will have to be made good over a course of years, and the country has therefore before it a prolonged time of suffering, of stunted growth and embroiling poverty. In all the writings about Russian finance found in semi-official publications like that before us little or nothing is ever said about the condition of the mass of the Russian people. The whole future of Russia, however, turns upon that. If the bulk of the population is held in a condition of slavery by the exactions of the State, no institution, not even the deep-rooted and ecclesiastically-buttressed autocracy can continue to exist, and everything about the masses of the people indicates extreme poverty. We did not see a well-clad or well-fed-looking labourer in Petersburg all the time that we wandered round its streets and quays. In the surrounding country the villages are composed of scattered wooden hovels of the type of Irish cabins, and owing to the system under which the land is held, the tillage appeared everywhere to be of the rudest description. Great stretches of flat land lay quite undrained, often waterlogged after rain, bearing scanty crops of grass and still scantier crops of cereals. To exact from a population, nine hundred out of every thousand of which at a moderate estimate must be classed amongst the resourceless poor, a revenue of upwards of £200,000,000 per annum is to fix the doom of irretrievable poverty upon it, and that is what the budget makers of the empire have done and must continue to do. Every year the load of the debt alone grows heavier, and will soon exceed that imposed by the debt of France upon the immeasurably richer inhabitants of that republic. Before the war the debt was continually growing, and although its incidence was partially disguised by being wrapped up in railway annuities and other indirect sources of income, it was none the less a grievous load upon the heterogeneous races embraced within the empire. In 1889 the total charge of the debt was 275,800,000 roubles, and in 1903 288,700,000 roubles. The total is now considerably over 300,000,000 roubles, with the charges of the impending loans to be added on. Russia, in other words, will be found, we compute, to have lost directly at least £500,000,000 as a consequence of her wantonly provoked struggle with Japan, and indirectly probably more than twice as much. It is more than her people can endure, and the unrest the hunger produces must become more and more revolutionary.

Some time ago there was quite a little newspaper excitement in this country over the position of the stock of gold in the Imperial Treasury and Imperial Bank. Doubts were thrown upon the genuineness of the totals made public by the Minister of Finance, and by the Imperial Bank in its periodical returns. The gold was inspected and the bags photographed, and that made a sceptical world jeer all the more. There is, however, no reason at all to doubt that the gold was there as stated, for the prudent men who control Russian financial arrangements took care to issue a loan so as to protect the stock from depletion. The consequence is that at the end of 1904 there was an increase of 77,300,000 roubles in the stock held compared with the end of the previous year. Within the same time the paper money went up only 270,000,000 roubles, and the aggregate in circulation, or in existence, including the portion held in the Treasury and by the Imperial Bank, was still far less than the aggregate amount of the gold held or circulating. Money was borrowed abroad at 5 per cent. or more in order to pile up the stock of metal, and the issue of paper money would seem to have been kept down mainly by the postponement of payments in Manchuria, or perhaps by financial arrangements entered into between the Government and the Russo-Chinese Bank. Experience warns us to entertain feelings of scepticism about the genuineness of the figures relating to the paper money. Its total in 1896 was 1,121,300,000 roubles, and at the end of 1904 it was only 900,000,000 roubles. The actual paper in circulation, according to

a table in the essay before us, was 981,600,000 roubles at the first date and only 827,900,000 roubles at the last. This smaller figure, to be sure, was, as stated, 270,000,000 roubles more than the aggregates for each of the years 1899 to 1903 inclusive, but that a mere £27,000,000 more represents the strain put upon the fiduciary money of the Russian empire by the expenses of that giant struggle in Manchuria is, humanly speaking, impossible. If so little extra paper has been needed, why has the Government been obliged to issue three-rouble notes—a note for about 6s. 4d.? We expect to see revelations in connection with the paper money, unpleasant surprises which the device of borrowing gold abroad at more than 5 per cent. interest may not be sufficient to neutralise. The writer of the essay before us, or the Government he speaks for, boasts rather of the excellent results of the expedient. Thanks, he says, to the loan created in virtue of the Imperial ukase of April 29, 1904, our stock of gold, which was only 1,058,000,000 roubles at the end of 1903, rose to 1,237,000,000 roubles by July 1, 1904, and at the end of December last amounted to 1,239,000,000 roubles. It is noticeable, however, that the actual gold in circulation fell off seriously between the end of 1903 and the end of 1904. At the earlier date the total gold in active circulation was returned at 787,000,000 roubles, and it was only 683,300,000 roubles at the end of last year. We shall expect this displacement of gold by paper to continue until it not improbably becomes the source of one more acute economic crisis within the empire, much of whose prosperity at the best of times was of the heated conservatory order.

American Life Office Management Disclosures.

Good work is being done by the investigating committee of the Senate of New York State in exposing the remarkable performances of the autocracy of life insurance business in the United States. The further the Senators probe into the habits of the hitherto irresponsible managers of these offices the more one is disposed to marvel at the apathy of policy-holders. Their indifference is so astounding that we can hardly get up any feeling of sympathy for them, much though they may be destined to suffer ere all ends. One of the most suggestive aspects of the business revealed in the examination as reported by various papers, and very fully by the *New York Herald* of September 7, is the free and easy manner in which the elections of officials are carried out. Every policy-holder, as we have been told by these officials again and again, has a right to vote for the appointment of executive officers, but they never do, or hardly ever. Mr. Granniss, of the Mutual Life Office of the United States, explained the routine character of these mock elections. He himself and Mr. McCurdy, the president of the said renowned life "insurance" fortune-distilling machine—fortunes for the favoured officials—held something like 20,000 proxies of policy-holders but never have had occasion to use many of them, most of their voting being done in person, by a few clerks and "dummies." The Mutual Office, he said, has about 650,000 policy-holders, of whom between 450,000 and 500,000 "are entitled to vote," but the bulk of them never take the trouble even to sign a proxy, and of those who do scarcely one in a thousand would ever dream of concerning himself about what is done with the power he has assigned. No wonder then that the managers of these institutions consider themselves irresponsible autocrats, or that they should raise their salaries and dispose of the funds collected from their victims and dupes with a fine royal freedom quite without parallel in the insurance world here. In 1896, Mr. John A. McCall's salary as president of the New York Life was raised from \$50,000 to \$75,000, and in 1901 to \$100,000, or more than £20,000 per annum. His son, now 31 years of age, has also done very well in the company. Coming into the business in 1899 with a starting salary

of \$2,500, he five years later was appointed full secretary at a salary of \$14,000, which he still enjoys while waiting for more. G. W. Perkins, a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan and Co. draws \$25,000 as chairman or controller of the finance committee, and is awfully modest.

More even than the salary grabbing, which really has been magnificent—as is illustrated by the story of President McCall and his associates, are the instructive details given about the trafficking of these irresponsible gentlemen handling millions of trust money on the Stock Exchange. The New York Life Office participated to the extent of \$5,000,000 in the syndicate formed to float the bonds of the Atlantic Coast line, J. P. Morgan and Co. being the syndicate managers. It was also deep in the International Mercantile Marine syndicate, or the bubble Morgan Shipping Combine, as we would call it, in which it invested \$3,200,000 as a member of the syndicate. Nor were the managers content with merely subscribing, they played on the market with a view to facilitate the sale of securities held. Mr. Claflin, head of the dry goods house bearing that name in New York and a director of the New York Life Office, said that it paid \$1,184,666 to J. P. Morgan and Co. for bonds worth \$2,000,000, and then purchased through Harvey, Fisk, and Sons, managers of another syndicate, \$1,000,000 worth of bonds in the market, in order to start the sale to the public, the second syndicate being created for this purpose. Mr. Claflin was unable to recollect whether the members of the Morgan Shipping Combine syndicate were to receive a bonus of \$2,500,000 in preferred stock and of \$25,000,000 in common stock, but another member of the New York Life Office finance committee, Mr. Woodbury Langdon, admitted that little windfalls of this kind were often received though never taken into the accounts, it being a principle proclaimed the world over that the New York Life Office does not hold mere stocks or shares. It may, however, take them in as security for a deal of the description indicated, and the members of the Finance Committee can themselves join in the play, presumably utilising the funds of the offices to help them to net their profits. Mr. Langdon admitted that he had taken part in the syndicate formed to sell the bonds of the Morgan Shipping Combine—thought he had subscribed \$75,000, but could not quite recollect. He also said that the Life Office or company had handled about \$1,000,000 worth of Union Pacific and other shares received as bonuses but never taken into the accounts—dealt with them outside the business, in fact, and distributed the profits. How were they distributed? It really might be worth while for policy-holders in this country to find out, to interest themselves a little in what is going on over in the United States. Public opinion seems to be unquestionably waking up there to an extent pleasant to behold, for we see that Mr. Chauncey Depew has felt inspired to make good the loss incurred by the Equitable Life Company through investments in an affair humorously described as the "Depew Improvement Company," he being at the time of the investment one of the inner ring of Equitable geniuses who participated in the swag to the extent of between \$25,000 and \$30,000 per annum. He has now, however, turned over \$293,851 in settlement of all claims, rather than face an action at law, the uncharitable New York papers allege. Here no single policy-holder seems to care a rap what happens. We offered to become the medium for putting them in communication with those who are honestly endeavouring to right matters in America, and never a policy-holder came forward to say that he would like an introduction.

In the United States some effort is being made to bring the irresponsible controllers of these offices to book. Apart from the enlightening work of the various investigation agencies, a suit has been commenced against the Equitable Society in the Circuit Court of the United States for the southern district of New York in the name of Mr. James Willcox Brown, citizen of the State of Maryland. The object of this suit is to establish the

right of the policy-holders to the surplus shown in the society's accounts, and should it be successful, several important consequences are likely to ensue, the petitioner seeking to abolish the privileges of the tiny share capital. No policy-holder is asked to bear any expense in joining the complainants to further this action, and we understand that an eminently respectable firm of solicitors in Lincoln's Inn is prepared to act as intermediary should policy-holders here wish to join the movement, but we have not much expectation that they will do so. Scarcely a day passes, however, without bringing to light further more or less disgusting exhibitions of turpitude on the part of those who have been in unchecked control of these American insurance offices from their inception to the present hour. In regard to the Equitable, for instance, its new president, Mr. Morton, says in a report he has made, that the society has paid away large sums to the Mercantile Trust Company aggregating £143,652 in one instance, and, as we gather, £137,000 in another, no explanation of these payments being obtainable. His report, a telegraphic summary quoted in the *Manchester Guardian* says, shows the necessity of writing off the sum of \$86,480,000, or £17,928,000, the unpaid balance of a loan made upon valueless collateral security to Mr. Searles, a former sugar magnate, who has since been declared bankrupt. Surely there is at least one cipher too many in that total. It cannot be that such a monstrous amount of policy-holders' money has disappeared leaving no trace whatever in the company's books. Among other revelations are the payments to legislative bodies, and these Mr. John A. McCall, the president of the *New York Life*, boldly defends. The money seems to have been regarded as a kind of blackmail which it was necessary to pay to prevent corrupt law-makers from raiding insurance interests. Good, we trust, will come out of these exposures in time, but for the present the outlook is anything but reassuring.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE STATE OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

Such statistics relating to the employment of the working classes as the Labour Department of the Board of Trade is able to collect, and which it summarises from time to time in the *Board of Trade Labour Gazette*, do not emphasise the unemployed trouble. In the figures for August nothing more is shown than a slight falling off as compared with July, which is almost always to be found at this time of year. Individual trades, however, are not showing any aggravated symptoms of distress. According to the returns made by 270 trade unions with an aggregate membership of 578,444, the proportion of unemployed during August was only 5.4 per cent., or 1 per cent. less than the proportion at the end of August, 1904. Business continued bad in the building trade, but was rather better than in July though slightly worse than in August, 1904. In coal mining the state of affairs was practically the same last August as in the previous one, but faint improvement was visible in iron mining, and in the iron and steel manufactures the improvement was 9.7 per cent. upon the figures of last year for the same period, and 1.8 per cent. better than at the end of July. The engineering trade was stagnant, but nowhere do the figures indicate marked increase in the number of those out of work. In the woollen trades, for instance, although there was a slight falling off in the amount of wages paid comparing August with the end of July, there was an increase of 7.2 per cent. comparing it with the corresponding week a year ago, and in the cotton trade business continued excellent. Returns from firms employing 126,268 workpeople in the last full week in August showed an increase of 2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in July, and of 12.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. No textile industry, indeed, was in

a bad way, and although the tailoring trade, the hat trade, and boot and shoe trades were all stagnant the decline was seldom material. Whence then do we get our unemployed? In the ranks of casual labour, in the drifting masses who never have regular and assured employment, in the economising of the staffs of merchants, stockbrokers, and other offices. The regular solid industries of the country are not in a worse position than they were this time last year.

LAND ADVANCES IN VICTORIA.

From the recently issued report of the Savings Bank Commissioners of Victoria we gather some rather interesting particulars of the system, now tested by eight years' experience, of helping forward the development of the land by means of advances to farmers. Wisely and carefully administered—and it seems to be that—we regard the scheme as one of considerable promise, it being unquestionably an encouraging sign that of the total sum advanced during the period mentioned, £1,749,409, an amount of £408,858 has been repaid, leaving the principal now outstanding at £1,340,550. The money must have been put to good uses to allow of such important repayments, which will probably continue at an accelerated speed now that the agricultural and pastoral outlook has so greatly improved. Should that happen the scope of the operations might be considerably extended without involving any large additional amounts of capital, because what one farmer repays can be lent to another. In some cases the loans have been liquidated to their full extent, borrowers having the option of paying off on any stipulated payday, while in the event of a borrower desiring to refund a portion of his loan in addition to the half-yearly instalments, the extra money is placed to a separate account bearing 3½ per cent. interest until a sufficient sum has accumulated to release the property, surely a generous arrangement. In the year to June 30, 1904, the amount advanced was £159,925 and the repayments came to £88,945, leaving the total number of loans at 3,074 of an average amount of £436. Naturally enough all the advances are made with a definite purpose, either to pay off liabilities, to pay Crown rents, or to improve and develop the land. Most of the money was required to liquidate existing debts, and must often have proved beneficial in tiding borrowers over temporary difficulties which might have proved too great a strain had they to depend upon private usurers or even the ordinary loan companies. Not but what the last-named have often performed useful work—too useful, frequently, from their own standpoint, for many of the advances made will never come before the vision again. In the payment of Crown rents £70,083 has been utilised, and £121,174 went in the improvement and development of land. During the year covered by the report the number of repayments by farmers which became due was 6,037, representing interest to the amount of £57,607 and £24,848 intended for the reduction of principal, and it is pleasant to hear that only nine farmers were in arrear with payments, the total involved being the trifle of £218. Happily the business does not mean a strain on the colony's finances, but on the contrary, the nett profit on operations for the twelve months being £7,810, while the indirect benefit to the community must be very great.

The amount of money left in the Savings Bank is also an indication, we hope, that progress is being made, the total of depositors' balances at the end of the 1904 financial year reaching £10,582,808, an advance on the twelve months of £240,951. Number of accounts was 432,867, an increase of 14,356, with an average balance of £24 8s. 11d., and we find that during the year 903,716 deposits were made, working out at £7 9s. 4d. each, against 787,293 withdrawals of an average amount of £8 12s. Interest on a graduated scale is paid on deposits up to £250, the rates current in the period under review being 3 per cent. on sums up to £100, and 2½ per cent. on amounts in excess of this and up to £250.

MR. GARTHWAITE'S REPORT.

It has been published at last! But not before the shares have been well rigged, and the insiders have made their "bit" at the expense of the outside "mugs." Before the rig was started, and during the fortnight it was sustained, it was impossible to gain any idea of the nature and contents of this report, although it is dated August 12. There is no reason why a cabled summary of it could not be sent from Rhodesia just as cabled news of "strikes" is, so that the shareholders and public alike could have known as much as the market manipulators. There is more than a strong suspicion that its unfavourable character was known to the insiders weeks ago, hence the haste to create the boomlet, with the help of cables and Mr. Griffiths' hoary report, before the moment arrived when an outcry would compel the officials to publish it. Why was Mr. Griffiths' optimistic report republished, after having served its purpose several months previously? For whose palate was it redished up? What was the secret of so extraordinary an action? And why did insiders make such prodigious efforts to hint that Mr. Garthwaite's report was favourable? Again, how is it prices fell with a crash and the "boom" collapsed, gorgeous cables notwithstanding, two or three days prior to the publication of the report of the Chartered Company's engineer? Seeing that the publication could be no longer delayed, did the insiders hasten to take their profits ere the collapse? Does it not look like it, reader? The plea is put forward that the delay in issuing it is due to the fact that two interests are involved—that of the Chartered Company and that of the Banket Company. The report was written for the Chartered Company, it is true, but if the directors could not publish it without first obtaining the permission of the Banket Company, why has such ingenious and clever use been made of it indirectly to help the boomlet? We shall never know, of course, but it needs no 'cute intelligence to guess at motives.

The complete report was published later in the week. Mr. Garthwaite expresses the opinion that the ore body is "banket," but his report proves conclusively enough that the prospects of any company working it are speculative in the extreme, the values of the ore being very erratic. "On examining the assay results from the surface winzes and first level it will be seen," he says, "that they show tremendous variations, jumping from 1 dwt. into the hundreds in a very few feet. This is accounted for by the fact that the visible gold occurs in thin seams, and sometimes these seams are found on the footwall, and then suddenly they will jump to the hanging-wall. There is no guide to go by, and on this account it frequently happens that the winze or drive will be going along on a pay shoot, and then the shoot will disappear in the hanging or footwall." There is no need whatever to follow the expert in the various technical details of his report; his conclusions are quite enough for the ordinary man, and are perfectly comprehensible even to the most ignorant. Here they are:—

Considering the limited amount of work done on the mine, the results so far obtained are most satisfactory, and 32,000 tons of 16-dwt. rock must be regarded as a splendid start for the property. At the same time, giving due weight to all the features in connection with the property, I can see no good and just reason for the highly optimistic report that was recently published, and I also consider that an unduly high value has been placed on this and the other properties belonging to the company. The conditions on the second level, with the more regular occurrence of the gold, the less altered condition of the rock, and the more uniform values, are a distinct improvement on the first level; still, with the erratic occurrence of the gold, with the comparatively short length of chute as shown on the first level, and with the extremely fluctuating values of the ore in different parts of the mine, I can only call the mine a promising prospect. As far as the properties to the west of the Eldorado are concerned, the amount of old workings is such as to give considerable hope for the future, in view of the results obtained at the Eldorado; but the only claims that are being worked at present are the Rowdy Boys, on which there are three shafts; but none of these have given any decisive results yet; so that the Eldorado results are the only ones which give any real encouragement. It is, therefore, too soon to draw any conclusions from the banket formation in general.

The highly optimistic report recently published, to which Mr. Garthwaite refers in so contemptuous a way, is, of course, the report of Mr. Griffiths, who in future must be regarded as the "unsafe" man as distinguished from another celebrated Griffiths of "safety" fame. "But," cry the directors of the Banket Company, "the recent discovery on the 'Rowdy Boys' claim, a mile and a-quarter to the west of the Eldorado was made subsequent to Mr. Garthwaite's report." Was it, indeed? A cable announcing this wonderful discovery was published last Tuesday week, and ran as follows:—"Visible gold struck at 120 ft. depth; point about one mile two furlongs from Eldorado on banket formation; same strike of the reef and similar to (reef)." On the following day a second cable gave the value of this find by fire assay as 2 ozs. 16 dwts. fine gold across 48 inches. But in what way does such a discovery modify or influence Mr. Garthwaite's conclusions? He says in the simplest language possible that assay results show tremendous fluctuations, because the visible gold occurs in these seams. So they may have tumbled on a small pocket on the Rowdy Boys claims, which may contain a very limited supply of rich gold. In fact, similar pockets have been found on the Eldorado itself. If it were other than a pocket Mr. Garthwaite would have seen some indication of a permanent reef in the three shafts on the Rowdy Boys claims to which he refers, but he says that these shafts have given no decisive results. In the light of the later cable the word "decisive" has considerable meaning and significance. He adds that the economic conditions are very favourable in many respects; the country in the vicinity of the mine is well wooded and watered. Mine timber and fuel can be obtained at very reasonable rates, firewood costing about 10s. per cord, while fine mining timber can be obtained for 20s. to 30s. per stick. Should it be subsequently found possible to work the property profitably no one will be better pleased than ourselves, wonderful as it would be for such a mine to be found in Rhodesia. But this can be ascertained only after a very long course of development work. Why cannot this work be undertaken first before manipulating a boom and rigging the shares? The answer is, because the insiders wish to make their fortunes otherwise than out of the results of legitimate mining.

THE LE ROI DISPUTE.

Last week we commented upon the dispute on the board of the Le Roi company, consequent, it seems, upon a difference of opinion amongst the members as to the adoption of a policy of amalgamation. As to the details of this policy shareholders in this country are still in the dark, the directors having intimated that before it is submitted to them it is first of all to be considered at meetings of the Canadian companies. From various sources, however, a little light comes, which is welcome even though it may help to confuse the situation and to embarrass the minds of the shareholders. Rumour states that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is one of the principal instigators of the scheme. Interests in alliance with this railway own a smelter at Trail, which is about a dozen miles from Rossland, whilst the Le Roi smelter at Northport is also about that distance from the same place. The War Eagle and the Centre Star companies likewise own a concentrator alongside the Trail smelter, and therefore it is proposed that these concerns should be amalgamated with the Le Roi. Mr. McMillan, the managing director, has been ousted from the board by Sir Henry Tyler and his colleagues, presumably because he opposes such amalgamation. At any rate, he has himself stated this to be the sole cause of the dispute. Seeing that Mr. McMillan has been on the spot for very many months, he ought to be able to judge of the probable worth of the Trail smelter to the Le Roi company, and to his opinion great weight should be attached. It does not follow that because the majority of the directors are in favour of the amalgamation the greatest wisdom in this particular case lies

amongst the greatest number. For they may have been bewitched by the fascinating Canadian Pacific people. If these are supporting the scheme with great energy and ardour, it is to be presumed that their sole object is not to benefit exclusively the shareholders of the Le Roi company. Furthermore, shareholders, in their own interests, should look closely into the careers of the War Eagle and the Centre Star companies, and if they do they will not be greatly impressed with what these have done in the past. Hence the advantages of amalgamating with such concerns do not look attractive and promising. A difference of opinion on a question of such supreme importance to the company and the shareholders hardly seems a justification for the high-handed action of the directors in summarily ejecting a colleague who in the past had admittedly helped the company out of many difficulties. The following paragraph is quoted from a letter written by a mining man in Victoria, British Columbia, and published in the *Financial News*:—"The dominant factor of the situation would appear to be the keen apprehension and concern of the Canadian Pacific Railway with regard to their Trail smelter, and in order to assure the supply and hauling of the ores from the War Eagle and Centre Star mines at Rossland and elsewhere it became desirable to purchase controlling interests lately thrown on the market through the death of the owner. It would seem that strenuous and by no means disinterested efforts are now being made to induce the Le Roi to enter a combination which would take the control from London and give it to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and enable them to divert the ore from the Le Roi mine and smelter to the smelter at Trail, and at the same time obtain for the Canadian Pacific Railway the remunerative charges incident to the carriage of the ores, matte products, supplies. . . . Western mining men regard the present amalgamation proposals simply as a 'job' being put up on Le Roi shareholders, and refuse to think that the usual solid good sense of the British public will be imposed upon by plausible schemes and glowing prospects which may never mature. This is especially so at this juncture when the mine, under efficient management, is emerging from its troubled career, and is right in sight of dividends." There seems to be a very harassing time before the unfortunate and oft-troubled shareholders in the late Mr. Whitaker Wright's most brilliant creation.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

The West Indian postal subsidy is going to cause the Colonial Office no end of trouble unless Mr. Lyttelton and some of the permanent officials knock their heads together and endeavour to find a way out of the present deadlock. Since the contract with the Royal Mail Company lapsed on June 30 that company has, we believe, done its utmost to serve the interests of the West Indian colonies, but without a regular and properly defined agreement there is a feeling of uncertainty and suspense which is finding expression in indignant protests against the bungling of the home authorities in dealing with such an important question. Not only that, but some of the colonies are taking independent action in the matter, at serious loss to themselves, and according to a correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, there is promise of a sharp encounter between these dependencies and the Colonial Office. Ignoring apparently a despatch from Mr. Lyttelton to the effect "that it is undesirable for the colonial Governments at the present juncture to make any arrangements which can be construed into a contract or agreement with the company" (the Royal Mail), the Trinidad Government seems very disposed to entertain a proposal from the shipping people that, in consideration of Port of Spain being made the place of transfer for the Royal Mail steamers, and the free conveyance of the homeward mails, the island should pay an annual subsidy of £15,000. That is an increase of £5,400 compared with the sum previously contributed, and British Guiana feels so strongly the

need for a regular service that at the last meeting of the Legislature it was resolved that "as it will undoubtedly hamper trade and be otherwise inconvenient for this colony to be without some regular and fixed means of communication, the Government is prepared to consider any reasonable proposal from any company for the conveyance of the mails." A fortnightly inter-colonial service from Trinidad to Demerara has been offered by the Royal Mail for £7,500, an increase on the amount previously paid of no less than £4,200. Surely nothing could more forcibly emphasise the need for prompt and decisive action, because the West Indian colonies have not been favoured with many smiles from fortune, and increased payments such as mentioned mean a tremendous burden to them. As the *Pall Mall* correspondent sagely remarks, "the abolition of the sugar bounties has not ushered in for either dependency a Utopian era, and the hand of commercial depression has not yet been removed." But the Yankee fruit monopolists are, we believe, making money.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

This powerful Eastern bank found the half-year to June 30 last a period of great prosperity, and now that a new era of peace has begun in the Far East, the opportunities for extension of business should be almost boundless. In the development of the vast, rich, fertile territory of Manchuria which the Japanese have nominally restored to its rightful owner there should be great scope for legitimate banking enterprise, and no institution is in a better position to take advantage of favourable openings than this one. The recent rise in the price of the bank's shares, as also in those of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, is an excellent indication of the great power, profitable to themselves, which these corporations are expected to wield, and doubtless we shall hear a lot less of the operations of the Russo-Chinese bank than we used to do. The Chartered Bank has bitter recollections of the way it was turned out of Port Arthur on the Russians taking possession, and probably in due time we shall find branches of both this bank and the Hongkong and Shanghai installed there once more, now that the stronghold has fallen into the hands of enlightened people. After making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due, the Hongkong and Shanghai earned a nett profit of \$2,217,653 in the six months to June 30 or \$114,645 more than in the corresponding period of 1904, and the balance brought forward was up \$76,043 to \$1,493,409, so that the entire disposable credit is \$3,711,062 compared with \$3,520,375. Remuneration of directors requires the modest sum of \$15,000, leaving \$3,696,062, from which a dividend has been declared of £1 15s. per share or 5s. per share more, absorbing \$622,222 at the usual exchange of 4s. 6d. The difference between this and the exchange of the day, viz., 1s. 10½d., makes away with a further amount of \$871,111, and another contribution of \$500,000 is made to the silver reserve fund, but instead of a transfer of \$200,000 to the bank premises account such as was made last year, the carry forward is raised from \$1,492,554 to \$1,702,729. The silver reserve will now be \$8,500,000, which is in addition to the sterling reserve of \$10,000,000, itself equal to the paid up capital. There is also a marine insurance account of \$250,000. Notes in circulation show an increase of about \$1,100,000 to \$15,993,312, and while the current accounts in silver are very little altered at \$76,300,659, those in gold have risen by the great sum of £4,106,134 to £6,045,747, or from \$21,851,473 to \$64,849,014, due perhaps to the holding of Japanese loan money. Fixed deposits in silver appear at \$50,985,469 against \$46,382,951, and the gold deposits at £5,267,426 compared with £4,878,546—in currency \$56,502,385 against \$55,045,256. Bills payable are more than \$2,000,000 higher at \$17,358,366, and the credit to profit and loss completes the balance-sheet total of \$313,950,366. At the corresponding date in 1904 the aggregate was \$259,995,106. With the excep-

tion, of course, of the sterling reserve fund investments, in Consols, War Loan, and other sterling securities, of £1,000,000 or \$10,000,000, and the bank premises account which shows the excellent reduction of \$359,294 at \$1,038,489, all the entries on the credit side of the account are larger. What may be called the ordinary channels for banking resources, such as bills discounted, loans and credits and bills receivable, show the principal increases, being up \$17,068,118 and \$27,053,234 to \$104,214,416 and \$126,906,177 respectively, the rise in the liquid assets being naturally smaller. Cash \$44,223,818 compares with \$42,338,044, \$2,500,000 more at \$8,500,000, is lodged with the Hongkong Government against additional note circulation, and the bullion in hand and in transit has gone up \$605,155 to \$5,112,864. Indian Government rupee paper shows an increase of \$339,134 at \$2,370,002, and Consols, colonial, and other securities stand at \$11,576,537, or an advance of \$4,863,140. An exhibit of great strength, however measured.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: JUMPERS DEEP.

The Jumpers Deep is one of the principal subsidiaries of the Rand Mines Company, and has been in existence since 1894. Up to the present its achievements have been nothing to speak of, nor do we think they are destined ever to be brilliant. Crushing commenced in March, 1898, and had to be suspended in September of the following year, to be resumed in February, 1902. Only two dividends have been paid, the first at the rate of 20 per cent. in 1899, and the second not until 1904, when the distribution was 12½ per cent. The property is equipped with a battery of 100 stamps, but this is likely to be enlarged in the near future to 200 stamps. In 1904 the complete mill was in operation, and crushed 185,143 tons. The gold produced from this realised £294,391, and as the total working expenditure was £213,137, the gross profit was £81,254. As much as £85,405 was brought into the accounts, and interest gave £1,146, yet the dividend was only 12½ per cent., called an interim distribution. But, then, the capital is well over half a million. As on this basis the yield at the present price of the shares is about 3½ per cent., that price is far too high. It is expected, of course, that future distributions will be larger than these, but on the profit earned in the past financial year we do not see how they can be larger, anyway they are hardly likely to exceed 15 per cent. with 100 stamps. For the profit earned, owing chiefly to a reduction in the costs, was over 5d. per ton higher than in the previous year, and there is not much likelihood of a further appreciable saving in the working expenses. But 20 per cent. was paid in 1899? That was out of the results of the working of two exceptional years, when richer ore was treated, the revenue averaging over 43s. per ton and the profit over 12s. per ton, whereas last year the revenue was 31s. 10d. per ton and the profit as low as 8s. 9d. per ton, a great difference. Unless the quality of the ore greatly improves, of which there is little or no probability, profits cannot reach the pre-war standard. We must also take into consideration that last year the greater part of the ore crushed came from the best reef—the South Reef—but there are two other reefs in the mine, viz., the Main Reef Leader and the Main Reef itself. Part of the leader has hitherto been extracted and milled, but the Main Reef has been too poor to work. In the future, however, larger portions of these may be mixed with the South Reef, which should reduce the average quality of the ore. With two hundred stamps the life of the mine is estimated at about 18 years from the present moment, but the extra stamps cannot start working for a long time to come. Let us be very generous, however, and assume that the larger battery will earn dividends of from 25 to 30 per cent. Taking the price of the share at, say, £3½, we will put the yield at 8 per cent., a yield for which the shareholder must wait for another two or three years. Eight per cent. in 18 years means an aggregate return of £144, leaving £44 to be spread over 18 years as

profit, or nearly 2½ per cent. To redeem the principal a little over £4 per cent. would have to be invested annually at 3 per cent. compound interest, which would make the net yield less than 4 per cent., including all the risks and chances to be faced. At the end of the last financial year, September 30, the ore reserves were estimated at 587,909 tons, or 116,824 tons less than in the year before, due to the elimination of certain reef areas considered of doubtful value. Is there not something ominous in this fact? The company held 7,628 Jupiter shares, and had an option over 7,200 shares at par. But part of the former have already been sold to provide funds to pay for the importation of Chinese, and the directors are thinking of exercising the option on the 7,200 also to pay for coolies. How profitable the latter are! Yet this sacrifice has to be made, although the Jumpers Deep chairman recently declared the prospects of the Jupiter company to be promising! If Jumpers Deep shares are dear now, what will they be to those who have bought them at £6, at which they have frequently stood in the past?

SCOTCH RAILWAY ACCOUNTS.

Although a serious and to some extent successful effort is now being made to keep the capital expenditure on the Scotch railways within more reasonable limits, the latest accounts teach much the same lesson as the English statements, remarked upon in these columns a few weeks ago. It will be many a long day, if, indeed, the time ever comes, before the finances of these undertakings recover from the effects of the extravagant outlays formerly indulged in, and not one of them is in a position to face an extraordinary demand for capital, should such arise, in order to keep the system abreast of the times. To be sure the nature of the Scotch traffic compared with a large part of that on the English lines renders less imperative the conversion to electric traction, but should the time ever arrive, as it very well might, when all the companies south of the Tweed use electricity as their motive force, the Scotch connections could hardly lag behind. What that would mean in the way of capital expenditure could only be guessed at, but it must be a staggering figure, and companies like the Caledonian would have a painful recollection of the time when half to one million pounds was lightly laid out each half-year with only a very poor prospect of the fresh money earning an adequate return. Even in the past half-year this powerful company spent close on £500,000 or fully 50 per cent. of the aggregate outlays of the five leading lines, which between them got rid of not much less than £1,000,000, without counting the nominal additions or waterings occasioned by the conversion of preference stocks possessing special privileges. The North British Company actually spent £218,342 or £323,760 counting in conversion, and the Glasgow and South-Western £142,202, the others being too small, happily, to deserve special mention. We think it may be regarded as certain that under ordinary circumstances the Caledonian expenditure will in future be consistently below the figures just mentioned, the chairman, in fact, having given a pledge a short time ago that none but imperative work should be undertaken. What this means is amply demonstrated by the fact that in the current six months no more than £265,000 will be spent, and when the heavy outlays in connection with the Grangemouth harbour extension come to an end, as they should soon, we shall expect to find even this figure considerably reduced. This half-year the North British will lay out £285,000, and the Glasgow and South-Western £116,000, making a total with trifling sums by the Great North of Scotland and Highland of £700,000, which is more than sufficient when we consider the existing state of the capital accounts. Far from any company having money in hand to meet contemplated expenditure, heavy debts are already in existence to an amount, in the aggregate, of over £3,700,000. In other words, this amount of capital in excess of that received had been spent up to July 31 last, notwithstanding recent im-

portant issues of preference stock, and the deficiency of £1,660,000 will show how urgent was the need for economy on the part of the Caledonian. The North British is on the wrong side to the tune of £1,010,000, the Glasgow and South-Western of £678,000, the Great North of Scotland of £203,000 and the Highland of £166,000, and there is little or no chance of sufficient credit being raised to set these accounts permanently straight. There may not be any immediate need to attempt this operation, which is fortunate, but nevertheless is it the reverse of sound finance to be continuously dependent upon reserve funds, where such are in existence, the savings of employees, or temporary loans, which have a knack of becoming permanent, from bankers. Nor do the actual balance-sheet debits reveal the worst of the position, because it is hardly going too far to say that no company, year in and out, ever has sufficient money at the date of its accounts to meet the dividend and interest payments on its stocks. That must often mean borrowing to the extent of hundreds of thousands of pounds in excess of the liabilities revealed in the balance-sheet, and it is not at all pleasant to contemplate the fact that money for dividends, before they can be paid, involves a more or less heavy interest charge. The position is a little better now, thanks to large fresh issues of capital, but for years the North British company was never possessed of a penny piece when its accounts were made up. And the aggregate capital involved in the Scotch railway system is about £150,000,000.

Turning from this to the actual operations for the half-year, the position, take it altogether, is not unsatisfactory, although traffics do not show the elasticity we should like to see, especially when the heavy capital outlays of which we have just been speaking are borne in mind. The Caledonian and North British did fairly well with passengers, the others poorly, and the aggregate gain was little more than £15,000. Much the same has to be said regarding the goods and miscellaneous revenue, decreases on the Glasgow and South-Western, Great North of Scotland and Highland being offset by fairly substantial improvements on the two leading lines, so that a gain of £13,000 is brought out. Other credits such as the amount brought forward, bankers' interest, dividends on shares, &c., ran up £4,000 in the aggregate, and from all sources the income expanded by £32,000. It was wiped away to the extent of £21,000 by increased working charges, leaving only a small net addition, and dividends would probably have suffered more than they did but for a fictitiously small advance on the prior charges. In these we include special credits for reserve and bridge and other renewals, and while the Caledonian added £15,000 as before, the Highland put by only £1,000 against £6,000. Further, the North British Company effected a big saving in the charge for interest on bankers' loans, and moreover paid out less for preference charges, thanks to conversion from those stocks into ordinary preference and ordinary stocks. That is an aspect of railway finance which receives too little attention. In order to make preference stock issues more attractive they have carried the option of conversion into the two junior issues at stated times; that is to say, £100 each of ordinary preference and ordinary stock can be exchanged for every £100 of convertible preference stock. Now, while the combined dividends on the lower issues are in excess of the 4 per cent. paid on the prior security, there is naturally a temptation to change, but there is considerable danger of this kind of thing defeating its own purpose. The North British experience in the past half-year affords an excellent example. Notwithstanding an additional payment of £20,520 for the 1904 preference issue, the preference charges were only £5,500 higher, because some of the holders of all the important preference issues from 1884 to 1901—six in number—had seen fit to convert. What was the result? Why that the amount of the ordinary preference and ordinary stocks to be provided with dividend went up by £1,507,296, so that after providing the 3 per cent. on the ordinary preference

the distribution on the ordinary—or the deferred as we should call it—had to be lowered $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., notwithstanding that the amount available was actually more, much to the astonishment of the market. Now it is not impossible that additional capital charges may one day drive the combined junior dividends below the 4 per cent. carried by the convertible preferences, and holders of a mind to convert had better weigh all the contingencies first.

A "TRUST" IN BREWERIES.

Now that the holiday season is over and we are resuming our weekly "model trusts," we have adopted the suggestion of a subscriber and turned to a long-neglected class of security for the first of the new series. In doing so we are largely influenced by the reports of an excellent hop crop and by the forecasts that the selling prices will not rise above £3 per cwt. compared with £10 or more a year ago. This difference in the price of materials should enable brewers to save considerably in their working expenses, with a proportionate increase in net revenue. The first three companies in the undernoted selection have managed to hold their own fairly well throughout the bad times, and are now in a good position to reap the benefit. Threlfall's Brewery is a Liverpool undertaking which has paid a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum on its ordinary shares with great regularity for the past six years, and has also built up a reserve fund of £480,000, a substantial figure and ample enough, considering that when the properties were revalued for the new debenture issue made in January, 1904, the excess over the book figures came to about £1,000,000. Whitbread and Co. is a large and well-known concern, whose ordinary dividends for many years ranged from 11 to 13 per cent., and even in the last two years it paid 8 per cent., while its reserves, according to the last available accounts, amounted to £266,500. Smith, Garrett, and Co. have a very sound business, particularly in bottled beer, and in spite of the high cost of materials and general trade depression, was able to pay 10 per cent. on its ordinary shares for the sixteenth year in succession, although on this occasion the bonus of 2 per cent. distributed in each of the previous years had to be omitted. Bieckert's Brewery comes under a different head, as its business is conducted in the Argentine Republic. It has had a hard struggle for existence in the past, but of late years has been able to meet its preference dividend, and with the growing prosperity of the country its position should continue to improve. This selection will yield about £5 11s. 6d. per cent., and although there is not much prospect of an increase in yield, there is a possible chance of improvement in capital value to be taken into account.

	Nominal Amount	Price.	Dividend.
100 Threlfall's Brewery, Ordinary shrs	£ 100	£ 325	£ s. d. 20 0 0
£200 Whitbread's Preference stock ..	200	189	9 0 0
20 Smith, Garrett, and Co., Preference shares	200	200	10 0 0
£200 Bieckert's Second Debenture stk.	200	200	12 0 0
	700	914	51 0 0

SHEEPBRIDGE FINANCE.

A shareholder in the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co. writes to us to oppose the policy which he declares he has heard the directors intend to pursue in raising the necessary additional capital. An intimation that more money would be needed appears in the report for the 12 months ended June 30 last, just issued, and dealt with in another column, but no information is given as to how the additional money is to be found. This shareholder says he has heard that although the directors have power to call up 12s.

on each of 137,725 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares, they do not intend to exercise this power, and he proceeds vigorously to condemn the board for going on another tack. He hears that the directors and their friends are interested in the ordinary shares, and that these part-paid shares are mostly in the hands of small holders; but surely that ought to be a reason for calling the money up, as it would be the small holder and not the board and its friends that would have to find it. Assuming, however, our correspondent's information to be accurate, his further observations upon the inadvisability of neglecting to call up the unpaid portion of share issues are eminently to the point. "If," he says, "the principle that fresh capital may be raised before the amount remaining unpaid on other shares is called up should once be established, the position of the holders will, without doubt, be full of danger, for they run the risk of having to wait for the extinction of the liability until the company is wound up," and he thinks that the holders of these part-paid shares in the Sheepbridge Company should be more anxious about their unexhausted liability than about the enhancement of the value of their shares, especially as the policy of the company is becoming "much more venturesome," and he wants to know whether the directors derive direct or indirect benefit from the new developments. All this shows the inadvisability of hinting at proposals for raising additional capital without giving the shareholders any inkling beforehand of how the money is to be found.

THE DEVASTATION AT BAKU.

Tuesday's *Manchester Guardian* printed an eye witness's story of the Baku massacres, which forms very unpleasant reading. On the same day a Petersburg correspondent of the *London Times* pointed out that under Russian law foreigners can get no compensation from the Government for the property destroyed at Baku. The alien companies will be able to sue the persons who destroyed their property, but cannot look for any help from the Government, which is not responsible. Doubtless that is the law, but no one can read such a tale as that set forth in the *Manchester Guardian* and arrive at the opinion that the Government of the Tsar is not to blame. Writing from Baku under date September 11, this correspondent says in effect that the Tartars were encouraged to arm themselves, that the Governor of the Province was on "intimate terms" with the Tartar magnates, and through them played upon the Tartar masses. "Proclamations were spread bearing the exhortation, 'Slaughter the Armenians.' I saw some myself only a fortnight ago. Such remarks as these were to be heard among conversations of the Tartars: 'The land is ours. We must exterminate the Armenians, and instead of the derricks we will plant gardens.'" He goes on to say that the Armenians were not idle either, but they had to arm themselves secretly because the Government systematically stripped them of any weapons they might be found carrying. "Patrols were stopping every passer-by in the evening with the question, 'Are you an Armenian?' If the answer was in the affirmative the individual would be carefully searched, and any weapon in his possession would be taken from him." This happened simultaneously with the open arming of the Tartars, and naturally when these favoured ones found themselves in a position to make the assault, they commenced killing without let or hindrance. In spite of the disabilities under which they laboured the Armenians managed to arm themselves after a fashion and to erect some sort of defensive works, and when the Tartars found that they were not able to have their own way completely the burning began. When the correspondent from whom we quote reached Balakany on his way to try and rescue his family, instead of a forest of black derricks there was a long river of fire. The derricks, the refineries, the naphtha depôts, the oil tanks, the dwelling-houses—everything was burning. A party of Tartars carrying heavy sacks came

upon him, sacks containing their plunder, and he and the party with him would probably have been killed had he not been able to swear volubly in Russian. "What became of the Cossacks, of the troops?" he asks. "While incendiarism and murder were rife at Balakany, I did not see one single Cossack in the street." They were camping outside, and did not come near the town. Only later, beginning from Thursday, the 8th, the troops commenced to act, and then they seem to have shot down Tartars and Armenians with comparative impartiality. The oil industry has been ruined. The writer estimates the losses from fire at more than 100,000,000 roubles, upwards of £10,000,000. "Many firms," he adds, "are irretrievably ruined. I believe that there will be a colossal concentration of the oil industry, and that the naphtha kings, Nobel and Rothschild, will make a lot of money out of the business." That is gruesome enough surely, but we do not for a moment believe that either of these great potentates of finance had anything whatever to do in instigating the outbreak. They may reap the reward arising from the extinction of the small men, just because they are wealthy and therefore able to put the industry on its feet again, that is all. But the Russian Government cannot be acquitted of blame, and if it does not grant compensation to those who have been ruined by this outburst of race fanaticism and fury, Russian enterprises deserve to be boycotted by foreign private capitalists for many a day to come. Why were the Tartars encouraged and petted? Why were troops not available to maintain order? When the humble, unarmed masses of Petersburg were to be shot down there was no lack of men and guns. Why was Baku left to its fate? Race antipathies account for much, but official supineness and corruption could alone have made the horrors of Baku and district possible.

DICK, KERR AND CO.

There is no doubt at all that this important firm of engineers and contractors does a large and profitable business, and the general financial position, taken on the whole, seems to be a sound one. Our only apprehension arises from the fear that some of the contracts, instead of being on a cash basis, are undertaken in exchange for securities in the particular enterprise for which the work is performed, and we know what bitter experiences some other companies have had from adopting this course. We do not say that Dick, Kerr take any business under these conditions, but should like to be assured on the point, particularly in view of the fact that the company is co-obligant with the Edinburgh and District Tramways Company in its liability to the Corporation of Edinburgh under the lease of the tramways. In the year to June 30 the company was fully employed on important contracts both at home and abroad, and the manufacturing departments were likewise busy, so that profits were well maintained. Better still, the prospects for the current twelve months are encouraging, although the directors think it right to draw the attention of shareholders to the severe competition which exists in all branches of the business. That is an aspect of the matter which must be afforded full consideration, especially by prospective purchasers of the company's securities, because the shares stand at a substantial premium, and while there seems small scope for a rise, the keen rivalry in the electrical trades might easily bring the profits down, be the business never so large, and with them market values. It must not be thought from this that we anticipate any such unfortunate contingency, but we feel bound to point out all the risks. After charging all expenses, including directors' fees and managing director's remuneration, the nett profit is returned at £85,007 compared with £84,171 in the previous twelve months and £110,499 in the year before that. Debenture and loan interest and trustees' fees take £14,553, £300 is set aside to provide premium on debenture stock repayable, and £23,389 is placed to reserve. These things accomplished, £18,300 is allowed for the

preference share dividend, 10 per cent. is again paid on the ordinary shares and £2,465 is added to the balance brought forward, making the sum to be carried out the substantial one of £42,388. The year to June 30, 1904, witnessed the completion of the reserve of £150,000 which had to be built up under the trust deed, and there also existed at that time a separate fund of £32,611. Of this £16,611 is withdrawn and transferred to a special fund, together with the allocation from the past year's profits, making £40,000 to be used for extension of manufactories, replacements of machinery or special depreciation. As there is still a balance of the separate reserve of £16,000, the total accumulations now reach £206,000 against a capital expenditure, including goodwill and patents, of £588,062. This total is about £2,000 less than at the end of June, 1904, although we are not told the actual amount of depreciation. The auditors, however, say it is ample on plant and machinery. Sundry investments, £109,354, seem to indicate that part of the reserves are kept away from the business, but we cannot be sure on that point without knowing the nature of the securities. Stocks on hand and work in progress are entered at £130,598, while the item called contracts, due for work, stock of materials, &c., is less by £110,588 at £495,457, a reduction that has led to a decline in creditors of £117,867 to £333,287. Ordinary debtors figure for £42,234, bills receivable amount to £12,980, and cash balances have gone up from £55,152 to £90,610.

THE POPULATION OF RUSSIA.

A census of the Russian Empire has at last been made public. It has taken eight years, the *Manchester Guardian* says, for Mr. Troinitsky and his staff to collect and analyse the immense mass of figures sent in by the enumerators. The general summary now made public shows that in 1897 the population of the Empire was 125,680,682 persons. Of this total, 93,442,864 resided in the European provinces, 9,402,253 in Poland, 9,289,364 in the Caucasus, 5,758,822 in Siberia, and 7,746,718 in Central Asia. Classified somewhat arbitrarily, as the *Guardian* correspondent says, into its various social groups, we find the peasants totalling up to 96,896,648 out of the entire population, 78,641,432 of them being in European Russia. The hereditary nobility numbers 1,220,196, and other nobles and State officials 630,199, while the clergy of all Christian denominations aggregate 588,947. Of what are called ordinary citizens, the number is given at 13,386,392 (9,946,000 of them being in European Russia), and of Cossacks the total was 2,928,824, rather less than half of them being in European Russia. More interesting than these aggregations of the people is the information that in European Russia and Poland one person out of four was said to be able to read, while in the Caucasus and Siberia only one out of eight, and in Central Asia one out of eighteen could read. These proportions, however, include infants, and urban and rural districts are taken together. Making proper adjustments and allowances, the *Guardian* correspondent says, we find that out of 12,000,000 town dwellers in European Russia, over 5,750,000 could read, or about one out of every two persons. This is not brilliant, and is a significant commentary upon the character of the Christianity furnished to the Russian people, but, on the whole, we are surprised that the masses are not more ignorant still. No less than 103 distinct languages are enumerated as being spoken within the Russian Empire, and that fact is suggestive of much. How is a nation so split up to be welded into a constitutionally governed Empire, with representatives capable of managing its affairs?

GREAT FINGALL CONSOLIDATED.

The directors of the Great Fingall Consolidated have now issued the full report of Mr. C. M. Rolker, but it turns out to be less optimistic than was the cabled summary despatched from the mine at the end of June, upon which we commented in our issue of July 1. The

report is very bulky, and is issued in two parts, the first comprising the report proper, with several maps, the second consisting mainly of numerous tabulated statements. Mr. Rolker was asked to consider principally the following matters:—To determine the accuracy of the estimate of the ore reserves made on December 31 last, and to express his opinion on the prospects of the mine; to give his views as to the policy of extending the regrinding plant, or, as an alternative, to extend the stamping capacity; to say if he considered the new constructions, extensions and alterations competently designed and erected for economical working, and to judge if these alterations and extensions had been carried out in an economical and sound manner, bearing in mind the position of the plant and the necessities which arose from the equipment as it stood in 1903; finally, to say if he considered the administration of the mine sound and economical. Readers may recall that as regards the ore reserves he considered the estimate made at the end of last year to be 7 per cent. too high. On all the other points, with the exception of the mine's prospects, his views are satisfactory, all his answers being in the affirmative. On the very important matter of the outlook, however, he is less decided and hopeful, as he considers there is likely to be an appreciable falling off in the value of the ore in depth. "I must frankly confess," says he, "that at present the future prospects are not very bright when looking back on the brilliant past." This is a peculiar phrase, the meaning of which is more cryptical than it should be. He thinks the higher values of the ore body are likely to terminate above the twelfth level; pay values exist beyond the lines estimated last December on the eleventh level north, but the values are essentially lower grade. On the basis of the working costs of last May it will take nearly 24s. per ton to cover all expenses, he says, that is about 5.64 dwts. The value of the probable ore to be mined in the future he estimates at 13.46 dwts. per ton, but the further developments on the eleventh level and below it average a value less than this. "This ore is not included in my estimate, and mining it, to get the richer ore lying within it, will lengthen the life of the mine. I have included in my estimate all that you can reasonably expect above the tenth level, according to at present known data, and from all indications to hand at present the ore below the tenth, and not included in my estimate, will be of lower value than 13.46 dwts. of gold per ton." The conclusion deducible from this is that the gross profit per ton in the future may be approximately 7 dwts., or about 30s. per ton. Another matter of considerable importance is the width of the vein, which, he says, tends to become narrower in depth, which will increase the mining and stoping costs, so the company will henceforth have to face higher costs and lower grade ore "as far as human judgment can foresee." He sums up as follows:—"Taking all I have said into consideration, I think it would be unwise if you were to mine and extract a higher grade ore than what the probable ore reserves indicate—between 13 and 14 dwts. of gold per ton. The richer broken ore should be used to bring up the grade of any lower mined ore to this average. In justice to the mine, and to give reasonable time for new developments, it were better if the average grade of the ore to be milled were promptly lowered, say, to 13.5 dwts. of gold per ton. If that were done it would still leave £1 per share per year for dividends, and a surplus to provide for future enhanced mining costs, or some future equipment. This is on the basis of milling 16,000 tons of ore per month." One pound per share per year means 200 per cent.—the shares being of 10s. denomination. This will compare with 285 per cent. paid in 1904 and 170 per cent. in 1903, and at the present price of the shares the yield is over 15 per cent.

British Borneo Exploration.—Mr. Robertson, the engineer, has reported a discovery of a body of iron ore, which he estimates to contain 25,000,000 tons.

Passing Events.

Leaving out of account the possible hardship that may be caused to a section of the shareholders by the absence of a little money, so handy just near quarter day, we are disposed to think that the decision of the directors of Cassell and Co. not to pay an interim dividend is a wise one. With the advent of the new general manager following the death of Sir Wemyss Reid a vigorous forward policy has been inaugurated which, there is reason to hope, will do something to recover the ground lost to the company's go-ahead rivals of the Harmsworth, Pearson, and Newnes type. At the same time a real and, we believe, successful effort has been made to reduce the always extravagant management charges, and there is probably no doubt that the company's resources can for the moment be better employed in strengthening the business than in the payment of a dividend to the shareholders. But was it wise to incur the enmity of the booksellers by granting the *Times* special terms in connection with its new library project?

Some rather severe fighting in the screw trade, "Joe's" old business, which seems to have been going on for a long time has come to an end they say, an arrangement having been arrived at by which further competition will be avoided. The credit for this is given to Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds, who are supposed to have made fearful reprisals on the foreign makers for having the impertinence to attempt to sell their goods here. It has been agreed that after the 1st prox. no British orders for screws will be received by German firms, and British manufacturers undertake not to execute German orders, a policy of exclusiveness, a kind of voluntary protection, certain to defeat its own ends, time given. The convention includes French, Swiss and Italian producers, but the Belgian makers stand out. That looks a good thing for Belgium. What have screw users to say?

Lucky proprietors of the Belfast Street Tramways, which have been taken over by the Corporation, have already had the par value of their capital returned, £10 per share, and have now received a further notice from the company intimating that another payment of 15s. per share will be made upon surrender of the share certificates at the office on October 11 and 12. Even this will not constitute the full return, but as some weeks must yet elapse before the final payment can be made, the directors thought it best to hand over as much as they could at once. The balance still to come will naturally be small, and shareholders will receive it later on together with an account of the liquidation, but in the meantime the share certificates must be given up.

The scenes of the most recent coolie disturbances have been at a couple of the mines in the Wernher-Beit group, viz., the Geldenhuis Deep and the French Rand. At the property of the first-mentioned company the Chinese took a holiday a few days previously, although they were offered extra pay to work. They promised that the first shift should commence at midnight last Sunday, but refused to start when called upon, and attacked and injured the compound manager. The police who were summoned to quell the outbreak fired, killing one man and wounding another. Subsequently the Chinkees went to work. At the French Rand mine one hundred coolies bolted, with the object of finding a man who had spread a report that the Boers were enlisting coolies at £4 a month to fight the British. But have not the coolies been slaying whites—male and female, young and old—for less pay than this?

It is stated that the Transvaal Legislative Council has passed the clause of the Amended Labour Importation Ordinance empowering whites to arrest Chinese found wandering outside the Chinese area. Captors handing over their prisoners at the nearest police station will be paid their expenses, together with a reward of £1 for each Chinaman arrested. The police may recover the money from the employers, who may in turn get it from the deserters. It appears that the

Government opposed the provision relating to the payment of a reward, but it was carried by the overwhelming majority of one—ten voting for and nine against it. So the frolicsome and remunerative pastime of "Hunt the Chinkee" has now received the sanction of the country's wise rulers, but if the hunters find, as they probably will, that the risk is not worth the sovereign—for the coolie is not like a gentle, wandering sheep—and that more lives will be lost in the chase than deserters gained, they may value their personal security at a higher figure. What an engaging prospect it is, worth an archbishop's pious study!

"Among the controlling groups the question of running the mines more economically is being closely considered." So we are informed by Dalziel's Agency, and there may probably be some truth in it. "The Eckstein Company has recently reorganised its staff with the view of reducing the cost of working its mines. The new method of management should largely augment the percentage of profit two months hence." It would be exceedingly interesting to learn how the bosses are "closely considering" these problems, and hear how they are arguing the question out amongst themselves. We are not likely to be let into their secrets, and we shall await the practical results of their deliberations with no impatient curiosity. For we would stake our last cent on the conviction that they will not take the one and only step that will reduce working costs and put more money into the pockets of shareholders—dismiss the Chinamen and rely upon indigenous labour, white and black. What staff is the Eckstein Company reorganising? Not its coolie staff, we may be sure, and certainly not its directorial and upper official staffs with a view of cutting down exorbitant fees. Here there is plenty of scope for economy, but personal sacrifices are not to be thought of. With this question of increasing costs we have dealt at considerable length in recent issues of the REVIEW, showing how it is the consequence principally of the employment of Chinkees, and as long as these are retained and more imported, effective economies seem impossible. We said as much as this long before any Celestial arrived, and thereby earned the curses of the men who have brought a fine business to its present pass.

A pleasant story became current in the middle of the week to the effect that the Russian navy is to be rebuilt in English shipyards, Yankees having entirely failed to persuade the Russian Government that the work could be better done in the United States. If this turns out to be true our shipyards will be extra busy for years, and London will after all have to become a centre for the issue of Russian securities. The fleet will be built with borrowed money, or mostly that, as a matter of course, and it would be unseemly to raise the loans in Germany, New York and Paris when the money is all to be spent here. We may congratulate Russia, however, should the story be confirmed, in making a wise choice, for she will get better and cheaper ships from English builders than she could secure anywhere else.

That shrewd French banker, whose notes we sometimes quote, says in a recent circular that the Cubans are buying back the securities of their railways, securities sold by them to the English not so long ago 50 per cent. below current prices. He thinks, however, that quotations are now high enough, although so long as the islanders absorb the shares and bonds they are much more likely to go up than down. The last sugar crop was a fine one, and was sold at exaggerated prices, "thanks to Jaluzot and his consorts," and there is much more in the island, the approaching harvest being estimated to yield 1,250,000 tons.

The conversion of the Argentine internal 6 per cent. debt into 5 per cent. bonds has been successfully carried out without the help of agents, underwriters or anybody else. This is the news his Excellency Señor Terry, the Finance Minister of the republic, has cabled to Europe. Except as herald of more to follow of the same sort the news does not deeply interest us.

Debenture-holders of McCracken's City Brewery met together on Tuesday to express opinions on the reorganisation scheme outlined in these columns last week, and indulged in observations decidedly to the point. The proposal, indeed, met with a very hostile reception, and after the sensible course of withdrawing it had been followed by the representative of the board a fresh committee was appointed to think of something better. It will report to a meeting to be convened at a later date, and might with advantage give consideration to the remarks of Mr. Keyser, who, while agreeing that the debenture interest should be cut down, suggested that income bonds could be given for the amount unpaid, instead of preference and ordinary shares, as first proposed. That seems sensible, as it would entail no hardship to anyone, and might save the property from going into the hands of a receiver.

The story is again in circulation, this time with some apparent justification, that negotiations are afoot for the amalgamation of the Highland and Great North of Scotland Railways. That the question is under discussion is admitted by Sir David Stewart, chairman of the former company, who will also occupy that position should the undertakings be combined; and some go so far as to hazard the terms: £100 each of Great North of Scotland preferred and deferred stocks for every £200 of Highland ordinary stock. Current quotations for the various securities would render such an exchange more than probable, although the Highland would appear to get a little the worse of the deal. At present, however, all is conjecture, and we must not forget that rumours of a similar character have been in circulation before. Not so very long ago the two companies were at daggers drawn, but a working arrangement to prevent undue competition was come to, and since the rivals have been more friendly. One story of this kind inevitably leads to others, and already the chatter is that if these two undertakings join hands the Caledonian Railway will be forced to buy them both up.

A complaint is made by the New York *Evening Post* about the misleading statements issued by the New York Associated Banks. We have heard this complaint uttered before, and no reform has ever been brought about. As a matter of fact, we believe these weekly statements to be habitually cooked, and the recipe now utilised by the cooks is well described in the *Post's* article. A week before the date of the return on which it animadverts, the Banks seemed to be threatened with a deficiency in what is called the surplus reserve, but during the six intervening working days they turned things round so that the surplus was left unimpaired in the return in spite of a loss of \$10,952,000 meanwhile in the cash reserve. How was this done? By heaving over about \$30,237,000 in loans on to the shoulders of the trust companies, concerns which, as we have often insisted, make no weekly returns, which are quite irresponsible towards the community, and whose half-yearly statements indicate such close sailing to the wind as might any day land them in an upset.

Mr. Witte is in Paris busy raising another loan, newspaper gossips say a 4 per cent. loan, of course, on terms. We hope he will be reasonably successful, in spite of the internal condition of the Empire and the daily tale of outrages, rebellions, repressions, and talk of the whole country being put under martial law. It seems a pity though that Mr. Witte should gossip so much. A little reticence about the peace negotiations, the attitude of the Japanese, and Russian intentions as to alliances would be wholesome.

Why is it that those wicked and unscrupulous foreign rivals of ours never compete with individual manufacturers, but always wait until the businesses are gathered into one huge combine? It is that Associated Portland Cement thing that we have in mind. The wailing and fulmination at Wednesday's meeting were simply pitiful, and it does seem a shame that Germany and Belgium used to allow the separate companies to earn, say, £660,000 per annum, and then directly they joined hands so fiercely attacked them that down went the profits to about £339,000. It

is all done so unfairly, too; evasion of the Merchandise Marks Act, which enables those Belgium infidels to palm off natural cement as British, and so on. Strange to say, though, the imports of foreign cement were less last year, and yet the combine's profits went down. Ah yes! But think of the fearful depression in the home trade, which also had a remarkable collapse as soon as the present company was formed. But is not £330,000 a very good profit to make out of cement alone? Very fair indeed, but when you have said it is twice as much, and on the strength of the yarn sold a lot of out-of-date plant to the public at about three times its real worth, so overburdening the enterprise with capital that a large part of it can never get a return, an excuse of some kind has got to be found, and nothing goes down so well with the British public as a tirade against the foreigner, by whom and on whom so many of us live.

Last week's revenue was of the ordinary description, and the figures do not yet reveal the reason why £500,000 of previously cancelled Treasury bills had to be renewed. Altogether £1,657,000 came in, thanks principally to the £640,000 from the Customs, £514,000 from the Excise, and the £260,000 from the Post Office. After meeting the supply outgoings and paying out £150,000 on telegraph capital account, the Exchequer balances were raised by £538,000, so that none of the loan money was utilised last week.

Critical Index To New Investments.

BOOTS PURE DRUG CO., LIMITED.

An issue of 100,000 £1 "B" preferred ordinary shares, forming part of an authorised total of £245,000, is offered for subscription at 22s. per share, apparently for the purpose of extending the operations of the undertaking. The company has been in existence as a more or less private concern—since 1888—except that in 1900, £100,000 in 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares were issued to the public—and carries on a business not only in drugs but in stationery, fancy goods, &c., through sundry subsidiary companies. No accounts are ever published, and holders of the shares now offered are given no voice in the management and may not even attend the meetings unless their dividend is in arrear—a policy which looks extremely shortsighted. The business seems prosperous enough, as the auditors certify that for the two and a-half years ended March 31 the profits, after providing liberally for depreciation, but before providing for interest on money borrowed or for directors' and managing director's remuneration, were £29,416, £31,564, and £19,462, or an average of £32,177 per annum, which was an increase of over 30 per cent. on the average for the previous three years. It is also stated that the assets of the company, excluding goodwill valued at £10,514 but including shares in the subsidiaries taken at their par value, show an excess of £399,584 over all liabilities other than share capital. A certificate like this is worse than useless, and let a business be never so prosperous an invitation to the public to risk their money in it should impose an obligation on the directors to issue a plain straightforward statement of the actual position.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS (SOUTHERN), LIMITED.

This company follows the example set by its parent in never issuing a balance-sheet, and in offering 55,000 6 per cent. £1 cumulative preference shares for subscription at the same premium of 2s. per share relies upon a guarantee as to the dividend until June 30, 1909, given by Boots Pure Drug Company. Founded in 1901, it is the youngest of the family, and seemingly is not yet considered strong enough to walk alone, but during the period to March 31, 1905, it has accumulated a reserve of £9,469 and a depreciation fund of £14,051, in addition to other small funds totalling £2,772, so that it does not appear to have done so badly, and the secrecy preserved as to its balance-sheet and financial position is therefore all the more inexcusable.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended September 14, \$4,055.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 18, \$18,605, increase \$6,137; aggregate from January 1, \$579,773, increase \$131,253.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 19, Rs. 58,961, increase Rs. 7,267; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 4,14,077, increase Rs. 42,001.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 7, \$73,400, increase \$10,800; total from July 1, \$826,400, increase \$157,200.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 19, Rs. 23,521, decrease Rs. 1,778; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,73,910, increase Rs. 10,258.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipt for week ended September 2, £275, decrease £232.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of September, \$14,770, decrease \$1,697; aggregate from January 1, \$558,893, decrease \$4,091.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 19, Rs. 8,985, increase Rs. 979; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 80,736, increase Rs. 1,305.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended August 28 amounted to \$83,175.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending September 16, £1,266, increase £89; aggregate from July 1, £12,769, decrease £377.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending September 16, £925, decrease £65; aggregate from July 1, £11,461, decrease £1,334.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for July, £4,218, decrease £427.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending September 16, £360, decrease £46; aggregate from July 1, £3,224, decrease £622.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 15, £1,348, increase £452; aggregate from July 1, £15,509, increase £5,549.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 17, £33, increase £15; aggregate from July 1, £378, increase £2.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 15, £4,960, decrease £265; aggregate from July 1, £59,095, decrease £965.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending September 15, £29,648, increase £3,604; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £991,675, increase £91,370; 447 miles, against 420½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, £1,144, increase £86; aggregate from July 2, £12,667, increase £514.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 17, £168, decrease £1; aggregate from July 1, £2,064, decrease £30.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 15, £137, increase £7; aggregate from July 1, £1,661, increase £46.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 15, £4,910, decrease £132; aggregate from July 1, £61,378, decrease £133.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, £5,359, increase £742; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £180,317, increase £13,271.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 15, £261, decrease £20; aggregate from July 1, £3,077, decrease £189.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 14, £667.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, £1,066, decrease £150; aggregate from October 1, £30,750, decrease £2,760.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 9, £15,029, increase £1,251; aggregate from April 1, £353,175, increase £56,960. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, £23,512, decrease £111; aggregate from July 2, £267,575, decrease £3,763.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, £7,596, increase £99; aggregate from July 1, £89,199, increase £1,108.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 15, £188, decrease £2; aggregate from July 1, £2,219, increase £101.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, £13,083, increase £147; aggregate from January 1, £488,098, increase £31,150.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, £2,105, increase £100; aggregate from January 1, £81,573, increase £9,754.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, £288, increase £32; aggregate from January 1, £11,165, increase £1,430.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of August, £12,771, increase £838.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to July 31, \$89,398, increase \$18,093. Net earnings from July 1 to July 31, \$40,390, increase \$11,944.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending September 10, £3,928, increase £88; aggregate from January 1, £123,222, increase £5,349.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, \$42,345, decrease \$3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, Rs. 44,231, increase Rs. 5,449; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 4,70,441, increase Rs. 72,713.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of August, £5,235, increase £2,214. Total to August 31, £31,841, increase £6,066.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, \$435,104, increase \$49,336; aggregate from January 1, \$2,606,574, increase \$161,544. Net traffic receipts, \$248,051, increase \$39,961; aggregate from January 1, \$1,379,994, increase \$100,527.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr	Sept. 17	£ 1,916	— 246	11	23,551	— 464	
* Cambrian	" 17	7,768	+ 20	11	98,064	— 6,150	
Central London	" 16	5,981	— 106	11	62,597	— 1,552	
City and South London	" 17	2,310	— 183	11	25,230	— 513	
Furness	" 17	11,145	+ 1,171	11	124,490	+ 6,017	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 17	75,468	+ 5,437	11	802,257	+ 43,788	
Great Eastern	" 17	113,300	+ 6,500	11	1,326,900	+ 35,100	
Great Northern and City	" 16	1,478	+ 308	11	15,763	+ 4,361	
Great Northern	" 16	127,500	+ 9,488	11	1,352,088	+ 12,599	
Great Western	" 17	257,300	+ 3,500	11	2,885,300	— 15,100	
Hull and Barnsley	" 17	10,126	+ 111	11	105,138	— 5,295	
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 17	113,767	+ 3,926	11	1,387,699	+ 29,728	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 16	70,762	+ 584	11	838,758	— 6,086	
London & North Western	" 17	303,000	+ 8,000	11	3,399,000	+ 31,000	
London & South Western	" 17	101,500	+ 400	11	1,183,700	+ 2,800	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 17	10,892	+ 735	11	140,222	+ 860	
Metropolitan	" 17	17,051	+ 166	11	186,399	— 111	
Metropolitan District	" 16	6,703	— 90	11	69,919	— 3,279	
Midland	" 16	238,082	+ 7,929	11	2,546,916	+ 52,932	
North Eastern	" 16	186,537	+ 946	11	2,156,477	+ 4,128	
North London	" 17	8,818	— 461	11	93,930	— 3,235	
North Staffordshire	" 17	17,512	+ 570	11	194,338	+ 563	
Rhymney	" 17	5,513	— 396	11	62,097	+ 502	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 16	108,356	+ 2,057	11	1,216,696	+ 6,300	
Taff Vale	" 17	18,709	+ 978	11	196,037	— 4,846	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Sept. 17	87,990	— 1,965	7	635,145	— 7,071	
Glasgow & South-Western	" 16	34,725	— 5,704	7	288,164	— 8,310	
Great North of Scotland	" 16	10,060	— 400	7	76,441	— 2,632	
Highland	" 17	12,653	+ 910	7	95,144	— 1,331	
North British	" 17	98,167	+ 148	7	700,260	— 9,694	

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Sept. 15	2,767	+ 15	11	42,961	+ 195	
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 15	1,830	+ 68	11	22,042	+ 537	
Great Northern	" 15	21,215	+ 247	11	240,904	— 2,411	
Midland Great Western	" 15	11,088	— 509	11	126,197	— 5,586	

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 3 PER CENT. (Advanced from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
on September 7.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

On Monday and Tuesday the Money market had quite made up its mind that the Bank rate would go up on Thursday, probably to 4 per cent. Bill brokers accordingly talked of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as their rate for remitted paper taken outright, and would only work at Bank rate subject to the anticipated advance. The usual reports were in circulation as to the great lumps of gold that were to be withdrawn from the Bank for export. Those "eagles" were certainly going to the United States, the gossips declared, and Paris was sure to be a keen competitor for any supplies of gold bullion that might come into the open market. The joint-stock banks were so influenced by this sort of talk that they continued to prefer lending their balances for short periods to buying bills from the brokers. Short loans were accordingly still comparatively easy at $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent., whether for call or seven-day notice.

On Wednesday a change came over the spirit of the dream. Instead of going down to urgent gold point, the Paris cheque rose to 25.17, and the story about eagles going to New York was amply disproved by the information that the price at which the Bank would sell the coin was really considerably above the open market price for raw gold, which was 77s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. As the New York exchange has never, so far, been low enough to make the gold purchases of New York a strikingly profitable operation, it followed that there could be no truth in the alleged withdrawal of American gold coin. The market, therefore, veered round to the opinion that, after all, the Bank rate would not go up this week, and discount rates accordingly became less strained. Not only did the brokers take three months' bills at $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., but they were willing to buy long-dated paper at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Then as discount rates eased the price of short loans began to go up, and bankers had no difficulty yesterday in getting 2 per cent. for seven-day money or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for advances into October, call money sometimes rising to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the India Council getting that higher figure, too, for month-to-month renewals and some fresh advances.

To-day's market repeated yesterday's characteristics, discount business being practicable at $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. and very difficult at 3 per cent., with no business at the Bank which earlier in the week took moderate amounts of bills from its own customers, not from the market. The Bank directors made no change in their minimum rate, and that helped to weaken quotations outside. Before the close, however, there was again a show of firmness, and the afternoon's quotations were 3 per cent. as a minimum on full three months' bills and $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. on four and six months' bills. Paper was not in oppressive supply, but a good deal of business goes on from day to day. It now, however, seems probable that the Bank rate will not be raised this month, as it would be hard on the market were it to be put up next week when preparations have to be made for the payment of the quarter's accounts. Every effort, we may be sure, will be made in New York and on the Continent to postpone demands for gold with a view to help the Bank directors to keep the rate where it is. Supplies of floating balances, however, will get shorter up to the end of the month, and next week will probably find the market driven to the Bank with bills to discount and for large sums on seven-day loan. The return issued yesterday showed that other securities had risen £1,348,000 during the last Bank week, and this amount is certain to be largely increased between now and the 30th.

As for gold market prospects, the French exchange has again become weak, rendering it probable that Paris will compete with New York for the supply of raw metal available next Monday. Large withdrawals of gold were also again talked about this afternoon, anything from £100,000 to £500,000, but as the exports to Argentina were small this week, and as every effort will be made to prevent Egyptian demands from becoming embarrassing, as moreover another million in sovereigns is advised from India, it looks as if these rumours are only useful in sustaining the discount rate, which they undoubtedly do. As long as the supply of raw gold keeps roughly about £500,000 a week—it will be about £400,000 next week—there is considerable probability that serious disturbance on our Money market may be avoided. All depends on whether any market abroad gets caught in a credit tangle which can only be straightened out by an instant application of large doses of gold. On that point we are not in a position to speak with assurance because we do not yet know how far the financiers in Wall Street may be able to sustain their wonderful and dazzling market structure with the resources already at their command, nor yet to what extent money markets in Europe may be embarrassed by the loan demands of Russia. Next Friday a 10 per cent. instalment, which means £1,000,000, falls to be paid upon the London portion of the last issue of Japanese $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents., but as the issuing banks will have the use of this money for another fortnight the collection of it just at the end of the month should not appreciably add to the difficulties of those who have to arrange for supplies of credit at that time.

The Japanese Government agents are believed to have again secured the Treasury Bills put up for sale on Wednesday, for the market could not afford to take six months' paper either at the maximum rate secured, £2 11s., or at the average of £2 9s. 3.9d. per cent.

SILVER.

Holders were more disposed to offer the metal on Tuesday and Wednesday, especially for immediate delivery, and prices went back to 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. for spot and 27 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. per oz. for shipment two months forward. At the lower levels India seemed inclined to come in and quotations rallied $\frac{1}{8}$ d., but the actual business done was disappointing, and the market closes dull at 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 27 $\frac{15}{16}$ d. per oz. India Council drafts for Rs. 80,00,000 were offered on Wednesday, when applications reached a total of Rs 5,21,50,000 in bills and Rs. 95,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. The amounts allotted were Rs. 63,96,000 in bills and

Rs. 16,04,000 in transfers, tenders at rs. 4 1-32d. and rs. 4 1-8d. per rupee receiving about 12 per cent. Next week another Rs. 80,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 20, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	51,847,580	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	30,211,905
		Gold Coin and Bullion	33,397,580
		Silver Bullion	—
	£51,847,580		£51,847,580

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	18,667,070
Rest	3,693,109	Other Securities	30,211,905
Public Deposits (including		Notes	23,042,895
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,833,814
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	13,927,842		
Other Deposits	41,488,034		
Seven Day and other Bills	93,699		
	£73,755,684		£73,755,684

Dated September 21, 1905.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Sept. 21.		Sept. 13, 1905.	Sept. 20, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,689,305	Rest	3,681,437	3,693,109	11,672	—
8,667,696	Pub. Deposits ..	11,688,992	13,927,842	2,238,850	—
40,536,519	Other do. ..	42,021,387	41,488,034	—	533,353
80,897	7 Day Bills ..	91,755	98,699	1,944	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
14,227,140	Gov. Securities ..	18,667,070	18,667,070	—	—
24,295,290	Other do. ..	28,863,519	30,211,905	—	1,348,386
29,004,987	Total Reserve ..	24,505,982	24,876,709	—	370,727
				2,252,466	2,252,466
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,835,355	Coin and Bullion	29,201,200	28,804,685	—	396,515
38,390,342	Proportion ..	35,257,182	35,231,394	—	25,788
53 1/2 p.c.	45 1/2 p.c.	44 1/2 p.c.	44 1/2 p.c.	—	1/2 p.c.
4 "	Bank Rate ..	3 "	3 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £334,000 out.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 12.	Sept. 14.	Sept. 19.	Sept. 21.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2 1/2	12'2 1/2	12'2 1/2	12'2 1/2
Do. do.	3 months	12'4	12'3 1/2	12'3 1/2	12'4
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'37 1/2	25'37 1/2	25'37 1/2	25'40
Hamburg	3 months	20'62	20'62	20'62	20'63
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'62	20'62	20'62	20'63
Paris	cheques	25'18 1/2	25'18 1/2	25'17 1/2	25'16 1/2
Do. do. do.	3 months	25'31 1/2	25'30	25'31 1/2	25'32 1/2
Marseilles	3 months	25'31 1/2	25'31 1/2	25'31 1/2	25'32 1/2
Switzerland	3 months	25'45	25'43 1/2	25'43 1/2	25'43 1/2
Austria	3 months	24'26	24'26	24'26	24'25
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Moscow	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'45	25'42 1/2	25'42 1/2	25'42 1/2
New York	60 days	49	49	49	49
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2	36
Lisbon	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Oporto	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'39
Christiania	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'40
Stockholm	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'40

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders were received on Thursday for £1,920,000 six months' Treasury bills in part replacement of £2,220,000 falling due on the 28th inst. Applications at £98 1/4s. 6d. received about 20 per cent., and above in full, the average rate obtained being £2 9s. 4d. The total amount applied for was £8,453,000.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
2,000,000	12 months	Oct. 5 1906.	2 17 4
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	6 months	Jan. 2 †	—
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 27	2 9 4
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
20,633,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Sept. 16.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	£
Excise	£
Estate, &c., Duties ..	£
Stamps	£
Land Tax and House Duty.	£
Property and Income Tax..	£
Post Office	£
Telegraphs	£
Crown Lands	£
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	£
Treasury Bills (net amount)	£
Miscellaneous	£
Bullion advances repaid ..	£
Uganda Railway	£
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	£
count	£
Telegraph Acts	£
Naval Works Acts	£
Military Works Acts ..	£
Land Registry Acts	£
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	£
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	£
Ways and Means	£
Deficiency	£
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	£
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	£
Transvaal and Orange River	£
Colony. Repayment of	£
Temporary Advance	£
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	£
tion payments	£
Decrease in Exchequer	£
balances	£
	£2,357,012
	£2,357,012

* Exclusive of £134,859 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £3,557,429.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Net Efflux	£400,000
	Saturday, Egypt
	Monday, Constantinople ..
	Continent
	Thursday, B. Ayres
Total	£400,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
Week ending				
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 23	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
" 30	174,559,000	190,242,000	—	15,683,000
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
	8,891,578,000	7,497,338,000	1,394,240,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'16 1/2	25'15 1/2	Antwerp	short	25'21	25'22
Brussels	chqs.	25'19 1/2	25'20 1/2	Italy	sight	25'14	25'13 1/2
Amsterdam	sight	12'10 1/2	12'11	Constantinople	3 mths	109'37 1/2	109'37
Berlin	chqs.	20'44 1/2	20'43	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	17'6d.	17'8d.
Do. do. do.	3 mths	20'28 1/2	20'26 1/2	Valparaiso	90 dys	15'8d.	15'8d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'43 1/2	20'42	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4 1/2	1/4 1/2
Frankfort	short	20'43 1/2	20'42	Bombay	T.T.	1/4 1/2	1/4 1/2
Vienna	sight	24'00 1/2	23'99 1/2	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/11 1/2	1/11 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'95	93'90	Shanghai	T.T.	2/8 1/2	2/8 1/2
New York	60 dys	4'82 1/2	82 1/2	Singapore	4 mths	2/1 1/2	2/1 1/2
Lisbon	sight	51 1/2	51 1/2	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0 1/2	2/0 1/2
Madrid	sight	32'92	32'86				

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Sept. 15, 1905.	Sept. 7, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1905.	Sept. 15, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£46,366,291	£46,328,500	£46,390,583	£48,625,625
Silver reserve	12,440,625	12,478,833	12,619,208	12,351,083
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,886,291	1,877,958	1,831,458	1,753,333
Note circulation	69,181,250	69,233,875	69,469,416	69,766,708
Bills discounted	16,716,667	16,215,625	16,381,875	15,164,958

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	18	2
Berlin	4	September 11, 1905	28	32
Hamburg	4	September 11, 1905	3	32
Frankfort	4	September 11, 1905	24	32
Amsterdam	2½	March, 1905	24	32
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	28	28
Vienna	3½	February 3, 1902	38	32
Rome	5	September, 1904	32	32
St. Petersburg	5½	February, 1904	72	72
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	32	32
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	42	42
Stockholm	5	September 22, 1905.	4	42
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4	4
Calcutta	4	August 17, 1905	—	—
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	—	—
New York call money ..	2	—	—	—

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 14, 1905	Sept. 7, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1905.	Sept. 15, 1904
Coin and bullion	£ 4,888,800	£ 4,925,360	£ 4,815,360	£ 4,812,640
Other securities	21,443,400	22,074,200	23,584,840	20,884,280
Note circulation	26,398,720	26,315,200	27,523,080	25,340,160
Deposits	2,859,200	3,391,720	2,920,640	2,500,100

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Sept. 16, 1905	Sept. 9, 1905.	Sept. 2, 1905.	Sept. 17, 1904
Specie	£ 40,436,000	£ 41,404,000	£ 42,758,000	£ 51,474,000
Legal tenders	15,310,000	15,742,000	16,672,000	15,676,000
Loans and discounts ..	217,104,000	221,336,000	227,384,000	228,200,000
Circulation	10,740,000	10,740,000	10,620,000	8,021,400
Net deposits	219,276,000	225,084,000	233,318,000	244,840,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £966,000 against an excess last week of £1,100,000.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 15, 1905.	Sept. 7, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1905.	Sept. 15, 1904.
Cash in hand	£ 45,405,350	£ 45,443,200	£ 46,584,250	£ 45,728,900
Bills discounted	52,539,750	47,363,050	45,474,350	38,539,150
Advances on stocks ..	2,823,600	2,823,250	3,318,500	3,025,900
Note circulation	65,641,950	64,861,150	63,377,000	62,328,500
Public deposits	33,956,550	28,364,850	26,344,750	30,484,300

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 16, 1905	Sept. 9, 1905.	Sept. 2, 1905.	Sept. 17, 1904
Gold	£ 14,936,778	£ 14,929,347	£ 14,923,102	£ 14,782,551
Silver	22,556,043	22,472,570	22,638,595	20,433,757
Foreign Bills	2,420,554	2,363,524	2,279,525	1,682,235
Discount and Short Bills	45,280,886	45,309,426	45,332,130	38,631,566
Treasury Account ..	20,769,532	20,819,030	20,848,533	21,969,807
Notes in circulation ..	62,452,960	62,586,626	62,444,569	65,293,548
Current Account deposits	22,299,838	22,704,992	22,628,042	25,452,262
Dividends Interests ..	2,018,576	2,054,571	2,585,501	2,484,285
Government Securities	5,486,786	4,860,211	4,988,208	5,267,835

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 21, 1905.	Sept. 14, 1905.	Sept. 7, 1905.	Sept. 22, 1904.
Gold in hand	£ 118,786,640	£ 118,899,520	£ 118,977,680	£ 106,074,280
Silver in hand	44,228,440	44,142,040	44,292,120	44,481,600
Bills discounted	20,482,400	20,415,280	19,220,760	19,959,000
Advances	19,024,200	18,820,160	19,171,280	19,991,160
Note circulation	173,525,800	173,965,840	174,228,360	166,976,640
Public deposits	11,541,200	11,038,240	9,703,360	8,403,560
Private deposits	2,646,640	23,541,440	23,901,760	21,654,320

Proportion between bullion and circulation 91½ per cent., against 93½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 23, Sept. 5, 1905.	Aug. 16/29, 1905.	Aug. 8/21, 1905.	Aug. 23, Sept. 5, 1904.
Gold	£ 91,022,530	£ 91,623,725	£ 91,813,964	£ 85,306,354
Silver and subsidiary coin	5,399,687	5,548,388	5,707,650	8,425,087
Advances and bills discounted ..	36,109,394	35,194,145	34,852,361	37,696,281
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	7,457,711	9,143,485	5,458,033	4,934,875
Notes in circulation ..	103,671,680	99,588,624	97,779,536	74,129,881
Deposits and current account	44,510,230	44,413,654	45,074,936	40,457,422
Treasury account	14,343,356	17,641,108	11,969,440	27,765,843

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 20, 1905.	Aug. 10, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1904.
Reserve	£ 28,002,160	£ 27,833,440	£ 27,819,280	£ 25,949,720
State notes and small change ..	458,840	582,840	517,360	504,320
Discount and loans	11,980,960	11,267,920	11,238,680	10,342,040
Public stock and State loans ..	7,824,200	7,885,680	7,886,480	8,407,440
Credits	6,778,400	5,693,920	5,521,720	6,653,360
Note Circulation	38,370,000	37,729,760	38,318,640	34,607,800
Current account	3,977,560	3,954,080	3,991,800	3,958,400
Deposits	2,944,720	3,308,400	3,151,120	3,405,480

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	2½—3
Three months	2½—3
Four months	3—3½
Six months	3½—4
Three months fine inland bills	3—3½
Four months	3½—4
Six months	3½—4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	3
" " short loan rates	—
Bankers' rate on deposits	1½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	1½
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	1½
Current rates for 7 day loans	2—2½
" " for call loans	1½—2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

The peace "boom" upon markets would appear to be about over, if indeed it could be dignified by being called a boom. How far the outside public came into the now palsied movement we have no direct means of judging, but such evidence as can be got leaves us in much doubt whether the outside buying was ever very pronounced. All markets seem to grow more and more professional, although it is rather an abuse of that good old word to lug it into this connection. What we mean is that stock market movements are in the hands of groups of operators who command a certain following amongst the public, but nothing beyond. This is notoriously the case in the various mining markets, and to a lesser degree characterises all speculative business in these days. Sundry operators combine to produce a certain movement upon the Stock Exchange, and can command in doing this the assistance of a more or less considerable number of people who may be described as amateur gamblers, the combined efforts of syndicates and their supporters being to produce sudden movements in prices, usually upward, but sometimes downward, for which there is often no rational explanation available. According as the habitually gambling public is in the humour or in funds it joins in these movements, follows them, and tries to imitate the operators whose business it is to compel markets to do their bidding. In the recent advance we doubt whether even this somewhat limited public took much of a hand, and certainly markets are now again more or less "sickly," with dealers everywhere complaining of an absence of bargain-making. To some extent the fears about dearer money have caused the habitual punters to pause, but in some departments we believe the people who originated the play have found themselves compelled to absorb securities which outside holders have taken the opportunity of the rise to sell, and this did not suit them at all.

The position of the Stock Exchange is indeed a very remarkable one, and we cannot help feeling that these successive efforts to create a popular furore of buying must have left considerable masses of indigestible stuff in the possession of the would-be market controllers. For instance, in the recent hustle aroused amongst South African shares the buying, as far as we can trace, has been nearly all "shop" or market. Every man inside who had been twiddling his thumbs for months and months with nothing to do bought himself 100 or 200, or any number of shares he fancied, and saw prices begin to go up in a manner which led him to think that he was at last going to have a stroke of luck. Now and then perhaps the early buyer managed to sell on the crest of the wave, but the great bulk of the people inside the market and around it hold to-day the shares they bought when peace was announced, and will have to provide for losses upon their acquisitions when the next settlement comes round. What is to be the consequence of a succession of these experiences upon the solvency of a considerable number of members of the Stock Exchange? How many firms of brokers who habitually lay themselves out for this kind of business are to-day in the position to meet all their engagements? If the public is selling and drawing away its money, whence do such firms continue to obtain their resources? At the moment questions of this kind do not look pressing for an answer, but we have seen in past times the conse-

quences of similar manœuvring, and shall be more than surprised if the ultimate product of recent purely market or market and society efforts at price-hoisting do not turn out as disastrously as former ones have done.

The immediate course of markets is not going to be brilliant if we leave out of view the play of the Wall Street people. They have reached a degree of irresponsibility which deprives us of the power to estimate what is going to happen in the near future to Yankee Railroad and other securities. The position of the Wall Street market every now and again looks extremely top-heavy, but the skill with which difficulties are smoothed over and unpleasant incidents screened prevents the observer on this side of the Atlantic from being able to form an accurate judgment upon the drift of events. To all appearance, the symptoms point to critical times on Wall Street during the next few months, but we should not like to go on to say that these ticklish junctures may not be surmounted without seriously upsetting the equanimity of the market or reducing prices to any important extent. All we hope is that the public here will not be tempted to come in and relieve the master players of any of the securities they now carry aloft in the upper air, as it were. Since the play is mostly professional, let it become entirely so, and big gambler fight big gambler in the wild scramble after inordinate fortunes. By-and-by reaction will come, and those who have patience and prudence may then find their opportunity. This does not apply to really substantial securities, but to the greedy products of scheming finance always waved in the eyes of the people.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Markets do not get under way for their autumn boom. Truth to tell the public has not responded to the recent outburst in anything like sufficient strength to keep prices on the move, and with most of the current influences decidedly against a further rise quotations have a tendency to hang back. During the early days of the week the Stock Exchange, like the money market, was a prey to monetary fears, and although these died down to some extent towards the close, and especially when the Bank rate was continued at 3 per cent., they left their mark on prices. The Moroccan wrangle has also come to the front again, the Scandinavian trouble, although not an important matter, is a source of worry, and Paris is finding it a hard task to throw off the effects of the sugar collapse. All these things help to create a feeling of unrest, and clearly markets are in no condition to withstand any particular strain. Values are much too high for that, and gold withdrawals from the Bank leading to a 4 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 ¹ / ₂	87 ¹ / ₂	Consols (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Money)	86 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂
91 ¹ / ₂	87 ¹ / ₂	Do. Account (Oct. 4)	89 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂
90 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89	88 ¹ / ₂
100 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100	100
95 ¹ / ₂	89	Irish Land (2 ¹ / ₂) ..	91 ¹ / ₂	91 ¹ / ₂
101 ¹ / ₂	96 ¹ / ₂	Local Loans (3) ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100
99 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	National War Loan (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	98	98
99 ¹ / ₂	98	Do. Account (Oct. 4) ..	98 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂
101 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
308	297	Bk. of England Stock. (6 p.c.) ..	302 ¹ / ₂	302 ¹ / ₂
109	104 ¹ / ₂	India 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	10 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
90 ¹ / ₂	95	Do. 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stock. red. 1948 ..	97	97
85 ¹ / ₂	80 ¹ / ₂	Do. 2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stock. red. 1926 ..	81 ¹ / ₂	81 ¹ / ₂
66 ¹ / ₂	65 ¹ / ₂	Do. 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66 ¹ / ₂	66

discount rate might mean an important set-back. Consols dipped some fractions, but pulled up again and close with little change, after a very modest business. Other British funds, like Irish Land stock, the latest Exchequer bond issue, and India 3¹/₂ per cent. were also a little dull, but the rest stood at previous figures. Metropolitan Water Board and L.C.C. issues gave way a trifle in the Home County and Corporation division, and Corporation of London 2¹/₂ per cent. lost 1, but Liverpool 3¹/₂ per cent., Portsmouth 3¹/₂ per cent., and Manchester 4 per cent. Consolidated ended the

same amount better. A few colonial stocks were marked up, notably South Australia 6 per cent., which had a nominal advance of 3¹/₂.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	101 ¹ / ₂	102
102 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	132 ¹ / ₂	132 ¹ / ₂
104 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂
93 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	92 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂
92 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	92 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂
92 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	92 ¹ / ₂	92 ¹ / ₂
104 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres ..	104	104
91 ¹ / ₂	82 ¹ / ₂	5 p.c. Debs. ..	90 ¹ / ₂	91
101	94	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	98 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂
106	101 ¹ / ₂	Do. Western of Minas Rail ..	105 ¹ / ₂	105 ¹ / ₂
90 ¹ / ₂	82	5 p.c. ..	89 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂
102 ¹ / ₂	93 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	101	100 ¹ / ₂
97 ¹ / ₂	87 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees ..	96	97
97 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	1902 ..	97	97
90 ¹ / ₂	88 ¹ / ₂	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	96	96
102 ¹ / ₂	96	Chilian 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1885 ..	101	101
103 ¹ / ₂	91 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1886 ..	97	97
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1895 ..	96	96
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	97	97
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106 ¹ / ₂	106 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	105	104 ¹ / ₂
59 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	Costa Rica A ..	54	55
51 ¹ / ₂	44	Do. B ..	44	45
48 ¹ / ₂	40 ¹ / ₂	Colombian External ..	43 ¹ / ₂	43 ¹ / ₂
109 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106 ¹ / ₂	106 ¹ / ₂
107	104 ¹ / ₂	Egypt United 4 p.c. ..	106 ¹ / ₂	106 ¹ / ₂
103 ¹ / ₂	95 ¹ / ₂	Do. 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. pref. ..	103	103
106 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. State Domain ..	106	106
91 ¹ / ₂	88 ¹ / ₂	German 3 p.c. ..	89 ¹ / ₂	89
54 ¹ / ₂	47	Greek, 1884 ..	54 ¹ / ₂	54 ¹ / ₂
55 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54 ¹ / ₂	54 ¹ / ₂
44	38 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	43 ¹ / ₂	43 ¹ / ₂
54 ¹ / ₂	47	Do. Funding ..	53 ¹ / ₂	53 ¹ / ₂
100 ¹ / ₂	96 ¹ / ₂	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	97 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂
106	102 ¹ / ₂	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
102 ¹ / ₂	88 ¹ / ₂	Japan 5 p.c. ..	101 ¹ / ₂	102
103 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	Do. New ..	101 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂
91 ¹ / ₂	72 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	90 ¹ / ₂	91 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	105	105
105 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
70 ¹ / ₂	64 ¹ / ₂	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70	70 ¹ / ₂
95 ¹ / ₂	80 ¹ / ₂	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	94 ¹ / ₂	94 ¹ / ₂
82	76	Servian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
95 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	93 ¹ / ₂	93 ¹ / ₂
103	100	Turks 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Tribute ..	102 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂
105 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	105	105 ¹ / ₂
92	80 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. United ..	89 ¹ / ₂ xd	90 ¹ / ₂ xd
74 ¹ / ₂	63 ¹ / ₂	Uruguay 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. ..	72 ¹ / ₂	72
99	80 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. ..	98 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂
50 ¹ / ₂	42 ¹ / ₂	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	42 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂

The Foreign Bond market was unusually quiet, but towards the close of the week a moderate demand again sprang up for Japanese issues, and caused an all-round improvement in prices. Chinese issues were just steady, and Russians had a hardening tendency, despite the gloomy reports regarding the internal condition of the country, but with Paris still suffering a little from nerves, partly due to the sugar collapse and partly to Moroccan troubles, it was difficult to infuse life into most European bonds. Nevertheless, quotations were well maintained, Greeks alone excepted. Argentine issues were very much neglected, but there was some little continental inquiry for Brazilians, which, by comparison, are thought to look cheap, and Chilians easily maintained former figures. Peruvian things fluctuated more narrowly than usual, thanks perhaps to the absence of any settlement rumours. A fair amount of attention was again given to Central American loans, and after a sharp rise Colombians sank back when stories were spread of another revolution, only, however, to recover once more when the rumours were officially denied. Honduras issues were sent up with a rush for no particular reason, except that gambling in this class of thing has come into fashion; but best prices were not maintained. The Continent is said to have joined in the game. Venezuelans also went up, likewise Guatemalans and Costa Ricas, the last-named experiencing a sharp rise, but in other directions there was a backward tendency noticeable at the finish.

The fears of a further advance in the Bank rate which dominated markets in the beginning of the week caused speculators for the rise in Home Railway stocks to attempt to secure their profits, and as no new buyers came forward prices gradually dwindled. In the majority of cases the selling never reached important proportions, and the losses rarely amounted to more than a fraction or two at a time, but Metropolitan and District were both freely offered, and dropped from £1

to 30s. The stocks of the "heavy" lines were also weak, as well as Scotch companies' issues, and South-Western ordinary and deferred were flat. A more confident mood prevailed on Wednesday, and as the traffic returns were, on the whole, satisfactory, a general recovery took place, but the market never became really active at any time, and the improvement in quotations was as unimportant as the fall had been. It was reported in Aberdeen on Wednesday that an arrangement had been made for the amalgamation of the Great North of Scotland and Highland companies, and it was stated that if the scheme were carried through it would eventually force the Caledonian to absorb both undertakings. On the strength of this news the stocks of the two lines interested were hoisted from £2 to £3, but neither Caledonian nor North British issues were influenced appreciably, and they finished with small nett losses on the week.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133½	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	136	138
165	152½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	158	157
131½	116½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	123	124
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	116½	116
83½	77½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	80½	79½
38½	33½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	37½	37
94½	88½	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	91
86½	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78½	79½
17½	15½	Chatham Ordinary ..	16½	16½
47½	37½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	41	41
62	51	Furness (3 p.c.) ..	61	61
34½	28½	Great Central Pref. ..	33½	33½
18½	15½	Do. Def. ..	17½	17½
93½	82	Great Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	84	83½
108½	98½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	101	101
42½	37½	Do. Def. (1) ..	38½	38½
145½	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	139½	140
56½	52	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	53½	50½
49½	41	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	45½	46
112½	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (5½ p.c.) ..	107½	107
100	90	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	92	90½
42½	35½	Metropolitan District ..	36	35
71	65½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	68½
70	62½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	67	67
83½	76½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	80½	79½
49½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	46½	45½
144½	134	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	140½	140½
160½	147	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	157	156½
94½	84½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	91	91
134	122½	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	129	130
58½	48½	Do. Def. ..	56½	57½
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	162½	161½
111½	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	107
60½	52½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	57½	56½

Operations in Yankee Railroad shares were encouraged by the reduction in loans shown by the return of the New York Associated Banks, although it was perfectly clear that this had only been brought about by shifting the burden to the trust companies. Bears consequently were driven to cover, and a good deal of new

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	93	93½
108½	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	108	108
120½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	115½	116½
102	97½	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	100	101
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	56½	61
103½	78½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	183½	188
38	27½	Denver Shares ..	35½	37
93½	85½	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	91½	92
54½	38½	Erie Shares ..	52½	53½
87½	77½	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	85½	85
80½	58½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	77½	76½
186½	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	184	186½
158½	140½	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	153½	155½
36½	24½	Missouri and Texas ..	35½	35
169½	140½	New York Central (5) ..	153	156½
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	87½	88½
96½	94	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	95	95
65½	41½	Ontario Shares ..	56½	56½
76½	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	73½	74½
63	40½	Reading Shares ..	60½	64
48½	46	Do. 1st Prefd. (4) ..	48	48
49	43½	Do. 2nd Prefd. (2) ..	49	49
74	59½	Southern Pacific ..	70½	70½
38½	28½	Southern ..	36½	37½
104½	97½	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	103½	104½
142½	116½	Union Pacific (4) ..	135½	137½
102½	98½	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	99	99½
24½	18½	Wabash ..	23½	24
49½	37½	Do. Prefd. ..	43	45
86½	69½	Do. Income Debs. ..	74	80
181½	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	171½	181½
109	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	107
112	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110	111
26½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	26½	26½
104½	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	104½	104
115½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
107	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	107	107
61½	46½	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	61½	61½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½	108½

speculation for the rise sent quotations flying upwards in a sensational fashion, but the "bull" movement appeared to be top-heavy, in view of the monetary position and the talk of further large shipments of gold from this side proved insufficient to maintain prices at the high levels reached. A steady stream of selling set in from the Continent, and Wall Street was also ready to snatch profits wherever possible, so that the market soon dwindled again, but the change of opinion with regard to the Bank rate manifested on this side caused an effort to be made to bring about a rally. Reading were strongly supported, in anticipation of a favourable annual report, and other "coalers" went up in sympathy, while Milwaukee came into prominence on a report that an issue of Treasury stock would shortly be made, with rights to existing holders. Wabash issues went up smartly, owing, it was said, to a struggle between the Gould and Pennsylvania interests to secure control, and Erie things hardened on the news that the company had agreed to buy up the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad, which will give it some 3,500 miles of additional track and connection with some of the principal cities in Ohio and Michigan. Chesapeake, New York Central, Louisville, and Union Pacific were all given a fair amount of support towards the end, and to a less extent Baltimore, Denver, and Illinois Central shared in the upward movement.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	211½	209
321	144½	Do. Def. (15) ..	315	311½
127½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	124	124
131	113½	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	128	128
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	84½	84½
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	144	144½
133	127	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	133	133
137½	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	136	137
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
110½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110
114	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	113	114
107½	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	104½	105½
160	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	160	170
108½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108	108
137½	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	136½	137
91	79	Central Uruguay (3) ..	88	91
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	109	97
95	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	94½	95
70½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	70½	73
32½	28½	Costa Rica (1) ..	3	2½
128½	59½	Cuban Central ..	7½	7½
107½	104½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	113½	113½
90½	72	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	106	106
74½	5	East Argentine (2) ..	87	89
84½	50½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6½	7
97½	86½	Leopoldina (3) ..	80	79
110½	106	Do. Deb. (4) ..	97	96
108	104½	Manila Bonds "A" (5) ..	109	109
29½	19½	Do. "B" (6) ..	205	105
121½	103½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	24	23½
57	36½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	114	113½
69½	48½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	46	44½
162	107½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	59	59
198	163	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	163	163
208½	178	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	182	183
198	122	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	208	206
		United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	193½	190½

Canadian Pacific shares were made the object of a strong buying campaign, and the price advanced to 179½ quite early in the week. Various stories were afloat to account for the outburst, amongst them being one to the effect that the company had refused to accept £14,000,000 for its remaining lands. Another was that a big financial operation is contemplated by which the preferred and common shares of the "Soo" line will be cancelled against an issue of Canadian Pacific common stock. The par value of the "Soo" share capital is \$21,000,000, but it is said that the preferred shares are to receive \$200 for each \$100 nominal. A good many shares were thrown on the market at the higher price by speculators anxious to secure their profits, and it may be noted as a significant fact that many of the deliveries in Wall Street this week were from Canadian sources. This, however, did not prevent a resumption of the vigorous buying, and the quotation, after being back to a little under 177, was lifted to 182. Grand Trunk stocks, by way of contrast, were heavy because the buying for the rise appears to have been overdone, and the weekly traffic return did not come up to the expectations of the "bulls." At any rate, tired holders endeavoured

to realise, and although there was a little renewal of the support, it was not sufficient to allow the recovery to make very much headway.

Argentine Railways kept pretty steady on the whole throughout the week without a great deal going on in most of them, and quotations with few exceptions show moderate improvements. The ordinary debenture stocks of the North-Eastern Company, however, were inquired for, and closed with fair gains on the week, while a demand sprung up for Cordoba and North-Western debentures, which lifted them to 39. Central Uruguay stock was also sought after, and Paraguay Central debenture stock was again in request, but Brazilian things were weak and inclined to be flat. Mexican Railway issues were heavy at first, and in spite of a recovery towards the end showed fairly big losses at the close, dragging Mexican Southern ordinary and debenture stocks down with them. The Nitrate Railways traffic return, showing a gain of nearly £5,000 for the fortnight, was well enough liked, but the ordinary shares only improved a trifle, and the deferred was actually down at the close. Realisations in United Railways of the Havana ordinary and in Antofagasta ordinary and deferred knocked from two to three pounds off the price.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27 71	15 40	22½ —	Allsopp Ordinary City of London Ord. ..	24 65½	20 66½
566 27½	505 21½	— —	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) Ohlsson's Cape (40) ..	550 23½	560 23½
27½ 37½	13½ 33	— —	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20)	22 32	22 38
68½ 35	48 15	60 25	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) Do. Def. Ord. Stock ..	60½ 24½	59½ 24½
105 78½	99 56½	— —	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) Do. Def. Stk. (3½) ..	102 71	102 70
6½ 7½	51½ 6½	6½ 6½	Aerated Bread (30) .. Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	6½ 6½	6½ 6½
6½ 13½	51½ 17½	1½ 1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	6½ 12	6½ 12
39 68	28 —	— —	British Westinghouse Pref. Brunner Mond (35) ..	22 69	22 68
11½ 5½	9½ 4½	12/0 12/0	Callender's Cable Ord. 12½ Calico Printers Ordinary (2½)	109 42	108 42
502½ 23½	483½ 17½	502½ 14/9	Coats Ordinary (20) .. Do. Pref. Ord. (20) ..	51½ 500	51½ 500
1½ 8½	1 5½	1½ 6½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll) Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	18 69	18 68
13½ 13½	10½ 3½	— 3½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) .. Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	129 31½	129 31½
111 111	106 106	108½ 26/6	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) .. Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	108 108	108 108
18½ 18½	15½ 5½	22/0 5½	Do. Debenture (42) .. Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	108 18	108 18
18½ 18½	15½ 24/9	22/0 5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) .. Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	52 18	52 18
7½ 15	5½ 13½	— —	Russian Petroleum (5) .. Savoy Hotel (5) ..	18 6	18 6
105 89	102 49½	103½ 81	Sweetmeat Automatic .. Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	18 14	18 15
506 108½	38½ 99½	49½ 107½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock .. Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	9 103	9 104
9½ 11½	8½ 10½	— —	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-)	82½ 82½	81 81
13 104½	10½ 95½	11½ —	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) Do. Debentures (6) ..	508 107½	502 107½
234½ 37½	126½ 33	— 38	National Discount (10) .. Union Discount (11) ..	9 11½	9 11½
58 118	32 18½	37/0 37/0	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	7 118	7 112
12 112	18 92	11½ 10	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48) South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	100 133	99½ 133
39½ 109½	26½ 93½	36½ 105½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) .. Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	38 38	37½ 38
28½ 14½	23½ 11½	24½ —	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10) Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	10 11½	10 11½
231 37	214½ 28½	— —	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) .. United States Steel Ordinary ..	12 379	12 378
9 109½	8 101½	— 106	Do. Preference (7) .. Vickers Ordinary (12½) ..	35½ 28	35½ 28
17½ 147½	10 134½	15 146	Cunard Steam Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	12 230	12 231
14½ 113½	13½ 100	14 108½	Royal Mail Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) ..	107½ 9	172 9
14½ 92½	13½ 78	14½ 82	Anglo-American Telegraph— Do. Pref. Ord. (2½) ..	107½ 162	108 172
129 102	110 98	— —	Do. Def. Ord. East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	146 14	146 14
			Eastern Extension (7) .. National Telephone Def. (5) ..	14 108½	14 108
			Western Telegraph (7) .. British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	142 82	142 82
			Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) London General Omnibus (8)	88 124½	88 124½
			London United Trams Pref. (5)	10	10

Nitrate Companies' shares attracted a good deal of attention in the Miscellaneous markets, and prices were given an all-round lift. No particular reason transpired for the movement except that the demand for

the fertiliser continues good, and that satisfactory profits are being earned. There is also talk of a return of capital in one or two instances. Brewery securities were again actively marked up, with more attention paid to the less popular issues, and Catering things generally were steady. Spiers and Pond ordinary were persistently bought on amalgamation rumours. Prices for Iron and Steel shares were good, with particular strength in Stewarts and Lloyds, Pease and Partners, and Armstrong-Whitworth quickly recovered a small set-back experienced when the dividend was merely maintained at 15 per cent. But surely that is an excellent return. Textiles just held previous prices, and amongst Drapery concerns John Barkers had a small rise. Hudson's Bays were comparatively quiet, moving within narrow limits, and Chinese Exploration shares were at best steady, but Argentine Land shares came into renewed prominence at advancing prices. London Docks deferred showed weakness, but Gas, Insurance, and other investment things continue to be quietly absorbed. Anglo-American Telegraph deferred went first up and then down, and sharp fluctuations will probably be in evidence until the announcement is made regarding dividend. Dealers are looking for something good. Telephones were occasionally asked for, and amongst Tramway and Omnibus issues, B.E.T. ordinary recovered sharply, and a considerable business was transacted in Buenos Ayres and Belgrano ordinary, which went over 4. Mazawattee Tea debentures were put down a few pounds, and Associated Cement debentures went back after the meeting. A fall took place in Drury Lane Theatre shares when the report came out showing a heavy loss on working, meaning that no dividend can be paid for the first time in the company's history. P. and O. deferred was good in the Shipping division, as also Leyland preference; and Bank shares, when they moved, went up.

No special characteristics developed in the stock markets to-day, but Japanese bonds were conspicuously strong on extensive and good buying of a speculative investment character. Everything points to a still further advance in their prices, and it will be assisted in the future by the participation of Paris. We believe arrangements have been concluded for the introduction of Japanese 4½ per cents. on the Paris bourse next week. This was magnified to-day into a tale of a Paris loan to Japan, but no such thing is yet in prospect. Paris sold Rio Tinto shares rather freely this morning, and seemed to want to buy some of them back again before the close. In home securities generally business was insignificant, but the disposition of all markets was more cheerful, and prices tended to harden. Foreign Government bonds, too, are "all on the jump," as jobbers say.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Those individuals who thought that the engineered advance in the Kaffir market was the effect of genuine business and support, and who dreamed that quotations would further ascend to heights beyond the reach of ordinary vision have learnt once again that appearances have been illusive. The steady slump in prices, despite all the efforts of the bosses to stop it, shows that the tactics have succeeded in bringing only sellers forward, not buyers. As we said a week ago, the temporary rise gave holders a fine opportunity to clear out, and have a little of their own back from the unscrupulous thieves who have robbed them in the past. Such mine-boss manipulation of the market was not, of course, unexpected; it was possible that sooner or later they would attempt some desperate hazard of the kind, but probably not even themselves knew when they would consider the moment propitious. They deemed it propitious as soon as peace was declared, and exhausted all their resources in buying in order to give a fictitious semblance of strength and activity to the market. Why hasn't the rise been sustained? Why have quotations shrunk again so hopelessly and helplessly? Because the public have not backed up the bosses as these hoped they would, so they have speedily found out that the game is not a paying one. They have not imagined the depth of the public disgust with them and all their methods, but think that a

manipulated rise will erase from memories all their iniquities, and that past losses will be forgotten in the excitement of cupidity. It has not been so, and those who, in their ignorant bliss and greed-ecstasy, have seen wealth waiting to be clutched at, yet have not clutched it in the hope that it would grow, now find that it has vanished. Punters have declared the fall to be due to suspense over Morocco, and fears of a further rise in the Bank rate, but the slump commenced long before these influences could come into operation. Paris has been a steady seller, and doubtless there are wise Frenchmen who have been taking advantage of the recent rise to disburden themselves of unprofitable stuff.

It is announced that Messrs. Farrar have severed their connection with the Anglo-French Exploration Company, so this concern will no longer act as London agents for the East Rand Proprietary and its subsidiaries, which are opening London offices of their own. A cablegram from the South Nourse states that the reef has unexpectedly been struck in shaft No. 2 at a depth of 2,055 ft., and that there appears to be an upthrow of about 700 ft., caused by the dyke through, which No. 1 shaft is passing. The following dividend has been declared:—

	Dividend.	Capital.	Amount.
	Per cent.	£	£
Ferreira Deep	17½ %	910,000	159,250

This is for the half-year ending September 30, and compares with 10 per cent. for the corresponding period last year.

In the Rhodesian section the outstanding event has been the collapse of the boomlet in Bankets and Tanganyikas. Inside gamblers rushed up prices as speedily as they could before the publication of Mr. Garthwaite's report, and when they knew that that report could no longer be kept from the public they rushed in to take their profits, and so left the deluded fools in the lurch. With Mr. Garthwaite's report we deal in a separate article, but we may say here that his opinions coincide with those we have held, and expressed time after time in the REVIEW. In the complete report published later in the week he refers to the "wave of enthusiasm" which "undoubtedly came from the fact that this is the first discovery of payable banket in Rhodesia, and probably taking the Rand as a precedent, it was assumed that the values will continue equally lasting." This assumption he considers is unwarranted, "for it is as necessary to establish this fact in this formation as in the ordinary reef occurrence." Quite so. It does not follow that the values will be lasting, and the property become payable because it looks to be a banket formation, for that can only be ascertained in years to come. The wave of enthusiasm was worked up by financiers, promoters, and gamblers only, who thought they saw opportunities of making fortunes at the expense of the public. If Mr. Garthwaite considered the property greatly overvalued at the beginning of August, what must his opinion be after the recent inflation? Such wild gambling as we have witnessed, with its inevitable effects, will only delay the re-establishment of confidence amongst outsiders, and the market itself, even in its own ultimate interests, is foolish to encourage it. A small knot of speculators, too, have been rigging Tanganyikas. This also should be discouraged, for such tactics will do more harm than good to the company in the long run.

Great Fingalls, in the West Australian group, have fallen rather heavily on Mr. Rolker's report, although he argues that on present prices the yield should be over 15 per cent., even should the directors act on his advice to lower the average grade of the ore, the result of which would be, even if it reduced profits and dividends, to spread them over a longer period. It should be pointed out, too, that the latest estimated ore reserves represent profit in sight almost equal to the present market valuation, so the fall should not scare holders into parting too readily. "Bears" may be making the best of their opportunity and the price may recover later. Lake Views have been weak on the scheme of the directors, referred to in a separate note. Kalgurli and Great Boulders have been firm.

Some Jungle shares and one or two Egyptians have hardened slightly. Indian shares have been steady. Nerchinsk has strengthened on the results of the first clean-up. Amongst Coppers, Rio Tintos have recovered from their early weakness, Mount Lyells and Cape Coppers are higher, whilst Spasskys have been declining.

THE RHODESIAN MINING INDUSTRY.—At the quarterly meeting of the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines, held at Bulawayo, on the 8th ult., Mr. George Mitchell, the president, dealt with one or two matters of primary importance to the mining industry. One was that the Chamber had petitioned the High Commissioner against the imposition of the Customs duties which had previously been suspended, and the introduction of which would add seriously to the cost of mining. In reply, the High Commissioner stated that he did not consider he could properly interfere with the decision of the administration in this matter; accordingly, the industry had to face the fact that the taxation would continue. "Our business," the president asserted, "is to make a success of the mining industry, and I consider it is our duty to grapple with this obstacle as soon as an opportunity offers again, and with this object in view the Chamber should endeavour to obtain adequate representation of its own interest as a body, and of that of the country generally when the Conference meets next year, and the question of the renewal of the present Customs Convention is being considered. Every reduction in working costs which we effect is a point gained in favour of the industry, and consequently a benefit to the country." This is self-evident, but such reduction should not be effected at the expense of the general community. Many mining

companies can economise in their administrative expenditure, for instance, without agitating for extraneous help. Instead of launching on wild enterprises and wasting the money of shareholders in buying rubbishy shares, thus to prop up a rotten market, ordinary prudence and caution could save thousands a year. How many boards of directors are there who practice such prudence? Very few. And what has the Chartered Company done to help the industry? It has caused practically every Rhodesian company to be over-capitalised. Economy, like charity, should begin at home. The first lessons can be learnt there, at any rate. "It must be borne in mind," the president continued, "that we are fighting against every obstacle which stands in the way of bringing into successful life large bodies of low grade ore which are at present lying fallow in the country." Oh! Are the directors fighting against their own tendencies to extravagance? Do they wrestle with their own cupidity and avarice? If they do, they fail miserably in the contest. "We have done a great deal already," he unblushingly added, "and we are encouraged to continue our efforts as improvements are always being effected in plant and machinery, as well as in the methods of extraction and treatment, all resulting in greater efficiency and economy." It is to be hoped that scientific invention will do far more than it has hitherto done, but if science is to convert present heavy losses into profits we have little hope that so marvellous a progress in human skill will be possible. Not only is the ore extremely poor, but the reefs have an exasperating tendency to peter out, and a reef lost cannot be restored by human agency. No skill in science will avail to put another in its place, and that is one of the chief troubles from which the industry has suffered from the beginning. We read constantly of companies suspending crushing, not so much because the ore is too low a grade to pay to mill, but because there is no ore of any kind to treat. It has all suddenly disappeared, and there is nothing left but valueless rock. The president, with undisguised pleasure, alluded to the announcement that the railway company proposed to reduce the rates from Beira inland, the reduced charges to take effect from the 1st prox. This he described as a movement in the right direction, but he cannot dispute that he looks at it from a biased and narrow point of view. He hopes, however, that greater reductions still will be made in the future, as the result of the increased traffic that may be brought to the railways. We doubt that even if the railways transported everything for nothing it would so affect the mining companies as to help them to pay dividends. Would it enable the many mines to resume crushing that have lost their reefs and are now spending money in the search for others which they may never find? And will it let the water out of the capitals of those companies which have been swamped with the element through the folly of the Chartered Company? We think not. The mining industry will never flourish solely on the sacrifices made by other people.

ESPERANZA, LIMITED.—A lengthy and important cable has been received by the board of the English company from the directors of the American company, announcing that the last-named have declared the regular quarterly dividend of 10 per cent., with an extra dividend of 20 per cent. "on amount its capital stock." It is added that, after careful deliberation, the directors have adopted the policy of maintaining the rate of dividend hitherto paid and to pay from time to time such extra dividends as will be warranted by prudent business management, rather than increase the rate of the regular dividend. The cable runs:—"Accompanying report will show latest estimates of the engineers of the company as to the amount of net ore reserves which will serve as guide to the shareholders in valuing their shares. This report also shows that under normal conditions for the next few years large profits are likely to be realised from the operations of the company. We deem it, however, important to inform your shareholders in this connection that thus far so relatively small an amount of development work has been completed that no data exist from which any reliable estimate can be made in respect to the future beyond the period required for dealing with the present ore reserves. It would, therefore, be part of wisdom if shareholders should treat extra dividends which they may receive as a reduction of the amount of their invested principal rather than mere income." Mr. C. E. Palmer, the consulting engineer, reports the ore reserves on the west veins on August 30 as follows:—In sight, 29,021 tons of milling ores, which will yield a net profit of \$530,488, and 65,458 tons of shipping ores, which will give a net profit of \$5,090,850, making a total net profit in sight of \$5,621,338. In addition to the above, there are classed as probable ore reserves 6,307 tons of milling ores and 27,737 tons of shipping ores, which will yield jointly \$2,611,557 net profit. Grand total estimated as in sight and probable, 128,523 tons, yielding \$8,232,895 net profit. The directors on this side add the following note:—"It will be seen that the above figures refer only to the development on the new west veins, and do not include the ore reserves on the San Rafael vein. The announcement as to dividend and bonus will be issued in due course." The above calculation of profits is equivalent to about £3 12s. 6d. per share.

LAKE VIEW CONSOLS.—It is officially announced that a meeting of the Lake View Consols will be held next Monday to enable the shareholders to consider the purchase of a half interest in a developed mine at Broken Hill. No particulars whatever are given in respect to this mine, not even the name of it, beyond the bare statement that the property has been examined by Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co., who have recommended the purchase. Full details are to be given by the chairman at the meeting, "together with the reasons of the directors for advising the shareholders to enter into the purchase." It is not fair to

the shareholders to ask them to decide upon so important a matter practically at a moment's notice. They cannot digest the scheme at a meeting. And how many shareholders out of the entire body of them will be able to attend the meeting? What about those who cannot attend? They cannot know anything of the new property until they can read a report of speeches in the Press. Why cannot the directors issue a circular to these giving, at any rate, some essential particulars, and a summary of the report of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co.? Not to do so is to take an unfair advantage of them, especially as their money is wanted. The cost of the half-interest is stated to be approximately £73,500, of which £50,000 will form the working capital of a new company, which is to be formed to take over and work the mine, the money being required to provide milling and concentrating plant and general equipment. The directors ask those who cannot attend for their proxies, which seems to be treating them somewhat scurvily under the circumstances. They are asked to support a scheme of which they know no more than the uninterested individual in the street. And does it not give rise to the fear that the directors are not very hopeful of the future of the Lake View Consols mine? As a matter of fact, they have been troubled by such doubts for the past year or two.

WESTRALIA MOUNT MORGANS.—The managing director of this West Australian company has despatched a cable to London which is likely to relieve the shareholders from much of the anxiety they have been suffering for two or three months. When the directors issued their report for 1904 in the month of June it proved to be an unexpectedly gloomy document. They admitted that the past financial year had been a period of great disappointment. During the first half of the year fair profits were made, but in the latter half the earnings declined to a serious extent, with the result that the net profit was only £21,897. Out of this the directors paid an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., but intimated that they could not increase it. Indeed, they warned shareholders that unless the returns from the mine improved considerably in the near future it would probably be necessary to provide further capital, so that a policy of vigorous development might be entered upon. There seems, however, to have been a great improvement in the appearance of the mine during recent weeks, for the managing director cables that it is looking much better, adding:—"New discoveries payable ore have been found in No. 1 level north, another at the 60 ft. level Quests. Consider ore reserves increased 50 per cent. Compressor caused great trouble; now much improved. Forty stamps running. Hope will begin work No. 6 level within two weeks. Expect good yield for month ending 6th inst. Anticipate the profit will be £1,500. Ore bodies improving in grade. Ore raised during the month of higher grade than for eight months. Think issue of new capital unnecessary. Convinced mine can recover financial position without assistance." His anticipations of the profit were more than realised, for a subsequent cable stated this to be £2,100. It may be that this indicates a permanent improvement in the conditions and prospects of the mine, but it would hardly be prudent to come to this conclusion from the brief details given in the cablegram. Since 1900 the company has paid some good dividends, but, as already stated, they suddenly ceased with the payment of 10 per cent. in August of last year. It is to be hoped they will now be resumed, and the mine show that it enters upon a new lease of life.

QUEENSLAND MENZIES GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year to June 30 the total amount of ore treated by this company was:—Battery returns, 4,573 tons—3,210 ozs., net proceeds £10,233; cyanide returns 3,231 tons, 1,016 ozs., worth £1,836; slimes 3,080 tons, 790 ozs., realising £1,948, making a total of £14,017. During the half-year the erection of the slimes plant was completed, and is now stated to be working satisfactorily. Prospecting work at the mine has been vigorously prosecuted, and advice has recently been received that 12 ins. to 2 ft. of quartz has been cut in the 366 ft. eastern crosscut, yielding on assay from 7 dwts. to 3 ozs. of gold per ton. In his report the manager writes:—"The prospects of the mine are not encouraging, owing to there being 703 ft. of exploring done during the last eleven months in the different parts of the mine without meeting any payable ore."

SOUTH KALGURLI.—In their report for the quarter ending June 30, Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co. write:—"The good development at No. 7 level in the north drive off the main crosscut west has been of great importance, as the value of the ore developed is considerably higher than the average value of the mine's ore reserves. Should the No. 8 level north open up well, of which there is every prospect at present, the ore reserves should be very considerably increased by the end of the financial year. The development of No. 6 level north will be pushed ahead as rapidly as possible with a view of proving the chute on this level. We have reason to believe that it will be discovered in time, although it may have been thrown about to some extent, and will require some work to find it. Everything is going well, and it is hoped that the plant will exceed the duty that has been anticipated, namely, 4,500 tons per month."

WORCESTER EXPLORATION AND GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The directors issue their report and accounts for the half-year ending June 30. During this period 21,160 tons were milled and 16,740 tons treated by the cyanide works for a total yield in bullion of 6,558 ozs., worth £23,532. Expenditure absorbed all but £873 of this, and this small profit reduces the debit balance to £26,341. There appears to be no such asset as cash, whilst debtors owe only £337, against an overdraft of £22,607—arrived at after allowing £13,687 for gold unrealised—a loan of £8,450, sundry creditors £2,854, and native wages £1,045. Money is

needed, therefore, to liquidate these liabilities, for future profits will have to be devoted to a wiping out of the deficit. At a special meeting in June last the directors were empowered to raise money by debentures, and they now intimate that negotiations are still pending with this object in view.

Ferreira Gold Mining Company.—A special meeting of this Rand company is convened for November 2 at Johannesburg, in order to consider the agreement provisionally entered into by the directors with the Central Rand Freehold Proprietary, Limited, for the purchase from the latter of the freehold rights over the Ferreira Company's property.

MORE MADAGASCAR MYSTERIES.—Last week we published some extracts from the optimistic reports of Mr. Pope upon the property of the Lecomte Company, at Fianarantsoa, Madagascar. His concluding sentence ran:—"I have pleasure in stating that I think your property one of immense value, and when working on a large scale as one of the premier gold-producers of the age. Samples I am bringing with me to be assayed at Johannesburg." A few weeks ago we alluded to some rumours in circulation that the property had been salted, rumours that were too persistent to be dismissed with contempt. In answer to such the secretary of the Lecomte company, in issuing Mr. Pope's report, said:—"My board thinks that Mr. Pope's report in itself should be sufficient answer to all such rumours, but should Mr. Pope wish to qualify his report in any manner, opportunities have been given to him to do so, and a reply can be expected from him within the next few days." Mr. Pope has very promptly qualified his report, for he has despatched the following cabled reply to the interrogations of the directors:—"This is in reply to your cable of August 14, received seven days from" (here follows the word "Pelatus," which is not found in the code), "have questioned Griffiths in presence of Parr and Harris" (the two latter are employees of the company); "he (Griffiths) admits having salted several samples, states positively gold supplied by" (three names are here mentioned in the cable), "following involved" (here follow two names). "Under these circumstances, I must withdraw report pending further investigations. Returning immediately to property, except you cable to the contrary before to-morrow." As regards the names mentioned in the cable, they are those of persons on the island, but the directors suppress them at present in order to safeguard themselves from the possibility of libel. It is stated, so the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Financial News* writes, that the directors have decided to instruct Mr. Pope to make the most exhaustive examination of the concession and reply by cable. All such incidents should further warn investors from being drawn into any Madagascar gamble.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE, AND ST. PAUL RAILWAY COMPANY.

In its fiscal year ended June 30 last this powerful North-Western road earned gross \$49,884,114 at a cost of \$32,294,041 in working expenses, or 64.73 per cent. of the receipts. Net earnings, therefore, came to \$17,590,073, exclusive of about \$321,000 received from other sources, and after deducting \$5,962,045, the interest on the bonded debt, no less than \$11,858,826 was left as free net revenue. Out of this both the preferred and ordinary stocks received, or will receive, 7 per cent. for the year, and after that has been paid the balance left will amount to \$4,352,000. Earnings showed an increase of \$1,553,779, while expenses went up only \$417,451. There was thus an increase of \$1,136,328 in the net revenue. Of the gross traffic 72.11 per cent., or \$35,968,947, came from freight, and the business of the company was excellent in all its branches. Its revenues went up, moreover, notwithstanding a further decrease in the average rate per ton per mile received on goods carried. A table on page 16 of the directors' report gives most instructive information on this point. In 1876 the rate per ton per mile was 2.04 cents and rose in the following year to 2.08 cents. Since then it has never reached as much as 2 cents, and in 1898 fell to 0.972 cents. Last year the remuneration was only 0.881 cents, a decrease of .010 cents on 1904. Whether the people who pay the charges levied by the railway get the benefit of this remarkable decline may well be questioned, as this company, like all the others throughout the Union, is in the hands of the monopolists—the beef trust, oil trust, and other agencies—who compel the railways to exact all manner of illegal charges, or to pay them rebates so as to make the greater and surer profit at the expense of the public. Passenger earnings expanded last year even more vigorously than those from goods, the total being \$10,126,958 or 20.30 per cent. of the gross income. This was an increase of \$465,324 or 4.82 per cent. on the figures for 1903-4, and although the increase in the rate of goods carried was 9.58 per cent. the increase in the earnings under that head was only 2.53 per cent. Last year's capital expenditure was only \$2,867,699, but the renewal and improvement fund supplied further moneys, the aggregate expenditure under that head up to June 30 last being \$6,704,127, leaving \$3,966,106 of the fund still unspent. The rolling stock replacement fund was also drawn on in the past year to the extent of \$648,477. At the close of the year the share capital of the company totalled \$107,511,300, of which \$50,327,400 was in the preferred stock, \$953,000 of that stock having been issued last year to consolidate some 1875 mortgage bonds, and

to take up \$174,000 worth of Iowa and Dakota Division extension bonds. The common stock remained at \$58,183,900. During the year the funded debt was reduced through the retirement of bonds by \$928,000, and stood on June 30, 1905, at \$122,176,500; but of this total bonds for \$5,912,000 were held in the Treasury or due from trustees against capital expenditure uncovered. Compared with some years ago, the interest charges are down slightly, and the change is one to be commended, share capital taking the place of debt. In 1901-2, for example, debt interest took \$6,210,086 as against the sum mentioned above for the year ended June 30 last. So miscellaneous is the character of the business done by this large carrying company that it can hardly fail, one would think, to earn 7 per cent. upon its share capital, even in bad years, but it has still a great deal of capital expenditure to provide for, for out of a main line 6,884 miles long only 380 miles are as yet double tracked, although there are sidings in addition to the extent of 1,960 miles. Including the lines owned jointly with other companies and the tracks worked over, as also reckoning in these double yard siding and spur tracks, the entire length of line controlled or worked over by the company amounts to 9,668 miles.

DENVER AND RIO GRANDE RAILROAD COMPANY.

A year ago this company suffered severely from labour troubles in the Colorado mining districts, but there were no such difficulties to contend with in the twelve months ended June 30. Business, however, does not seem to have returned to its normal conditions altogether as against the decrease of \$88,125 in gross earnings recorded in 1904 there is a recovery of \$585,072 to \$17,031,507. Of this passenger traffic yielded \$80,166, the number carried being 30,130 higher at 1,504,329, and freights produced \$534,315, with an increase of 1,205,846 tons, while express, mails and miscellaneous revenue fell off by \$29,409. Agricultural products contributed \$74,380 less, owing to declines in flour, fruit and vegetables which were only partially offset by improvements in grain and sugar beets; animal products, with the exception of wool, hides and leather, were all up, and this branch gave \$98,520 more, but the principal increase was in minerals, coal, coke, precious ore, and stone, sand and clay being all slightly better, while manganese ore jumped from 59,143 tons carried at \$46,609 to 192,512 tons at \$122,340, the net result in this section being an advance of \$484,194. Miscellaneous goods, too, were \$54,742 higher, but fewer manufactured goods of all kinds were carried and the income dropped \$11,488. In working expenses increases of \$112,004 in maintenance of equipment, \$163,460 in conducting transportation and \$52,752 in general charges were accompanied by reductions of \$162,889 and \$13,445 in maintenance of way and structures and \$41,366 in express costs, so that the net advance was no more than \$110,517 at \$10,168,961, and the percentage to income dropped from 61.16 to 59.71. Net earnings were therefore \$474,555 up at \$6,862,547, or an increase of 7.43 per cent., and after providing for all charges, including dividends upon the preferred stock and \$120,000 contributed to the renewal fund, the net balance, with \$192,134 from interest and dividends received was \$462,452 compared with \$234,413. So the directors are able to resume their allocations to betterments with a sum of \$133,915 in addition to setting aside \$150,000 towards the cost of ten standard-gauge freight locomotives which were to be delivered in July, and still have a surplus of \$278,537 to carry to profit and loss account, but after providing for interest on equipment bonds, balance of bonds redeemed, and making sundry adjustments the net addition to this account was \$133,188, bringing the total up to \$2,735,841.

The directors state that for many years, while the line of railway between Ogden and San Francisco was uncontrolled by interests competitive with this system, the company enjoyed a satisfactory share of the traffic with California, and one of the reasons for acquiring the Rio Grande Western some few years ago was the closer relationship that would be established with the San Francisco line of the Southern Pacific Company. Since then, however, the Union Pacific has secured control of the Southern Pacific, with the result that unexpected restrictions on interchange, and especially impediments in the way of securing business in territory reached by the Southern Pacific, have arisen, and the Rio Grande has been driven to investigate the feasibility of an independent line from Salt Lake City or Ogden to San Francisco. The directors have, therefore, assisted in promoting the plans of the Western Pacific Railway Company, a corporation organised under the laws of the State of California for the purpose of building a main line from Salt Lake City to San Francisco, with certain branches in laterals. They have gone further, and secured control of the corporation with about 38 miles of railway in operation, and the line will connect at Salt Lake City with the Rio Grande Western. At present the new company has an authorised capital of \$50,000,000, which is to be increased immediately to \$75,000,000, and financial arrangements for the construction of the line have been completed by the sale to responsible bankers of \$50,000,000 first mortgage 5 per cent. thirty-year gold bonds. As a part of the plan for financing the Western Pacific Railway contracts have been entered into by the Denver and Rio Grande and the Rio Grande Western, under which the last-named agrees to provide sufficient funds for the completion of the line in exchange for 5 per cent. second mortgage bonds of the Western Pacific, and the two companies undertake to make good any deficit in the earnings and income in the amount required for expenses and taxes. After completion of the main line they also guarantee the interest on the first mortgage bonds, and after August 1, 1911, the instalments due upon the sinking fund. In return the Rio Grande Company has received 100,000 shares and the Rio Grande

Western 150,000 shares, and these amounts will be doubled when the capital is increased, so that the total holdings of the two companies will stand at \$50,000,000 or two-thirds of the entire capital giving them complete control. No monetary payment has been made for this benefit, and the liability assumed is merely a contingent one, which the companies may never be called upon to make good if the new line does all that is expected from it. There is no mention of what is done with the remaining \$25,000,000 of share capital, but it may perhaps be taken for granted that the original promoters of the company require something for their trouble, so that the new company is saddled from the outset with no less than \$15,000,000 of pure water unrepresented by tangible assets of any kind in a manner truly American.

CALLANDER AND OBAN RAILWAY.

Gross receipts for the six months ended July 31 were £40,214 or an increase of £2,006, and as working expenses only rose by £167 to £20,441, the ratio of expenditure to revenue showed a further substantial reduction from 54.62 per cent. to 50.83 per cent. Of the improvement in revenue, £753 came from passengers, £743 from merchandise and live stock, minerals and parcels were all moderately higher, while on the other hand trifling increases in locomotive power costs and maintenance of way were more than offset by savings in mileage and coaching traffic charges, and the advance in expenses was mainly due to a rise of £279 to £1,132 in rates and taxes. With £45 or £30 less brought in the net revenue was £1,809 higher at £19,818, of which debenture interest absorbed £5,082 or £87 more, and interest account was £511 up at £538, but interest on temporary loans was slightly reduced at £2,577. These payments left £11,621 or sufficient to provide for the preference dividends and leave £58 for the new account, so that it has not been necessary to draw upon reserve this time compared with £1,185 taken from that account a year ago and £6,000 received from interest on capital account in 1903. Capital expenditure amounted to £11,900, mainly on the Ballachulish branch and the Oban pier and station extension, and the debit balance has now risen to £207,011, of which £191,116 has been provided by temporary loans, but the Bill for raising additional capital to the extent of £300,000 received the Royal assent in August, so that a new issue may be looked for immediately.

ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND, LIMITED.

This bank issues a balance-sheet once a year only, and the statement for the twelve months ended August 31 shows that the net profit was £91,765, or about £300 above that of the previous year. Interest required a little more at £22,629, but expenses and income-tax took rather less at £31,028, and the net balance of £38,108 shows an improvement of £876. With £13,633 brought in the sum for disposal is £51,742, from which the directors again propose a dividend at 12 per cent. per annum, paid in two equal instalments, £1,000 will be given to a relative of the late Mr. Niven, a similar sum goes to the officers' superannuation fund, and £13,742 is carried forward. Reserve remains at £200,000 or £100,000 less than the paid-up capital, while the superannuation fund will now reach the substantial amount of £29,866. Deposit and current accounts stood at £1,869,156 at the end of August, being a decrease of £78,296 against the previous year, but the bills discounted and advances have substantially increased to £1,369,376. As a result the cash on hand and at call is less by £55,130 at £149,238, and the investments have been reduced £108,933 to £902,615. Bank premises stand at the very modest sum of £20,000.

ROYAL BANK OF QUEENSLAND, LIMITED.

During the half-year ended June 30 this small bank earned a gross profit of £29,963 and £782 was brought forward, making a total of £30,745. Against that the general charges were £9,430, and interest, rebate, and exchange took £10,860, leaving the net balance at £10,455 compared with £10,061. As before the dividend on the ordinary and preference shares will again be at 3½ per cent. per annum, absorbing £8,021, income-tax takes £442, the reserve again receives £1,000 and £992 will be carried forward. Reserve will now be £65,000 against the paid-up capital of £457,538, not a large amount, and it seems a matter for some regret that the half-yearly contribution has been reduced in order to pay a slightly higher dividend. Compared with the figures at the end of June, 1904, the deposits and other liabilities show the rather considerable increase of £62,996 at £868,534, and bills payable have gone up from £5,443 to £16,179, while the liability to the Treasury for notes held in reserve remains at £33,500. Liquid assets, all told, show a small decline to £323,334, coin on hand and cash at bankers being down £11,251 to £184,233, and the bullion £5,200 to £22,433, against increases in the Treasury notes of £5,051 to £39,687, and in Government stock, chiefly representing the reserve, of £9,595 to £76,981. Bank premises are down a little to £62,247, probably due to the closing of the South Brisbane branch during the half-year, and the bills discounted, advances, &c., have been increased by £78,368 to £1,064,625.

DUNDERLAND IRON ORE CO., LIMITED.

Along with the annual report of this highly speculative venture the directors have issued what they call a descriptive pamphlet to enable shareholders to realise the size and importance of the works. It is a most interesting production, nicely embellished with pictures, and details in most attractive fashion the nature of the enterprise, the progress made to date and the method of operations. Shareholders, however, deeply concerned in the fortunes of the undertaking, will be just as much impressed by a study of the balance-sheet, perhaps more so, because the figures displayed should be wonderfully effective.

tive is causing them to understand what the board is so anxious they should know. An expenditure of close on £2,000,000 undoubtedly means something big, and it now only remains to prove the vast business a commercial success. Can that be done? Listen to what the directors have to say: "They confidently expect that by the end of the current financial year the company's products will begin to be placed on the market, and profit earned thereby and they look forward to the output steadily increasing till the quantity and profit estimated in the company's prospectus are reached." Not too encouraging perhaps, and we fancy it will be many a long day before an adequate return is earned on the immense sum of money sunk in the enterprise. As to the progress of the works we are told that very little remains to be done to complete and fully equip the undertaking. The Urtrand ore deposits are opened out, the harbour, railway, buildings and machinery for crushing and concentrating the ore are practically finished, the rolling stock needed for transport on a "commencing" scale is provided, and an experienced staff has been appointed, and is settling down to work. The briquetting furnaces alone are behindhand, "and it must be borne in mind that this is attributable to time spent in examining into and securing the right to adopt a system of briquetting which your directors found to be better and more economical than that originally contemplated." Political events in Norway, by the way, are not expected to prejudice the company's interests in the slightest." Including £763 spent during the year the land, iron ore mines, mining rights, and licences, are now in the balance-sheet at £1,207,117, while a further £217,972 laid out on the railway, harbour, works, &c., brings the total expenditure on these to £734,485. Some thousands have also been spent on buildings, houses, &c., mine development and maintenance of railway, harbour, works, &c., loose plant, and tools. Administrative and other expenditure to date is £39,864, and will have to be wiped off out of future profits, and the cash balance of £55,193 completes a balance-sheet total of £2,080,662. On the other side we get the issued share capital of £1,998,750, debenture stock £43,682, part of £500,000 authorised, and about £40,000 owing to sundry creditors and on bills payable. The guarantee having expired, preference shareholders receive no return on account of the year under review, which ended on March 31 last, and if the £100,000 nett profit a year which must be forthcoming before the preference dividend can be paid is quickly earned we shall be much surprised. Even then £1,000,000 of ordinary capital will be wanting a return, but that happily still remains in the hands of the vendors.

PALMER'S SHIPBUILDING AND IRON CO., LIMITED.

There is no doubt at all that the year to June 30 last, the period covered by the report of this renowned undertaking, was one of considerable depression in the shipbuilding trades, and it is not hard to appreciate the difficulty of obtaining orders at remunerative prices. In these circumstances it is satisfactory to find that the profits earned compare favourably with those of the previous 12 months, due, we suppose, to the considerable amount of Government work on hand. That invariably pays well if efficiently managed. During the year the company delivered to the Admiralty one third-class cruiser and three torpedo-boat destroyers, and at the close of the year was engaged in the completion of a couple more destroyers. Then there is the first-class battleship *Lord Nelson* under construction—the order was received about a year ago—so that one way and another there is a fair quantity of work on hand. The iron and steel departments, too, have been better employed, and the prospects, both as regards prices and production, are more favourable. The improved results are attributed to the diminished cost of production arising out of the recent expenditure on the works, and shareholders are informed that the directors are contemplating further large outlays in order to bring the steel plant up to date. Profits for the period under review were £89,827, a gain of £26,618 over the previous year, and it matters little that the credit brought forward of £3,406 was about a couple of thousands lower. With this added the balance for disposal was £93,234, and after providing debenture and loan interest together with the preference dividend, a 5 per cent. distribution is again made on the ordinary shares, £34,848 is written off extensions, an increase of about £9,000, and the balance forward is raised to the big figure of £18,301. Extensions for the year were £29,837, and by writing off this and more the auditors say that ample provision has been made for depreciation, and they ought to know, although the amount is not exactly extravagant on properties valued at almost £750,000, particularly in view of the slender reserve, only £32,058. Floating liabilities are fairly important at £212,554, but the company has some good assets such as work in progress £137,614; book debts £81,533; cash £32,709 and bills receivable £67,835. Certain interests in mining and other companies are entered at £16,720 and an ironstone steamer and some river craft at £6,930.

SHEEPBRIDGE COAL AND IRON CO., LIMITED.

In their report for the twelve months ended June 30 the directors of this undertaking again complain of the fall in the price of coal, and have also to announce that the bar iron trade has remained in a state of stagnation with prices lower than ever. The demand for pig-iron has happily proved rather better, but not sufficient to prevent a drop in profit from about £69,400 to £58,012. Add £11,296 brought forward, and the aggregate for disposal is £69,309, from which the interim ordinary dividend already paid absorbed £17,927, leaving £51,382. The directors now propose to provide the preference dividend and to bring the ordinary distribution up to 7½ per cent., the same as before,

carrying forward the considerably increased balance of £15,529. A year ago, however, £20,000 was applied towards cost of new coalfields against no allocation of any kind on the present occasion. This we suppose was in connection with some of the fresh properties referred to in the report, shareholders being informed that the sinking of the Dinnington Main Colliery is completed, and that the winning of coal has commenced, while as regards the proposed Maltby collieries, the necessary properties have been acquired, and the contract for the extension of the South Yorkshire Joint Mines has been let. The railway will probably be completed to the site of the new colliery by the middle of the year 1906, but operations cannot be extended in this way without large outlay, and the directors say that proposals will shortly be submitted to the shareholders for the provision of the capital required. The Dinnington Colliery, however, has apparently been acquired without any call upon the shareholders as against the entry on the credit side of the accounts called "Dinnington Main Coal Co., Limited, calls paid £100,000," there is a special reserve fund of similar amount. In addition, £40,000 has been accumulated for the development of new collieries besides the ordinary reserve of £80,000, so that in all directions we get evidence of a sound and cautious policy certain to bear good fruit. We should like to be told the depreciation allowed on the collieries, works, mines, freehold properties, &c., standing at £741,761, but the valuation does not seem excessive, considering the profits earned. The company has a small debenture debt of about £25,000, and owes £86,026 to sundry creditors and for royalties, railway tolls, and wages, but on the other side there are sundry debtors £68,585, loans with accrued interest £81,385, and cash in hand and at bankers £36,804. Loose plant, tools, and materials in hand are put down at £68,824, and altogether the position looks clean and healthy.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE, LIMITED.

Misfortunes did not come singly to this company during the year ended June 30, and for the first time in the eight years of its existence the shareholders have to go dividendless. For one thing, the theatre had to be closed during the autumn and up to the opening of the pantomime at Christmas in order to carry out the alterations and improvements ordered by the arbitrator in respect of the L.C.C. requirements. In the second place, Mr. Dan Leno and Mr. Herbert Campbell had for many years proved a great attraction with the public, and their deaths left a gap which it was difficult to fill, and, lastly, the company naturally felt the effects of the depression in the theatrical business both here and in the United States. Profits from productions and refreshments consequently fell off by £29,050 to £8,092, and miscellaneous receipts were £569 down at £522, so that in spite of the larger balance of £17,641 brought forward the total income was £23,439 smaller at £26,255. Rent, rates and taxes were reduced by £310 to £9,758 and £2,812 or £1,169 less was spent on repairs and depreciation of furniture, costumes, &c., but general expenses were much heavier, and the balance left was only £3,640 compared with £29,433. Of this income-tax took £1,004 and £2,547 was written off the cost of the alterations, leaving a trifle of £89 to be carried forward. The total cost of the changes was £27,547, and after careful consideration the directors have, with the approval of the auditors, utilised the reserve fund to write off the balance of £25,000, instead of spreading the amount over a number of years, as they might easily have done. Liabilities to sundry creditors have been increased by £3,541 to £11,197, and in addition a loan of £23,000 has had to be obtained from the bankers, but in spite of this the cash in hand is £22,487 down and amounts to no more than £307—apart from the usual deposit of £6,550 on account of rent. Leases, letters patent, stage properties and machinery are valued at £102,286, but the redemption of the leaseholds has been provided for by policies for £100,000 taken out with the Alliance and Norwich Union Insurance Offices. Furniture, tools, chattels and effects have been written down from £9,599 to £6,969, but the value of the costumes, scenery, properties, &c., on the company's productions now running in America and elsewhere has risen by £4,000 to £7,000 and £2,360 has been spent in prospective plays and tours.

SANTA FE AND CORDOVA GREAT SOUTHERN LAND CO., LIMITED.

Sales of land during the twelve months ended June 30 fell off considerably and yielded no more than \$167,880 paper against \$149,947 paper and \$2,248 gold in the previous year, so that the profit from this source was £5,618 less at £3,674. The working of the estancia, however, gave £7,659 more in nett profits at £15,228, and as interest receipts were £817 higher at £2,634 the total income, including £12 from transfer fees, was £2,862 up at £21,548. After meeting expenses in Argentina and London the nett revenue came to £17,085 compared with £15,018, and with £10,342 or £1,618 more brought in gave an available balance of £27,427 or an increase of £3,685. Out of this the dividend is further raised to 7½ per cent. against 6 per cent. a year ago and 5 per cent. in the preceding twelve months, and another £5,000 is put to reserve, leaving £11,927 to be carried to the new account. Last year's sales of land apparently reduced this item in the balance-sheet by £800 only, and there is still £10,300 on hand, so that the company has good prospects of further profits from this source. Even after all the land has been sold, however, it should be in a very comfortable position, as an additional four leagues or about 26,000 acres were sown with alfalfa during the year making 46,000 acres under fine grasses, and the remainder of the fifteen leagues is to be sown within the next three years, and this kind of crop appears to be highly

remunerative. The value of the estancia has been increased by £21,433 to £145,944, probably owing to the cost of the above-mentioned cultivation, and even so the valuation is only about 30s. per acre. Sundry creditors have risen by £3,675 to £5,037, against which mortgage loans and investments are down by £10,088 to £4,009, but cash and bills are £8,009 up at £16,868 and the position is sound enough.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—It was difficult to infuse much life into the London cargo market, buyers holding off in view of the unexpectedly heavy shipments, and sellers persisting in previous rates, sometimes, indeed, asking a small advance. This attitude effectually checked business, but the tendency is undoubtedly firm, and holders seem in the stronger position. In the North easier American advices were offset by reports of labour troubles in Argentina, and a steady tone prevailed. Although dealing continues very restricted, American markets are in much the same condition, reports of wet weather delaying the harvesting and grain movements, and good buying by some of the leading operators being offset by the big world's shipments, so that quotations are at best steady, despite a rather unfavourable weekly Government crop report. Bradstreet's estimate the quantity in sight east of the Rockies at 21,529,000 bushels against 19,656,000 last week and 21,775,000 a year ago, another "bearish" influence, while Dornbusch states the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 1,765,000 qrs. compared with 2,010,000 qrs. last year, and to the Continent 1,940,000 qrs. against 1,865,000 qrs.

WOOL.—The total quantity of colonial wool available for the fifth series of auctions, which began on Tuesday, was 75,000 bales, compared with 110,000 bales at the July sales and 71,000 bales a year ago. With a large attendance of both home and foreign buyers, competition was keen, and prices all round showed an advance of 5 to 10 per cent. Continental demands were chiefly for greasy merinos, France and Germany being both disposed to buy liberally, while America was also in the market for these. Scoureds likewise were taken freely for the Continent, but the home trade gave most attention to crossbreds. The East Indian wool sales opened in Liverpool on the same day, but no great desire to buy was exhibited, and best and coarse white fell back ½d., while other grades were about steady. The revival in the manufacturing branches continues to make headway, and a much more confident feeling is apparent. A good business has been done in winter cloths, and in spring goods of all kinds for the home trade and the Continental and colonial requirements are all growing steadily.

LINEN.—This is a kind of dead period between seasons, and little activity can therefore be looked for, but manufacturers have plenty of orders for future delivery, and as they are not pressing sales, markets continue to show satisfactory progress. Business has broadened a little further in several directions, and in all directions there seems to be a stir which indicates that a good autumn season is confidently expected. Damasks, for instance, have been in greater request at improving prices, and household linens of all kinds are also in better demand as well as unions, hollandas, and drills. Dress goods, too, have been more inquired for, although trade in them is not expected to become really brisk for several weeks yet. The prospects for foreign trade in bleached and finished linens are reported as being decidedly favourable. A big demand is expected from the United States, the South American orders are well up to the average, and most of the colonies are also good buyers, the only exception being New Zealand. With regard to Irish yarns, the inquiry has slackened off, but quotations are well held. The scarcity of 90 to 140 len line weft and 25 to 40 len weft continues very pronounced, but it is hoped that the sharp advance in prices will cause spinners to turn their attention to these, but the increase in output can only be gradually carried out, and the shortage may last for a considerable time yet. On the whole, the position in this market is regarded by the *Irish Textile Journal* as thoroughly sound. The range of weft lines at 4s. 3d. per bundle has not been exceeded since the middle of 1893, and except for that year and for a short period in 1891 it is the highest figure since 1879, when the price rose to 5s. per bundle, and it is satisfactory to note that this high level has been reached not by a sudden rise, which might be due to speculation and short-lived, but by a gradual advance indicating that the leverage has come from genuine market needs.

COTTON.—At the beginning of the week prices in the Liverpool market advanced a couple of points at the opening of American futures, then dullness supervened, followed by a sharp recovery on New York cables. Subsequently futures declined, to rise again on a better feeling, and on higher quotations from New York. Egyptian has been in fair demand at higher rates.

A fair degree of strength has characterised the New York market. After opening lower prices advanced all round on bullish reports on the condition of the crops, a demand from spot houses, firm cables and support from New Orleans. Bear pressure and realisations sent values back, but they again improved on predictions of frost in North Texas and Wall Street support. Some of the gains were lost later, however, on the disappointing weekly Bureau report and sales. This was followed by strong bidding by bulls, covering by shorts and foreign buying, which sent prices higher.

The Government's final jute crop forecast, estimated at 8,400,000 bales, is the largest in the history of the trade, and the outlook for the winter seems most promising. It was unani-

mously agreed that the forecast would have no immediate effect upon rates, though cheaper jute might be obtained about the end of the year.

COAL.—In Northumberland colliery owners are profiting from the disturbances in the Caucasus, which have compelled Russian railways to buy a considerable amount of steam coal, already over 60,000 tons from this district alone, with inquiries for more. Prospects for steam coal have greatly improved here, and a more active winter season looks probable. The price of best steam coal has risen to 9s. 3d. f.o.b., and in some cases 9s. 6d. for prompt and 10s. for next year; seconds are 8s. 6d. and smalls 5s. 6d. In London the market is not a very active one, but prices are steady. Best Admiralty is quoted 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d. f.o.b., Cardiff.

COPPER.—Business opened quietly, but a firm appearance was given to the market by a little "bear" covering, and a small advance in prices was recorded. This was followed by a period of dullness despite the favourable fortnightly statistics, but later on decidedly more activity developed, and quotations gradually advanced on support by leading houses and further repurchases by the short interest. On Wednesday the turnover reached as much as 1,100 tons, and the close was steady, with G.M.B.'s quoted £69 12s. 6d. for spot, and £69 7s. 6d. for three months forward. During the two weeks ended September 15 a heavy fall took place in the visible supplies, the decrease being no less than 1,745 tons at a total of 15,875 tons, and making a decline since the middle of August of 2,178 tons. The shrinkage during the past fortnight reached 895 tons in the stocks in England and France, 200 tons in the shipments from Chili, and 650 tons in the quantities on passage from Australia. According to Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co.'s statistics the total supplies were 11,974 tons, and the deliveries 13,019 tons, exclusive of 700 tons of "standard" metal sent to the United States.

TIN.—With a limited demand, following rather easier Eastern advices, and liberal offers of forward metal, the market was inclined to be flat causing a slight fall in quotations. They continued heavy until the middle of the week, when a recurrence of buying orders drove prices forward once more. The tendency was again weaker at the end, closing prices being £145 17s. 6d. for cash and £144 17s. 6d. for forward delivery.

IRON AND STEEL.—In the Midlands there is a fair amount of activity in finished iron. Works are busy and manufacturers are offered orders which they cannot accept, as their books contain specifications which cannot be cleared until next quarter. There is an increase in the inquiries for home account, and shipping orders are also heavier. Manufacturers of steel have likewise got their hands full and have to decline new business. In the North of England there is a similar state of activity and cheerfulness, business being brisker than at any time since the early part of 1903, with prospects decidedly encouraging. Orders booked for Cleveland iron are regarded as most satisfactory, and producers are so well off that they do not follow the fluctuations in the values of warrants. The latter have varied from 48s. 6d. to 47s. 11d., but have since recovered from the latter figure. A disappointing circumstance is that the stock of Cleveland pig-iron in Conna's public stores continues to increase, but traders expect to see it decrease very shortly, which would bring about a steady advance in prices.

TEA.—The quantity of Indian tea brought forward this week was the largest since November at 44,250 packages, but in spite of this the market was wonderfully steady except for common and lower medium grades. Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton state that importers look for a much smaller crop from India and are therefore withdrawing the medium and poor qualities in the hope that prices for these will be forced up later. New season's tea sold amounted to 39,172 packages and realised 8.43d. compared with 38,633 packages at 7.48d. a year ago. Exports to the United Kingdom from Chittagong and Calcutta during the first half of September were 10,767,000 lbs., and in the period from April 1 63,622,600 lbs., against 11,440,000 lbs. and 68,525,000 lbs. respectively last year. August shipments from Southern India to all places totalled 586,894 lbs. against 376,978 lbs. Ceylon teas of fair liquoring descriptions met with a fair amount of support, but medium and poor qualities were less sought after and the market was again inclined to droop. The average for the week, however, was 7.41d. compared with 7.19d. a week ago and 7.18d. in 1904. Exports to the United Kingdom for the first half of the current month were 4,250,000 lbs. or 250,000 lbs. more than in the corresponding period.

SUGAR.—Nothing of an exceptional character distinguished the sugar market last week. As has been the case for some months past, buyers have still hesitated to come forward, but as distributors are without stocks, there will in all probability be a revival in business when the new beet crop becomes available. Mr. Czarnikow thinks the August exports from Europe are probably incorrect, owing to the overlapping of figures, and may be set right later. There is also some doubt about the large Hamburg stock of raws. It seems now that on October 1 European stocks may be 500,000 tons against 770,000, and in Cuba, also afloat, 600,000 against 470,000 tons. Various forecasts are put forward this week for next season's statistics, on the basis of beet production of 6,200,000 to 6,500,000 tons, and of an excess in cane sugar of 350,000 tons to 500,000 tons. The weather on the Continent has been generally more favourable. Without encouragement from this side the American market continues dull, and with refiners still supplied from previous purchases, buyers are conspicuous by their absence. Landings at the three ports are 36,000 tons, and meltings 48,000 tons, reducing stocks to 181,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

Abbontiakoon Block 1.—By cyanide and discharged, 600 tons; also under treatment, 1,600 tons. Assay value of above 2,200 tons, £4,440. Total tons crushed, 2,626, of 2,240 lbs.
 Brilliant Block.—Crushed 830 tons, 350 ozs.; cyanide, £1,050.
 Brilliant Central.—Crushed 2,400 tons, 1,408 ozs.; cyanide, £398; concentrates, £1,409.
 British Broken Hill Proprietary.—5,021 tons; crude ore produced 800 tons concentrates, containing 488 tons lead and 24,000 ozs. silver.
 Cobar Gold.—Mill, 1,559 tons, 242 ozs.; tailings, 1,171 tons, 482 ozs.
 De Lamar.—Crushed 1,700 tons, \$15,900; cyanide, clean up, \$5,400; miscellaneous, \$350; total amount, \$25,050.
 El Oro.—Crushed 20,938 tons of ore, producing U.S.\$190,626; product from the old cyanide plant, U.S.\$3,260; total production, U.S.\$193,886.
 Esperanza.—Mill crushed 13,624 tons of dry ore; shipped to smelter 4,642 tons of dry ore; value of bullion produced, \$145,407; value of concentrates, \$27,097; value of ore shipped to smelter, \$440,280.
 Inverness Coal.—Return, 13,603 tons; decrease, 11,046 tons.
 Komata Reefs Gold.—Crushed 1,350 tons; bullion, £3,475.
 Lachlan Gold Fields.—Crushed 750 tons; result, £1,390.
 Maryborough Leviathan.—Crushed 1,105 tons, 185 ozs.
 Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 701 tons, 350 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons; value, £320.
 Mount Lyell.—Treated 32,391 tons of ore; in addition 1,082 tons purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes; converters produced 709 tons blister copper, containing: copper, 700 tons; silver, 57,672 ozs.; gold, 1,793 ozs.
 Mount Roudny.—Ore crushed 3,685 tons, 421 ozs.; concentrates 104 tons, 260 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 2,200 tons, 50 ozs.; total yield, 731 ozs.
 Myalls and Peak Hill Gold.—15 tons, 8 ozs.
 Brilliant and St. George.—Crushed 2,703 tons, for 1,517 ozs.; residues, £4,344.
 Nerchinsk Gold.—Crushed 550 tons, 262 ozs.
 New Queen Gold.—Cyanide, £575 realised from 948 tons treated.
 North Broken Hill.—1,800 tons of crude ore treated, producing 300 tons concentrates, containing 207 tons lead and 5,400 ozs. silver.
 Ouro Preto.—5,888 tons of ore, 1,902 ozs.
 Palmarejo and Mexican Goldfields.—Zapote: Crushed 3,950 tons, treated 3,200 tons, producing \$22,300 gold, \$43,330 silver.
 Peña Copper.—Output of ore, 17,141 tons. Precipitate containing 53 tons fine copper.
 Spassky Copper.—Production, 5,000 poods (80.3 tons).
 Stratton's Independence.—Profit at the mine for August: £5,896 from 3,475 tons shipping ore.
 Tasmanian Consols.—Crushed 336 tons, 228 ozs.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Bilbao River and Cantabrian.—Interim and bonus on the ordinary and preference shares amounting together to 6s. per share for the half-year to June 30, payable 27th inst.
 East Indian.—£1 os. 9d. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and the deferred annuity capital, class "D," in addition to the guaranteed interest of 2 per cent. for the half-year.
 New York Central and Hudson River.—1½ per cent., payable Oct. 16.

BREWERIES.

Hardy's Crown.—Quarterly of 10s. per ordinary share.
 Milwaukee and Chicago.—Interim of 2½ per cent. for the past half-year.

MINES.

Associated Queensland.—3d.
 Brilliant and St. George United Gold.—6d. per share, payable Oct. 12.
 Ferreira Deep.—Interim 17½ per cent. (3s. 6d. per share) for the half-year ending Sept. 30.
 Libiola Copper.—Interim 1s. per share.
 San Miguel Copper.—Third interim at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum, payable 2nd prox.
 Ida H. Gold.—Interim 10 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alliance Trust.—Interim on the A stock and the ordinary shares for the half-year ended July 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.
 American Investment Trust.—Interim for the half-year ended Sept. 15 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both preferred and deferred stock, payable Sept. 30.
 Anglo-Argentine Tramways.—Interim of 3s. each on the ordinary shares on account of 1905.
 Armstrong Whitworth.—Final of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £84,000.
 Ben Evans and Co.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Aug. 31.
 Birmingham Small Arms.—Final of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 5s. per share on the ordinary shares for the year ended July 31.
 Burnley Paper Works.—Final of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the past year, and a bonus of 2½ per cent., carrying forward £10,652.
 Buxton Lime Firms.—4½ per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30.
 Chicago Junction Railways and Union Stock Yards.—1½ per

cent. on the preferred and 2 per cent. on the common stock for the three months ending Sept. 30.

D. H. Evans and Co.—Interim for the half-year ended Aug. 19 of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, 3 per cent. on the preference shares, and £2 each on the founders' shares.

D. H. Evans and Co. Founders' Shares.—Interim of 8d. per share.

Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, on account of the year ending Dec. 31 next, payable Oct. 1.

Eastern Telegraph.—Usual interim of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock in respect of profits for the quarter ended June 30.

Foreign, American, and General Investments Trust.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred and deferred stocks.

Gerard Brothers.—Final of 5 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

Gramophone and Typewriter.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the quarter ending Sept. 30.

H. Holdron.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the past half-year.

Henry Tomlinson.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

James Cycle.—2½ per cent. per annum for the year ended 31st ult., placing £600 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,100.

Kalgoorlie Electric Power and Lighting.—The interest on the 6 per cent. cumulative preferred shares accrued from the date of allotment up to Dec. 31, 1900, will be paid on Oct. 18.

Monte Video Water Works.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 2.

New Paccha and Jazpampa Nitrate.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the first half of the current year of 10 per cent. (equal to 20 per cent. per annum) and an interim of 4 per cent. and bonus of 20 per cent. for the first half of the current year (together 24 per cent., or equal to 48 per cent. per annum) on the preference shares.

New Zealand and Australian Land.—5 per cent. with a bonus of 2 per cent. on the ordinary stock for the year ended March 31, placing £15,000 to contingency fund.

Nicholsons.—Interim on both preference and ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Aug. 12.

Owen Owen.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Aug. 20.

Parker, Winder, and Achurch.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares and 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30.

River Plate Trust, Loan, and Agency.—Interim at the rate of 13½ per cent. per annum on the "A" and 3 per cent. per annum on the "B" shares for the half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 2.

Schwepes.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Scottish Ceylon Tea.—Interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the preference and 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30.

Tarapaca Waterworks.—Interim of 3½ per cent. on account of the current year.

Theatre Royal, Manchester.—3 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Aug. 4.

Tonga Sugar.—7½ per cent. for the year ended May 31, carrying forward £2,077.

Virginia Carolina Chemical.—Quarterly, No. 40, of two dollars per share (at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum) on the preference stock, payable Oct. 16.

Answers to Correspondents.

Nomen.—(1) This company ought to do an extensive and profitable business, the district served being probably one of the best in the country, and at the price you mention the shares seem a fair risk. (2) They seem dear to us, although the business is undoubtedly a good one, if somewhat speculative. The latest report is analysed in another column. Keep the purchase small. You have again overpaid, and we hold 1s. to your credit.

C. J.—No; so far as we can gather the loan has been reduced (not paid off) out of the company's ordinary resources without touching the capital reserve, which remains at the figure you mention. The debit was wiped out from the ordinary reserves previously accumulated, but this transaction was merely a book entry, and did not involve the transfer of actual assets. As to the replacing of worn-out machinery, that would largely depend upon the depreciation allowances made, and these, we fear, have never been quite adequate.

Scot.—(1) These shares are perfectly safe to hold, although there is not much prospect of an improvement in capital value. (2) Prospects for the brewing industry are brighter, and these also should be held. (3) We share your opinion with regard to this, but the preferences should be all right for some time to come, and there is no need to accept a loss. (4) This seems a very fair security of a speculative kind, and a small investment should be all right. (5) Do not touch this. The company is badly over-weighted with "dead" assets through its inattention to the necessity of providing for depreciation and other wastage, and it has also done a hazardous kind of business in accepting payment for its services in debentures or other paper from weak companies.

M. E. G.—(1) Yes, the company's position is exceedingly good, and the shares are well worth holding. (2) We do not like the

outlook for this company at all, and are assured that its process can never become a commercial success. (3) Not appreciably. They seem to us to stand now at about their true value.

H. T.—We think rather poorly of the prospects of this company, and cannot advise you to buy more shares.

B. M.—(1) Prospects seem very hopeful, and the shares look a promising speculative purchase. (2) This is a first-class mine and you might buy a few shares. (3) The company is doing exceedingly well, so there is not the least necessity to sell unless you require the money. We are sorry we have not been able to revise our tables as you suggested. In the case of the first company, the figures are taken from the form issued by the company, and in the second we received no reply to our request to be supplied with the weekly return.

T. A.—(1) These shares now stand at about 8½. The guarantee ought to be good enough even though the company has issued debentures, as the dividend on the shares was expressly provided for in the agreement, and the guarantor company have some firms of very high standing interested in it. (2) A few seem worth buying on prospects. (3) No, not on the excess of 180 shares bought in error.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25.

Barry Port and Gwendreath Railway.—5, Gray's Inn Square, 3 p.m.

Barnet District Gas and Water.—Albion Tavern, 12.30 p.m.

English Celluloid Company.—Winchester House, noon.

Plate Steamship.—Dock House, 3 p.m.

Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Company.—Sheffield, 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26.

Ottoman Railway, Smyrna to Aidin.—Winchester House, noon.

Staveley Coal and Iron.—Staveley Works, near Chesterfield, 12.30 p.m.

Yorkshire Electric Power.—Ravensthorpe, 3.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27.

British Gas Light.—11, George Yard, E.C., noon.

Deal and Walmer Gas.—Deal, 11 a.m.

Highland Railway.—Inverness, 1 p.m.

Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Company.—Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 11.30 a.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28.

City of Buenos Ayres Tramways.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Carreras, Limited.—St. James Place, Aldgate, 11.30 a.m.

C. Davidson and Sons.—Aberdeen, 12.15 p.m.

Denver United Breweries.—6, Throgmorton Avenue, 2.45 p.m.

Dick, Kerr and Co.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

H. J. West and Co.—Cannon Street Hotel, 4.30 p.m.

Leigh Mills.—Coventry, 12.30 p.m.

Martinez Grassiot.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Mexico Electric Tramways.—1, London Wall Buildings, noon.

Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron.—Warrington, noon.

Santa Fé and Cordova Great Southern Land.—River Plate House, 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29.

Dunderland Iron Ore.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

Glasgow and South African.—Glasgow, 1 p.m.

Lanarkshire and Ayrshire Railway.—Glasgow.

North-Eastern of Uruguay Railway.—River Plate House, 2.30 p.m.

Tennant Bros.—Sheffield, 12.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30.

East Indian Coal.—14, Billiter Street, noon.

Magazines for September.

The Book Monthly has two interesting and instructive articles in the September number; one on "A Tale of Mean Streets," setting forth the views of Mr. Thomas Holmes on the literature of the poor, and the pernicious habit of "snippet" reading, and the other on "Methods of the German Book Trade," and the many respects in which they contrast favourably with ours. The number generally is a very interesting one. The Editor's London Letter, "relating to Tolstoi," Lewis Melville's "Stage and Books," and W. R. Roberts' "Holy Ground" are all worth reading. The new books nearly ready seem as promising as they are numerous.

GEORGE NEWNES, LIMITED PUBLICATIONS.—Space forbids a detailed account of the contents of these magazines, and we cannot do much more than say they show the versatile ability of Newnes, Limited. This number ends Vol. XIII of *The Captain* with a flourish of trumpets and many good new ideas promised for the next volume. *C. B. Fry's* is a more varied number than usual, but that is no drawback. "Life on the Busy Beach," by F. G. Afalo, is brightly written and instructive, also "The Groundmen of Europe." We cannot say that we cotton to "The Furze Folk" of Bertram Atkey. *The Wide World* continues its usual thrilling course. *The Sunday Strand* interests more by reason of the goodness in individual humanity which it brings to light than by its rather tame and sentimental fiction. As to the everyday *Strand*, the September number is worth buying if only to read Father Gapon's "Story of My Life," but has other articles both grave and gay—but won't Mr. Jacobs give us a rest? *The Grand* is a good all-round number, one or two of its more exciting stories being particularly well told.

The World's Work is a really interesting number, with one or two very instructive articles in it; notably one by Mr. George

Turnbull on "What is to be Done with Our Canals?" This problem, we are glad to see, is at last beginning to grip the mind of the British public.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and September 16, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 16, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 17, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	15,387,000	16,477,000
Excise	30,200,000	12,963,000	13,267,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	6,192,000	5,292,000
Stamps	8,000,000	3,579,000	3,266,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	520,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	4,990,000	5,355,000
Post Office	16,500,000	6,210,000	5,990,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	1,950,000	1,840,000
Crown Lands	470,000	170,000	170,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	678,309	608,423
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	656,346	632,714
*Revenue	142,454,000	53,175,655	53,418,137
Total, including balance		60,605,933	57,681,979
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		300,000	250,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		—	230,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		410,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		8,955,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	500,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		—	14,500,000
Total		70,610,933	83,645,969
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	53,175,655	53,418,137
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	69,739	77,021
Excise	5,291,000	1,458,851	1,599,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,028,839	2,079,242
Total	9,756,000	3,557,429	3,755,936
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	56,733,084	57,174,073
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 16, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payment from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 17, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 11,969,974	£ 12,142,931
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	686,366	688,731
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	644,966	644,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	45,193,338	49,030,918
Expenditure	142,084,000	58,494,644	62,507,507
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		240,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		90,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		450,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		1,663,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	1,700,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		105,000	81,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		188,977	—
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	3,450,000
		62,154,621	79,094,007
Balances in Exchequer:—	1905. Sept. 16.	1904. Sept. 17.	
Bank of England	£ 7,801,235	£ 3,889,273	
Bank of Ireland	655,077	662,689	
		8,456,312	4,551,962
Total		70,610,933	83,645,960

Treasury, September 19, 1905.

COMPANY MEETING.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Caledonian Railway Company was held yesterday afternoon in the hall of the Merchants' House, Glasgow. Sir James Thompson occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance.

The Chairman said: You have all received a copy of the company's half-yearly report, and I presume that you will, as usual, take it as read. (Applause.) There is no change in Table No. 1, and in Table No. 2 there is merely an addition of £7 to the ordinary stock, that amount of preference stock having been converted during the period. Table No. 3 shows that £400,000 of the debenture stock has been disposed of during the half-year, the price of which, together with the premium, has been duly put to the credit side of receipts and expenditure on capital account in Table No. 4.

LANARKSHIRE RAILWAY.

Table No. 5, giving the details of expenditure on capital account, shows that £487,262 was expended during the half-year, against an estimate of £342,766. The greater part of this difference is accounted for by a subscription of £112,500 to the Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Company, and I may take this opportunity of saying that that railway is showing great improvement, owing to important new works being put down on its system. When the Clydebank Dock, as well as the other large engineering and shipbuilding works which are at present in progress, are all completed and opened, they will be the means of adding considerable additional revenue to the Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Company. We, of course, knew that this payment would have to be made, but at the time the estimate was considered it was not anticipated that the subscription would be required during the half-year under review. This is the last payment which we shall be called upon to make on behalf of the Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Company, so that the outlook in that direction is most promising and satisfactory.

CENTRAL STATION.

The other important items of capital expenditure were £78,039 on the enlargement of the Central Station in Glasgow, and £99,527 on the new dock at Grangemouth. If you look at Table No. 7, which gives the estimate of further expenditure on capital account during the current half-year, you will see that it amounts to £265,176, a very great reduction on previous half-years. Glasgow Central Station enlargement and Grangemouth Dock are again chiefly responsible for the principal items, namely, £101,136 and £46,618 respectively. It is estimated that it will take £76,650 more to complete the works at the Central Station, and £110,000 to finish the Grangemouth new dock. As stated in the report, the remodelling of the Central Station has been proceeding satisfactorily, although the pressure of the summer traffic has, of course, to some extent retarded it. It is hoped that rapid progress will be made during the coming winter, and that next summer it will be possible to make full use of what, I venture to think, will be a most commodious and well-found central passenger station, and that the company will then reap the full benefit of their outlay.

GRANGEMOUTH DOCK.

With regard to the new dock at Grangemouth, I am sorry that I cannot announce that it is to be fully opened for traffic immediately, and I think that you, as shareholders, should know how the matter stands. Last March I stated that it was expected that in a few months the new dock would be so far completed as to be available for the shipment of coal in vessels which could reach it by the existing dock channel, but I also told you that until the direct entrance from the sea was finished nothing like full advantage of the new dock could be taken. This anticipation has so far been realised that coal could now be shipped in the new basin into vessels which have been able to reach it by the tortuous route of the old dock channel, but the key of the position is the new entrance direct from the sea, and we are now told that it will probably be ready by next summer. The contract was let on April 7, 1898, and the works were to be completed by April 17, 1902; the next date promised was May, 1904, and the next December, 1905; now everything is to be ready by next summer—upwards of eight years from the letting of the contract, and four years after the original date on which the works were to have been finished. Even admitting that some of the works in connection with this new dock were heavy and difficult, I think we are entitled to complain that the delay in completing them has been unreasonable and vexatious. When the two works to which I have just alluded have been completed we shall have no capital commitments of any magnitude; although we are taking the usual course of asking the shareholders to sanction the exercise by the directors in their discretion of the capital powers contained in the Provisional Order of 1904 and the Act of last session, there is no immediate intention of issuing new stock (but, of course, with a debit against capital account, it will be necessary to take steps to redress this balance at some future time, when a favourable opportunity offers). Table No. 8, dealing with capital powers and other assets to meet further expenditure, shows a balance of only £76,627 to meet much larger liabilities; but it must be borne in mind that a large proportion of the debit to capital account is counterbalanced by various funds in the company's hands.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Taking the receipt side of the revenue account, table No. 9, there is an increase of £8,429 in passengers, but parcels are down £409. There is an increase of 600,022 in the number of passengers carried, 2,382 in first class and 597,640 in third, the revenue from first class being better by £669 and from third by £7,879. Season tickets have increased in number by 1,133, but have brought in £120 less money, the receipts per ticket being £1 19s. 10½d. against £2 1s. 8d. a year ago. Receipts per passenger are also slightly down, being 7.34d. against 7.46d., the third class being responsible for the whole of the falling off. Merchandise receipts show an increase of £22,794, and live stock of £368, whilst there is a decrease of £12,794 under the head of minerals. The tonnage carried was 2,456,237 tons of merchandise and 9,685,202 tons of minerals, increases of 116,905 and 2,937 tons respectively, the receipts in the former case showing an increase of £23,547, and in the latter a decrease of £12,794. The average rate per ton is down 1d. in merchandise and ½d. in minerals. Under special and miscellaneous receipts there is an increase of £34 from rents from depôts and stores, £430 from mileage and demurrage, £4,385 from rents of property, and £93 from transfer fees respectively. On the other hand, Forth and Clyde Canal receipts are down £2,882. The total receipts show an increase of £20,418, and it must be remembered that they do so in spite of there having been a day less included in the period than there was in the corresponding period a year ago, owing to 1904 having been leap year.

INCREASED EXPENDITURE.

Turning to the expenditure side of the account, there is an increase of £6,215 in maintenance, of £5,861 in locomotive power, of £9,658 in carriage and wagon repairs, of £407 in law and arbitration charges, of £687 in compensation and of £40 in Government duty, whilst traffic expenses, general charges, Parliamentary expenses, and rates and taxes have decreased £5,664, £1,042, £397 and £1,248 respectively. An additional £6,138 has been received for working other lines, and Forth and Clyde navigation expenses are £2,744 less, the result being a net increase in revenue expenditure of £5,635. The principal items which go to make up the increased expenditure in maintenance are an additional £3,032 in wages, the greater portion of which is accounted for by new lines having been opened, and an additional £2,318 in repairs of roads, bridges, &c., due to renewals and repairs carried out on two viaducts. The details of the expenditure on locomotive power show that coal and coke cost £686 more, whilst repairs and renewals were up £4,819, ten engines having been renewed against five at the corresponding period, and the repairs having been heavier. Under the head of repairs and renewals of carriages and wagons, £7,494 more has been spent on carriages and £2,164 on wagons; the new carriages built to replace those worn out were larger and of a more expensive type than last year, and the renewals of wagons were of a larger carrying capacity, and also cost more. The decrease of £5,664 in traffic charges is satisfactory, a considerable saving having been effected in stationery and printing. Speaking generally, I do not think there is any cause for dissatisfaction in the expenses having increased £5,635, looking to the additional revenue of £20,418 brought in.

THE DIVIDENDS.

The proportion of working expenses to receipts comes out at 53.90 per cent. against 53.97 per cent., a shade better than a year ago. There has been an increase of 118,842 miles in train mileage, of which the passenger service contributes the greater part, due to the opening of new lines for traffic, whilst goods mileage is slightly up, and mineral mileage slightly down. Passenger earnings per train mile are a fraction down, 44.19d. against 44.79d., and goods and mineral earnings are very slightly up, 89.76d. against 89.44d.; train mile earnings, taking all branches of the service together, come out at 5s. 3.46d. as against 5s. 3.87d. per mile. The result of the revenue account is that there is a sum of £1,026,358 to carry down to net revenue account, table No. 10, on the credit side of which we find that £7,770 more has been received in respect of dividends on shares held for the company, whilst the balance from last half-year's account is somewhat less. On the debit side, feu duties and ground annuals are up £938, interest on debenture stock £7,112, and general interest account £6,509, whilst interest on temporary loans and interest on banking balances are down £778 and £86 respectively. The apparently large addition to the general interest account is due to a special credit balance having been made to that account last year. The balance available for dividend comes out at £704,867, of which the preference stocks absorb £337,733, leaving £367,134, which admits of a dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of 3¼ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £21,008.

PROSPECTS FOR HALF-YEAR.

You may remember that I stated at our meeting in March last that I expected the company to benefit even to a larger extent from the carriage of agricultural products during the half-year now under review than it had during the half-year ended January 31 last, and I am very glad to be able to say that this has turned out to be the case, as we have had most satisfactory results from the carriage of that class of traffic. For the current half-year the reports received from the agricultural sections of our railway are also promising and satisfactory. As regards the iron and steel trade of Lanarkshire, which is of great im-

portance to the company, it is satisfactory to note an increase in the tonnage carried, and if there are, as is reported, numerous contracts for new steamers being placed on the Clyde we may look forward to a good iron and steel traffic during the current half-year. I will now ask the secretary to read the formal resolution approving of the report and declaring the dividends, and after the resolution has been proposed and seconded I shall be glad to reply to any questions which may be asked. (Applause.)

The Secretary (Mr. J. Blackburn) read the resolution, the adoption of which was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Sir James King.

RATES AND TAXES.

Sir Andrew Mure, Edinburgh, said that he could not but congratulate the directors and the shareholders upon the prospect of the present situation. He desired, however, to ask the chairman if anything had been done in reference to his motion, which was adopted unanimously 18 months ago, regarding the payment of rates and taxes and of Government duty. It was somewhat remarkable that the sum paid this year by the Caledonian Railway for the two half-years amounted to £122,225 12s. 7d. That was a very large sum, and it would be a very great blessing if the railway were freed from the payment of it, because it would add very much to the favourable dividend which might be expected. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) As tolls had been removed from the ordinary road, so rates and taxes should not be paid on a railway. It was somewhat curious that the North British Railway, which had some 420 miles of line more than the Caledonian Railway, paid £61,263 6s. 11d. in rates and taxes and Government duty.

The Chairman, in reply, stated that as regarded the comparison with the North British he observed Sir Andrew was doubling the small half-year of that company; he was not taking the year as a whole. He would also remind him that the rates and taxes were not based on mileage. The company was in communication with the other companies on the subject, but one company could not take any independent action.

No other questions were asked, and the report was adopted unanimously.

The retiring directors—the Marquis of Breadalbane, Sir Robert W. Buchanan-Jardine, Sir James King, and Sir Charles Bine-Renshaw—were unanimously re-elected.

FURTHER POWERS.

Three extraordinary meetings were afterwards held.

The Chairman explained that the object of the first was to ask the shareholders formally to sanction the exercise of the capital powers contained in the Caledonian Railway Order, 1904, and the Caledonian Railway Act, 1905. The former provided a very small amount of capital (£24,000), principally for the purpose of dealing with a mineral subsidence at Hamilton, which had been successfully done. The Act of 1905, which received the Royal Assent on August 4, and consequently did not appear in the accounts for last half-year, contained capital powers to the extent of £315,750, of which £150,000 was for subscription to the Callander and Oban Company, and £165,750 for two very important pieces of work—one the construction of a relief line about 3½ miles long in the neighbourhood of Greenhill Junction, where the traffic was congested, and where additional running accommodation would be absolutely necessary when the new dock at Grangemouth was opened; and the other the construction of about one mile of line from the Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Railway near Scotstoun West Station, which would give them access to the new dock at Clydebank. The second meeting was held to ask formal sanction to subscriptions by the company to the undertakings of the Callander and Oban Railway Company and the Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Railway Company. The subscription to the Callander and Oban Company amounted to £150,000; that to the Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Company, which was £42,150, was contingent on its being decided that that company should construct the Clydebank Dock branch already referred to. It was, however, practically certain that the Caledonian Company would make the line, in which case this contribution would, of course, not be necessary; but it was thought better to get authority for the subscription, in case for any unforeseen cause it was deemed advisable that the branch should be made by the Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Company. The third meeting was with reference to two working agreements with other companies, which had to be submitted for the approval of the shareholders. One was the renewal of an agreement which had subsisted for a number of years with the Killin Railway Company, under which the Caledonian Company undertook to work and maintain that company's line for five years, receiving the net cost to them of doing so. The other was an agreement by the Caledonian Company to work and maintain the Bankfoot Light Railway Company's line for ten years, subject to six months' notice on either side, the remuneration being in this case also the amount of the net cost incurred. The Bankfoot Light Railway, which extended from Stratford Station to Bankfoot, was not yet open for traffic, and the agreement did not come into force until the line was opened.

The Secretary read the formal resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Sir James King.

Mr. A. B. Bosher proposed a vote of thanks to the directors and to the chief executive officers for their services during the past half-year, and this having been acknowledged by the Chairman, the meeting ended.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Palace Theatre, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, under the presidency of Count Max Hollender (the chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. J. A. Boyes) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I think I may fairly congratulate you on the balance-sheet which it has been our pleasure to send out to you. I think that before proceeding to offer any explanations I may have to make as to our position, you will expect me to refer to the death of our previous manager, Mr. Charles Morton, and I am sure you will be unanimous in your expression of regret at his death. I think you will agree that our position is a very sound one, and that there is every cause for congratulation on the amount that we have earned for you this year. You will remember that we had to start with the phenomenal opposition of the opening of the Coliseum and the Lyceum, besides additional suburban music-halls, and it is obvious to you that quite irrespective of what might be the character of the entertainment at these houses, the opening of a building of such a stupendous character as the Coliseum must necessarily draw many thousands of people, if only to view it; but we think, now that the glamour of the opening of these places has passed, we have little to fear from them, and that our prospects for the ensuing year could hardly be better. But in this respect I must make a reservation. I refer to the threat that has been made against this house to prosecute us if we infringe the old Act of Parliament relating to stage plays. This threat was not made in May, when we first announced our intention. We were allowed to proceed with the engaging of artists, preparation of scenery, dresses, &c., and not until the eleventh hour did we hear of a threat of a prosecution. We have written and asked for an explanation as to why we are singled out, but as yet this is not forthcoming. We are, in fact, in a fog. You will see that whilst the net receipts have been £3,000 less than last year, owing to the exceptional competition of which I have already spoken, the terribly foggy weather experienced in November and December and the general depression which has existed in all kinds of business, but which now seems to be passing, the nett profit is only £1,500 less than last year owing to more economical management, and this in spite of the fact that we have run *matinées* all through the summer, thus increasing our expenses—an experiment, by the way, that has proved so successful that we intend to run them all the year round. During the past year we have had the honour of being visited by their Majesties the King and Queen, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and other members of the Royal Family. I move that the report and balance-sheet be passed.

Mr. T. Ernest Polden seconded the motion.

The motion was agreed to, and a resolution was also passed declaring a dividend of 7 per cent., making 12 per cent. for the year.

RHODESIAN MINING RETURNS.

It has been shouted as loudly as gambling throats can shout that the Rhodesian output for August of 35,765 ozs. is a record for this wonderfully rich gold field. That is true enough, but it is an increase of only 1,072 ozs. over July and an advance of no more than 509 ozs. over the output for June, which was a shorter month, so there is nothing to boast about. Of other minerals the output was, silver, 7,181 ozs.; lead, 48 tons; and coal, 10,403 tons.

Name of Company..	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.
Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.
Antenor					
(Matabele)	905	628	1,198	678	1,200
Ayrshire	8,606	3,337	9,096	3,440	10,077
Beatrice	—	—	—	—	—
Dumbleton..	—	—	—	—	—
Globe and					
Phoenix ..	6,247	4,141	6,696	4,326	6,757
Golden Valley	804	583	703	514	714
Killarney					
Hibernia ..	2,875	1,625	3,599	1,735	3,577
Morven	1,546	915	1,317	921	1,165
Penhalonga..	6,300	1,336*	6,300	1,351*	—
Red & White					
Rose	—	—	—	—	—
Revue	627	279	—	—	—
Rezende	2,900	934	3,025	1,034	3,000
Rhodesia Consolidated...	2,212	1,176	1,893	1,113	1,250
Rhodesia					
Mines	740	293	650	273	720
Selukwe	5,275	2,092	5,850	2,220	6,100
Surprise	2,779	1,553	2,618	1,490	2,842
Wanderer ..	12,783	2,304	13,206	2,405	14,136
Wareleigh ..	752	456	—	—	—

* Fine Gold.

The following table gives the total monthly return since the commencement of crushing:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	10,787	15,955	16,245	19,359	32,531
February ..	12,237	13,204	17,090	18,673	30,131
March ..	14,289	16,891	19,626	17,756	34,027
April ..	14,998	17,559	20,727	17,622	35,268
May ..	14,486	19,698	22,137	19,424	31,332
June ..	14,863	15,842	22,166	20,402	35,256
July ..	15,651	15,226	23,571	24,339	34,693
August ..	14,734	15,747	19,187	24,669	35,765
September ..	13,958	15,164	18,741	20,029	—
October ..	14,503	16,849	17,918	24,919	—
November ..	16,308	15,923	14,714	26,183	—
December ..	15,174	16,210	18,755	28,100	—
Total ..	172,060	194,268	221,872	267,715	267,953

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The Investors' Review.

Is Russia Solvent?

In discussing Russian finance we have always proceeded on the tacit assumption that the budgets produced by the Finance Minister deal with facts, that there is no "cooking" of the figures, not even as they are cooked in our Australian colonies, that capital has not been utilised to disguise the lack of revenue, and that the money raised for public works has been genuinely spent thereon. It is impossible, however, to talk to any enlightened Russian without being quickly made aware of the fact that not one of them believes in the honesty of the budget statements. Take a book such as that lately issued, a translation of Mr. Hugo Ganz's letters from Russia, written just before and after the war broke out. You will find there many suggestive interviews with statesmen in the highest position, not members of the Government, but noblemen, men of letters, merchants, bankers, Conservatives, Liberals, and others, all in their degree solicitous for the future welfare of Russia, and they one and all scoff at the budgets as mere bureaucratic impostures. Many of them insist that the only hope for Russia is through the bankruptcy of the bureaucrats and their system of finance, and we personally found that this locust and leech class bankruptcy is now almost the one thing looked forward to as a possible means of national salvation, just as the victories of Japan were seized upon as a ground of hope for deliverance. Many times it was said to us: "We have not been beaten enough; it is a pity that the war closed so soon." This seemed an unpatriotic utterance, but when the meaning of it was explained it implied no more than this—that the Russians feel themselves in a prison-house, and, like all people so immured, clutch at any chance which may offer for their deliverance. The victories of Japan seemed to be this chance, and if the war had only gone on until the finances of Russia broke down and her bankruptcy became so patent to the lending nations of the West as to preclude the possibility of any further loan raising there, then the bureaucracy might have proved to be weak enough to be destroyed. The war is ended and the people not yet free, therefore they pray for a bankrupt Imperial treasury.

But is the budget false? We have no means whatever of answering that question positively, yea or nay, but it is undeniable that the smooth paragraphs with which the tabulated figures are expounded in the memoranda of the Finance Minister to the Emperor suggest doubts. We instanced, for example, in dealing with the budget of 1905, as a ground of the confidence expressed by Mr. Kokovtzkoff, present head of the Imperial Finance Ministry, that the past year's harvest had been excellent, and that the yield of the current year would at least suffice for the wants of the people. But the *Times* of Tuesday, September 26, under the heading, "Famine in Russia," quoted a statement from the *Russian Official Messenger*, to the effect that both the summer and winter corn crop in nine provinces has this year been a complete failure, and in two more a partial failure. Moreover, in seven provinces the rye harvest has been unsatisfactory, these provinces including Petersburg, Nijni-Novgorod, Vologda, Vitebsk, and Kazan. So bad is the distress in some parts of the country that it has been necessary to make a grant of upwards of 5,000,000 roubles for the purchase of seed out of the Imperial

benevolent fund. An inquiry is being prosecuted by the rural authorities as to what will have to be done to relieve distress. Distribution of grain purchased for the account of the Minister of the Interior out of the general Imperial welfare fund has begun in the provinces of Saratoff, Orel, Tamboff, Riazan, and Tula. How does such a statement accord with the optimism of Mr. Kokovtzkoff's budget? It does not accord at all, and we are consequently driven to doubt the accuracy of his figures—of all Russian budget figures. They are never audited.

Taking them as they stand, however, the items in Russian budgets are painfully suggestive of the people's poverty. Thus the direct imposts, including land taxes, taxes on industry and commerce, and what we should call personal property, amounted in 1903, the last budget year for which we have complete figures, to only 135,200,000 roubles, or say less than £14,000,000. This for a country whose population probably now exceeds 130,000,000 is suggestive enough. Indirect taxes did better, the total for the same year being upwards of 440,000,000 roubles, or say £45,000,000, but of that figure less than 242,000,000 roubles came from the Customs duties, or something well under £25,000,000. It may be said that the benighted character of the Russian Customs tariff hinders the development of revenue from this source, but allowing for that it is still significant of poverty to find the Customs duties of the Empire giving such poor results. Most significant of all, however, is the position of the drink revenue. It may be well to remind readers that an elaborate system of monopoly has been established in the Russian spirit trade. It is not yet in force throughout the whole of the Empire, and the Minister of Finance accordingly still receives a certain amount of income from the taxation of drink sellers and others throughout districts and provinces where the monopoly is not in force, but even though only partially established the gross product was 542,300,000 roubles in 1903, and for 1905 the first estimate was that the monopoly would yield nearly 525,500,000 roubles, famine having intervened in some parts of the Empire to reduce the capacity of the people to buy drink. From this total upwards of 13,000,000 roubles were deducted to represent the loss in the revenue of Eastern Siberia where the monopoly came into force only on April 1, 1904, but after all deductions have been made the Imperial income from drink through the monopoly alone is put at 512,200,000 roubles for the current year, an amount 30,000,000 roubles short of the total for 1903, but still more than one quarter of the entire revenue of the Empire. How is it possible to regard a country as solvent and progressive whose public income is dependent to such an extent upon a source of demoralisation like this?

More suggestive, if possible, of the slender resources possessed by the people of this raw country are the recommendations of a commission established to deal with the question of an income-tax and to find out what additional taxes could be levied. Apparently, the income-tax itself has been left on one side for the present, but amongst the special recommendations in other directions are that from May 1 last a tax of 2 per cent. should be levied upon appointments, that is to say, the salaries of functionaries. This is calculated to yield 2,000,000 roubles, and the money is to be devoted to the succour of war invalids and the families of soldiers who have fallen on the field of battle. Then the succession duties are to be augmented by 50 per cent., and that increase is only expected to yield 3,000,000 roubles, and an increase of 33½ per cent. in the tax upon beer is estimated to produce only 3,300,000 roubles. From a doubling of the tax on matches, which the Commission suggests should be raised from ¼ copeck per box of 75 to ½ copeck, 8,000,000 roubles is expected, and this is really the most prolific addition to the Empire's resources that the Commission is so far able to light upon. Dried yeast, Russian made, is to be charged 20 copecks in lieu of 10 copecks per lb., and foreign dried yeast 24 copecks instead of 14 copecks, but this increase is only expected to add 2,800,000 roubles to the

public income, while an impost of 60 copecks per pood laid upon the products of the distillation of naphtha is expected to return only 2,650,000 roubles. Altogether the six modifications of taxes mentioned here are expected to produce only 21,750,000 roubles at most, and at least 18,000,000 roubles, or something between £2,000,000 and £3,000,000. This would be enough to wipe out the deficit of 15,000,000 roubles estimated for in the budget, but since that budget was drawn up we have had the catastrophes of Baku, and there is now an acknowledged deficiency in the harvest over large and populous areas of the Empire, so that we fear the results for 1905, unless supplemented by liberal doses of foreign loans, will fall far short, not only of this proposed increase in the taxation, an increase apparently not yet sanctioned, but of the original budget forecast, and it only requires a few years of similar deficiencies to make the nakedness of Russian resources visible the world through.

But is Russia, as a State, really bankrupt, as the most enlightened amongst its patriots fervently hope it may prove to be? Under the present system of Government we are inclined to think that it would prove to be so if left unpropelled by the usurers; therefore a very onerous moral responsibility lies upon the bankers and money-lenders of all degrees, who by advancing further loans to Russia do their utmost to rivet upon the races embraced within that enormous Empire the present bureaucratic tyranny—anarchic tyranny, for it is really that—by which they are ground down. Under an enlightened administration, with freedom bestowed upon all classes to devote their energies to building up the industries and commerce of Russia, there are resources enough in the Empire to make it the most solvent of all the great countries of the world; but as now ruled there seems to be little hope of escape from a financial cataclysm. Loans from abroad can postpone the day of reckoning, but only by aggravating the disease, and the longer the ultimate liquidation is staved off, the more appalling is it certain to be. At present Russia is a vast prison-house, and prison labour never yet has proved to be wealth creating or profitable in any trustworthy degree.

Canada Life Assurance Co.

According to the summary tables in the "Statistical Year-Book of Canada" for 1904, a copy of which has just reached us, this joint-stock company, doing what it calls a life insurance business, is the largest of all the native Canadian life companies. As it has in recent years come to this country and made some effort to compete with our own life offices, it seems advisable to look a little into its credentials. We have done this, and do not relish them at all. Essentially the company appears to be a "one man" or dictator's affair, of the same type as those United States companies or mock mutual societies whose corruptions and systematic thievery are now undergoing investigation at the hands of a committee of the New York State Senate. The despot in this instance is Mr. George A. Cox, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and founder and president of the Central Canada Loan Company. He held on December 31, 1903, 642 shares, and the holdings of his son, who is general manager of the company, and of Mrs. Cox bring the total number of shares held by the family up to 812. In addition, the Central Canada Loan Company, controlled by Mr. G. A. Cox, held 322 shares at the same date, and Mr. Lash, a lawyer of Toronto, and Mr. Cox's private solicitor, 83 shares. Other friends and dependents of Mr. Cox are also amongst the shareholders, with the result that he possesses practically an absolute mastery over the company's affairs, and uses this mastery to spend its money with remarkable freedom. The company, it should be mentioned, has now a share capital of \$1,000,000 fully paid up, it having been increased to that figure soon after Mr. Cox obtained control, which seems to have been in 1898 or 1899. Up to that time, and since its foundation in 1847, the paid-up capital of the company

had been only \$125,000, an amount ample for the purpose of establishing any genuine life insurance business upon a sound basis. The additional capital called up by Mr. Cox was therefore unnecessary for all purposes except those tending to the profit of the shareholders, who were thus put in a position to claim larger portions of the income as "dividends." And that they have been pretty free with the available money in this respect, is proved by the figures of the reports, for in the past five years up to and including 1904 \$286,161 has been distributed as dividends.

Have these dividends been earned? We are more than doubtful about this point, for the business of the company is conducted at a percentage on the premium income almost equal in monstrosity to the very worst display made by the Yankee offices. Leaving out the sum distributed in dividends for the year ended December 31 last, which was \$79,819, the cost of conducting the business came that year to upwards of 30½ per cent. of the premium and annuity income. This means that, tested by the life premiums alone, the figure must be very much worse than this if the company does any appreciable amount of annuity business. It wraps up premiums received on life policies and capital paid in for annuities purchased all in one sum, a thing that no British life office with any self-respect would ever attempt to do, and this alone excites the gravest suspicion. But take the ratio of working costs to income at 30½ per cent., and it is obvious the business cannot possibly be profitable to those imprudent enough to entrust premium money to it, however rich the clover in which the staff revels. The balance-sheet for the year in question indicates plainly enough that it is not profitable. After all the years of its existence the company has only been able to accumulate assets to a total of \$27,681,705, and the net surplus of assets over liabilities, excluding the \$1,000,000 of paid-up capital, was only \$1,376,426 on December 31 last. But this surplus is at least partly a book entry, since included in it is "market value of bonds, &c., over book value, \$402,996." Yankee offices have made us familiar with that method of swelling out "assets," but the result in their case does not tend to make it any more commendable. A strong, honourably conducted office does not require such tricks. The Canada Life Company in resorting to it shows its poverty. One year before—that is to say, in the balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1903—the "market value of bonds, &c., over book value" was only about \$125,000. There was thus a mere wind increase comparing the one year with the other of about \$278,000. Deduct that purely fanciful increase from the surplus of assets over all liabilities, and they will be found to have made practically no progress whatever in the twelve months, and we believe strict actuarial examination of the company's business would show that it is a business conducted at no profit. At any rate, it is not conducted to the profit of the policy-holders, for in the past five years those who held participating policies have only received bonus additions to the amount of ¾ per cent. per annum upon the sums insured. The trivial amount of the surrender values, which came to only \$76,500 in the past year, also indicates how thoroughly the means of the policy-holders must be swept up in the expenses of conducting the business. While these expenses in the past year, exclusive of about \$80,000 paid away as dividend to the stockholders, principally Mr. Cox and his relatives, friends and associates, came to \$922,000, the "profits" assigned to policy-holders, exclusive of bonus additions, came to \$68,218.

The company, however, does a large business, at any rate in Canada. Here in the United Kingdom we trust it is taking no hold of the people, because the extravagantly expensive basis upon which it works is not calculated to produce results favourable to those who entrust it with their savings. Yet by some unexplained means the management of this company seems to have been able to persuade our Board of Trade to allow it to withdraw the £20,000 deposit necessary in order that

life business may be transacted by a company in this country. Why was this leniency shown? Nothing in the figures of the Canada Life Company in the least justifies any such generosity. If the company had carried out the recommendations made by Mr. H. W. Manly, the well-known former actuary of our old Equitable Society, and at the time he wrote his report president of the Institute of Actuaries, Great Britain, not only would there have been no dividends paid to Canada Life shareholders for years past, but current expenses would have had to be cut rigorously down in order to enable the company to meet the cost of reducing the rate of interest at which it values its prospective accretions to a 3½ per cent. basis. It has had to come down to this rate by order of the Canadian Government, and has done so mainly, if not wholly, at the cost of the old holders of participating policies; that is to say, various sums have been written off or put aside out of the previous accumulations in order to make good the gap actuarially and substantially created by the reduction in the rate of interest. Altogether since 1898 \$4,514,471 or nearly £928,000 has thus been swept away, leaving the company in what Mr. Manly calls "a parlous state." No wonder the surplus reserves now are small, for what with providing out of such reserves, real or manufactured, for past extravagance in management, for miscellaneous official rapacities, and at the same time absorbing current income in current expenses to the extent of probably altogether quite one-third of the gross annual premium income, surpluses cannot possibly accumulate in any healthy or satisfactory fashion. By paying big dividends, however, the managers of this company have been able to lift the price of its shares, notwithstanding the excessive amount of the capital, to about 60 per cent. premium, and with this big profit and the dividends paid, we fear without regard to net earnings, the shareholders at least have no cause to grumble. It, however, is never a healthy thing for a life company to benefit its shareholders at the expense of its policy-holders, and a business of this kind, conducted apparently in the shareholders' interests and these alone, ought not to be countenanced or supported by any intending British insurer. It may be added that expenses appear to have risen severely since the Cox régime was established. His predecessor, Mr. A. G. Ramsay, who retired, we hear, on a pension of \$12,000 a year, and two of whose sons are still employed by the company, was an able manager and careful. Under his régime the expenses were kept comparatively low for a colonial office, but no sooner was the new régime established than they went up to nearly double the ratio of the old figure. It may be put in this way. The total working expenses and dividends in 1899 came to \$475,666, and in 1904 the total on the same basis was \$1,001,419, or an increase of \$525,753 over the figure for 1899. In the five years the increase in premium income was \$843,916, and \$875,000 was received in the shape of additional capital paid up, making together \$1,719,000 in round figures, but the increased expenses for the five years, over and above the standard of 1899, were \$1,450,275 or 90 per cent., and all that was left of the additional premiums and capital together was \$178,641 or 10 per cent. That is to say, the additional capital as well as the enlarged premium income has been swallowed up during the past five years almost entirely in the expenses of conducting the business. We are told that Mr. Cox is one of the leading Liberal political wire-pullers in the Canadian Dominion, and he may be in that capacity a man worthy to stand beside the late Senator Hanna of the United States, but decidedly he is not a man well qualified to take care of the savings of those who insure their lives with the view to protect their widows and children against the consequences of untimely death. If he disputes this view of his capacities or these facts, we shall be happy to give him a hearing. And meanwhile he might, perhaps, be kind enough to forward to us the Canada Life company's scale of surrender values and the proportion of lapses to policies written and standing for the past ten years.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE NEW TREATY WITH JAPAN.

It is difficult to avoid a certain feeling of depression, not to say humiliation, in studying the terms of this new compact made public early this week. The dominating question which rises in the mind and presses for an answer is—Why should it be necessary for a great empire like ours to depart now from its traditional policy of independence and proud isolation in order to enter into a binding, and it might be entangling, engagement with another Power with a view to obtain help from that Power should we be compelled to go to war in defence of our possessions? Does an uneasy subconsciousness pervade the minds of statesmen here and in India that our methods of governing that dependency are producing insecurity there? If not, why are we so anxious to enlist Japan upon our side so as to be stronger should India be threatened? Article 4 says: "Great Britain having a special interest in all that concerns the security of the Indian frontier, Japan recognises her right to take such measures in the proximity of that frontier as she may find necessary for safeguarding her Indian possessions." What has Japan to do with the frontier of India? If we provoke war by such measures as the military faction now dominant in India presses forward, and through Afghanistan draw Russia into the conflict, is Japan to come to our assistance? If so, where can she strike in with effect now that Russia has been deprived of any position on the coast of China? Perhaps some of our wise statesmen will address themselves to the solution of this question. In the preamble the treaty declares that the object of the Powers entering into it is "the consolidation and maintenance of the general peace in the regions of Eastern Asia and of India. The preservation of the common interests of all Powers in China by insuring the independence and integrity of the Chinese Empire, and the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations in China." Also it is designed to maintain the territorial rights of the high contracting parties in the regions of Eastern Asia and of India, and to further the advance of their special interests in the said regions. Is not this a kind of menace to Germany and France? What if the German pretensions in Shan-tung are pushed forward to the injury of British, Belgian, and, above all, Japanese enterprises in the interior of the Chinese Empire? Will we then strike at the Germans and call upon Japan to bear a hand? If not, by what means can we insure equal rights to all within the Chinese Empire, and how are equal rights consistent with the complete independence of China as a self-contained and responsible Power? We might go on to ask many similar questions, but the treaty has been signed, and it will doubtless be ratified; therefore, while we cannot accept it with any enthusiasm, with other than a sense of lost power, we are content to be silent and await events, hoping that the compact may turn out to be useful now and again, and that at the very least we shall not be called upon to fight for our lives in India because of the folly of those now ruling it.

A NAVAL BASE AT SINGAPORE.

Something very formidable must surely be in contemplation at that tropical house of call for Oriental and Western commerce, else why should the Government be so anxious to lay the blame for the acquisition of the private docks there upon the Government of the Straits Settlements? Unless our memory is treacherous attempts have been made before now to fortify Singapore. We remember reading about monster guns lying rusting on the beach or shore there, not even mounted, lying just as an energetic Admiralty had dumped them. It is not a perfectly new idea, therefore, this of getting hold of the docks at

Singapore and distending them into a "base" for our fleet in Far Eastern waters, but it seems a pity that we should have to enter into a fresh and indefinitely large expenditure at this place just when we have signed and sealed the new peace-ensuring compact with Japan. To be sure the more naval bases we have the more certain are the demands of the Admiralty upon the hard-driven taxpayer to increase. Additional millions will be absolutely necessary every year in order to maintain these bases, and to construct the additional ships required to stick into them in proof of their utility. Cynics might even insinuate that a few more of these displays of Imperial expansive energy—cost no object—and we shall be back to the pressgang for the navy as corollary to universal conscription for the army. Why not? Empires are brought into existence by a wholesale exercise of the art of murder, and maintained in the same way. But, higher taxes and protectionism at home apart, what is the naval base at Singapore wanted for? Do we expect the German Kaiser to lay hold of the Dutch possessions in that quarter of the world? Have we any intention of quarrelling with France over her Tong-king Empire? Is there going to be a fight between us over Siam? Are we jealous of the United States in the Philippines? If not, if we are perfectly content to allow other nations to occupy some portions of the earth's surface without hindrance from us, what use is a tropical, fever-engendering station of this kind going to be to us? How much money do our sublimities in office intend to spend upon it? As much as was originally estimated for Rosyth, or twice as much? We want further information, and only wish we could laugh to while away the time while waiting to get it.

HELPING RUSSIA ON THE INDIAN FRONTIER.

The governing motive impelling the military faction now masters of India seems to be fear. Vulgarly speaking, Lord Kitchener and his followers in India and here appear to live in a perpetual condition of "mortal funk" about Russia. Their terror is so great and so haunting that they have these many months back seen nightmare visions of a great Russian host, sometimes as many as 400,000 strong, all fully equipped and eager, swarming behind the mountains of Afghanistan ready to dash upon India through hundreds of miles of the most difficult country in the world. Dominated by this military *delirium tremens* the valiant Lord Curzon sent a mission some months ago to the Ameer to try and persuade, bully, or coerce him into letting us take hold of his passes with Indian troops, and otherwise carry out measures bound to smooth the path of the Russian invader, and increase the ravages of the insatiable military faction upon what remains of native Indian wealth. The mission failed, but minds dominated and demented by fixed ideas are not to be baulked by rebuffs, however emphatic, and now the news agencies tell us that a "strategic railway" is going to be built along the course of the Kabul River up to the Afghan frontier. If Russia really intended to invade India this would be the best news she could receive. Such a railway will have the effect of smoothing the way of the invader, shortening his desert march at the same time that it stretches out, and thereby weakens, our line of defence, thus preparing the way for our easier defeat. No invader being for the present, or for generations to come, if ever, to be feared from the heart of Asia, or from anywhere else if we win the loyal support of the Indian peoples, the only immediate consequences of this latest project of the reason-bereft martinets and terror-stricken theorists—at whose instance India is to be charged with the cost of building and maintaining this not merely useless, but perfectly noxious, railway—will probably be one more disastrous war with Afghanistan and a further plunge of our Simla Government down towards the bottomless pit of irretrievable bankruptcy. For this now dominant military faction is doing more in ten years to sap the foundations of British rule in

India, and the solidity of all our investments there than all the blundering tactlessness of a constant succession of Curzons could do in a hundred. Because of the pitiful state of real or simulated terror, in which our professional warriors subsist out there, India is obliged to live in a permanent condition of famine, and her alien Government is kept on its legs solely by frequent heavy appeals to the foreign usurer. There can be nothing permanent in a rule thus sustained, and this latest product of the military madness—a railway along the Afghan frontier and probably over it—is likely to prove something resembling a charge of dynamite laid beneath the foundations of a structure already top-heavy and almost tottering to its fall. If it is not this, why have we called Japan to our help?

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: FERREIRA DEEP.

The Ferreira Deep is one of the subsidiaries of the Rand Mines, Limited, and therefore a member of the Wernher-Beit group. Taking its position into consideration, it ought to be a large profit-earner, for its claims are on the dip of the properties of such celebrated companies as the Ferreira and Wemmer. That may be why the vendors, the Rand Mines and the Barnato Consolidated, charged so high a price for it—viz., 780,000 fully-paid £1 shares, a figure responsible for the capital standing at the monstrous total of £910,000. With such a capital it is never likely to be a big dividend-payer. It is quite a young company, for it was formed in 1898, and so rapidly was the property developed that crushing actually commenced in the following year, though it did not pay its first dividend until March, 1903. Its highest distribution was made in 1904—the financial year ends on September 30—at the rate of 25 per cent.—and as in that year the extreme quotations for the shares were 6½ and 5 the yield to the buyer at either of these figures was a tiny one. It is but fair to state, however, that only 65 stamps were at work out of the company's full mill of 100 stamps, so dividends should be much higher when the entire battery is operating. It is the intention of the directors later on to increase the crushing capacity to 200 stamps, but it must be borne in mind that though this will greatly increase the immediate profits it will the more rapidly exhaust the mine. What the profits and dividends will be in the future it is impossible to say, for there is no knowing exactly how many tons annually the 200 stamps will treat, nor what the average grade of the ore will be. At the present time the yield is comparatively high. In the last full year's working 116,615 tons were milled, yielding gold to the value of £343,965, or close on £2 18s. 11d. per ton. Working costs aggregated £154,188, equal to £1 6s. 5d. per ton, so the gross profit per ton was £1 12s. 6d. Compared with the preceding year, this showed an improvement of a little over 3s. 10d. per ton, whilst the costs were reduced by 2s. per ton. But the dividend paid absorbed £227,500, or considerably more than the profit, for there was brought forward the large balance of £107,319. Last week the directors declared a dividend of 17½ per cent. for the half-year ending September 30, and as 12½ per cent. was declared last March the distribution for 1904-5 will be 30 per cent. For some time now 120 stamps have been running, or nearly double the number at work in 1903-4. Taking the price of the share at £6, the yield is as low as 5 per cent., and as the life of the mine is put at fifteen years, there would be a considerable loss even of the principal unless the dividends are substantially increased in the near future. This life is on the basis of 200 stamps, but it will be a year or two before these can be in full work. When they are the company may be able to pay dividends of 50 per cent. Assuming that this will be the average from now onwards for a period of 15 years, and calculating the yield at 8½ per cent., the return would be £127 10s. in the aggregate on £100 invested. That would leave only £27 10s. for dividends, or much less than 2 per cent. per annum, after allowing for commission and fees. To return the principal in 15 years

about £5 5s. would have to be set aside annually at 3 per cent. compound interest, leaving the net yield 3½ per cent. The risk will have to be faced of a possible fall in the grade of the ore, especially as some of the low-grade Main Reef may be mixed with the richer ore in the future. In speaking of this at the last annual meeting the chairman said:—"With reference to the statement made by me last year regarding the working of a portion of the Main Reef body, I am pleased to be able to say that in some localities this reef has continued to be found of sufficient value to warrant its being worked in connection with the Main Reef Leader stopes." So to justify the present high price of the share the dividends should be considerably higher than they are likely to be.

THOSE AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE SCANDALS.

The papers from New York continue to be full of the examinations of financiers before the New York Senate Committee, but we do not know that the core of the mischief has yet been laid bare. Things, however, have gone so far that even our benighted old *Times* newspaper has at last begun to report in a summary way the results of the investigation committee's proceedings, and by way of bringing the paper up to date there was an amusing effort at a summary history of events that had gone before in Thursday's issue. This is perhaps something gained, although it seems a pity the *Times* has ignored so long scandals which possess most serious interest to thousands of people in this country, and are otherwise of indefinitely great moral and political significance. Among the recent disclosures, for example, are the facts relating to insurance office contributions to Mr. Roosevelt's election fund last year. When it was alleged near the close of the Presidential campaign that money had been obtained from the capitalist bosses in New York, Mr. Roosevelt indignantly denied the accusation. Now, however, it comes out in evidence that among other contributors all the big insurance companies handed over substantial sums of money, chiefly at the demand of Mr. Cortelyou, who was then Mr. Roosevelt's private secretary, and who is now declared to be the President's selection for Secretary to the Treasury in succession to Mr. Shaw. And a New York Life witness said it had stumped up \$50,000 at each of the McKinley contests. Disclosures of this kind have apparently excited less astonishment in the United States than might have been expected; only it was an open secret that money had been contributed to the election fund by these corporations, as well as by private firms and individuals; all that people were ignorant of was the amount. And why should insurance offices join in a bribery and corruption proceeding of this kind, or suffer political blackmail to be levied upon them? They join and obey because they form part of the monstrous protectionist and brigand usurer ring by which the people of the United States are held in degrading bondage. Money is not given in \$50,000 lumps to political campaign funds without an understanding that there will be a *quid pro quo*, nor did Mr. John A. McCall, president of the New York Life Office, hand \$100,000 to an Albany politician named Andrew Hamilton without asking what was to be done with the money except for solid reasons, reasons some comprehension of which is to be found in an article published by the *New York World*, wherein the gradual removal of all legislative checks to life insurance management dishonesty is sketched out. In this article we find the following paragraph:—"One of the worst legalised acts of injustice to policyholders was in the revisions of the present section 88, providing for the surrender value of lapsed or forfeited policies. While the premiums which the policyholders pay are now computed in some offices on a reserve basis as low as 3 per cent., their surrender value is on a 4½ per cent. basis, a difference of 50 per cent." A provision was also inserted allowing a waiver on any surrender value whatsoever, and too many offices have

taken advantage of that opportunity to cheat insurants of every penny paid in by them.

It is an altogether ugly and in many respects unspeakably disgusting story, because it conveys the impression that the Yankee business man has ceased to cultivate a moral sense; and as corollary to the corrupt dealings of the politicians with the capitalist bosses—often wealthy through successful fraud, and that alone—including these insurance companies, we have the exhibition of men like Chauncey Depew and a number of other prominent citizens participating in syndicates to their own profit, at the same time that the funds of the life offices they rifle are embarked in underwriting adventures, often to the loss of the policyholders. The examples given of these transactions reveal a moral obliquity hardly to be paralleled amongst gangs of professional pirates. Indeed, open piracy seems the more respectable calling of the two, because the pirate at least makes no pretence of being an honest man, whereas these gentlemen who sit upon bank directorates and on the finance committees of insurance companies, and handle hundreds of millions of trust funds for their own profit, and sometimes for the loss of the public institutions under their control, posture before the world as men of uprightness and often of a pious life. The whole revelation is in the highest degree revolting, and we do not as yet see whence the cure for turpitude so deeply ingrained is to come. It cannot come at all without a revolution in and regeneration of the moral sentiments of American business men. While these men treat successful brigandage as astute manifestations of superior capacity in "deals," and above all of enviable skill in cheating, and recognise no scruple in their campaign to annex dollars, the demoralisation of the people must go on and deepen. One of the most striking examples of the mischief produced by the underwriting system just alluded to is afforded by some statements in regard to the results of Yankee life office participation in that insane and essentially dishonest Morgan shipping combine syndicate. Led by the eminent financiers who plot and dabble and ensnare, the Mutual Life underwrote \$1,500,000 in this syndicate, and has already charged up a loss of \$300,000. The New York Life underwrote \$4,000,000, and has sold \$800,000 of the bonds at a loss of \$80,000. If the remaining \$3,200,000 were disposed of at current prices the entire loss would be about \$430,000, and the New York Life was further declared to have lost \$326,000 by participating in the underwriting syndicate for the New Orleans Railways. In other cases a profit may have been netted, but to behold officials of companies, whose position is that of trustees for thousands of the confiding public whom they induce to take out their policies, wallowing in the dirty waters of berserker finance after this fashion is in the highest degree discouraging to those who dream of human advancement. To such men insurance company wealth, trust moneys all, is a hoard into which they can dip at will and *ad lib.* Will Roosevelt see to it that the money of policyholders, subscribed to his election expenses, is all paid back? Not he.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL RHODESIAN COMPANY.

A Rhodesian company that has been generally considered to have rosier prospects than most is the Rhodesia, Limited, and though in recent years profits have been shown in the accounts, these have been delusive, for losses in the shape of depreciation have been ignored. This has been the experience of the majority of Rhodesian companies, which have been carrying inflated assets for years, the directors pretending to hope that the losses will disappear when the market becomes livelier and quotations for all kinds of rubbishy stuff shoot upwards. Some, however, have had the courage to recognise that the public will not buy their worthless wares at any price, hence they have written off their appalling losses by reducing their huge capitals. The latest company that proposes to adopt such a policy is Rhodesia, Limited, which has now been in existence

over ten years, and has never returned a penny to the shareholders in the shape of a dividend. The report and accounts issued this week cover the lengthy period of two years—1903 and 1904—and are brought up to the end of December last. Thus they might very well have been issued earlier, and the suspicion is fair and reasonable that the directors may have been waiting for some signs of an improvement in the market before placing their scheme before the shareholders. Did they dream they saw an improvement in the wild gamble in Bankets? Most probably, hence the collapse may make them depressed again. The accounts show losses of £17,148 for the year 1903, and of £15,143 for 1904, or £32,291 in two years. This, after deducting the credit balance at the end of 1902—£15,125—has been written off the reserve fund, reducing it to £22,834, which, together with £5,274 at credit of a special reserve fund, has been appropriated partly to meet the depreciation in the assets, consisting of real estate, mining properties, debenture and share holdings, and sundry debtors. "Owing, however," the directors confess, "to the continued depression in South African affairs, and principally through the losses incurred by the failure of the South African dredging ventures, the depreciation—partly ascertained and partly estimated—is considerably more severe than is provided for by the aforementioned reserve funds." The book value of the assets is £647,849, and the estimated value £482,147, so there is an additional loss of £165,703 to meet beyond the sums already provided for.

To carry forward such a huge debit would, in the opinion of the directors, impose a very onerous burden upon the shareholders, and be most detrimental to the prospects of the company. Furthermore, the company is in need of solid cash, if only to pay fees and salaries, to meet debenture interest, and so on; but the directors prefer to attempt to get this from what source they can rather than realise any of the shares and debentures, which they value at £358,256. Of course, they do not wish to place heaps of paper, however gently it might be done, on the foundations of so rotten a market, lest the whole flimsy structure should collapse beyond hope of rebuilding. Again, money is wanted to finance the company's needy subsidiaries, otherwise all work would have to be suspended on their unpayable properties, a calamity too appalling to contemplate. So "it is most important that the finances of Rhodesia, Limited, should be placed upon a strong basis," and the directors think this can best be done by reducing the capital of £600,000 and providing fresh working resources. The first will get rid of the burden of depreciation. As they feel uncomfortably conscious that an assessment might prove a hardship to the shareholders—probably they are sagacious enough to feel that such a scheme would fail—they have arranged for the provision of fresh capital by a sale of the concern for fully paid up shares in a new company, to be registered with a similar name. This is, to all intents and purposes, voluntary liquidation and reconstruction. The nominal capital, however, is to be as high as £500,000, the consideration being 166,667 fully paid shares for division amongst the shareholders in the ratio of one share for three. Holders of the £100,000 debentures have agreed to exchange for the same amount of debentures in the new company. The directors say they have arranged for a guarantee of 115,000 shares at par for a cash commission of 5 per cent., and a call on 57,500 shares at 25s. for two years. Of course, those shareholders who are foolish enough to apply for any of the new shares will receive preferential treatment. Thus the only distinction between this scheme and ordinary reconstruction is that there is no compulsory assessment, but it will be seen that two shares out of three have to be forfeited. Looking to their heavy losses the shareholders would be prudent to let the guarantors, whoever they are, find the new capital. By putting the nominal capital at £500,000 it looks as if the directors are making ample provision for the possibility of having to raise more cash before profits can be earned, assuming the company lucky enough to earn any in the dis-

tant future. A large number of worthless claims had to be abandoned in the past two years. A subsequent letter from the secretary explains that the whole of the loss of £50,119 under sundry debtors represents advances to two subsidiaries whose operations have been unsuccessful—viz., the South African Gold Dredging Company and allied concerns, £28,441, and the Criterion Gold Mining Company, £21,678. What a miserable story! We would sympathise with you in your misfortunes, poor shareholders, if we could, but you have hitherto mostly cursed us for telling you the truth.

PEEK BROTHERS AND WINCH, LIMITED.

This business of wholesale tea and coffee dealers fared disastrously during the year to June 30 and nearly all the blame is laid on the terribly burdensome tea duty of 8d. per lb. That it was a very hurtful influence admits of no doubt, and we are quite aware of the way the trade was upset by the three months' interval between the time the reduction to 6d. was announced and the date of its coming into operation. During that period business was virtually at a standstill. At the same time, whether all these incidents, combined with the usual depression of trade story, are sufficient to account for the company's very poor performance is open to some question, and for the shareholders' sakes we hope that the directors' confident hopes of better times ahead will be justified by results. Last twelve months the profit was only £12,052, reduced to £5,051 by payment of the debenture interest of £7,000, and as unfortunately a half-year's dividend on the preference shares was paid last January, there is a deficit of £3,198 besides six months' preference dividend being still in arrear. But this is not the worst. The directors seem to have just discovered that debts to the tune of £24,313 are bad or doubtful so that with the debit just mentioned of £3,198 there is the nice little gap of £27,511 to be filled up. It will be met to the extent of £24,702 by appropriating the whole of the reserve fund, leaving £2,809 to be made good from the current year's profits. And a study of the balance-sheet does not heighten our admiration of the position. The freehold properties and goodwill standing at the huge figure of £586,515—the depreciation for the year was £500—are now unsupported by accumulations of any sort, and if bankers were not generous in the way of loans the business would soon be in a muddle. Temporary loans we find have been raised to the amount of £52,600, a further sum of £21,251 has been left on deposit, and £70,884 is owing to sundry creditors, or total floating liabilities of £144,735. On the other side there are such assets as sundry debtors £179,554—all good now we hope—stocks £130,888, investments £23,487, formerly representing the reserve, and cash and bills £10,674, but it is obvious that no large part of this is immediately available. Some leasehold properties are put in the balance-sheet at £4,012, plant and machinery at £1,170, and fixtures and furniture at £5,625, in all cases after making some allowance for depreciation. The share capital, it may be mentioned, is £600,000 in equal amounts of preference and ordinary, and, judging from market quotations, the last is evidently considered to have passed out of the dividend list for all time.

THE LE ROI DISPUTE.

At the beginning of the week the secretary of the Le Roi Company issued, on behalf of the directors, a reply to the letter published by Mr. McMillan a week previously; also in reply to the criticisms that have been passed upon their conduct in ejecting Mr. McMillan from the board. The circular reminds the shareholders that at the general meeting on January 31 last they agreed to the principle of amalgamation, and the directors now promise that a scheme will be laid before them at a meeting to be held some time in October, "which cannot fail to meet with their approval and to place them in the position of receiving regular divi-

dends in the future." This is purely a matter of opinion and must be taken for what it is directorially worth. It is certain neither that the shareholders will accept the scheme nor that dividends will be earned in the future by this or any other plan the directors can hatch, unless they can discover how to enrich the ores in the mine. It is contended that the scheme is in conflict with the interests of Mr. McMillan and of the Great Northern Railway, which benefits from the traffic between the mine and the Northport smelter. Therefore, because Mr. McMillan opposed the amalgamation and because the directors say they became dissatisfied with his management of the mine they have taken an action which we have described as high-handed and wholly unwarrantable. Their first duty was to lay the scheme before the shareholders to enable them to judge whether or not the amalgamation is in their interests, not to eject a *confrère* because he is opposed to it. Mr. McMillan may be wrong and the directors right, but it is an insult to the intelligence of the shareholders to tell them in this indirect way that they are not able to judge, and that they must accept *holus bolus* the scheme which the directors intend to place before them. Why had they not the manliness to say, "Gentlemen, this is our scheme; we think it is conceived in the best interests of the company, but Mr. McMillan thinks otherwise. You are intelligent men; you should be able to look after your own interests; it is for you to decide. If you adopt it, probably Mr. McMillan will resign; if you reject it, we must perhaps resign in order to put no obstacles in the way"? No, they dismiss Mr. McMillan first, and thus either intend to force the shareholders to support them or to express their own pompous contempt for the shareholding intellect. We hold no brief for either party, and look at the question solely from the standpoint of the shareholders. Standing there, the behaviour of the directors has impressed us most unfavourably. Though we wrote with some severity last week, we felt it possible that the directors might be able to offer weighty justification for their action, but the lengthy circular they have issued contains none. There are two parties—one party wants the ore smelted at the Trail smelter, the other at the Northport smelter. Hitherto the ore has been treated at the Northport smelter, which is favoured by Mr. McMillan, but it must be admitted that the company has been a lamentable failure from its inception. We doubt if any smelter in the world will help it to pay dividends on its inflated capital of £1,000,000, on which the solitary distribution has been 5s. in 1899. Reduce this by one-quarter and there might be the possibility of a dividend or two; otherwise the difference between a couple of smelters is a matter of slight importance. As the Northport smelter has had a good long trial, the Trail smelter may be given a chance. This is all that can be said, in the absence of any particulars, in favour of the scheme of the directors. But it is not comparable to a scheme for reducing the capital to a much smaller and more reasonable figure. A further very serious objection is that pointed out by Mr. McMillan. The Northport smelter represents a value of £200,000, and how will the directors deal with this sum in the books of the company? As the Trail smelter is owned by the War Eagle and the Centre Star companies, with whom the directors desire to amalgamate, and as the Canadian Pacific has recently secured the control of these mines, the Le Roi will be obliged to have its ores smelted at Trail by contract. Does the Canadian Pacific desire this solely to benefit the shareholders of Le Roi? Is it reasonable to suppose so? Or does it want to benefit from the traffic the proposed arrangement will bring? These are questions not difficult to answer. Seeing, too, that the War Eagle and Centre Star companies have not paid dividends for years, and the shares have for a long time been quoted at a nominal figure, are they the kind of companies with which the Le Roi should amalgamate? No, and it does not look as if the interests of the Le Roi company are being solely considered in this matter.

WILLANS AND ROBINSON.

Little change for the better has yet come over the fortunes of this unhappy business, and the operations for the half-year ended June 30 last mean another heavy addition to the burdensome losses already piled up. It would be futile to again tell the story of the company's misadventures during the past few years, because it must by now be graven deep in shareholders' minds; but this much should be said, that when income and expenditure once more balance—and we trust the moment will soon arrive—no time should be lost in putting the finances in order. As soon as all the trading losses which must probably be incurred can be ascertained steps should be taken to assess the capital losses involved in the Queen's Ferry enterprise—it can never justify the vast outlay upon it, that much is certain—and the accounts set straight by a wise and proper reorganisation of capital. Great help will come from the existence of the reserve fund, because although a large part of the high-class securities formerly held against it have necessarily been sacrificed in order to keep things going, the accumulation of £103,000 odd will go far towards wiping away the huge profit and loss deficiency, at present standing at £102,855. To what extent that will be increased before the corner is turned none can say, but there is a certain encouragement in the fact that the losses on the past half-year's trading are the smallest since the second part of 1903, when debits first appeared, and a gleam of hope flickers around the directors' words regarding the outlook. True it is that the trade in high-speed engines has continued to be unprofitable, and we gather that the gas-engine business is far from justifying the expenditure upon it, but in steam turbines there seem to have been laid the foundations of a profitable business in time to come. The turbines already set to work have done extremely well, and this initial success will, the directors think, lead to rapid development of the trade. We sincerely trust so, and note with satisfaction that the steel works at Queen's Ferry yielded a small profit during the past six months. Prospects, too, are considered satisfactory, as the special steels made by the company are attracting increased attention, and the orders for boilers are sufficient to keep the remainder of the works employed upon the moderate scale to which the operations are sensibly limited. At Rugby there was a manufacturing profit during the period under review of £15,302, and sundry other items of revenue gave £1,222, or £16,524 in all; but the total outgo against these works was £25,141, including £3,287 for debenture interest, £2,913 for directors' remuneration, £1,448 for long service bonus, and £8,364 for depreciation, leaving a deficiency of £8,617 compared with £19,895 in the previous half-year, and £3,345 in the corresponding period. Then as to Queen's Ferry. There the manufacturing loss amounted to £1,701, happily a decline of over £7,000 against the preceding six months, the total charges, with £9,378 for depreciation, £1,644 for debenture interest, and £1,138 for directors' fees—making £4,050 for the two places—being £16,311. Deduct the £2,025, which came in from royalties, and the net loss is £14,286 against £22,877 and £25,903 in the second and first halves of 1904 respectively. At the two works, therefore, the loss was £22,903, for the six months to December 31 last it was £42,772, and for the six months prior to that £29,248. As already mentioned, the debit, by the latest addition, is raised to £102,855, but on the other side there is the reserve of £103,507. In other directions the position is by no means hopeless, because a fire insurance fund of £27,059 and a premiums on shares account of £3,816 are in existence, and creditors do not press heavily being only owed £28,444. Against this we find debtors £142,118, cash £9,310, investments on account of reserves £54,112, and shares and debenture stock in other companies, including shares received under contracts, £20,270, but the last is probably of rather doubtful value. Work in progress is valued at £59,502, and materials and

stores, &c., at £87,258. Capital expenditure, we know, is heavy, £173,897 on freeholds, £101,172 on leasehold buildings and premises, and £297,238 on plant and machinery, besides £23,042 for patents, experiments, and preliminary and experimental work. Altogether the balance-sheet foots up to £1,076,060, and although the real value of the assets falls a long way short of this total there should be substance enough to ensure a solid business once the company can shake itself free of the troubles now dragging it down. One word more. In the auditors' certificate it is stated that the profit and loss account, debtors, and work in progress include amounts receivable in shares in companies in accordance with contracts entered into, while against another contract the company has taken a large amount in shares, which will be sold by instalments and paid for over a certain period, and are not included in the balance-sheet. Now orders obtained under these conditions and on these lines must, we feel sure, always be a source of weakness, if not of actual loss, and while agreements already entered into must be fulfilled the directors should have no hesitation in discontinuing this hazardous kind of business in future. If they do not the company's troubles will never come to an end.

A "GILT-EDGED" TRUST.

PLEASE NOTE.—To prevent misconception about these trusts we have to state that they are never drawn up to further private or personal interests. When this Review was started in 1892, we gave a pledge that it would never be used to "work the market" in any sense, and that pledge has been faithfully kept; therefore neither the conductors nor any brokers or speculators in the City have any interest in the stocks named in our "model trusts" the stocks in which are selected week by week wholly on their intrinsic qualities as far as known, and we publish the selections solely as a guide to serious investors in using their own judgment, not as a means of working off upon the public stocks bought and held for the rise.

Very little need be said about the stocks forming this week's trust beyond the fact that of the five, three are securities eligible for trustees' investments in English, Irish, and Welsh trusts, while the Liverpool and Birmingham issues also come under the requirements of the Scotch Act. The selection, if bought at the prices given, will yield about £3 5s. 6d. per cent., which is not bad considering the nature of the securities. Metropolitan Consolidated 3½ per cent. stock is redeemable at par in October, 1929, and would, therefore, show a slight loss of capital on repayment, but the Birmingham issue can be paid off after 1947 on twelve months' notice, and should this power be exercised the gain would probably counterbalance the loss on Metropolitan. In any case, the annual amount required to safeguard against that loss would not reduce the income by more than a few pence per cent. The Liverpool loan is perpetual, and although the corporation can and does buy stock in the open market from time to time, there is no obligation to sell on the part of any holder. Of the two railway preferences the North-Eastern is perpetual, but the Caledonian may be exchanged for ordinary stock, convertible into preferred and deferred, at the holder's option at any time of the year except when the books are closed.

	Nominal Amount	Price.	Dividend.
	£	£	£ s. d.
£200 Metropolitan Consolidated 3½ per cent. stock.....	200	208	7 0 0
£200 Liverpool 3½ per cent. stock....	200	218	7 0 0
£200 Birmingham 3 per cent. stock....	200	192	6 0 0
£200 North-Eastern Railway Preference stock.....	200	242	8 0 0
£200 Caledonian Railway Convertible Preference (1904).....	200	240	8 0 0
	1,000	1,100	36 0 0

ETRUSCAN COPPER ESTATES: MR. HILL'S REPORT.

When Mr. Algernon Moreing wrote his report on the Etruscan property close on three years and a-half ago, he wound up by sarcastically saying: "In view of the absence of payable ore, the very trifling amount of mining work performed, the grandiose scale and ill-conceived plan of the surface operations, the whole enterprise may very fitly be described as a piece of 'opera-bouffe' mining, which would be ludicrous in the extreme were it not for the heavy loss it will cause to the shareholders." The history of the company has thoroughly justified this language—it has been ludicrous in the extreme and most humiliating. No one can sincerely feel much sympathy for those stupid people who have had a complacent faith in the oft-repeated, and unfulfilled, promises of the directors, and who have treated with contempt the opinions of many skilful experts and the warnings of the disinterested portion of the public Press. Profits and dividends have been promised which were to prove that engineers of world-wide reputation were fools or fibbers, but losses and reconstruction have alone been the fruit of this directorial optimism. Even, however, in spite of losses, broken pledges, and undignified retreats from the courts of law, there have been lamblike followers whose trust in Mr. Earle and his colleagues has never been shaken. They have believed his fantastical statements that "wreckers" have been at work, that the minds of editors have been poisoned, that there has been a general conspiracy against the company. Ordinary reason and common intelligence have never been appealed to by these men; facts have made no impression on their dull brains; they have been spell-bound by the rhetoric of a strident and stagey sentimentalist. At the bidding of this word-spinner they have opened their pockets cheerfully, confident that they would speedily see them filled several times over, and even to this day the emptiness troubles them not. Such are the blissful delusions of fools and greed-betrayed, who neither ask for pity nor deserve it. They are but reaping the harvest their folly has sown—the thousands spent have not yielded them a sou.

Such are the reflections suggested by a study of the second report of Mr. Alexander Hill upon the Etruscan property. He made his first report at the same time as Mr. Moreing wrote his, and it was similarly condemnatory. When the directors asked him to examine the mine this second time the chairman admitted that the property was not self-supporting, but should Mr. Hill's report confirm the views of the directors, "there is a probability that a certain course which we have been discussing with a certain good friend of the company will, in that event, be carried into effect, and it ought to go a long way to relieve further financial pressure, such as we should otherwise presently have to face—that is to say, if the mine does not in the meantime become self-supporting." We forbear to characterise this phrasing. The report is a very long one, with which we cannot possibly deal at large. It is unnecessary to do so—the whole story may be put into a few sentences. Mr. Hill agrees with the opinions expressed by other experts, and proved accurate by actual results, that the company has never been able to work at a profit. He points out that the operations in the past have resulted in a very substantial loss mainly because the grade of the ore has been so low. "This loss," he adds, "has been augmented—in fact, increased enormously—by the lavish expenditure of money on machinery and plant on the surface and the system of development employed underground." He also shows that since September, 1904, a total loss of £25,445 has been incurred in dealing with 57,622 tons of ore. "This means that in order to pay expenses, including development, it is necessary to mine, smelt and market the copper at 14s. 6d. per ton of ore. This, I think, is impossible, but the margin is so close that if the grade of ore as mined could be raised to $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. a profit could be earned." In conclusion, he thinks the mine is little better than a prospect, "notwithstanding the large amount of money that has

been spent, but it is a very much better prospect now than it was at the time of my last visit, in April, 1902." A prospect! What a valuable prize to possess after the hundreds of thousands spent and the scorn hurled at experts and editors! Here is another gem from Mr. Hill's supplementary report:—"The erection of ore-dressing plant at a cost of over £25,000, and the supplying of another ore-dressing plant not yet erected, at, we presume, about the same cost, are only further indications of the lavish way in which machinery was purchased without any justification. In fact, the whole plant gives one the impression of having been designed and located by an amateur to whom money was no object, who had no conception of the value of the machinery he was erecting, and who seemed to be afraid that an engine or a machine would go to pieces without any warning, thus making it necessary to have duplicates in case of accidents. I can only conclude by stating that I am at a loss to understand how anyone claiming to have even a superficial knowledge of the requirements of any mining property could have even suggested such extravagant and unnecessary expenditure as has been incurred by you in Italy." Who were interested in supplying all this machinery? What have the directors decided to do? Not to throw up the sponge, brave and cheerful men as they are. In the circular they issue they point out that Mr. Hill's criticisms do not reflect upon the present manager, as everything was carried out prior to his appointment. They actually feel hopeful of the future. Mr. Hill says in regard to the outlook:—"There is reasonable hope that the copper contents may increase as further depth is attained, and this point should be finally determined before the property can be condemned as unpayable." He recommends the continuance of prospecting operations and the proving of the ground in depth, and the carrying out of these the directors have decided to entrust to his firm. So more money is to be spent on such a speculative prospect! And no doubt there will be many who will give it with smiling faces!

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

The balance-sheets of the South African banks have provided material for some interesting reflections for a considerable time now, and so far as we can see will continue to do so for a good many years yet. Since the close of the Boer war, and even through its dreary length, we have frequently had occasion to comment on the violent fluctuations in the principal balance-sheet items and the abnormally large profits earned, neither indicative of solid prosperity or good, stimulating business likely to be of lasting benefit to the country. That a reaction from this abnormal and quite artificial condition of affairs was presently inevitable we have insisted time and again, and shall be more than surprised if matters do not grow materially worse than at present before once more taking a turn for the better. In the half-year to June 30 the gross profit of this powerful bank reached £432,213, only £20,278 less than in the corresponding period it is true, but 12 months back a shrinkage of £14,978 was shown, the revenue of 1903 being nearer £470,000 each half-year than £430,000. Moreover, there was a sharp drop of £26,848 at £33,083 in the balance brought forward, so that the total credit was £465,296, against £512,422. General expenses of £242,780 were a little less, but rebate was up some thousands to £48,987, and the sum for disposal sinks £52,772 to £173,529, a material decline. It means a reduction in the dividend from 18 per cent. per annum to 16, nothing to reserve, against £15,000 in the corresponding period and £35,000 in the first half of 1903, £13,000 as before to the officers' pension fund, and a fall of £22,000 to £36,647 in the credit carried forward. This return is still a very good one, and the only matter for regret is perhaps that the distribution was ever put up to 18 per cent., particularly in view of the increase in capital. Coming to the balance-sheet we find that the deposit, current and other accounts have gone up again by no less than £3,000,000

to £21,835,265, notes in circulation are a trifle less at £1,077,649, while drafts outstanding and acceptances under credits have risen by £608,585 to £1,276,969. Bills receivable on account of customers £2,976,689 has of course the per contra entry, "bills for collection." Notwithstanding the big increase in liabilities the cash balance has been reduced £540,731 to £4,459,572 and remittances in transit are a mere £46,950 higher at £549,037. Investments moreover are down £415,935 to £4,176,434, and we find that all the additional resources are accounted for by increases in the loans on securities of £2,165,453 to £3,391,953, bills of exchange purchased of £892,399 to £4,492,453, and bills discounted and advances of £1,273,307 to £10,500,265. These movements we fear can hardly be regarded as healthy expansion, the condition of the country taken into consideration, and although we have no doubt that the business is conducted with the greatest care a little extra caution would not be out of place at the present moment.

SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH AND CO.

We have not a great deal to say concerning the operations of this great war implement business during the past 12 months, because powerful and wealthy enterprises such as Armstrong's always afford less scope for criticism than those deserted by fortune. Profits were again on a very large scale, and the general political outlook creates the impression that a continuance of present conditions may be confidently anticipated for some years at least. After charging the rather smaller sum of £175,506 for depreciation, the net profit for the year is returned at £618,414, inclusive of £86,369 brought forward, and as dividends on shares and debentures held gave another £33,720, and £7,981 came in from interest the total for disposal is £660,116. Directors' fees and travelling expenses took £4,832, a wonderfully modest sum, interest and bonus on employees' deposits required £14,156, and interest and charges on debentures £60,200, leaving £580,928 as net profit, which is almost precisely the same as for the previous 12 months. Therefore the directors pay the preference dividend and maintain the ordinary distribution at 15 per cent., divided into an interim payment of 1s., and a final of 2s. per share, the balance carried forward being £84,034. A splendid result truly, and we note that the directors have decided to write off the small sum of £137,120 formerly representing goodwill, so that the great property item is now quite free of all impalpable matter. Where the necessary credit to do this has been taken from is not very clear, but no doubt full explanations will be forthcoming at the meeting. Another matter worthy of mention is the credit of £150,000 to the plant renewal fund, and evidently this account is freely resorted to in order to maintain the properties in a high state of efficiency, as, notwithstanding the present addition, the balance of the fund is no more than £133,273. There are other massive accumulations, however, such as the general reserve of £650,000, provision for expenditure on experimental account £85,000, fire insurance account £60,000, and provision for liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act £30,000, not far short of £1,000,000 all told. This should render the financial position a very solid one, even though the valuation of the freehold and leasehold land, buildings, machinery and plant seems enormous at £4,303,108. Twelve months back it was £4,416,216, and the present figure is the net result of an expenditure of £199,518 on capital account and reductions aggregating £312,626 for depreciation and goodwill as mentioned. Shares and debentures in other companies, including the interest in the Italian firm of Ansaldo and Co., are valued at £559,413, or £80,525 less, indicating some sales apparently, and we gather that these investments return about 6 per cent. Work in progress, stocks, stores, materials, &c., are entered at no less than £1,396,846, debtors owe £659,387, and cash and bills come to £317,658. Against these big assets £492,310 is due to ordinary creditors, £100,006 on loan, and £178,242 to employees on account of deposits, in all £770,558, meaning a large margin of free resources.

THE LYCEUM MUDDLE.

That is a delightfully brisk and business-like report which has just been issued by a majority of the investigation committee appointed at the Lyceum meeting in July when the first ghastly report of the new company was considered. Three gentlemen formed the committee, Mr. Frank G. Gladden, Mr. Alfred H. Cooper, and Mr. T. Barrasford, the managing director, and as the last named is in a manner held blameworthy for much that has happened, if not actually responsible, it is not altogether surprising that he declined to sign the document, leaving that interesting operation to the other two. They seem to have set about the investigation in a fashion beyond all praise, and bring to light many little facts and figures which go far to explain the muddle in which the company finds itself. There was an agreement with the managing director under which he was given £1,000 a year for 10 years and such complete control of the whole affair that the three directors, getting £700 a year between them, might just as well have been non-existent. Effective action by them was rendered quite impossible, and since Mr. Barrasford could come and go as he pleased—he is interested in several other theatrical ventures—it may be taken as certain that the control was not quite so close as it might have been. When Mr. Barrasford was away the management appeared to have devolved on an acting manager who came from the provinces without any music hall experience, and was paid a salary of £9 a week, to say nothing of a liberal allowance for expenses. In all directions indeed the management seem to have been very extravagant, as also the salaries paid to artists, who were often exclusively engaged, a thing even the old-established halls cannot afford to do. Taking in everything, the place lost about £400 a week while it was open, and it is more than fortunate that the committee has succeeded in annulling the old agreement with the managing director and making a new one. Under this Mr. Barrasford becomes tenant of the theatre from September 18 last until Christmas at a substantial rent, with the option to renew his lease at a rental of £10,000 a year for three years. Various other contracts which threatened litigation have also been satisfactorily arranged, and altogether the committee seems to have performed its work remarkably well. Of course, the capital will have to be cut down as suggested, and that, we fear, will be a difficult job.

MR. GENTRY BINGHAM AND THE BOMBAY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

We have received from Mr. W. Gentry Bingham a letter on the Bombay Electricity Supply and Tramways Company, which we regret our inability to print. Along with the letter a copy has also been sent to us of some correspondence which passed between a firm called Rowell and Co., Limited, and Mr. J. A. Kelman, the chairman of the British Pioneer Company of India, and the two papers taken together form most unpleasant reading. Briefly, Mr. Bingham accuses the directors of this India Company of having betrayed their trust in entering into an agreement to give the firm in which one or more of their number was interested, £15,000, later reduced to £12,500, of the sum it received from the sale of the Bombay concession, together with the valuable contract for construction, the profit from which might be estimated at from £30,000 or £40,000 more, and all this without the said firm giving the British Pioneer Company one farthing of value or consideration in return. Apparently the correspondence enclosed bears this statement out. From one end of it to the other there is not the slightest allusion to the existence of outside shareholders in the British Pioneer Company of India. Yet we can hardly believe that the whole story is here, and until the actual position of Kelman and Rowell is elucidated must withhold adhesion to the censure which the B.E.T. Company as arch-plotter behind the scenes comes in for at Mr. Bingham's hands. That company has not excited our admiration much in the course of its brief history, but we can hardly believe it possible that it would have

countenanced such a transaction as the correspondence before us discloses. Mr. Bingham declares that the directors of the British Pioneer Company made a gift of £25,000 to the Brush Company, a creature of the B.E.T. Company, and as trustee for the shareholders of the India Company he proclaims his determination to have this £25,000 of improper commission to the Brush Company and the £10,000 improperly deducted from the price of the concession, together with the share of the contract improperly given to the firm referred to, refunded to the shareholders before he gives his assent to the sale of the concession to the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company. What has the B.E.T. Company to say for itself? And what the board and firm incriminated by Mr. Bingham's allegations?

BUMPER AMERICAN HARVESTS—AND CHEAP BREAD?

Glowing accounts from Canada and the United States lead us to anticipate an immense surplus of grain for export over there. Mr. F. W. Thompson, vice-president and managing director of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Co., Limited, who has just completed a tour of inspection of the Manitoba crops, reports that the yield of grain in that province exceeds all previous expectations, his estimate being that the total crop will reach 100,000,000 bushels in round numbers, and this crop he declares to be of high quality, "in fact, the best and largest ever produced." In the same strain, Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, who has just come back from a tour in the Middle West, declares the glowing reports of enormous crops there to be justified by the facts. The small-grain crops in North and South Dakota surpass in yield and quality the crops of the last six or seven years, and the maize crops in the same states, as also in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Illinois, are "the best he has ever known." To add to the dazzling character of the picture thus unfolded, he declares the entire crop to be now beyond danger from frosts. No matter what happens elsewhere, we ought therefore to be sure of cheap bread this winter. But what is the meaning of the statement made by Professor James Long in Wednesday's *Morning Leader* to the effect that bread is now at least 1½d. the 4-lb. loaf dearer than it should be according to the old standard? It has been laid down, he says, "that with wheat at 30s. the quarter the price of bread should be 4½d., the flour for the loaf costing 3½d., but in 1903 the London price for household bread was 5.58d., wheat standing at 26s. 9d. per quarter, while in 1896 the relative prices were 5d. and 26s. 2d., in 1897 6½d. and 37s. and in 1898 6d. and 34s." He goes on to say that the present relation between bread and flour is not only inconsistent, but that the one is altogether out of proportion to the other, and "it is unnecessary to say that the baker's is the more prosperous industry. To-day, with wheat quoted at 26s. 11d., the consumer is commonly charged 6d." This will have to be seen to, but probably it is only one way of paying for "war, glorious war!" Fifty millions more in taxes must be sucked from somewhere.

Passing Events.

So the Mazawattee Tea Company is going into the retail provision business instead of confining its energies to the tea trade alone. We noticed one of the new shops the other day, just a little way out of London, being sumptuously prepared for the reception of margarine, butter, cheese, and so on, and if all the premises which the directors have set their minds to open are as lavishly fitted up as this one that £200,000 of high-class securities appearing in the last balance-sheet will be frightfully attenuated by the time the next statement is issued, say in January or February, 1906. It was in March of the current year that the directors announced their new "shop" policy, but so far as we remember there was never a hint that anything else than tea distribution was to be undertaken,

and if the new departure should turn out a failure, as it very easily might, we are disposed to think the shareholders will hold the board personally responsible. And what is to be the effect of this open competition with the provision trade on the company's legitimate business of tea growing, blending, and distribution? It is hard to say, but if there is not something in the nature of a boycott we shall be much surprised.

Chili has some extensive railway construction in view, it is said, so that both contractors and money-lenders should be busy in the near future. Already approved by the president, a Bill has been submitted to the Senate providing for the construction of the "longitudinal" railway, that is a complete connection between the north and south of the Republic, existing lines to be utilised where available. The cost is estimated at \$44,461,300 or £3,345,847, most of which will be raised by means of loan, and the work is to be completed in seven years. Another project in the minds of the Chilean authorities is a line from Arica to La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, and those who bought Arica and Tacna Railway shares when "tipped" by an irresponsible weekly journal on the strength of rumours that this line would be made use of will be disappointed to learn that the Chilean-Bolivian Convention fixing the terms of the concession, construction, and working of the new system does not even mention it. We never for a moment supposed that any Government would buy up the shares at the fancy figure of £10 each—that was the price fixed by the "tipsters"—when intrinsically they are not worth half as much. The last dividend paid was 1 per cent. on the £20 share. By the way, the new line when completed may prove a sharp competitor with the wealthy Antofagasta and Bolivia Railway, and one of the lines owned by the Peruvian Corporation whose routes from Bolivia to the Pacific are a lot longer.

We had something to say the other day concerning the damage likely to be caused to Russian trade by the shortage of rolling stock on the railways—it has nearly all been requisitioned for war purposes—and now learn that about 30,000,000 poods, or about 500,000 tons of grain lying at the country railway depôts in southern and south-western Russia cannot be moved for want of the necessary transport facilities. A great portion of the grain is spoiling and rotting under the action of the weather as it is impossible to keep more than the smallest proportion under cover or in sacks. Since the grain was intended for export from the Black Sea ports this means a considerable difference to the world's supplies, and it is some comfort to hear concurrently that Canada's wheat crop is the finest and largest ever handled. It will find a ready market here on the usual terms.

The South Wales Coal Owners' Association has communicated with the Miners' Federation suggesting that a conference to arrange a new wages agreement should be called in October. The old agreement expires at the end of the year, and anxiety is expressed in the trade as to the result. Recently the men's leaders have emphatically expressed their intention to resist to the uttermost any attempt to reduce the existing minimum wage of 30 per cent. on standard, whilst on their side the coal-owners claim that, in view of German competition, there must be a readjustment of wage rates to enable the coal to maintain its place in foreign markets. That everlasting German competition! Some of our producing and manufacturing people will not see that these are greater evils to face than this exaggerated foreign competition, evils growing in their very midst. The workmen can see these, as lethargy and folly do not blind them; hence this selfish and absurd plea of German competition they will but scoff at.

The Belgian Consul-General in Korea has written a report upon mining concessions in this unfortunate country, but it is a document that will not assist the schemes of company promoters. Although the Koreans, he says, worked gold, copper and iron mines from time immemorial, there are no particulars to hand as to the

quantity and quality of the ores unearthed by the natives. The mineral wealth of the peninsula has always been regarded as extensive, yet the past history of foreign mining enterprise records but scanty successes. English initiative commenced with Mr. Pritchard Morgan, the present honorary Consul-General for Korea in the United Kingdom, who obtained in the year 1898 a concession known as the Gwendoline Mining Company, in the Eunsen district. A concession granted to the Japanese in 1900, in the province of Tchourg-Tchong, was abandoned four years later, whilst a French syndicate applied in 1901 for mining rights, but up to the present their claims have not been fixed. The latest comers are an Anglo-American-Japanese syndicate, owning the Gouwan mines, in Hong-Hai, and an Italian company, which arranged with the Government in April last to select suitable claims within two years.

Another "banket" discovery! This time, however, it is not in Rhodesia, and the news is said to have leaked out in some mysterious (?) way from private sources. The so-called discovery has been made in the Drakensberg Range, about fifty miles from Pietersburg, and it has been traced for about twenty miles. It has been opened on the banks of the Letsitele River to a depth of 1,100 ft. below the outcrop, and the values are said to range from 7 dwts. to 15 dwts. Now that a certain class of people are labouring under the delusion that the "banket" bait is the most alluring to the ordinary gudgeons, we must expect to have a plethora of such "finds," until the fishermen come to their senses and find that no fish will rise to such bait. Nor need they be in any mad hurry to invent baits, for the fish, big and little alike, are too wary nowadays and a little too intelligent to be deceived by the designs of the crafty.

The president of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines has declared, with sickening unctuousness, that the mining companies are unable under the Ordinance to restrict the Chinese to the compounds. If the bosses were permitted to do so, he added, it would be most undesirable, as it would mean condemning the coolies to an existence which "might be called slavery, thus giving rise to disturbances, and depriving them of the power of spending practically the whole of their wages in the country, which power they at present possess." It is not slavery, then, to be tortured as they are? It is not servitude to be treated worse than cattle? Disturbances! Have there been no disturbances? Are all these terrible stories of robbery and murder mere fiction? And is not the Government offering a reward of £1 for every Chinese brush, thus instituting a new hunting game for the bosses? To allow the poor devils to save a trifle of their wages to take back to China would be a hardship! It might bring them freedom. Better spend it for the benefit of the bosses as soon as they earn it, thus to become penniless and more dependent, so that they cannot "chuck" up their jobs when they like. This would just suit the mine potentates. Let the yellows and the whites be made helpless, dependent absolutely upon their masters, and the old serf system will soon be complete.

And talking of Chinese reminds us of the itinerary of Lord Selborne in the Western Transvaal. At the various meetings held the farmers have asked for more effective protection against the yellow miscreants, though no protection would please them more, they declared, than the repatriation of the coolies. "Dear me!" exclaimed his sagacious lordship. "Is it so, indeed? You do surprise me. But surely, gentlemen, the circumstances must be very exceptional if you are unable to deal with the position yourselves." What a brain to conceive of such an answer! What wisdom! What a complete grasp of a grave and ominous situation! A position in which a lonely, unarmed farmer, his wife and several young children find themselves opposed to a gang of desperate, blood-thirsty, murderous, well-armed Chinese, is exceptional except to a lord whose life journey is paved with roses. But the whites may now defend themselves with fire-

arms if they can afford them, and run the risk of hanging should they kill a coolie. Yet his lordship smiles at the fears of the farmers! "Dear me, gentlemen, surely you can defend yourselves?" Yes, and he killed all the same.

Last week we complained that the directors of the Lake View Consols neither gave the shareholders particulars nor time to consider the scheme so suddenly launched to acquire a half interest in some unmentioned Broken Hill property. The meeting was held on Monday and the chairman gave a few particulars. It is estimated that there are 300,000 tons of ore in sight and 100,000 tons of payable ore probable, averaging 22½ per cent. of lead, 12½ per cent. of zinc, and 3½ ozs. of silver. Accordingly the directors decided to exercise the option offered to them. It is not surprising that several shareholders spoke against the proposal, and asked that further time should be given them to consider it. "But the option expires on October 1," exclaimed the chairman. So it seems to have been rushed through with a speed that is quite unfair to the general body of shareholders. On a show of hands the resolution was carried by the small majority of eight. Yet we are told that the directors of Australian companies desire to revive the confidence of the public in their efforts to wipe out memories of the past! This is an extraordinary way to try to restore confidence and trust, even though the chairman apologised for the haste and absence of details in the circular.

Beyond confirming in a general way the rumour that negotiations were afoot, the chairman of the Highland Railway Company at the half-yearly meeting on Wednesday would have nothing to say regarding the projected amalgamation with the Great North of Scotland. He plainly hinted, however, that without some such community of interests the Highland must virtually stand still; could not afford, in fact, to enter into a hazardous, almost reckless, policy of railway expansion towards the north. Already there had been much waste of energies and resources. But, given the fusion, the joint enterprise would be in a position to advance, and the chairman made it quite clear that that would be the end in view—not a policy of starvation, knocking off of trains, and so on. A matter of supreme importance is, of course, the position of Inverness, now the headquarters of the Highlands, and there is little doubt that if the amalgamation is allowed to take place this town must suffer severely. It may not be killed as a commercial centre, but you cannot remove a big railway works away from a place without doing a vast amount of injury to the town and inhabitants. It is not absolutely certain that this step would follow, but we should regard it as more than probable.

Thanks to a fine round £1,151,000 received from the Excise, the gross revenue collected last week came to over £2,636,000, and as the payments, including nearly £42,000 handed over to the Cunard Company under its agreement with the Government, came to only £1,650,000, the balances of the Exchequer at the banks were increased by £986,000. All the money and more will be wanted next week when the dividends fall due.

One cheering piece of news comes from Russia—the Press censorship, a perfectly childish effort on the part of the bureaucrats to stifle the mind of the nation whose destinies they do their best to mar, has been removed to the extent of allowing the newspapers to print reports of the Zemstvos' Congress debates. Unless this decision is gone back upon, it should mean the beginning of better things for the unfortunate people of Russia. If they can only get their grievances made known, and be at liberty to educate the people through reports of public discussions and *viva voce* through public meetings, the downfall of the present system of benighted tyranny cannot be very far off. We must not be too jubilant, however, for the unhappy system of Government under which the races within the Russian Empire groan is prone to take back in wrath every concession granted in fear. What, however, is told

about this gathering of Zemstvos in Moscow is full of encouragement, and we take courage to hope.

We never doubted that the good sense of the Swedes and Norwegians would bring them to an agreement so long as no outside meddler interfered to patronisingly give them advice. The statesmen and people of both countries have behaved with a self-restraint and patriotism which may well be regarded as an example to other civilised countries, and the end is accord. Not only is the difficulty about the forts got over, but provision is made for referring to the Hague Tribunal any disputes that may arise in future. From every point of view this is excellent wisdom, and now we hope Norway will not trouble herself any more with kings, but set up a genuinely patriotic and democratic republic. Kings smack of "empire" and are more costly to the nations submitting to them, direct and indirect cost included, than even the rule of Tammany and trusts is in the much afflicted United States.

It is not for people here to lecture the Hungarians, still less to scold the aged Emperor Francis Joseph. We can only lament that the misunderstanding between him and the people of his Hungarian kingdom should have reached such an acute stage as to threaten to become a danger to the peace of Europe. We still trust, however, that the angry passions of the Magyars will cool down and that a *modus vivendi* may be found which will prevent a rupture of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Great though the progress of Hungary has been in our day, her strength is not yet great enough to permit her to plunge alone into the vortex of South-Eastern European politics. With Austria behind her, she might do much to prevent the outbreak or prolongation of strife in that part of the world; alone she would almost certainly be involved in the general upheaval which we are told must come.

Critical Index To New Investments.

CALIFORNIAN PETROLEUM REFINERIES, LIMITED.

It takes a good deal of what our Yankee friends know as "nerve" to think of competing on its own ground with the "Standard Oil," and apparently the owners of a certain oil-producing concern called the Graciosa Oil Company of San Francisco have not ventured to appeal to their fellow countrymen for aid in building a refinery. Ignorance sometimes serves the same purpose as "nerve," and it is possibly in the hope that investors here will not realise the danger of losing their money that this company has been formed with a capital of £200,000 in £1 shares. The present issue is only 160,000 shares, of which 5,000 have been taken by the signatories, and 100,000 have been applied for by the directors and their friends, and out of the amount so raised £125,000 is to be spent on erecting the refinery. Estimates based on an output of 1,500,000 barrels per annum are made to show a profit of £329,752, but these are only calculations after all and may easily prove unattainable should the "Standard Oil" decide to squeeze this small competitor out of existence as it has done with so many others. Of course, the promoters talk of an outlet for their products in the East, but in those markets also there is powerful opposition to be faced, and altogether the outlook for the new undertaking is far from cheerful.

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND 3½ PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK.

Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co. are authorised to receive subscriptions for an issue of £390,500 of the above stock at the price of 96 per cent., payable in instalments of 5 per cent. on application, 15 per cent. on allotment, 40 per cent. on November 1, and 36 per cent. on December 1. The proceeds will be applied in payment of the amount required under the award of arbitration for the Government system of telegraphs taken over from the Reid-Newfoundland Company, and in providing for further telegraph extension in the

colony, and cable connection with Canada, together with the expenses in connection with the award and the costs of the loan. Including this issue the total bonded debt of the colony is \$21,906,540, on which the interest charges amount to \$870,357, while the average revenue for the five years to June 30, 1904, was \$2,241,484, the income for the past year was \$2,580,693, and for the current year ending June 30 next it is estimated at \$2,510,000. The loan is repayable at par in 40 years and is a trustee security under the Colonial Stock Act, 1900. As an investment, too, it should be all right, for Newfoundland is an undeveloped country.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

BOROUGH OF BODMIN.—The Town Council invites tenders for a loan of £2,885, or such smaller sum as may be required for the purpose of erecting workmen's dwellings. The loan will be repayable in 60 years in equal half-yearly instalments of principal and interest combined, and will be secured on the borough rates.

BROMPTON, GILLINGHAM, AND ROCHESTER WATERWORKS.—1,000 £5 ordinary shares will be offered for sale by auction at Chatham on October 17.

Answers to Correspondents.

H. H.—We hardly think you should sell, as the company's position is very strong, and you would not benefit greatly by the exchange. You must not overlook the fact that there is a contingent liability on the shares you name as an alternative for an amount equal to that paid up.

Olive.—Hold your shares for the present. The company is doing pretty well, and unless political disturbances should arise in the country, should continue to improve its position. The security you mention was a mining one, and we should not think of putting you into such a thing, as the risks are far too great.

Bath.—Company is heavily over capitalised, and has not in the past paid sufficient attention to the questions of reserve and depreciation. The report for last year is due about the middle of October, and it might be as well to wait for its appearance before buying.

Cropper.—We fear there is not much chance of an improvement in these shares if it is true, as we were recently told by one who ought to know, that the process will prove a commercial failure.

Francis.—This company is in an excellent position, but its future depends on the amount of ore still in the mines which provide the principal part of the freight traffic, and as this can only be conjectured the price appears to be quite high enough. The shares were recently "tipped" in certain quarters, but we doubt if the advice carried sufficient weight to influence the price.

F. L. K. (Heilbronn).—On present profits and market prices the share is not one to buy, though later on the profits may improve. Holders should sell out if they can do so without loss, but hold in the hope that the bosses might push them higher, though such an opportunity may not come for a long time.

Nayro.—We think very poorly of the company's prospects, and you might cut your loss.

W. H. G.—(1) This stock is not yet receiving its full interest, but without doubt the line is making rapid progress, and we think the entire payment should soon be forthcoming. We think a little of the money might be put in this. (2) There should be no doubt about this security, which enjoys the guarantee of another big Canadian railway. (3) Not first-class, perhaps, because the line is being subjected to very severe competition, but the preference should be safe enough. (4) We think this might be left out. We are not sure that the business done is of the highest quality, and there is, moreover, a heavy uncalled liability on the shares. (5) This concern is frightfully over-capitalised, but to mix in with others a little of the debenture stock might be purchased. (6) A concern which has lately pulled up rapidly, and at par, or thereabouts, the security can be considered fairly good. (7) We are a little doubtful about this, because some terrible losses have been made in the past, but matters are doubtless improving now that the Australian outlook is better. Regarded speculatively, just a small quantity might be bought. (8) Leave this alone, although the low price looks tempting. Nearly all the company's assets consist of copyrights, and we are rather doubtful how long publications of this class will remain in favour sufficiently to justify the extravagant capitalisation put upon them. (9) This is also undesirable we fear, as the company is in a bad way. Best left alone. (10) Very second-rate, of course, but there should be assets enough to cover the debenture debt. (11) This concern is going from bad to worse, and although a great effort will no doubt be made to keep up the debenture interest, the stock might prove a source of worry. (12) This concern does very fairly on the whole, its enormous capitalisation taken into consideration, and there should be little fear regarding the debenture interest. (13 and 14) We regard these as the most promising of all Home Railway stocks, but they should not be regarded as permanent investments, because of the enormous capital expenditure. The order of merit we should put as follows, starting with the best:—3, 14, 13, 2, 1, 6, 10, 12, 5, 4, 7, 11, 9, 8.

H. Bayley.—(1) The prospects seem very good, and the shares may be held without uneasiness. (2) At present prices the shares look a little too speculative, but a purchase of a small quantity might turn out favourably.

PELICAN & BRITISH EMPIRE**LIFE OFFICE.****A.D. 1797.****70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.****Total Assets exceed - £5,100,000.****The Investors' Review.****The Week's Money Market.****BANK RATE 4 PER CENT.** (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

After grilling for a fortnight or more the Money market has at last been set at rest by an advance in the Bank rate to 4 per cent. To the very last hour there were doubts as to whether this step would be taken this week, although there could be no doubt whatever that it was a step imperatively called for. The Bank return issued yesterday, however, showed that it would have been perilous to delay the change for another week. Not only has the market within the Bank week ended on Wednesday night been compelled to borrow at the Bank £5,085,000 on short loan or by the discount of bills, but the reserve has been denuded to the extent of £1,069,000, until it is now down to only £23,808,000, while of the borrowings only £3,681,000 remained on the other deposits. The reserve is now altogether too small, not only in view of continued foreign demands for gold, but still more in view of possible domestic demands. The entire stock of coin and bullion held by the Bank was only £34,629,000 on Wednesday night, and if by any chance a scare about bank credit was to arise in this country the whole of this might disappear in less than a week to satisfy the demands of joint-stock banks compelled to look to their own safety, or to fight for their existence.

We forget this aspect of banking too often in discussing the motives for raising or lowering the Bank of England rate, and confine attention exclusively to the effect of the ups and downs of that rate upon foreign exchanges. Thus at the present time the market is occupied with the question whether a 4 per cent. rate will prove high enough to stop the exports of gold from the Bank, and according as the disputants arrive at an affirmative or negative conclusion upon this point are they happy or fearful about the future. But there is a much larger question always with us than this of foreign demands for gold, and that is the question of adequate provision for domestic currency requirements such as might spring into existence were doubts to arise here as to the stability of any one of our banks. One day such doubts must arise. Our banks are not going to continue for ever exempt from dangers, will not be able always to bury the losses, which must have been severe for some of them as the result of the havoc produced not only by the South African War, but by the play in that wealth-wasting, gambling centre familiarly known as the Kaffir Circus.

Confining attention, however, to the foreign aspects of the gold question, can we be certain that a 4 per cent. Bank rate will have the effect of at least stopping the withdrawal of coin or bullion from the Bank for export? We cannot be so were it for no other reason than that the market will not support the 4 per cent. Bank rate. Already the discount for three months' bank bills in the open market has slipped back to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and sometimes less. To-day one of the greatest of the bill dealing banks bought paper freely at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Bill brokers tried yesterday morning to put it up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{5}{8}$ per cent., but entirely failed. Next week, too, when the Government dividends are disbursed, if not before, short loans in the open market should be much cheaper than they were in the beginning of this week, because the market will then not

only have the dividend money but the use of a great deal of the credit obtained at the Bank through the discount of bills. And if loan rates fall back discount rates will become weaker, and we shall see a 4 per cent. Bank rate in danger of being almost wholly ineffectual as a safeguard to our stock of the gold, unless the Bank of England steps into the open market and borrows all the surplus credit. It may do this, probably will be compelled to do so long before October is passed, but the mere fact that this crude and artificial mode of sustaining the price of bankers' balances and the discount rates on the London market has to be resorted to shows how inefficient for the purpose intended the 4 per cent. Bank rate may really prove to be. In all probability, therefore, gold will still slip away from the Bank, and we may be quite sure that whether it does or not, the whole of the supplies of raw metal coming in from the mines will go to foreign purchasers. In view, however, of the domestic risks we want to retain a sensible proportion of this new supply. To be on the safe side there should be another £10,000,000 at least of available gold in the hands of the Bank of England and the other joint-stock banks, so that if a 4 per cent. rate merely prevents some of the remaining stock of gold in the Bank from going away to other markets it will not have fulfilled our requirements. This means in our view that we may have to submit to a 5 per cent. Bank rate at least before we can hope to see the visible stock of gold in the custody of the Bank of England increased to a total which might remove all apprehensions from the public mind as to what would happen should a bank or two succumb to its losses and locks-up.

Both yesterday and to-day French banks have been buying London bills freely at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. or even 3 per cent. This, together with their purchases of English Treasury bills, enormous amounts of which are held in Paris, ought to have caused the French cheque to improve, but it appears that the buyers of the bills have sold the cheque forward as a hedge, and so freely has this been done that it became weaker to-day, as well as the New York rate. This looks ominous of perhaps formidable demands for gold impending in the near future. To-day's sale of Treasury bills, noted elsewhere, cost the Government an average discount of rather more than £2 16s. per cent., and the French and Japanese are said to have got the whole £2,000,000 offered.

Owing to the competition of the Continent and to the cheapness of short credits, which were only 3 to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to-day, the discount market has continued weak, and some of the highest class of three months' bank bills have been sold at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., but the London bill brokers generally quote $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and will admit nothing below $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. on bills due within the year. For bills payable any time within the first three months of next year the lowest rate quoted is $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., that being the quotation everywhere. The India Council is now getting $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for its renewals and lendings.

SILVER.

The end of a month usually causes a good deal of buying back on the part of the "bears," and this coupled with a fair demand for bars from Russia and a little Indian buying sent quotations up to 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. for cash, and 28 $\frac{5}{8}$ d. per oz. for future shipments. America, however, offered the metal very freely, and as the "short" accounts were covered the inquiry slackened, with the result that the market weakened, and prices fell back smartly to 28 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. and 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. respectively. The closing of the Suez Canal for the purpose of blowing up the *Chatham* created an impression in India that bullion in transit might be delayed, and the opportunity was seized to squeeze the "bears" on the Bombay market. Applications for the Rs.80,00,000 India Council drafts offered this week reached a total of Rs.4,42,50,000 in bills and Rs.1,90,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Tenders were accepted for Rs.57,29,000 in bills and Rs.22,71,000 in transfers, and applicants at

rs. 4 1-32d. and rs. 4 1-16d. per rupee respectively received about 11 per cent. Next Wednesday another Rs.80,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 27, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 51,338,920	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	32,888,920
		Silver Bullion	—
	£51,338,920		£51,338,920

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 18,667,070
Rest	3,746,878	Other Securities	35,297,160
Public Deposits (including		Notes	22,067,485
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,740,076
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	14,203,316		
Other Deposits	45,169,262		
Seven Day and other Bills	99,335		
	£77,771,791		£77,771,791

Dated September 28, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Sept. 28.		Sept. 20, 1905.	Sept. 27, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,728,639	Rest	3,693,109	3,746,878	53,769	—
8,404,465	Pub. Deposits ..	13,927,842	14,203,316	275,474	—
41,886,596	Other do. ..	41,488,034	45,169,262	3,681,228	—
83,193	7 Day Bills ..	93,699	99,335	5,636	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
14,227,140	Gov. Securities ..	18,667,070	18,667,070	—	—
25,459,285	Other do. ..	30,211,905	35,297,160	—	5,085,255
28,969,468	Total Reserve ..	24,876,709	23,807,561	1,069,148	—
				5,085,255	5,085,255
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,401,895	Coin and Bullion	28,804,685	29,271,435	466,750	—
38,121,363	Proportion ..	35,231,394	34,628,996	—	602,398
57 1/2 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	44 1/2 p.c.	40 p.c.	—	4 1/2 p.c.
3 "		3 "	4 "	1 p.c.	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £530,000 out.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Nil.	Saturday, Egypt .. £350,000
	" Continent .. £70,000
	Tuesday, Continent .. £25,000
	" Oporto .. £5,000
Total Efflux .. £450,000	Total .. £450,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chq's.	25'15 1/2	25'16	Antwerp	short	25'22	25'22
Brussels	chq's.	25'20 1/2	25'20 1/2	Italy	sight	25'13 1/2	25'13
Amsterdam	sight	12'11	12'11	Constantinople	3 mths	109'37	109'37
Berlin	chq's.	20'43	20'43 1/2	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	17 1/2 d.	17 1/2 d.
Do.	3 mths	20'26 1/2	20'25 1/2	Valparaiso	90 dys	15 1/2 d.	15 1/2 d.
Hamburg	chq's.	20'42	20'42 1/2	Calcutta	T.T.	1 1/4 1/2	1 1/4 1/2
Frankfort	short	20'42	20'42	Bombay	T.T.	1 1/4 1/2	1 1/4 1/2
Vienna	sight	23'99 1/2	23'99 1/2	Hong Kong	T.T.	1 1/2	1 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'90	93'85	Shanghai	T.T.	2 1/8	2 1/8
New York	60 dys	4 8 1/2	4 8 1/2	Singapore	4 mths	2 1/8	2 1/8
Lisbon	sight	51 1/2	50 1/2	Yokohama	4 mths	2 1/8	2 1/8
Madrid	sight	32'86	32'75				

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Sept. 23, 1905	Sept. 16, 1905	Sept. 9, 1905	Sept. 24, 1904
Specie	£ 40,112,500	40,436,000	41,494,000	50,394,000
Legal tenders ..	15,116,000	15,310,000	15,742,000	15,560,800
Loans and discounts	215,288,000	217,164,000	221,336,000	227,700,000
Circulation	10,742,000	10,740,000	10,740,000	8,143,800
Net deposits ..	216,640,000	219,270,000	225,084,000	242,820,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,480,000 against an excess last week of £928,000.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders were received on Friday for £2,000,000 six months' Treasury bills, when the total applications were £7,389,000. Tenders at £98 11s. 6d. received an allotment of 73 per cent., and above in full, the average rate being £2 16s. 0d.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
11,200,000	—	Jan. 2 ?	—
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
20,633,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
Week ending				
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 23	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
" 30	174,559,000	190,242,000	—	15,683,000
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
" 27	187,852,000	164,860,000	22,992,000	—
	9,079,430,000	7,662,198,000	1,417,232,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE. (For week ended Sept. 23.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	£ 618,000
Excise	1,151,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	140,000
Stamps	134,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax..	54,000
Post Office	440,000
Telegraphs	50,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	3,736
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Miscellaneous	49,414
Bullion advances repaid ..	—
Uganda Railway	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—
count	—
Telegraph Acts	—
Naval Works Acts	—
Military Works Acts ..	—
Land Registry Acts ..	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—
Ways and Means	—
Deficiency	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	—
Transvaal and Orange River	—
Colony. Repayment of	—
Temporary Advance ..	—
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—
tion payments	—
Decrease in Exchequer	—
balances	—
	£2,636,414
	£2,636,414

* Exclusive of £217,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £3,774,429.

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2 2 1/2
Berlin	4	September 11, 1905	3 1/2
Hamburg	4	September 11, 1905	3 1/2
Frankfort	4	September 11, 1905	3 1/2
Amsterdam	2 1/2	March, 1905	2 1/2
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2 1/2
Vienna	3 1/2	February 3, 1902	3 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	3 1/2
St. Petersburg	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4 1/2
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	4 1/2
Stockholm	5	September 22, 1905.	4 1/2
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4
Calcutta	5	September 29, 1905	—
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	—
New York call money ..	4	—	—

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 19.	Sept. 21.	Sept. 26.	Sept. 28.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do.	3 months	12'3½	12'4	12'4½	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'37½	25'40	25'40	25'40
Hamburg	3 months	20'62	20'63	20'64	20'65
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'62	20'63	20'64	20'65
Paris	cheques	25'17½	25'16½	25'16½	25'16½
Do.	3 months	25'31½	25'32½	25'33½	25'35
Marseilles	3 months	25'31½	25'32½	25'33½	25'35
Switzerland	3 months	25'43½	25'43½	25'43½	25'45
Austria	3 months	24'26	24'25	24'25	24'26
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'42½	25'42½	25'43½	25'43½
New York	60 days	49	49	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B. P.	3 months	35½	36	36	36
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'39	18'39	18'39
Christiania	3 months	18'41	18'40	18'40	18'40
Stockholm	3 months	18'41	18'40	18'40	18'40

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1905.	Sept. 15, 1905.	Sept. 7, 1905.	Sept. 23, 1904.
Gold Reserve	46,185,666	46,366,291	46,328,500	48,756,750
Silver Reserve	12,384,000	12,440,625	12,478,833	12,314,916
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,864,541	1,886,291	1,877,958	1,758,625
Note circulation	69,720,422	69,181,250	69,233,875	69,334,291
Bills discounted	17,076,475	16,716,667	16,215,625	15,190,375

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 21, 1905	Sept. 14, 1905	Sept. 7, 1905.	Sept. 22, 1904
Coin and bullion	4,849,520	4,808,800	4,925,360	4,909,720
Other securities	22,843,120	21,443,400	22,644,200	20,844,640
Note circulation	26,466,480	26,597,720	26,315,200	25,217,520
Deposits	3,231,840	2,850,200	3,391,720	2,543,200

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1905.	Sept. 15, 1905.	Sept. 7, 1905.	Sept. 23, 1904.
Cash in hand	44,858,700	45,405,350	45,443,200	45,829,750
Bills discounted	51,756,250	52,539,750	47,303,050	39,304,200
Advances on stocks	2,682,700	2,823,600	2,823,250	2,899,400
Note circulation	66,448,700	65,641,950	64,861,450	64,353,800
Public deposits	31,681,850	33,956,550	28,564,850	29,951,650

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1905	Sept. 16, 1905	Sept. 9, 1905.	Sept. 24, 1904
Gold	14,942,269	14,936,778	14,939,347	14,794,955
Silver	22,609,001	22,556,043	22,472,570	20,462,949
Foreign Bills	2,512,092	2,420,554	2,303,524	1,709,144
Discount and Short Bills	45,171,156	45,280,886	45,309,426	38,586,781
Treasury Account	20,846,457	20,769,532	20,819,030	21,996,910
Notes in circulation	62,421,868	62,452,060	62,586,626	65,309,586
Current Account deposits	22,032,563	22,209,838	22,704,992	25,466,090
Dividends Interests	2,278,300	2,018,576	2,054,571	2,525,072
Government Securities	5,739,117	5,486,786	4,860,211	5,598,462

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 28, 1905.	Sept. 21, 1905.	Sept. 14, 1905.	Sept. 29, 1904.
Gold in hand	118,482,880	118,786,640	118,899,520	105,752,280
Silver in hand	44,105,280	44,228,440	44,142,040	44,381,800
Bills discounted	25,215,360	20,482,400	20,415,280	25,654,480
Advances	18,550,400	19,024,260	18,820,160	19,943,640
Note circulation	175,091,040	173,525,800	173,965,840	170,641,080
Public deposits	12,960,960	11,544,200	11,038,240	9,281,560
Private deposits	25,155,040	23,646,640	23,544,440	22,548,680

Proportion between bullion and circulation 92½ per cent., against 91½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 1/14, 1905.	Aug. 23, Sept. 5, 1905.	Aug. 16/29, 1905.	Sept. 1/14, 1904.
Gold	91,341,331	91,022,530	91,623,725	85,447,839
Silver and subsidiary coin	5,250,606	5,399,687	5,548,388	8,112,349
Advances and bills discounted	38,277,243	36,109,394	35,194,145	38,746,447
Securities belonging to the Bank	7,867,652	7,457,711	9,143,485	5,536,507
Notes in circulation	103,804,076	103,671,680	99,588,624	74,938,046
Deposits and current account	45,670,593	44,510,230	44,413,654	39,198,280
Treasury account	94,827,815	14,343,356	17,641,108	26,605,485

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 20, 1905.	Aug. 10, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1904.
Reserve	28,002,160	27,833,440	27,839,280	25,949,720
State notes and small change	438,840	532,840	517,360	504,320
Discount and loans	11,980,960	11,267,920	11,238,680	10,342,040
Public stock and State loans	7,824,200	7,885,680	7,886,480	8,407,440
Credits	6,778,400	5,693,920	5,521,720	6,653,360
Note Circulation	38,370,000	37,729,760	38,318,640	34,607,800
Current account	3,977,560	3,954,080	3,991,800	3,958,400
Deposits	2,944,720	3,308,400	3,151,120	3,446,480

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-3½
Three months	3½-3½
Four months	3½-3½
Six months	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills	3½-3½
Four months	3½-4
Six months	3½-4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
Current rates for 7 and 14 days' notice	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½
Current rates for call loans	3-3½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Probably the rise in the Bank rate to 4 per cent. will change the aspect of things on the Stock Exchange to a greater extent than the players for the rise are now willing to admit. Something will depend upon the duration of the higher Bank rate and more still perhaps on the likelihood of another advance. A 4 per cent. rate by itself, however, is certain to throw additional strain upon the weak speculators who have been tempted to load themselves up with Hudson's Bay shares, the lower classes of Grand Trunk stocks, Central American Government bonds, and other articles of a similar speculative description. Contango rates are sure to rule higher on the average for the next six months than they have done during the past year or longer, and it only requires a few accounts to be faced at high contangos to accelerate the speed at which the venturesome without means, or whose means are exhausted, crowd in to close their gambles. Towards the end of the year pressure may become dangerously severe upon all generators of credit.

When the Bank rate was changed yesterday all sections of the Stock Exchange did their best to assume an air of cheerfulness, and buying went on amongst Home Railway stocks as if nothing had happened. These stocks have recently been attracting a good deal of provincial speculation, and are, perhaps, the most promising of all the classes of securities affected by the punter. As long as traffic receipts continue to show increases there will be a disposition to buy, and for a time we accordingly look for steady and now and then advancing prices in that department of the market. Nowhere else, however, can we reckon upon a sure improving tendency, not even in the Argentine Railway market, where conditions are also favourable in the main and apparently certain to continue so for at least another year. In the Yankee Railroad market we lean still to the opinion that the bolstering speculation, of which it is the victim, is certain to end in affliction. Liquidation, indeed, should have been more thorough when depression last overtook that group of securities, but by skilful manipulation and heavy drafts upon European supplies of credit, the critical period was tidied over and a new régime of high prices established. The result is a considerably increased hollowness on the Wall Street market, where dear money is also likely to prevail, at least spasmodically for a considerable time to come. Past experience leads us, as a consequence of what has happened and of dear money, to expect scandals, failures more or less gigantic, and a severe upset of the market for the harvest of the dishonest if skilful manipulation to which prices have been so long subjected on Wall Street appears to be about ripe. Our view, therefore, is that people here who may be committed to the more speculative groups of Yankee Railroad and industrial securities should make haste to put themselves in a safe position. It will not do to trust in the assurances sent over the cables by Yankee and Canadian press agencies, which only transmit what pleases the leaders of the market. Much press noise is being made with the magnificent harvest, and no notice is taken of the portentous capital commitments and ambitious consolidations of the railroads, or of the market attitude in Europe for United States raw products. Already, moreover, the pro-

ceeds of the American surplus in agricultural and pastoral commodities, as well as the revenue from the cotton harvest, has been largely anticipated. Bills have been drawn on Europe in anticipation of sales in order that means might be provided with which to sustain the unreal and dangerously inflated markets for stocks and shares. Dearer money here is certain to render it more difficult to finance over-reaching gambles and excessive capitalisations, market prices of all kinds being now so excessively high, and should it be necessary for United States financiers to renew the accommodation paper which they have now discounted on every European market, they may find dearer money a formidable obstacle to success. And their difficulties will be all the greater if in the meantime prices subside, as they are almost certain to do, because not all the financial power in the world can prevent market quotations, any more than water or lead, from finding the lowest level they can reach.

Hardest of all, perhaps, will be the pressure of higher rates for money upon the unfortunate Kaffir market, and there we are bound to say that our sympathies are not very keenly excited for those who, in spite of all warning, have persisted in their play, or in holding shares which they have again and again had opportunities to clear out of on boss induced rallies. People often write to us as if we were hostile to South African mining, and in doing so reveal their prejudice and want of sense or fairness. What we have been hostile to throughout is the management of the cosmopolite bosses, their unscrupulous rapacity, their neglect of the most ordinary rules of business, their ignorance of mining, their contempt for every interest except those connected with the manipulation of shares upon Stock Exchanges for their own immediate profit. The mining industry of the Transvaal is at present the greatest in the world, and it might be the most solidly profitable for many years to come if honesty, common-sense, and some measure of trained intelligence were devoted to its control and development. All such good qualities have been conspicuously absent, and the schemes and plots of the market depredators have not only degraded the conspirators themselves, but completely demoralised London and other Stock Exchanges and the public mind. Were it otherwise, we should have shareholders taking an intelligent and consistent interest in the development of the properties they own. We should find extravagance put an end to, the dishonest commissions now pocketed by the "managing" firms severely cut down or abolished, labour regulated upon intelligent and upright principles, and the entire industry unified so that the best possible might be made out of it for all concerned, State, shareholders, managers, and miners. Nothing of the kind has been done or betrays the least symptom of getting done, speaking of the industry as a whole, and therefore we are compelled to maintain an attitude of uncompromising opposition to and contempt for most of the men now in control, and to denounce them, not only for their unscrupulous degradation of a great industry, but for their miserable subterfuges and lying, by which a debased public sentiment is still too much beguiled. But dearer money is going to bring punishment to some of these arrogant potentates of rotten African finance and their dupes. We should not care to hold any Kaffir mine share or finance share for a rise, not even the best of them, for at least another six months. Why do Chartered shares stand at or over 100 per cent. premium? Because the directors will want another million soon to keep the fraud going and their fees and pickings secure.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The chief occupation of the Stock Exchange this week was the adjustment of the fortnightly account. It revealed a fairly important increase in the "bull" position, particularly in the Yankee market, where enormous masses of paper are apparently being carried on behalf of New York operators, and rates all round

showed a sensible advance compared with the mid-monthly settlement. This was in part due to the higher bankers' charges, fortnightly loans never costing less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., often 4 per cent. and sometimes as much as $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Nevertheless everything passed off smoothly enough, no particular strain being noticeable at any point unless it was in the Kaffir Circus, where liquidation has gone on all the week creating fears that some trouble lies hidden there. With so much work to be done in arranging the carry-over ordinary business was a good deal restricted, and the

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	100	100
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	93	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	100
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	98	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
308	297	—	302 $\frac{1}{2}$	298 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	97
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	66
		Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money)	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. Account (Oct. 4)	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
		2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905	100	100
		Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Local Loans (3)	100	100
		National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	98	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. Account (Oct. 4)	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.)	302 $\frac{1}{2}$	298 $\frac{1}{2}$
		India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stk. red. 1917	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1917	97	97
		Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stk. red. 1926	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper	66	66

tendency became rather irregular, particularly in view of the doubtful monetary outlook. When, however, the Bank rate was put up members expressed themselves pleased, saying it put an end to the uncertainty hitherto prevailing, and, with the Franco-German settlement regarding Morocco and the Anglo-Japanese treaty considered favourable influences, markets finished up rather firm looking. Dealing, however, was still very narrow, and leading operators seem to think there will be quite enough to do during the next month or so to keep prices tolerably steady without attempting to inaugurate an autumn "boom." Consols fluctuated very narrowly and ended at even figures for money and the account commencing on Tuesday. Annuities were a little dull as also India $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but War Loan and Transvaal 3 per cent. finished slightly better. In the Home County and Corporation division Dewsbury, Rhyll, Tyne Improvement, Wisbech and Douglas $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. all advanced 1, while slight weakness was shown by Metropolitan, Consolidated and Water Board stocks. Little or nothing went on in the Colonial inscribed list, and no movement exceeded 10s.

Buying of Japanese issues was vigorously resumed in the Foreign bond market, and with the help of the new treaty prices went steadily ahead all week. Some attention was paid to the internal Exchequer bonds on rumours that they will shortly be retired, and the silver loan again met with moderate support. Chinese issues were steady, and Russians, although little dealt in, kept firm, as also other European stocks, Hungarians, which are affected by the political troubles, alone showing weakness. Amongst South Americans leading things like Argentines, Brazilians, and Chilians held their prices well, and Peruvians after going back sharply when the carry-over disclosed a heavy account open for the rise rallied strongly on some good buying said to be from Amsterdam. Uruguays were a little dull, and there was some fluctuation in the Central American group. Costa Ricas gained ground, while Guatemalas moved up or down according to the nature of the latest story concerning the settlement with the Government. Negotiations, however, are said to be proceeding satisfactorily, and the talk is that interest payments will shortly be resumed on a 4 per cent. basis. Buenos Ayres provincial Cédulas were rather flat, and received no assistance from the Council of Foreign Bondholders' announcement that the Financial Minister of the Province of Buenos Ayres is coming to London to present new proposals from the Government. The Cédula Bondholders' Committee, it seems, is anxious that prior to any meeting being arranged full information should be forthcoming regarding the present position, particularly concerning the statements lately current with reference to the assets of the Mort-

gage Bank and the liability of the national Government in relation to the purchase of the La Plata Port. Such a request seems reasonable enough, because the whole business has an ugly look, and we cannot have too much light. Continuation rates in this department were a little higher perhaps, but not appreciably so. Argentines, Brazilians, Chilians, Chinese and Japanese were all carried over at 3 to 5 per cent., along with Peruvian debentures, but the ordinary and preference

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	99½	102 Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	102	102
106½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100½	100½
106½	100½	Do. 6 p.c. Funding	102½	102½
104½	98½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101½	101½
93½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	92½	92½
92½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	92½	92½
92½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	92½	92½
104½	99½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	104	104½
91½	82½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	91	91½
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	98½	99
106	101½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	105½	105½
90½	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	90½	90½
102½	93½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	100½	101½
97	87½	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885	97	96
99½	89½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886	97	97
96½	88½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895	96	96
102½	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	101	101
98	91½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	97	98
100½	100½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	106½	106½
100½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	105½	105½
100½	92½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold	98½	98½
100½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	104½	104½
59½	28½	Costa Rica A	55	56
51½	24½	Do. B	45	46
48½	26½	Colombian External	43½	42½
100½	104½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	106½	106½
107	104½	Egypt Unified 4 p.c.	106½	106½
103½	95½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref.	103	103½
100½	102½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	106	106
91½	88½	German 3 p.c.	89	89½
54½	47	Greek, 1884	54½	54½
55½	48½	Do. Monopoly Loan	54½	54½
44	38½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	43½	43½
54½	47	Do. Funding	53½	53½
100½	96½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	97½	97
106	102½	Italian 5 p.c.	104½	104½
102½	88½	Japan 5 p.c.	102	102½
103½	88½	Do. New	101½	100½
91½	76½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	91½	91½
106½	97	Do. 6 p.c.	105	105½
105½	102½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	104½	105
70½	64½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	70½	70½
98½	86½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	94½	95
82	76	Servian 4 p.c.	82	82
95½	89½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	93½	93½
103	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute	102½	102½
106½	100½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	105½	105½
74½	63½	Do. 4 p.c. United	90½xd	90½
99	86½	Uruguay 3½ p.c.	72	72
50½	42½	Do. 5 p.c.	97½	97½
		Venezuelan, 1881	50½	50

stocks of the last-named cost 4 to 6 and sometimes 7 per cent. On Central American things the charge was 4 to 6 per cent., and 3 to 4 per cent. prevailed on Portuguese and Spanish. Italian and Turkish Unified were done at "even" to 2 per cent., and Russians at a small "back." Making-up prices were mostly in favour of the "bulls," although a few Argentines and Greeks showed fractional losses, Turkish went back 1½ and Uruguay 3½ per cent. and 5 per cent. 5½ and 1. Brazilians were up ½ to 1½, Chilians ½ to 1½, Costa Rica "A" 2½ and "B" 2, Guatemalans 1, Honduras 1½, Japanese ½ to 1, Servian 1 and Spanish 1¾.

Selling by "stale bulls" before the settlement was the chief characteristic of the Home Railway market in the early part of the week, but the pressure never amounted to much, and the losses recorded were, as a rule, small. After the account had been arranged a demand sprang up for the stocks of the Southern lines, on the good South-Eastern and Chatham traffic, and as the other returns were excellent the inquiry gradually extended to the rest of the list. North-Eastern, especially, was bought with some vigour, and Hull and Barnsley was also pushed up, together with Great Central preferred and Great Northern Deferred. Great Eastern, too, met with a fair measure of support, and recovered a good deal of the recent loss, but Lancashire and Yorkshire, Great Western, and Midland preferred were all heavy and lower. South-Western stocks also continued to give ground, while South-Eastern and Chatham, on the other hand, held their earlier gains to the end. Scotch stocks were sought after by Glasgow operators, and the deferred issues of both the Caledonian and North British companies added several fractions to their price.

Amongst Undergrounds, Metropolitan and District were again easier, but Central London issues spurted in an astonishing fashion, and the deferred advanced as much as 5. Changes during the past fortnight were on the whole favourable, the evidences of improving trade having attracted a little attention to this market from investors as well as causing a certain amount of speculative activity. South-Eastern ordinary showed the largest gain, being 3 up, while the preferred and deferred rose 2½ and 1½. Hull and Barnsley advanced 2, Great Western and Great Central preferred 1½ each, Chatham 2nd preference 2½, and Great Northern preferred and

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133½	138 Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	138	138
165	152½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.)	157	157
131½	116½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.)	124	124
120	111	115½ Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	116	114xd
83½	77½	79½ Do. Pref. (3 p.c.)	79½	78½xd
38½	33½	37 Do. Def. (4 p.c.)	37	37½xd
94½	88½	91 Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	92
86½	77	79½ Do. Def. (4 p.c.)	79½	84½
17½	15½	16½ Chatham Ordinary	16½	16½
47½	37½	41 City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	41	41
62	51	61 Furness (2 p.c.)	61	61
34½	28½	34 Great Central Pref.	33½	35
18½	15½	17½ Do. Def.	17½	18
93½	88½	83 Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	83½	83½
108½	98½	100½ Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	101	101
42½	33½	38½ Do. Def. (1)	38½	39½
145½	135½	139½ Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	140	139½xd
56½	52	50½ Highland (1½ p.c.)	50½	54½xd
49½	41	46 Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	46	47½
112½	104	106 Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	107	105½
100	90	89½ Metropolitan (3 p.c.)	90½	90
42½	35½	34½ Metropolitan District	35	34½
71	65½	68 Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	67½
70	62½	67 Do. Def. (2½ p.c.)	67	67
83½	76½	79½ North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79½	78½xd
49½	43½	45½ Do. Def. (1½ p.c.)	45½	45½xd
144½	134	140 North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	140½	142
160½	147	156½ North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	156½	156½
94½	84½	92 South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	91	93
134	122½	129½ Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.)	130	131
58½	48½	57 Do. Def.	57½	57½
171	156	161½ South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	161½	160½
111½	105	107½ Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	107	107
60	52½	56½ Do. Def. (2 p.c.)	56½	56

deferred and North-Western were ½ to ¾ higher. Brighton ordinary and deferred improved 2 and 1½, but the preferred dropped 1, and Midland issues also moved in opposite directions, the preferred losing and the deferred gaining 1, and Metropolitan and District fell 2½ and 1½, and Great Eastern receded ½. Among Scotch stocks, North British deferred put on ½, but the preferred was ½ lower, and Caledonian deferred went back ½. Considering that money cost from ¼ to ½ per cent. more than last time, there was not much change in contingents, which ranged from 4 to 6 per cent. and occasionally touched 6½ and 7 per cent. on such things as North-Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Fears of dearer money had a restraining influence on the activity of speculators for the rise in Wall Street, and the market on this side has been for the most part uninteresting. The Associated Banks were calling in loans on Monday, and as the rate for money went up to 4½ per cent. a good deal of selling followed, with the result that prices fell sharply. Efforts were made to reassure the market by talk of an indirect movement of gold from Australia becoming possible if our Bank rate should go up, but the movement of currency into the interior is said to be the largest known for years, and the prevailing feeling remained one of nervous apprehension, which the knowledge that between £400,000 and £600,000 of the gold purchased on this side was due to arrive before the end of this week failed to dispel. Erie shares fell heavily on the announcement of a new bond issue for £2,400,000, convertible into common shares at 60, and New York Central, Atchison, Chesapeake, Union Pacific, and Wabash issues were all substantially lower. Ontarios were helped by the news that the board had been reconstituted, and that three representatives of those eminent financiers, "Standard Oil" and two of the Morgan group had been included. Louisville, Southern Pacific, and Southern, too, advanced pretty steadily without apparent reason, and managed to retain part of their gains to the end in spite of the depression which attacked the market when our Bank rate was put up on Thursday. The efforts of the New York

Associated Banks to transfer part of their heavy load to other markets, in order to keep up an appearance of prosperity, has caused a considerable increase in the mass of stocks pawned on this side and carrying over charges were consequently fully 1 per cent. more than a fortnight ago. Starting at 4½ to 5 per cent., the rate stiffened to 5 per cent. as a minimum before the end of the day, and so large was the account that one day proved insufficient for its arrangement. The recent purchases of gold here were believed in some quarters to be merely part of the manipulation for the rise, and

securities were much about the same as last time, at about 5 per cent., and in Canadian Pacific shares the charge ruled about 5 to 5½ per cent.

In the Foreign Railway market a good deal of attention was again devoted to Cordova and North-Western debentures, and dealings were recorded in them at as high as 47½. Another stock which came into even greater prominence was North-West of Uruguay preferred, the price being carried up with a rush from about 26½ to 35½, carrying the second preference up with it. Paraguay Central debentures, too, were supported in a way which would have seemed substantial had the movement not been overshadowed by the magnificence of the above-mentioned changes. Business was also brisk in Argentine North-Eastern ordinary debenture stocks, Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary, Cordoba Central income debenture stock of the Central Northern section, and Villa Maria and Rufino issues, but Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary stock was inclined to give way, and Cordoba and Rosario preference stock fell back pretty sharply. Leopoldina things were weak and Antofagasta deferred stock further lost ground, but the ordinary stock of the last-named, together with United Railways of the Havana ordinary, both showed fair recoveries; Mexican Railway stocks were restored to favour on the traffic increase of \$9,200, and Midland Uruguay ordinary and Uruguay Northern debenture stock and Brazil Great Southern preference were all harder, but San Paulo ordinary was sold and finished a few pounds lower. Argentine Railway stocks were again harder on the fortnight, but the bulk of the changes were still trifling. East Argentine, however, put on 4, Cordoba Central first preference and income debenture stocks were 2½ and 5½ up, Argentine North-Eastern

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4)	93½	92½
108½	102	Do. Pref. (5)	108	108
120½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	116½	115½
102	97½	Do. Prefd. (4)	101	101
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1)	61	59
193½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7)	188	187
38	27½	Denver Shares	37	36½
93½	85½	Do. Prefd. (5)	92	92½
54½	38½	Erie Shares	53½	51½
87½	77½	Do. Prefd. (4)	85	84½
80½	58½	Do. 2nd Pref.	76½xd	75½
186½	156	Illinois Central (6)	186½	186½
159	140½	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	155½	159
36½	24½	Missouri and Texas	35	35½
169½	140½	New York Central (5)	156½	154
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3)	88½	87½
96½	94	Do. Prefd. (4)	95	95
65½	41½	Ontario Shares	56½	56½
76½	67½	Pennsylvania (6)	74½	73½
48½	40½	Reading Shares	63	62½
49	43½	Do. 1st Prefd. (4)	48	48
74	59½	Do. 2nd Prefd. (3)	49	49
28½	28½	Southern Pacific	70½	71½
37½	97½	Southern	37½	37½
142½	116½	Do. Prefd. (5)	104½	103½xd
102½	98½	Union Pacific (4)	137½	136½
24½	18½	Do. Prefd. (4)	99½	99
49½	37½	Wabash	24	23
86½	69½	Do. Prefd.	45	43½
181½	133	Do. Income Debs.	80	78
109	102½	Canadian Pacific (6)	181½	179½
112	108½	Do. Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	107	107
26½	19½	Do. Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	111	111
104½	99	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk.	26½	26½
115½	107½	Do. Do. Guar. (4)	104	104
62½	46½	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	115	115
109½	107	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	107	107
		Do. 3rd Pref.	61½	60½
		Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	108½xd	108½

whether that was the case or not the "bulls" certainly derived a good deal of assistance in their campaign from the announcements of the "engagements." Making-up prices show improvements of 7½ in Louisville, 4½ in Milwaukee, 4 in Illinois Central, and 3½ in Chesapeake and Ohio, while the gains of 1½ to 2 include New York Central, Northern Pacific, Reading, Southern Pacific, Southern common and preferred, and Union Pacific common. Wabash common and preferred also rose 2 and 1½, and the income debentures were 3½ higher, while Baltimore issues put on 1 each. Adverse movements were both few and insignificant, Erie common and preferred losing ½ and ¾, and the 2nd preferred 3, Norfolk preferred dropping 1, and Southern Pacific preferred ½.

Canadian Pacific shares were firm at the beginning partly because it is believed that efforts will be made at the meeting next week to secure definite information as to the company's intentions with regard to its lands. It is also said that an issue of six to seven million dollars of new capital is to be made on terms which will give a substantial bonus of about \$7 to existing holders. Wall Street influences, however, proved too great for these shares to resist, and after touching 180½ the price went steadily back. Grand Trunk stocks on the contrary were dull and lower at first as the increase of £8,000 in the weekly traffic fell very much short of market estimates, but once the account was arranged the "bulls" took heart again and buying became vigorous enough to wipe out the earlier losses and a trifle more. The "bull" account in Canadian Pacific Railway shares has reached very large proportions, buying having been stimulated by the numerous reports of profitable land and other "deals," and the making-up price, although by no means the best touched during the fortnight, was 8½ up. Grand Trunk stocks, on the other hand, were sold pretty freely, as recent traffics have not been up to anticipations, and the ordinary and third preference lost 1½ and ¾. Contangos on these

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10)	209	208½
321	144½	Do. Def. (15)	311½	305
127½	105	Argentine Gr. West. (6)	124	124
131	113½	Do. Prefd. (5)	128	128
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Prefd.	84½	83½xd
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gr. Southern Ord. (7) ..	144½	145½
133	127	Do. Prefce (5)	133	133
137½	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	137	136
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5)	115	115
110½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5)	110	110
114	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	114	112½xd
107½	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6)	105½	106
169	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7)	170	166½xd
109½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108	108
138	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6)	137	138
92	79	Central Uruguay (3)	91	92
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	108	108
95	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	95	95
75½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	73	75½
33½	28	Costa Rica (1)	24	24
78	59	Cuban Central	74	7
128	109½	Do. Pref. (5½)	112½	112½
107½	104½	Do. Deb. (4½)	106	106
90½	72	East Argentine (4½)	89	91
78	5	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	7	7
84½	50½	Leopoldina (3)	79	78
97½	80½	Do. Deb. (4)	96	95½
110½	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	109	109
108	104½	Do. "B" (6)	105	105
29½	19½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	23½	25
121½	103½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	113½	117
57	36½	Do. 2nd Pref.	44½	47½
60½	48½	Mexican Southern (2½)	59	59
162	103½	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	103	17
198	163	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	184	17
208½	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12)	206	203
198	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	190½	193½

preference and debenture rose 1½ and 5, and Argentine Great Western ordinary and preference, Buenos Ayres and Rosario preference, Buenos Ayres Great Southern, Cordoba and Rosario income debentures and Entre Rios improved from 1 to 1½, but Cordoba and Rosario preference fell 3½. Uruguay stocks too were better, Central Ordinary especially gaining 5½ and Paraguay Central debenture stock advanced 2½, but amongst Brazilian things San Paulo ordinary went back 4, Leopoldina ordinary and debenture stocks receded 3½ and 1½, and Antofagasta ordinary dropped another 5, but United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock was unchanged. Mexican Railway first preference was firm and 1 higher, but the second preference lost 1½ and the debentures 1, and Interceanic "B" debenture rose 2. Nitrate Railways ordinary and deferred were 1½ and 1½ higher. Contangos in this section ranged from 5 to 5½

per cent. and now and again touched as much as 6 per cent.

Miscellaneous markets were exceedingly quiet, and except in the regular favourites business was almost at a standstill. Brewery stocks continued to be marked up with some persistence, a considerable number being advanced during the week, but we cannot trace evidence of an active public demand. Spiers and Pond went back in the Catering division when the amalgamation rumours were denied, but other things seemed disposed to improve, particularly Gordon Hotels, Lyons and Aerated Breads. With the exception of Willans and Robinson, which further declined on the disastrous report, Iron and Steels were firm, Pease and Partners having a sharp jump, but Nitrates had a disposition to go back in places after the recent sharp rise. Hudson's Bays were heavy at the start owing to anticipations of a stiff carry-over charge, but rallied strongly when the business was easily arranged, and after again going

especially Brunner Mond and United Alkali ordinary.

In the making-up list there were some rather important movements, amongst which we may note gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ in British Electric Traction ordinary, $\frac{1}{16}$ in California Oilfields, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ in Gordon Hotels ordinary and preference, $\frac{1}{16}$ in Lagunas Syndicate, $\frac{1}{16}$ in Mond Nickel, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Pease and Partners, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Rosario Nitrate, $\frac{1}{16}$ in San Jorge, $\frac{1}{2}$ in San Sebastian and $\frac{1}{2}$ in Santa Rita. Then Elbw Vale Steel was up 1, Allsopp 4 per cent. debentures 8, Bieckert's Brewery ordinary 9, Milwaukee and Chicago stock 6, Anglo-American Telegraph stocks $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$, and National Telephone preferred $1\frac{1}{2}$. On the other hand, Associated Cement debentures fell 3, Hudson's Bay $1\frac{1}{2}$, Pekin Syndicate ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$, the deferred 25, and Shansi shares 2s., Allsopp ordinary and preference 2 and 3 and Commercial Union Assurance 3. Rates were a little stiff in places, as although 4 to 7 covered most things the charge on Hudson's Bays ran up to 12 per cent. and on Pekin Syndicate to 11 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	15	20½	Allsopp Ordinary	20	23
71	40	—	City of London Ord.	66½	66½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	560	555
27½	21½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23½	23½
2½	1½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
3½	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3½	3½
68½	48	59	Wayney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	59½	59½
35	15	25	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	24½	25
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	102	102
78½	56½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	70	69
6½	5½	6½	Aerated Bre d (30)	6½	6½
7½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
6½	5½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	6½xd
1½	1½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
3½	2½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
7	5	—	Brunner Mond (35)	6½	7
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	10½	10½
5½	4½	10/10½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½)	5½	5½
502½	483½	50	Coats Ordinary (20)	500	500
1½	1½	16/0	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	1½	1½
1½	1	22/9	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1½	1½
13½	10½	7	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	12½	12½
5½	3½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6½	7½
18	12	—	Honley's Telegraph (15)	12½	12½
111	106	26/6	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	3½	3½
1½	1½	108	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	1½	1½
10½	8½	22/3	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
6½	5½	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
1½	1½	1½	L. J. & Co. (30)	5½	5½
1½	1½	18/0	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
7½	5½	—	Russian Petroleum (5)	6½	6½
15	13	8/0	Savoy Hotel (5)	6½	6½
105	102	103½	Sweetmeat Automatic	15	15
89	49½	79½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15	15
50½	38½	49½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	104	104
108½	99½	107½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	81	78½
9½	8½	—	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	50½	50½
11½	10½	—	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-) ..	107½	107½
13	10½	11	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	9	8
104½	95½	—	Do. Debentures (6)	11½	11½
134½	126½	—	National Discount (10)	7	7
31½	3½	3½	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½
5½	3½	3½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	99½	99½
1½	1½	—	City of London Elec. Ord. (6)	133	133
11½	9½	11½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	3½	3½
30½	26½	38½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	3½	3½xd
109½	93½	107½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	1½	1½
2½	2½	2½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	10½	10½
14½	11½	—	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	38½	38½
231	214½	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	107½	107½
37	28½	—	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	2½	2½
9	8	—	United States Steel Ordinary ..	12	12½
109½	101½	108½	Do. Preference (7)	23½	23½
17½	10	17½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	35½	35½
147½	134½	145	Cunard Steam	9	9
147½	134½	14	Peninsula & Oriental Def. (13)	108	108½
113½	100	107½	Royal Mail	146	145½
147½	134½	14½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	14	14
10½	8½	—	Ordinary (5)	108	108
9½	7½	—	Anglo-American Telegraph—	14½	14½
129	110	—	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	9½	9½
10½	98	—	Do. Def. Ord.	8½	8½xd
			East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	124½	124½
			Eastern Extension (7)	10	10
			National Telephone Def. (5) ..		
			Western Telegraph (7)		
			British Elec. Traction Ord. (6)		
			Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)		
			London General Omnibus (8) ..		
			London United Trams Pref. (5)		

back finished steady. Pekin Syndicates recovered from a dull start, and Argentine Land shares were again in steady request. Textiles were a little dull, Shipping securities steady and Telegraphs and Telephones rather uncertain. Gas and other investment things continue firm, and several Bank shares were marked up. Hope Bros. gave way on the directors' statement that at best only the preference dividend can be paid for the current year. Russian Oils slipped back a little but rallied again, and Chemical shares gained ground,

Stock markets have not been very happy to-day because so idle. Home Railway stocks continue to be purchased, but the big players have not been able to sustain the Yankee market, and call money in Wall Street is said to have risen to 7 per cent. to-day. It may go higher still next month, when the New York bankers have to transmit their £10,000,000 of the last Japanese loan to London. The Kaffir Circus has also been distressingly flat, partly because Paris seems to be still liquidating, and to have been prompted to sell rather more freely to-day by reason of its being option day for the October settlement, but generally speaking business was poor in all departments, and we do not look for much revival until the tangle of the money markets of the world begins to show some symptoms of unravelling. Paris still persists in saying that a new Japanese consolidation loan is being arranged there, and it buys Japanese internal bonds in proof of the genuineness of this story. The new Russian loan is also declared to be getting ready, and £40,000,000 is named as the amount of it, but we cannot give any of these statements as authentic. Our market to-morrow will have a little scurry for money, as the calls on the new issues falling due then amount to £1,738,000. To be sure, £1,285,000 in dividends will be disbursed, but even so the money is likely to be much wanted.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY THREE PER CENT. STOCK.

A further issue of about £785,600 nominal of this stock, or as much as may be necessary to raise a net sum of £700,000 in cash, is offered at 91 per cent. by the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. The proceeds will be applied towards the cost of asylum buildings, main road and bridge improvements, light railways, &c., and the stock must be redeemed at par on 27th June, 1935. The first dividend, being six months' interest, is payable on 1st January, 1906, so that the net price to the buyer is not much more than 90, especially as the stock need only be paid up in two instalments, the last one of 46 per cent. falling due on December 8th. Allottees, however, may pay up in full under 3 per cent. discount on and after 24th October. With this loan added the total debt of Middlesex will amount to rather less than £2,500,000 the redemption of £200,000 of existing debt out of the proceeds of the new issue allowed for.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The past week opened with the carry-over. In one or two cases contango rates were lighter than at the previous settlement, but in the majority unchanged. Gold Fields and Johnnie's Investment were continued at 4—5 per cent., East Rands, Randfonteins, Modderfonteins, and Rand Mines at 4½—5½ per cent., and Barnato Consols at 5—6 per cent. On the bulk of things the charge was 5—7 per cent. The De Beers rate hardened to 2½—3½ per cent., but the Jagers was the same at 3—4 per cent. On Banks the contango was again 7—8 per cent., whilst Lomagundas, Rhodesian Explorations, Scottish Mashonaland, and Rice-Hamiltons were carried over at 6—7 per cent. As before,

West Africans were done at 5-7 per cent., and Egyptians at 6-8 per cent., the last-mentioned being the prevailing charge in the West Australian section. Northern Blocks and Lake Views were, however, negotiated at 7-9 per cent., Great Fingalls and Great Boulders at 5-7 per cent., and Golden Horseshoes at 3-5 per cent.

The making-up lists showed an all-round decline amongst South Africans. Premier Diamond deferred lost $\frac{1}{8}$, Geduld Proprietary $\frac{1}{8}$, Modderfonteins and Rhodesian Explorations $\frac{1}{8}$ each, Rand Mines, Jumpers, and Anglo-French $\frac{1}{8}$, with falls of $\frac{1}{8}$ in East Rands and Apex, and $\frac{1}{8}$ in Central Minings, New Comets, Driefonteins, Village Main Reef, Village Deep, South African Gold Trusts, Knights, Northern Coppers, Lace Diamonds, and a few others. The principal rises were $\frac{1}{8}$ in Montrose Diamonds, $\frac{1}{8}$ in De Beers deferred (allowing for the dividend deducted), $\frac{1}{8}$ in East Rand Extensions, and $\frac{1}{8}$ in Premier preferred. Amongst West Africans were falls of $\frac{1}{8}$ in Amalgamateds, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Abbontiakoon Block 1, and 3s. in Abbontiakoons, but Akro-kerris advanced $\frac{1}{8}$. Nile Valleys, in the Egyptian group, gained $\frac{1}{8}$, North Niles $\frac{1}{8}$, and "Mummies" rs. 6d. In the West Australian section there were rises of $\frac{1}{8}$ in Kalgurliis, $\frac{1}{8}$ in South Kalgurliis, 3s. in Westralia Mount Morgans, and 3-32 in Northern Blocks and Associated. On the other hand, Great Fingalls made up $\frac{1}{8}$ lower, Boulder Deep 3s., and Lake Views 3-32. Amongst the Miscellaneous shares Esperanzas were prominent with an advance of $\frac{1}{8}$, and Spassky Coppers with a gain of $\frac{1}{8}$. Broken Hill Proprietary 10s put on 3-32, Camp Birds 7-32, Le Roi No. 2's $\frac{1}{8}$, and Anacondas $\frac{1}{8}$, but Rio Tintos fell $\frac{1}{8}$.

Business has not improved for the new account. On the contrary, it has fallen off all round, for even gamblers and the "shop" are doing nothing, because they receive no encouragement from the public. Accordingly, prices have steadily fallen day by day. The punters also loudly blame the European political situation for this state of things, on the pretence that if all were serene on the Continent the Kaffir market would become active. Again, they profess to fear dearer money, as though that would stop them from rigging the market if only investors would come in and buy. Paris has sold rather heavily, the liquidation being one of the effects of the recent sugar trouble. Rumour also states that a prominent French operator has been in serious difficulties, and that a big London account has been in course of liquidation. There has likewise been some talk of financial difficulties in the deep level market. Any way, the declines on the week are numerous, and in some instances considerable. In the diamond section Premier deferred have been conspicuously weak on the report that the directors will not pay a dividend out of the current half-year's profits, but will devote the money to the development of the mine. No official statement has been issued. Jagersfontein shares have improved on the declaration of an interim dividend for the half-year of 6s. per share on the deferred, at the rate of 30 per cent., which compares with 3s. or 15 per cent. this time last year. De Beers issues have both declined to a fractional extent.

Bankets were at one time in request on rumours that a leading Rand house has decided to take an interest in the company, but a reaction followed. There was a subsequent recovery on the cable from the Rowdy Boys claims. Prices of other Rhodesian shares have generally receded, the report issued by the directors of Rhodesia, Limited, having made a very bad impression, with losses to wipe out to the tune of about a quarter of a million. Holders have hastened to get rid of their shares at any price they can get for them.

Little or nothing has been done in the West African, West Australian, and Egyptian sections. On the other hand, Broken Hill descriptions have again been in demand. Esperanzas have further advanced; whilst Camp Birds, El Oros, and Le Rois have been firm. Amongst coppers Ettruscan have fallen heavily on the report of Mr. Alexander Hill, who says the mine is only a prospect. Mount Lyells have strengthened on the cable stating that the North Lyell shaft is now down to 738 ft., and that for the bottom 8 ft. the ore assays 18 per cent. of copper. Rio Tintos have moved but slightly. In the Indian market Nundydroogs and Ooregums have been dull.

NIGEL GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This Rand company managed to do fairly well in the financial year to the end of June. During the first four months 45 stamps were at work, but in November five more were dropped, so that for eight months of the year the full battery of 50 stamps was in operation. The mill crushed 70,149 tons for a yield of 18,284 fine ozs., valued at £76,843; the cyanide works treated 49,589 tons, producing 13,499 ozs., worth £54,278, whilst the slimes plant dealt with 19,312 tons of slimes, giving 4,040 ozs., of a value of £16,061. Operations with the new filter press plant commenced in October. Little more, however, than experimental work was done until January, but the results of the treatment have not been such as the directors expected. There were treated by this process 5,946 tons of old slimes for a yield of 2,743 ozs., or a little over 9 dwts. per ton. The value of the product was £11,373, or 38s. 3d. per ton, the cost 17s. 3d. per ton, and the profit 21s. per ton, or a total of £6,245. Altogether the production of gold was 38,566 ozs., realising £158,555, the earnings from all sources totalling £167,499. Working and general expenses absorbed £110,143, leaving a profit of £57,155, the available balance being £101,084 with the addition of the sum brought forward. Two dividends of 10 per cent. and 15 per cent., making 25 per cent. for the year, were paid, and after deducting depreciation, &c., there remains £30,401 to take to the current year. An excellent balance-sheet is issued. Debtors practically cover creditors, and cash amounts to £46,043, though the last dividend, requiring £33,466, has to come out of this. Ore reserves were estimated to be at the end

of June: Averaging over 9 dwts., 202,455 tons; under 9 dwts., 142,980 tons; total, 345,435 tons.

WEST ROODEPOORT DEEP.—On the directorate of this company, which is allied to the Wernher, Beit group, is that immortal banket discoverer, Mr. Abe Bailey, but though he can find ore of wonderful richness (*sic*) in Rhodesia, no payable ore has yet been found on the property of the West Roodepoort Deep, although this is situated on the Rand itself. This proves conclusively that banket is not synonymous with bank balance, even had it not been proved scores of times in the cases of other Rand mines. In their report for the financial year to the end of June the directors have to confess that the development work so far carried out has not exposed any payable ore, but they try to console the shareholders with the reminder that only about 15 per cent. of the total claim area has been prospected. There is the hope, therefore, that an ounce or two of gold may be found on the remaining 85 per cent. But it cannot be searched for without labour, and labour has to be hired, and the company has not the wherewithal to hire it. Consequently the directors have been compelled to stop all work on the property, in order to wait until a favourable opportunity comes to attempt to reconstruct. What encouragement there is to the shareholders to put more money into such a mine we fail to see, but doubtless some will be found intrepid enough to risk more. "By cutting down expenditure on the mine," the report runs, "to the salary of a caretaker and a few boys to look after the company's property and at the head office to the lowest possible limit, the company's remaining funds, which on June 30 last amounted to about £4,900, will be sufficient to tide the company over until an improvement in the money market may justify the submission of a scheme for further prospecting and development." Unhappily, the state of the market is not such as to justify any wild venture of the kind. The ore developed amounts to 137,500 tons, the average value of which is as low as 5.11 dwts., too poor to work at a profit. Out of a capital of £350,000, £340,800 has been issued, leaving 9,200 shares in reserve. Administrative expenditure to June 30 amounts to £43,446, and there are current liabilities totalling £11,712.

Ferreira Gold Mining Company.—Last week we briefly announced that a special meeting of this company is to be held at Johannesburg on November 2 to consider the agreement provisionally entered into by the directors with the Central Rand Freehold Proprietary for the purchase from the latter of the freehold rights over the Ferreira company's property. A fresh circular has now been issued stating that the purchase price provisionally agreed upon is £80,000 sterling, and the board recommend the purchase in the belief that it will be most advantageous to the company. Holders of claim licences have only limited and somewhat indefinite rights upon the surface area of their property, but freehold title will, in addition to probably providing a source of revenue from portions of the surface not required for mining operations, entitle the company to a refund of half the licence money it now pays, and when the claims are worked out enable it to dispose of the land for township purposes. It is argued that as the Ferreira mine adjoins Johannesburg building sites may be expected to realise high prices. The company's consulting engineer estimates that 457 stands of 50 ft. by 100 ft., costing upon the average £172 per stand, would then be available for sale, and he is of opinion that they could be disposed of at a large profit. Further, the purchase of the freehold would entitle the Ferreira company to 19.37 per cent. of any sum that may accrue to the Central Rand Freehold Proprietary through the sale of bewaarplaatsen upon the farms Doornfontein and Turffontein. No estimate is possible to-day as to the amount likely to be derived from this source, because legislation upon this subject has not yet been passed, "but if the provisions of the draft Gold Law regarding the disposal of bewaarplaatsen should be adopted, the value of this interest may be expected to prove considerable. Generally speaking, the possession of the freehold will strengthen the position of the company, and the transaction is likely to return a handsome profit."

Pigg's Peak Development Company.—Although this company has been hunting for payable gold ever since 1889, and has twice undergone reconstruction during the intervening period, there seems to be as little hope as ever that it will become a successful concern. In the report of the directors for the financial year to the end of March shareholders are told in a general way that considerable progress has been made, although the development has not been so rapid as the directors could have wished. When, however, one comes to examine what has actually been done, little or no satisfaction can be felt. For instance, it is stated that the operations in the new section down to the fifth level have opened up some 17,500 tons of ore of an average value of about 17 dwts. of fine gold per ton. This is neither a great quantity nor a good value for such a place as Swaziland, where working costs are likely to be heavy, though the promise is held out that recent developments bid fair to add considerably to this total. In the old mine a fair tonnage of payable ore is stated to be available, and that indications are "very encouraging." The engineers of the company express the opinion that there is every probability of more settled ground and increased richness in gold values in the ore bodies as greater depth is attained. "Later advices," it is added, "already show that the ore contained in the sixth level is of better value than the levels above, thus proving its continuance to a vertical depth of 469 ft. and a horizontal depth of 650 ft. below the Peak outcrop of the old mine." Feeling that the operations at the Peak mine are of primary importance, the directors propose to defer prospecting other areas until the permanence of the gold

values and their increasing richness in more settled ground has been definitely demonstrated, and for a similar reason they have deferred entertaining a proposal to work the alluvial deposits on the property. Despite all this apparently optimistic talk, the directors ask the shareholders for more money. They propose to increase the capital from £200,000 to £240,000 by the creation of 40,000 new shares, to be offered at par. As usual, no profit and loss account is issued. Administration expenditure in London amounted to £1,746, and in South Africa to £1,898, making a total of £3,644 against £1,234 received from interest and transfer fees. This raises the deficit from £9,120 to £11,530. On capital account the outgoings amounted to £26,283. Consols and Transvaal Threes of a book value of £19,206 have been sold, but were not delivered at the date of the balance-sheet, leaving a balance of Consols of a little over £9,100. Looking to the moderate cash resources of the company, further capital may again have to be raised, after the £40,000 has been exhausted, long before the company can hope to earn profits.

CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF MINES AND ESTATE.—In the twelve months ending June 30 this company ran an average of nearly 87 stamps and milled 157,501 tons, yielding from the mill and cyanide treatment gold to the value of £268,378, and giving a working profit of £82,312. Revenue from licences, rents, &c., brought the total credit to £91,877, and after deducting the previous debt of £34,371, interest £6,971, and other outgoings there is left a nett profit of £49,334. Liabilities are still heavy, however, consisting of a bank overdraft of £47,564, loans from subsidiaries £38,000, and creditors £13,707. On the other side debtors owe £3,856, and cash and gold amount to £7,074, but the company is now making some progress towards a dividend. The general manager states in his report that the tonnage of payable ore has decreased by 23,642 tons, of an average value of 10.4 dwts. against 11 dwts. in the previous year, though the total ore reserves have increased by 35,688 tons. On the other hand, the working costs have been reduced from 25s. 5d. per ton to 23s. 7d. The total ore developed at the end of June last was 544,168 tons of an average assay value of 7.7 dwts., rather low, though 303,708 tons assay 10.4 dwts. per ton. Perhaps in two or three years' time the company may be able to pay a small dividend.

MAIN REEF EAST.—This is a subsidiary of the Consolidated Main Reef Mines. No work was done on its property in the financial year ending June 30. The administration costs amounted to £4,797, increasing the capitalised expenditure to £30,066. On the other side of the balance-sheet the aggregate sundry revenue is put at £9,883. Cash amounts to £22,789, and debtors owe £1,100 against current liabilities of only £325.

MAIN REEF DEEP.—No work was done on the property of this other subsidiary of the Consolidated Main Reef in the year to June 30. Outgoings amounted to £4,126 and income to £500, raising the aggregate expenditure and revenue to £26,863 and £8,825 respectively. On current account only £256 is owing against £16,355 in cash and debtors, £1,149.

MAIN REEF WEST.—In their report for the twelve months to June 30 the directors declare, with some thankfulness, that mining operations have been commenced at last, and are being pushed on with the greatest possible activity. This is, however, in the nature of shaft sinking, a depth of 208 ft. being reached at June 30. It is estimated that the South Reef should be struck at a depth of 1,230 ft., which it is hoped to reach within twelve or fourteen months. The expenditure in the year came to £4,609, increasing the aggregate in the balance-sheet to £29,336. Against a sum of £1,877 owing to sundry creditors the company has £3,546 in cash, with some debts amounting to £519.

NEW ZEALAND GOLD RETURNS.—The gold output of New Zealand for the month of August amounted to 42,550 ozs., valued at £170,994, compared with 46,773 ozs., worth £178,624 in the corresponding month of last year.

QUEENSLAND GOLD OUTPUT.—The Queensland gold returns for the month of August are as follows:—Charters' Towers, 18,900 tons crushed, 18,400 ozs.; Croydon, 66,000 tons, 3,500 ozs.; Gympie, 20,600 tons, 10,100 ozs.; Mount Morgan, 23,500 tons, 9,800 ozs.; Ravenswood, 3,700 tons, 4,100 ozs.; other goldfields, 5,300 tons, 3,700 ozs.; alluvial, 700 ozs., total 50,300 ozs.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

COLONIAL BANK.

We noticed a statement the other day to the effect that the nation's sugar bill for the past twelve months was just £5,454,000 larger than in the year before the Brussels Convention came into operation, for an amount, moreover, less by 117,000 tons. As frequently said, the ostensible purpose of this fantastic compact was the salvation of the heavily doled and subsidised West Indian colonies, but we are beginning to wonder if this slender advantage has not already gone by the board. True it is that while we lost £5,500,000 or thereby the West Indies increased their sales by about £500,000, but, judging from the half-yearly report of the Colonial Bank, conditions are now as bad again as they ever were. To use the directors' words, "The season has been disappointing as regards crops, and the price of sugar has continuously declined, the quotation now ruling for beet of standard quality being below cost of production." And it

is for this that we half ruined the confectionery trades of England. Protectionists will, of course, argue that, prices being down again, what is there to complain about? But the mischief has been done, and there is no getting over that £5,500,000. The planting of Sea Island cotton in those West Indian places suited to its production is making fair progress, we are told, and the weather up to the present has been generally favourable for the growing crops. In the six months to June 30 the bank earned a gross profit of £52,026 or £5,109 less than in the opening half of 1904, and the expenses were up a little to £33,795, but thanks to a big increase from £17,374 to £22,769 in the balance brought forward, the nett credit is only £126 less at exactly £41,000. So the dividend will be maintained at last year's increased rate of 7 per cent. per annum, with £20,000 against £20,126 carried forward. General reserve remains at £100,000 and the special fund for depreciation of investments at £50,000. Compared with the same date in 1904 an increase of £92,082 to £2,016,907 has occurred in the current and deposit accounts, but the notes in circulation are down from £511,645 to £439,676. Bills payable and other liabilities reach £743,205 against £629,668, and on the other side bills receivable, &c., are up no more than £33,830 to £1,083,519. Specie is a little larger at £466,921 and cash at London bankers and at call and short notice is up again by £169,610 to £202,828. English and Colonial Government and other investments, against which the special reserve is held, show an increase of about £10,000 to £1,046,521, and advances on current account have gone up from £301,521 to £330,358, but bills discounted in the colonies, bills in transit and advances on security are only £810,640 against £936,561.

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

Profits of this important Australian bank were not quite maintained during the half-year ended April 10, the total of £285,378 showing a decrease against the corresponding period of £15,070. Total charges in England and the colonies absorbed £149,225, or £289 less, so that the net balance shrinks from £150,934 to £136,153. Add £16,951 brought forward, and the sum for disposal is £153,104; but while the allocation to reserve will again be £30,000 only £10,000, or £15,000 less, is applied in reduction of premises account. That enables the directors to maintain the dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, or £2 8s. per share, carrying forward £17,104. The balance reveals some important shiftings of credits. Deposits aggregating £16,286,330 have increased £1,180,058, notes in circulation of £495,237 are less by £27,766, while bills payable and other liabilities show an increase of £121,498 to £2,401,773. Specie, bullion, and cash balances, however, have further declined by £244,345 to £2,959,997, a large amount of additional money being lent at call and short notice, no less than £1,460,000, at a total of £2,693,000. Bills receivable, advances on securities, and other assets show a rise from £14,785,998 to £15,055,970, while investments are down a little to £1,112,735, £967,141 representing British Government securities and £145,594 Indian and Colonial Government securities. Bank premises do not look excessive at £294,741.

BUENOS AYRES AND ROSARIO CO., LIMITED.

Although it is only an interim report which this great undertaking now issues, the information available is full of interest and shows that the prosperity which the company has had the good fortune to enjoy for several years past still continues. The general movement of traffic, for example, is as great as ever, and the president of the local committee is informed on reliable authority that about 1,000,000 tons of cereals still remain to be transported from the outside points of the Province of Santa Fé alone to the ports of Villa Constitucion, Rosario and San Lorenzo, practically all of which should be carried over the company's lines. Not only that, but the prospects of the new wheat crop are exceedingly good, and although the frosts have in some measure spoiled the early linseed the evil has been remedied in many cases by the reploughing of the land and the sowing of wheat seed in its place. Sugar may not be so plentiful as was at first expected, but on the whole the crop may be considered satisfactory. How thoroughly real the prosperity of the country is is proved by the trade returns of the first six months of the current year, which show increases of 6 and 20 per cent. respectively in the imports and exports compared with the corresponding period of 1904. There was a larger importation of almost all classes of goods, and amongst the greater exports pastoral and agricultural products stand out strongly with gains in value of 33 and 12½ per cent. Gross revenue of the railway for the six months ended June 30 was £1,979,412, an increase of £38,188 compared with the opening half of the previous year, against which the expenditure rose £12,039 to £992,694, leaving the net revenue larger by £26,149 at £986,718, the ratio between expenditure and income being 0.37 per cent. better at 50.15 per cent. As a result of carrying 550,000 additional passengers the receipts went up £40,799, but although the goods traffic was heavier by 149,697 tons at 3,250,058 the revenue therefrom was less by £16,734. As is well known, the wheat and linseed crops, both of which pay well to move, were prejudiced by heavy rains and unseasonable weather about the time the grain was ripening, and the traffic fell by 219,813 tons and 97,643 tons respectively. Partial compensation came from an increased movement of 228,379 tons in the maize traffic, and there were also such improvements as 22,572 tons in hay, 24,906 tons in native timber, 31,069 tons in firewood, and 146,765 tons in general goods, but, all told, the deficiency was not quite made up. Parcels and excess luggage and telegrams showed fair increases. To the nett balance

must be added £8,011 for interest on investments, registration fees, &c., making £994,729, from which debenture stock interest takes £157,489, Western annuity £45,396, and general interest, &c., £4,526—in all £207,409—leaving £787,320, an improvement of about £20,000. Preference dividends having been provided, the directors again propose a dividend at 5 per cent. per annum on the £15,186,930 ordinary stock, and at the same rate on the 1905 issue of ordinary shares to the amount of £1,600,000, an additional distribution, which brings the balance carried forward down from £242,443 to £222,099, including the sums brought in, very similar for each half-year.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.

This undertaking continues to make steady progress, and in the half-year to June 30 earned a gross revenue of £121,414, or an increase of £15,381 compared with the corresponding period of 1904. The goods tonnage hauled was 119,504 against 103,436, meaning a gain in receipts of £13,615; live stock improved by £764, and coaching traffic by £1,299; minerals, which went down by £291, alone showing a decrease. Against the rise in receipts working expenses rose £7,116 to £53,364, but £4,600 of that represents the cost of repairing the damage to way and works occasioned by last winter's floods. Maintenance of way, for example, went up more than £5,500, against an increase of only £1,000 in the locomotive expenses in face of the largely increased business, and a hundred or so each in maintenance of carriages and wagons and traffic expenses. General charges were the same, or nearly, and the London charges a trifle more, the nett balance being £8,265 to the good at £68,049. Credit brought forward was £7,237 up at £49,356, and £21,337 is transferred to revenue account, being capital expenditure previously charged against income, so that with interest, transfer fees, &c., the total credit is £37,191 larger at £139,745. This enables the directors to add £20,240 to reserve fund, and apply £3,250 to wagon reconstruction, leaving £77,553 against £64,201 after providing an increased amount for debenture interest on the old 5 and 6 per cent. and ordinary 4 per cent. issues, and other smaller charges, including a small sum for preference dividend. Interest on second debenture stock absorbs a further amount of £31,051, leaving £46,501, from which a dividend is proposed of 8s. per share, the same as before, with an advance from £15,312 to £28,662 in the credit carried forward. During the half-year £200,000 in 6 per cent. £20 preference shares was offered at par, ordinary shareholders receiving a preferential allotment of more than 75 per cent. of the amount offered, and during the same period the capital expenditure was £54,679, apart from the special transfer above referred to. There is still a balance unexpended of £100,174, all held in cash, and this, with the reserve fund of over £100,000 kept in high-class securities, renders the financial position a very satisfactory one. Traffics of the current half-year to date show a decrease owing to the crops of the lower districts being less than last year, but those in the higher regions are reported to be very satisfactory, and when these come forward for transport better earnings may be hoped for.

MERSEY RAILWAY COMPANY.

This undertaking again made some progress during the half-year ended June 30, carrying 4,862,378 passengers or 363,231 more than in the corresponding period of 1904, first class, curiously enough, showing a more than proportionate increase. The result was an improvement in revenue of £1,713, and as season tickets, miscellaneous receipts, and goods traffic all gave more against a trifling drop in parcels the income from all sources was better by £2,619 at £43,537. On the other hand, there was an increase under all heads of expenditure, with the exception of carriage and wagon repairs and law costs, the total outgo being up £1,137 to £34,728, and leaving the nett balance £1,482 to the good at £8,809. But to meet interest on the redeemable first and new perpetual debenture stocks, rent of land, and payment in connection with the Rock Ferry extension altogether absorbs £17,363, so that after crediting £116 for general interest the British Westinghouse Company, which carried out the conversion of the line to electric traction, has to find £8,438 under its agreement. It disputes, however, two sums of £500 each which the directors have carried to permanent way renewal and locomotive and generating power renewal funds. In the future a slight saving in interest will be effected by the practical conversion of the 4½ redeemable first debenture stock into new perpetual stock, but that will not bring much relief to the Westinghouse company or go far towards providing interest on the three debenture issues, which at present do not get a penny of return. It might be mentioned that the perpetual debenture stock at present existing went to the Westinghouse in payment for the electrical equipment, and as that concern has to find the whole of the interest and more it is in the happy position of having really carried out the conversion for nothing and landed itself in more or less important financial obligations as well. Performances like that would drag down the strongest business, and the worst of it is that so far as we can learn these ruinous experiments do not teach the directors wisdom.

EUROPEAN PETROLEUM CO., LIMITED.

This company displays a very serviceable-looking revenue for the year ended May 13 (April 30 old style), but it would be generous to the point of absurdity to describe it as real profit. From oil sold, steamers' freights, &c., the balance of income was £109,899, and transfer fees gave £10, making £109,909 in all. This is an improvement of more than £30,000 compared with the previous twelve months, and after providing

for repairs to steamers, management and other charges, including £1,804 for directors' fees, the credit remaining is £95,916 compared with £53,244. The directors' fees look heavy, but they are little more than half the £3,500 to which they are entitled. Whatever can they do for the money? Of the free balance £23,613 is required for debenture interest, ordinary interest and exchange take £5,322, and income-tax £230, leaving £66,751, practically the whole of which is required for depreciation, and is therefore in no sense a real profit. Under the trust deed £36,483 must be allowed for wastage and used in the cancellation of debentures, and the directors think it advisable to charge a further sum of £30,000 for depreciation, wells renewal, and reserve. The result is that only £268 remains from the available credit to go in reduction of the big deficiency of £67,954 brought forward, bringing it down to £67,686. Since the formation of the company the operation of the debenture service fund has reduced the debit from £550,000 to £376,000, and we note that the total depreciation account, this redemption included, now stands at £255,374, none too much, we may be sure, against freehold and leasehold properties, in the balance-sheet at £1,576,427, an advance on the year of £46,698. Value of tank steamers is less by £19,280, bringing them down to £197,110, not, unfortunately, a depreciation allowance, but merely the book cost of one vessel sold. For the rest the company is painfully impoverished, as against creditors £87,650, loans £19,037, and £81,806 received on account of advance sales of crude oil, the liquid assets, counting in the stocks, do not run to £65,000, allowing every license. Moreover, four years' preference dividend at 7½ per cent. per annum on £550,000 or thereabouts are owing, and we have little doubt that capital reorganisation must be the company's fate one day, quite apart from the heavy losses probably involved in the recent riots and incendiarism in the Baku district. Operations are now, we take it, entirely suspended, and consequently there can be little cause for enthusiasm that owing to the general decrease in the production the value of Russian oil has since the close of the year shown a marked improvement. Little use having high prices when there is nothing to sell. For the opening half of the company's financial year the production showed an increase, but then the general unrest began to have an influence, and for the complete twelve months the output was down about 2,000,000 poods at a total of 10,242,888 poods. On the Roumanian property, which has been leased to the American octopus, the Standard Oil, active development work is in progress, and the production of oil is increasing.

MANCHESTER LINERS, LIMITED.

According to the report just issued the depression in the lines served by this company continued unabated during the year ended June 30, but whether it was the larger fleet or not that helped them, the loss of £1,340 shown in 1903-4 was replaced by a profit of £15,515. This result was a long way behind those of 1901-2 and 1902-3 when profits came to £51,578 and £34,229, but the directors are thankful for even this small balance on the right side, and endeavour to extract an additional grain of comfort for the shareholders out of the prospects for the current year which they describe as distinctly more promising. And the shareholders need all the consolation they can get, as the position of the company is a deplorable one. With £6 from transfer fees, the total income was £15,521, and of this debenture interest took £11,227 or £790 less, debenture trustees' and directors' fees absorbed £1,600, and £858 was again written off debenture issue expenses. A further £143 provided for depreciation on furniture, &c., left £1,692 but a heavy debit balance of £20,812 was brought forward and in order to wipe this out the insurance reserve fund of £20,404 has been appropriated, so that there is a trifle of £1,284 to be carried to the new account. For the second time in succession the question of depreciation on the steamships has had to be relegated to the background and the fleet stands in the books at £776,608. Against this the issued share and debenture capital comes to £705,892, and as the company has now no reserves beyond the trifling sum of £4,148 on account of the debentures it follows that the floating indebtedness is heavy. Liabilities on bills payable come to £119,249 and in addition £24,376 is due to sundry creditors, against which there is £33,397 to come in from sundry debtors and cash amounts to £5,445. There is also an investment of £4,750 in 20,000 £1 shares, 4s. gd. paid, of some unnamed company which apparently is not producing any revenue, at least there is no mention of any dividends having been received, while debenture issue expenses are still carried as an asset to the extent of £12,016.

CARRERAS, LIMITED.

If this company's assets were as solid as its profits are good the position might be regarded as a tolerably sound one, but when the present undertaking was formed the vendors had little else than goodwill to hand over in exchange for a good fat purchase consideration—the promotion profit, by the way, was unusually liberal—and intangible stuff bulks very largely in the balance-sheet. Goodwill, for example, stands at £130,948, and is as yet unsupported by specific reserves of any kind, but another item of £1,547 called "amount paid for cancellation of cutting agreements" is being gradually extinguished. Should not an allocation be made to reserve from last year's revenue under the article in the memorandum of association which provides that 50 per cent. of profits after payment of a 10 per cent. ordinary dividend should be so set aside? We do not overlook the fact that the company is investing some money, the amount to date being £9,998, and to do this may be all that the article

requires, but it would surely be better to show exactly the amount reserved each year instead of keeping it hidden away in the undivided profit balance. Realisable assets consist of cash £9,070, debtors £19,701, investments as just stated, stock £34,019, lease, fixtures, fittings, and plant £8,354 and sundry payments in advance £188, but, on the other hand, the company owes £7,103 to sundry creditors and £10,043 on loan, so that £64,000 or thereabouts covers the solid items. In the twelve months to July 31 the gross profit, including transfer fees and dividends on investments, amounted to £31,383, from which general expenses absorbed £7,541, interest £521 and direction and management £1,142, while £1,434 is written off lease, fixtures, plant, machinery, &c., leaving the net balance at £20,743. Add £2,864 brought forward, and the sum for disposal is £23,608, reduced to £17,419 by the preference dividend paid to June 19, the interim dividend on the ordinary shares and balance of income-tax. The directors now propose to pay a further dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares making 10 per cent. for the year, carrying forward the big balance of £7,743, a little of which will be required to provide for accrued dividend on the preference shares. Mr. John Crowle, the chairman and vendor to the present company, desires to be relieved of his duties owing to the large and increasing demands upon his time and attention, but he will depart with pleasant memories, for was not his profit on the deal something like £60,000? Business continues to grow in a satisfactory manner the directors say, and depôts have been established in New York and Montreal, where there is already a considerable demand for the company's goods. All which is welcome news, because there is little to fall back upon should fickle public fancy one day change and the company's favourite brands go out of fashion.

MEXICO ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 the La Piedad Mule line was reconstructed and opened to electric traction in May, the work of conversion was commenced on two other routes, and the purchase of the Mexican Traction Company's interests was concluded, giving this company an important town line, and many other street concessions in the new quarter of the town. Thanks to these expansions, the number of passengers carried increased by 6,123,610 to 42,602,194, yielding \$473,024 more at \$3,272,307 in gross earnings, and after paying debenture interest and the guaranteed dividend on the Mexican Company's capital the net profits came to \$453,675 compared with \$314,566. Converted into sterling at 22½ d. to the dollar, this gave £43,005 or an increase of £15,848 over the previous year, and with £41,338 or £4,186 more from interest and dividends on the company's holdings in the above-mentioned Mexican undertaking, the net balance, after meeting London office, debenture interest and other charges, and paying £7,263 for interest and commission on advances, the net balance was £18,351 up at £53,896. To this was added £5,728 brought in, making an available total of £59,625 compared with £35,728, of which the preference dividend takes £30,000, but the directors, in view of the heavy capital outlay, have decided to set aside £15,000 to a depreciation reserve, and carry forward £14,625 rather than make any distribution on the ordinary shares. In taking this course, they were certainly prudent, as the liquid resources are none too large and the expenditure must continue to be heavy for some considerable time yet. Including the acquisition of the shares in the Mexican Traction Company, and £20,000 discount on the issue of £200,000 "B" debentures, the amount spent on capital account in 1904 was £168,081, bringing the total up to £1,652,475, of which £1,600,000 has been provided by the share and debenture capital, and the balance appears to have been borrowed, although in the present balance-sheet there is no mention of a loan from Messrs. Wernher, Beit, and Co., who last year figured as creditors for £96,335. Apart from £23,826 for debenture interest and preference dividend accrued, but including £18,352 for interest due to debenture-holders in the Mexican Company, the amount owing to sundry creditors stands at £88,128, or an increase of £27,660, against which sundry debtors are up only £573 at £15,483, and cash has been reduced by £26,852 to £21,729.

BIRMINGHAM SMALL ARMS CO., LIMITED.

This well-managed undertaking was engaged in the manufacture of the new rifle for the Government in the year to July 31 last, with really excellent results in the way of profits. Helped by an ever-increasing demand for the cycle component parts made by the company, the trading account showed a credit balance of £78,568 or £30,000 more than in the previous twelve months, and as the gun department is now busy on a further Government contract there is no obvious reason why the current year should not also turn out well. With interest on investments £2,515 and £1,883 brought forward the sum for disposal is £82,967, and after providing the preference dividend the directors add a 5s. bonus to the regular 10 per cent. dividend instead of the 2½ per cent. given last year. Not only that, but £15,000 more at £20,000 is placed to reserve, and the carry forward is largely increased to £7,609. Reserve will now amount to £60,000, and as the directors assure us that the fullest allowance has been made for depreciation the position ought to be sound enough. Only £40,801 is due to sundry creditors, and on the other side there are such assets as sundry debtors £39,626, investments £80,150, partly representing the reserve, no doubt, and cash £55,645. Land, buildings and fittings, plant and machinery, stores, tools, and work finished and in progress are all entered separately, and the aggregate value of £473,460 does not seem at all excessive.

MARTIN, EARLE AND CO., LIMITED.

The depression in the building trade which continued throughout the whole of last year was undoubtedly bad for cement manufacturers, and in their report for the twelve months ended June 30 the directors state that the average sale prices obtained were lower than at any time during the past decade. Improvements, however, have evidently been made in the processes used, as the report goes on to say that the present weekly production is nearly double the output of two years ago, and it is probably due to this that the results were so much better. Gross profits on trading showed an increase of £15,695 at £60,456, and with interest and transfer fees the total income came to £60,572, or £15,796 more, while expenses only rose by £368 to £20,573, and after writing off £10,620 or £710 more for depreciation, the net profits came to £29,379 compared with £14,661. Of this debenture interest required an extra £1,000 at £9,764, further sums of £1,376 and £1,500 were placed to the first and second debenture redemption funds, and £600 was written off the discounts on the second debentures issued, leaving a balance larger by £12,619 at £16,139, and in addition to paying a full year's dividend on the preference shares against a distribution for nine months only, the directors are able to pay 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and to increase the amount carried forward from £368 to £3,857. Liabilities to sundry creditors are only £589 up at £34,517, and although there are decreases of £2,219 to £52,061 in sundry debtors, and £5,048 to £3,163 in work in progress, these are much more than compensated for by advances of £17,755 to £25,701 in bills receivable and £9,479 to £13,043 in cash, so that the current position seems healthy enough. We question very much, however, the wisdom of the directors in refusing to provide for depreciation in respect of leases, buildings, wharves, and extension works or goodwill on the plea that they are making provision out of revenue for the redemption of the debenture stocks. The boasted provision does not come to a very large sum, and the depreciation allowed for on other items in the balance-sheet seems very far from adequate.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Little change has come over the market during the week. Trade at the Baltic continues very inactive, as despite the heavy shipments sellers decline to let rates down and buyers are indisposed to operate at current figures. In the north, however, an easier tendency was noticeable, great difficulty being experienced in maintaining prices in face of the easier American cables and advices of good European and Canadian crops. Bradstreet's estimate was also a "bear" influence, the quantity in sight east of the Rockies being put at 25,482,000 bushels compared with 21,529,000 last week and 24,230,000 a year ago. American markets were just as dull as our own, large world's shipments, good weather reports and selling from the north-west all helping prices down. Covering purchases occasionally brought about a slight rally, but immediate prospects seem favourable to buyers. Dornbusch estimates the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 1,540,000 quarters compared with 1,765,000 last week, and to the Continent 2,120,000 quarters against 1,940,000 quarters.

WOOL.—The fifth series of colonial wool sales finished on Wednesday with offerings of about 7,000 bales. Competition between home and Continental buyers continued extremely keen throughout, and although the attendance was considerably smaller on the last day, the highest prices were fully maintained. Home demands were chiefly in the direction of cross-breeds, while the Continent wanted merinos, Belgian and German buyers paying up to 26½ d. per lb. for combing and clothing lines amongst the scoured, and France taking greasy descriptions at 13d. The total offerings for the series amounted to 82,000 bales, and sales came to 79,000 bales, of which it is estimated that 44,000 bales were taken for the home trade, 32,000 for the Continent, and 3,000 for the United States. For the sixth and last series of auctions, commencing on November 28, the arrivals to date amount to 2,092 bales, including 747 from Western Australia, 552 from New Zealand, and 594 from the Cape. Sales in Liverpool likewise came to an end on Wednesday, when 2,912 bales of clothing wools were brought forward, of which 1,518 bales were Peruvian and 496 bales Spanish. The first-named sold readily, and fetched ¼ d. to ½ d. more, and Chilian were also ¼ d. better, but merinos were about the same fractions down. Trade continues brisk with manufacturers, and in the Leeds district some factories are unable to accept orders for early delivery. Fancy tweeds are most in request, both for home and Continental markets, but exports of other goods are increasing in practically all directions, except to South Africa.

LINEN.—Irish yarn spinners have plenty of orders in hand, in some cases more than they can handle, and in spite of a slight slackening of the demand prices were very firmly held. Good judges of the market, indeed, look for a much higher level to be reached, as the production, although kept at the full capacity of the works, is quite inadequate to meet requirements. In manufactured goods, too, the position seems to be thoroughly healthy, as stocks are small, and as manufacturers are well supplied with forward business they are refusing orders which do not show a reasonable margin of profit. The home trade is perhaps not quite so flourishing as the foreign, but it is gradually improving, and there seems little doubt that the autumn season will prove satisfactory in all branches. Reports from the United States are still very optimistic, and the inquiries on both

colonial and Continental account continue good. South American trade also keeps up, but there is a little cloud on the horizon there in the shape of a suggested change in Brazilian import duties, which will affect Irish linen amongst other things. A Bill has been laid before the Legislature proposing to increase the proportion of the duties on certain articles payable in gold from 25 to 50 per cent., so long as the exchange is above 13d. to the milreis, reverting to the present proportions of 25 per cent. gold and 75 per cent. paper whenever the exchange drops below 13d.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The past week has been irregular in raw American cotton in Liverpool. On Saturday last there was a considerable rise, but prices have fallen away since then. On Thursday of this week quite a slump occurred. Lancashire spinners are continuing to buy in small lots only. They are not in the mood to anticipate their requirements. Latest crop advices are fairly encouraging. Manchester seems to expect a yield of 12 millions of bales. It is, of course, too soon to give out figures, but the impression is that adverse reports as to the state of the plant have been exaggerated. Cotton piece goods have again been in slow inquiry at practicable rates, especially from India. Advices from Bombay and Calcutta have not been encouraging. The Monsoon rains are such as to ensure fairly good crops. The Bengal boycott continues in Calcutta, few telegrams having been received bringing offers for Lancashire goods. Lucky-day is fixed for October 8 (Sunday), but no business of weight is expected this year. China continues inactive, few sales being reported. South American buyers have operated in goods of a miscellaneous character. Egypt is quiet, and so is the Levant. Manufacturers' order lists are running down, but prices remain remarkably steady. Producers are maintaining a satisfactory margin. Home trade American yarns have been in slow request for some time past. On Thursday last there was hardly any business doing. Spinners are getting concerned at the prolonged absence of demand. The production of the spindles has overtaken the looms, and stocks of cop twist are showing themselves. The margin to buy and sell to-day as compared with two months ago is very poor. Shipping yarns have been in good demand for Japan in double 42's and gassed yarns descriptions. Exporters, however, to Yokohama do not seem in the humour to give out orders for next year. Gassed yarns are strong. Extra hard descriptions for the Levant are well sold. Bolton spinnings of carded counts remain steady, with a healthy demand, especially in the superior spinnings. The nearer markets are slow and slightly irregular in price.

American cotton for prompt delivery has not attracted much attention as far as the Liverpool market is concerned, but for distant delivery a fair business has been done at hardening rates. On the other side there is no pressure to sell, although crop accounts continue to be favourable. The position is entirely controlled by New York. Mr. Price's "bearish" circular caused some heavy selling of futures, weeded out many weak holders and damped the ardour of "bull" speculation for the present. There is no change in Egyptian cotton, whilst quotations in Liverpool are quite nominal.

Closing quotations of futures are:—September, 5.68d.; September to November, 5.67d.; November-December, 5.71d.; December-January, 5.74d.; January-February, 5.77d.; February-March, 5.79d.; March-April, 5.81d.; April-May, 5.82d.; May-June, 5.84d.; June to August, 5.85d.

COAL.—Trade continues to show signs of improvement, especially in the north, where further good orders have been received from the Continent. The outlook, accordingly, is regarded as more encouraging. Better prices have resulted from the increased demand, best steam coals rising to 9s. 6d. per ton f.o.b., seconds to 8s. 6d. and smalls to 5s. 6d., whilst best gas coals have advanced to 8s. 9d. and seconds to 8s. 3d. The price of coking coals has also strengthened. At Cardiff prices are:—Best steam, 12s. 9d. to 13s.; best seconds, 11s. 6d. to 11s. 9d.; best small, 8s. to 8s. 6d. Attendance on the London market has been very poor, and except for seaborne there has been a lack of animation, as the public are not as yet buying freely.

COPPER.—Leading dealers were reported good buyers and prices moved up sharply. "Bears" appear to be very short and their covering purchases created a strong demand for forward metal. A slight reaction was experienced before the end, but quotations were soon moving upward again, and with speculation apparently broadening out the close was firm at £71 5s. for cash and £70 5s. for three months forward.

TIN.—A steady demand was again experienced and the tendency of prices was always upwards helped by higher Eastern cables. Supplies apparently are none too plentiful, and even at the big quotations now ruling sellers are disposed to act with caution. The market closed strong at £146 for cash and £1 less for future delivery.

IRON AND STEEL.—The improvement in the iron and steel trades is extending and is becoming more decided. In the Midlands there is considerable activity, with good orders to hand for iron. These, indeed, exceed the production and manufacturers refuse to give consumers the option of renewing expiring contracts except at the higher rates now ruling. In the north of England the activity is almost of the dimensions of a boom and much enthusiasm prevails, which has strengthened confidence in the outlook. In fact, nearly everyone believes that a period of prosperity is assured. Cleveland pig-iron has risen 1s. 6d. per ton and hematite 3s. 6d. per ton. Producers have large orders on their books, big contracts having been secured

during the past few days. The manufactured iron and steel industries are also displaying more activity and in some branches they are better off than they have been at any time during the last three years. In fact, many orders have had to be refused owing to the pressure of work on hand and the inability to undertake fresh contracts.

TEA.—A reduction to 37,976 packages in the quantity of Indian tea offered this week seemed to put a little more life into the market, and with a fair amount of competition, prices were firm, and occasionally harder. According to Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, the general quality of this season's teas shows a distinct improvement, especially from Dargeeling, Assam, and Dooars, and although Assam teas are not as good as a few weeks back, they are still showing a very fair quality, while those from Cachar and Sylhet are tending towards improvement. Sales this week amounted to 33,285 packages, at an average of 7.78d. per lb., against 8.43d. last week and 7.40d. a year ago. Ceylon teas shared in the better feeling noted above, and both home and export demands appear to be increasing. The firmer appearance was, no doubt, helped by the smallness of the quantity listed for next week, which amounts to 18,793 packages, or the lowest since the beginning of April, and quotations were disposed to harden, the average being 7.48d., compared with 7.41d. a week ago and 7.25d. in 1904.

SUGAR.—There has been a more active demand for sugar this week, foreign granulated being sent up from 11s. 7½d. to 12s. 4½d. for covering September contracts, relapsing afterwards to 11s. 9d., at which the margin is still nearly 3s., whilst French crystals are offering at 10s. 4½d. It shows, as Mr. Czarnikow says, that white sugar for table use remains very scarce and it is not surprising that U.K. refiners did a large trade, Lyle's granulated advancing 4½d. A good business was therefore done in raw sugar between 8s. 9¾d. and 9s., the last price being 8s. 9¾d., and the few seconds offering are quoted between 7s. 3d. and 7s. 4½d. There is a slight improvement in the American market, and official quotations for raw sugar have been raised by 1½ cent, though business has been done at an advance of ½ cent. Buyers are still disposed to hesitate, but holders and importers regard the future with more confidence and are now beginning to store in anticipation of higher values later on. Landings in the three ports for the week were 69,090 tons and meltings 48,000 tons, raising stocks to 202,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

Cecil Syndicate.—Treated 1,200 tons tailings, value £725.
Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal 15,000 tons; sales 15,500 tons; consumption 1,200 tons.
Croydon Goldfields.—Clarke's Brilliant crushed 116 tons, 215 ozs., and £184 from residues.
Day Dawn Block and Wyndham.—Quartz 1,570 tons, 2,144 ozs.; tailings 2,880 tons, value £2,604; concentrates, £395.
Eaglehawk.—Crushed 950 tons, 352 ozs.; 140 ozs. from cyanide.
Gibraltar Consolidated.—Crushed 95 tons, 93 ozs.; concentrates 5 tons, containing, as per assay value, 35 ozs.; from tailings, 6 ozs.; total, 134 ozs. New.—Crushed 23 tons, 19 ozs.; concentrates, 2 tons, containing, as per assay value, 2 ozs.
Golden Gate.—South Glamire crushed 1,344 tons, 377 ozs.
Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output of coal, 33,636 tons.
Mill's Day Dawn United.—Crushed 898 tons, £2,800.
Mount Lyell Blocks.—Treated 5,300 tons of crude ore for 65 tons 4 cwt. fine copper.
North Broken Hill.—1,816 tons of crude ore, producing 340 tons of concentrates containing 230 tons 10 cwt. of lead and 6,222 ozs. of silver.
Oroville Dredging.—Earnings of six dredges \$57,338.
Pahang.—Stone crushed 2,250 tons, producing 35 tons black tin.
Pahang-Kabang.—Stone crushed 900 tons, producing 9 tons black tin.
Waihi.—24,176 tons of 2,000 lbs. (equivalent to 21,587 tons of 2,240 lbs.), yielding £57,180.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India.—On the consolidated stock from surplus profits of £1 10s. per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest, making in all a distribution of £4 per cent. for the half-year.

Buenos Ayres and Rosario.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 on the consolidated ordinary stock of 2½ per cent., being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and on 160,000 new shares (1905) at the rate of 5s. per share, being the equivalent of 5 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £222,099.

Buenos Ayres Great Southern.—Balance dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary stock, making 7 per cent. for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £113,704.

Entre Rios.—4½ per cent. on the 5 per cent. first preference stock, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £6,742.

MINES.

Anaconda Copper.—(Coupon No. 20), namely, \$1.25 per share, payable Oct. 19.

Consolidated of New Zealand.—1s. per share.

Globe and Phoenix Gold.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share for the half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 18.

Jubilee Gold.—No. 72, of 5s. per share.

Le Roi No. 2.—Interim of 1s. per share.

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. per share, Sept.

New Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration.—For half-year ending Sept. 30, of 2s. 6d. per share, equal to 25 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and 6s. a share (interim for the year ending March 31), equal to 60 per cent. per annum, on the deferred shares.

Progress of New Zealand.—1s. 6d. per share.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. J. White ("Seigel's Syrup").—On the preference shares for the quarter ending Sept. 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. African Steam Ship.—Usual interim of 6s. a share for the six months ended June 30.

Alliance Tea of Ceylon.—Interim of 3 per cent. on account of 1905.

Babcock and Wilcox.—Interim on the ordinary shares of 1s. 7 1-5d. per share.

Buenos Ayres (New) Gas.—Interim for the six months ended June 30 of 6s. per share.

Calcutta Electric Supply.—Interim at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, payable Nov. 15.

Calcutta Tramways.—Interim of 3s. 6d. per share on the old shares (being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum), on account of the profits for the half-year to June 30.

Cammell, Laird, and Co.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share on both the ordinary and preference shares, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Chadburn's (Ship) Telegraph.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ending Sept. 30.

City Offices.—Interim of 3s. per share on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 16.

Coltress Iron.—8 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended July 31, adding £5,000 to blast furnace relining reserve fund and £25,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £13,445.

Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

John Barker and Co.—Usual interim for the six months ended Aug. 31 of 5½ per cent. per annum on the preference and of 8d. per share on the ordinary shares.

Hope Brothers.—Interim at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Feb. 28, on the preference shares, payable on the 7th prox.

Hove Electric Lighting.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 16.

Mercantile Bank of India.—Interim on the "A" and "B" shares for the half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Neuchatel Asphalte.—Interim of 3s. per share, payable Oct. 16.

River Plate Gas.—Interim at the rate of 6s. per share for the half-year ended June 30, payable 23rd prox.

Salar Del Carmen Nitrate.—Interim of 10 per cent., payable Oct. 17.

Theatre Royal, Manchester.—3 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Aug. 4.

United States and South American Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock and 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock for the half-year ending Oct. 4.

Van Den Berghs.—Interim dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30.

ATLAS ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The quinquennial valuation of this company's life business for the five years ended December 31 last made by the actuary brings out a profit of £183,732, exclusive of £2,776 brought forward. This enables the directors to distribute £135,308 as bonuses amongst policyholders, after allowing £13,329 paid away in interim bonuses during the five years and £36,586 assigned in anticipation of bonus as reductions of premium during the same period. Even then a balance of £1,284 would be left to carry forward. The consolidated revenue account shows that in the five years the company received altogether £1,113,677 from premiums, interest on investment, fees, and profits. Of this sum £811,000 has actually been paid away to policyholders in various forms, and the working expenses took £135,290, the result being that at the end of the quinquennium the funds in hand were larger by £167,386 at a total of £1,817,634. The rate of interest assumed in the calculations by which the profits are brought out was 2½ per cent. per annum.

YORKSHIRE FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

This company has also made its life valuation for the past quinquennium ended on January 1, 1905, and has apparently worked out its profits on the assumption that the rate of accumulation will be 3½ per cent. less 5 per cent. in the case of pure endowment and leasehold policies, but without any discount in the case of children's deferred assurances, while on the ordinary life policies the rate assumed has been 3 per cent. and on annuities 2½ per cent. As a result the surplus for the five years is brought out at £125,608, and of this £15,000 goes to the shareholders, to the dividend reserve fund, £15,000 to the investment reserve, and £5,000 to the pension and guarantee fund, leaving £90,608 for distribution. At the last valuation £41,039 was brought forward, and apparently the sum now to be distributed amongst the participating policyholders is £75,000, which is divided up amongst 5,123 policies, covering £2,346,921, including previous additions.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and September 23, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 23, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 24, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	16,005,000	17,157,000
Excise	30,200,000	14,114,000	14,484,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	6,332,000	5,508,000
Stamps	8,000,000	3,713,000	3,270,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	520,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	5,044,000	5,367,000
Post Office	16,500,000	6,650,000	6,430,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,000,000	1,950,000
Crown Lands	470,000	170,000	190,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	678,309	608,423
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	705,760	732,864
*Revenue	142,454,000	55,812,069	56,217,287
Total, including balance		63,242,347	60,481,129
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		300,000	250,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		—	230,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		410,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		8,955,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	500,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..		—	14,500,000
Total		73,247,347	86,445,119
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	55,812,069	56,217,287
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	69,739	77,021
Excise	5,291,000	1,611,851	1,609,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,092,839	2,119,242
Total	9,756,000	3,774,429	3,805,936
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	59,586,498	60,023,223
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 23, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payment from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 24, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 11,969,974	£ 12,142,931
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	749,116	742,481
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts	1,160,000	644,966	644,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	46,748,338	50,605,918
Expenditure	142,084,000	60,103,394	64,136,257
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		240,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		90,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		450,000	200,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		1,663,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	1,700,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		105,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		230,571	—
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	3,450,000
		63,804,965	80,726,767
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 8,638,891	£ 4,858,523	£ —
Bank of Ireland	803,491	859,839	—
Total		9,442,382	5,718,362
Total		73,247,347	86,445,119

Treas., September 20, 1905.

The Bank of Australasia has opened a branch at Whangarei New Zealand.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

The gold yield of the Rand for the month of August was a record, but the public have refused to enthuse over it, for records do not benefit them much individually. From the mines on the Witwatersrand proper the return amounted to 410,859 fine ozs., and from those crushing in the outside districts 17,722 fine ozs., making a total of 428,581 ozs., valued at £1,820,496, against 419,505 ozs., worth £1,781,944, in the preceding month. Thus there were increases of 9,076 ozs. and £38,552 respectively. This represents real progress, as the daily average was 13,825 ozs., compared with 13,532 ozs. In the labour returns there was a net loss of 2,844 blacks, the number employed at the end of the month being 88,829, in addition to which 43,140 Chinkees were working

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February	1,457,684	—	293,786	845,489	1,226,846	1,566,508
March	—	—	345,782	345,739	1,229,726	1,545,371
April	—	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340
May	—	31,271	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550
June	—	84,014	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734
July	—	110,269	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412
August	—	120,953	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944
September ..	—	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496
October	—	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	—
November ..	—	147,848	770,706	1,208,666	1,383,167	—
December ..	—	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	—
	—	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	—
Total ..	1,457,684	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	13,630,355

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

at the end of July, increased during August, probably, by another thousand or so. It will be seen that the profit of the Driefontein Consols was only £13,568 against £19,698 for July, which was disproportionate to the smaller tonnage milled. It has been officially explained that the decrease in profit was due to an advance in the working costs, together with an increase of 2 per cent in the sorting. This is hardly satisfactory. It looks as if the ore treated must have been much poorer in quality, for the improved sorting should have counteracted the effect of the higher costs and the lower tonnage. The Wolluter decrease is the result of a stoppage through the recent fire; and that of the Geldenhuys Deep to increased working costs and a slight falling off in the rate of yield.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The Agent-General for Western Australia has received telegraphic advice from his Government to the effect that during August 55,370 ozs. were entered for export, whilst 119,311 ozs. were received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint for coinage giving a total of 174,681 fine ozs. For the corresponding month of last year the total export and mint returns were 168,432 fine ozs., thus there was a considerable decrease last month.

MINE.	June.			July.			August.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	12,052	7,231	..	12,747	7,308	14,567	11,448	11,760	..
Barrett	8,600	4,327	9,057	7,304	4,467	8,512	8,750	4,503	8,553
Bonanza	24,200	5,617	15,083	25,000	6,065	16,354	25,000	8,941	15,558
Buffelsdoorn Estate ..	14,152	8,307	14,496	10,043	7,349	14,268	6,046	6,402	..
Comet, New	14,420	4,365	8,642	13,300	5,124	4,393	16,484	5,662	5,167
Cons. Main Reef	13,749	6,218	16,051	6,290	8,327	16,610	6,491	8,408	..
Crown Deep	28,936	11,419	19,950	29,411	11,742	20,850	30,193	12,173	23,150
Crown Reef	18,769	12,408	25,128	19,364	12,369	25,256	19,340	12,340	25,269
Driefontein	18,603	9,069	..	23,942	10,235	19,698	20,575	8,255	13,568
Drban Rooodepoort ..	11,350	5,217	..	11,390	5,204	8,820	11,580	5,250	8,755
Do. Deep	9,950	4,352	4,200	10,095	4,335	4,200	9,970	4,346	4,100
Ferreira	19,634	11,806	25,416	20,700	12,049	26,115	20,796	12,370	27,065
Do. Deep	16,305	10,689	27,150	19,800	11,901	29,650	20,268	12,358	30,300
French Rand	13,500	5,095	1,621	14,700	4,725	926*	16,400	5,134	265
Geldenhuys Deep	23,615	10,777	18,150	23,930	10,453	15,000	24,310	10,185	13,350
Geldenhuys Estate ..	16,825	7,222	16,095	16,865	7,229	16,094	16,870	7,220	16,030
Ginsberg	7,995	3,345	4,778	8,533	3,493	5,217	8,572	3,514	5,150
Glencairn	14,608	4,389	4,953	14,910	4,162	4,992	14,980	4,231	5,008
Glen Deep	15,300	6,045	7,000	15,900	6,033	7,000	15,900	5,968	7,000
Glynn's Lydenberg ..	2,220	1,376	..	2,175	1,413	..	2,299	1,503	..
Goch New	11,210	3,648	3,112	..	..	..	..	..	..
Henry Nourse .....	..	6,214	12,125	10,925	6,101	11,044	..	6,005	10,029
Henlot	9,000	3,752	3,106	9,240	3,836	4,410	9,480	3,937	4,765
Jubilee	5,674	1,671	..	5,987	1,757	..	5,625	1,871	..
Jumpers	11,300	3,125	1,168	11,100	3,829	3,000	12,240	4,418	4,860
Jumpers Deep	15,455	5,205	350	16,319	5,246	300	16,540	5,473	450
Knight's	20,650	8,703	8,197	28,083	9,602	11,863	28,000	9,194	7,753
Knight's Deep	23,200	8,652	8,249	22,500	8,230	7,100	22,869	8,239	7,921
Lancaster	13,010	3,250	1,562	13,100	4,345	1,085	11,650	4,332	872
Lancaster West	6,416	2,329	2,493	6,680	2,367	2,879	6,570	2,422	2,876
Langlaagte Deep	19,269	6,752	6,850	20,010	6,762	6,850	20,104	7,013	6,500
Do. Estate	26,327	8,305	..	26,141	8,267	..	27,060	8,745	9,000
May Consolidated ..	13,402	6,054	11,542	13,800	6,091	11,724	14,020	6,137	11,918
Meyer and Charlton ..	10,920	4,618	8,318	11,500	4,476	8,297	11,330	4,558	8,233
Modderfontein	9,155	3,557	3,433	9,632	3,566	3,424	9,788	3,519	3,264
New Kleinfontein ..	26,332	9,201	..	28,083	9,602	11,863	28,401	10,092	..
New Unified	8,854	3,260	2,236	8,907	3,234	2,632	9,025	3,155	2,317
Niekerk	688	309	..	916	240	..	813	200	..
Nigel	6,210	3,651	4,977	..	6,618	6,500	3,690	6,467	..
Nigel Deep .....	..	..	2,882	2,100	1,042	2,900	1,953	719	..
North Randfontein ..	14,765	5,647	..	15,458	5,950	..	15,029	5,951	6,200
Nourse Deep	14,410	7,076	9,000	14,870	6,922	8,600	15,050	6,774	8,550
Porges Randfontein ..	..	..	..	..	13,503	5,510	8,800	..	..
Primrose	16,838	7,372	13,865	17,274	7,774	15,043	17,074	7,895	15,147
Princess Estate	5,392	2,664	1,406	6,417	2,910	1,670	7,092	2,972	1,493
Rietfontein New	8,276	4,223	7,645	8,309	3,324	7,013	8,448	4,306	2,317
Robinson	26,500	9,485	46,527	27,000	19,362	46,591	29,000	19,571	47,450
Robinson Cent. Deep ..	13,675	8,131	20,636	13,877	8,483	22,532	14,902	9,141	23,942
Robinson Deep	27,822	14,611	31,174	29,066	15,351	34,588	29,173	15,428	33,750
Robins' R'ndfontein ..	14,092	5,200	..	14,456	5,570	..	14,530	5,326	6,000
Rooodepoort Central ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. Deep	7,282	3,139	2,517	7,628	2,321	2,810	7,703	3,308	2,996
Rooodepoort United ..	9,000	3,909	5,084	9,500	4,052	5,246	9,540	4,336	5,823
Rose Deep	24,884	8,767	6,950	24,786	8,397	8,050	25,562	8,873	9,150
Salisbury	5,400	1,710	1,455	..	..	5,150	1,840	2,100	..
Sheba .....	..	2,350	..	2,400	..	..	2,750	..	..
Simmer and Jack	5,038	19,302	26,696	52,080	19,911	30,664	52,420	19,829	30,676
South Randfontein ..	13,700	5,722	..	14,649	6,076	..	14,886	5,737	5,000
Transvaal Gold	10,864	4,218	..	10,673	4,149	..	10,103	3,723	..
Treasury	6,650	2,438	2,733	5,260	2,086	2,454	5,925	2,359	3,014
Van Ryn	21,260	7,794	10,870	22,380	7,926	10,047	22,220	7,745	12,000
Village Deep	14,065	5,327	5,697	14,805	6,003	8,387	13,055	5,781	5,829
Village Main Reef ..	24,000	9,386	14,402	25,000	6,485	14,517	25,150	9,396	14,510
Vogelstruis Estates ..	..	2,051	..	2,081	..	..	5,420	2,100	..
Wemmer	8,120	3,752	3,278	8,420	3,552	3,819	8,520	4,039	4,548
W. Rand Central	2,400	568	..	2,500	538	..	2,550	1,120	..
Windsor	4,902	1,491	646	5,050	1,510	645	5,035	1,514	589
Wt. Deep	20,730	8,629	10,457	21,580	8,978	12,344	22,670	9,044	11,334
Woluter	16,000	5,730	5,681	16,700	5,845	7,007	8,900	3,803	5,921
Worcester .....	..	..	..	1,432	..	..	1,385	..	..

* Loss.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
February	80,785	..	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258
March	64,408	..	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811
April	84,546	..	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823
May	54,772	..	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166
June	64,249	7,488	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395
July .....	..	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317
August .....	..	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505
September ..	..	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,581
October .....	..	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	..
November ..	..	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	..
December ..	..	39,075	187,375	279,813	336,167	..
	..	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	..
Total ..	348,760	238,952	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	3,208,856

* Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2.

Buenos Ayres Electric Tramways.—78, Cornhill, 2.15 p.m.

John Hetherington and Sons.—Manchester, 3 p.m.

Rhodesia, Limited.—Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3.

Bank of Scotland.—Edinburgh, 12.30 p.m.

European Petroleum.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Manchester Liners.—Manchester, 12.45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4.

Birmingham Small Arms.—Birmingham.

Colonial Bank.—13, Bishopsgate Street Within, 2 p.m.

India Development.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

James Cycle.—Birmingham, 3 p.m.

Raglan Cycle and Anti-Friction Ball.—Coventry, 3 p.m.

Ritz Hotel, 4A, Cockspur Street, S.W., 1 p.m.

Willans and Robinson, Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5.

Bank of Australasia.—4, Threadneedle Street, 1 p.m.

Margewood Lock Co.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

Pahang-Kabang.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Palmer, Haines, and Co.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6.

Claude's Ashanti Goldfields.—3 and 4, Great Winchester Street, noon.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended September 21, \$4,545.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 25, \$17,568, increase \$1,792; aggregate from January 1, \$597,342, increase \$133,046.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 26, Rs. 71,386, increase Rs. 12,558; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 490,561, increase Rs. 59,657.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 21, \$88,700, increase \$23,100; total from July 1, \$993,300, increase \$195,100.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 26, Rs. 28,742, decrease Rs. 907; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,02,840, increase Rs. 9,539.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 2, £275, decrease £232.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the third week of September, \$16,339, decrease \$1,008; aggregate from January 1, \$575,232, decrease \$5,099.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended August 26, Rs. 10,816, increase Rs. 2,201; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 91,077, increase Rs. 3,031.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended September 14 amounted to \$80,356.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending September 23, £1,201, decrease £27; aggregate from July 1, £13,970 decrease £404.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending September 23, £973, decrease £20; aggregate from July 1, £12,435, decrease £1,354.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for July, £4,218, decrease £427.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending September 23, £371, decrease £18; aggregate from July 1, £3,595, decrease £640.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 22, £1,405, increase £514; aggregate from July 1, £16,914, increase £6,063.

Blessington and Poulaphuca.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 24, £28, increase £9; aggregate from July 1, £407, increase £11.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 22, £5,107, decrease £65; aggregate from July 1, £64,202, decrease £1,030.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Com; panies for the week ending September 22, £30,796, increase £4,543; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,022,471, increase £95,913 445½ miles, against 420½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £1,185, increase £132; aggregate from July 2, £13,852, increase £646.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 24, £148, decrease £17; aggregate from July 1, £2,212, decrease £47.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 22, £136, decrease £6; aggregate from July 1, £1,797, increase £40.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 22, £4,826, decrease £234; aggregate from July 1, £66,204, decrease £402.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £6,392, increase £1,546; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £186,709 increase £14,816.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 22, £277, decrease £12; aggregate from July 1, £3,354, decrease £201.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 21, £671.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £793, decrease £54; aggregate from October 1, £31,543, decrease £2,814.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 16, £15,278, increase £1,371; aggregate from April 1, £368,454, increase £58,332. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £23,763, increase £45; aggregate from July 2, £291,339, decrease £3,718.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £7,784, increase £179; aggregate from July 1, £96,982, increase £1,215.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 22, £216, increase £25; aggregate from July 1, £2,435, increase £126.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £13,740, increase £974; aggregate from January 1, £501,838, increase £32,124.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of August, £12,771, increase £838.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to August 31, \$187,399, increase \$47,613. Net earnings from July 1 to August 31, \$84,550, increase \$30,461.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending September 24, £3,789, increase £303; aggregate from January 1, £130,678, increase £5,671.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, \$42,345, decrease \$3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, Rs. 44,534, increase Rs. 6,456; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 5,14,975, increase Rs. 79,169.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,500; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of August, £5,235, increase £2,214. Total to August 31, £31,841, increase £6,066.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of August, \$422,051, increase \$32,854; aggregate from January 1, \$3,028,626, increase \$194,399. Net traffic receipts, \$246,512, increase \$35,913; aggregate from January 1, \$1,626,507, increase \$136,430.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Sept. 24	£ 2,076	— 152	12	25,627	— 616	
Cambrian	" 24	7,318	+ 210	12	105,382	+ 5,940	
Central London ..	" 23	6,175	— 222	12	68,772	— 1,774	
City and South London ..	" 24	2,628	— 45	12	27,858	— 558	
Furness	" 24	11,003	+ 1,049	12	135,493	+ 7,066	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 24	75,611	+ 4,238	12	877,868	+ 48,026	
Great Eastern	" 24	116,100	+ 2,900	12	1,443,000	+ 32,200	
Great Northern and City ..	" 23	1,505	+ 307	12	17,268	+ 4,668	
Great Northern	" 23	123,500	+ 3,970	†	1,475,588	+ 8,629	
Great Western	" 24	260,900	+ 6,900	12	3,146,200	— 8,200	
Hull and Barnsley	" 24	10,815	+ 1,157	12	115,953	+ 4,138	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 24	113,343	+ 1,656	12	1,501,042	+ 31,384	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 23	71,082	+ 380	12	909,840	+ 5,703	
London & North Western ..	" 24	300,000	+ 3,000	12	3,699,000	+ 34,000	
London & South Western ..	" 24	99,200	+ 900	12	1,282,900	+ 3,700	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 24	10,832	+ 251	12	151,054	+ 1,111	
Metropolitan	" 24	17,264	+ 181	12	203,663	+ 70	
Metropolitan District ..	" 24	6,890	+ 215	12	76,809	+ 3,494	
Midland	" 23	238,350	+ 5,562	12	2,785,266	+ 58,494	
North Eastern	" 23	189,175	+ 3,838	12	2,345,652	+ 7,966	
North London	" 24	9,999	+ 423	12	103,029	+ 3,658	
North Staffordshire ..	" 24	17,875	+ 125	12	212,213	+ 683	
Rhymney	" 24	5,643	— 225	12	67,740	+ 278	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 23	110,181	+ 4,428	†	1,326,877	+ 10,728	
Taff Vale	" 24	19,742	+ 505	12	215,779	+ 4,341	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Sept. 24	91,577	— 1,065	8	726,723	— 6,006
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 23	41,207	+ 4,653	8	329,371	+ 3,657
Great North of Scotland ..	" 23	10,941	+ 29	8	87,382	+ 2,603
Highland	" 24	13,065	+ 157	8	108,209	+ 1,174
North British	" 24	97,909	— 1,254	8	798,169	+ 10,948

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Sept. 22	3,033	+ 261	12	45,994	+ 454
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 22	1,975	— 132	12	24,017	+ 405
Great Northern	" 22	20,552	— 242	12	261,456	+ 2,653
Midland Great Western ..	" 22	11,149	— 405	12	137,346	+ 5,691

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The Investors' Review.

Money Market Prospects.

A considerable, though only half-confessed, feeling of uneasiness pervades the London Money market. It is not surprising that such a feeling should exist, for the market's actual position is the reverse of comfortable, and the outlook distinctly critical. We are always told when giving expression to this view that the London Money market is all right. Commitments on the Stock Exchange are declared to be light and unlikely to involve any serious complications should a real stringency in money rates supervene. That is only one side of the truth if truth it be. It may be that in most departments of Stock Exchange business there is no unwieldy mass of speculation carried by brokers and jobbers, but outside the Stock Exchange the amount of speculative business sustained by the help of banking credit is probably greater at the present time than at any period since the close of the South African war. The public has been tempted to speculate by a succession of booms or boomlets manufactured by the large finance houses, who generally operate outside the Stock Exchange, and private resources have been utilised all over the kingdom through the banks to sustain speculation thus instituted. One has only to look at the balance-sheets of our joint-stock banks to see that this must be so. Their commitments on the Stock Exchange through the operations of their clients are always great now, and at present enormous; therefore, if we are really entering upon a period of stringency in the Money market we must expect to see indications of distress, and many failures as the result of this untoward change. It may be that the London market will surmount its difficulties in the coming months as it has overcome others in past years, but it will not do so without enduring a dangerous set-back in the quotations for marketable securities, and many an anxious hour.

It is, however, impossible to treat the London Money market as an isolated centre of business. Ours is pre-eminently a universal market, so much so that the slightest tremor on any foreign market instantly finds some reflection or echo here. It is, therefore, important to look at the position on foreign markets in order to try and discover whether they or any of them may be expected to exercise a disturbing influence upon our already fully committed or employed market in the coming months. The survey is not reassuring. Wherever we turn the visible signs are that difficulties are multiplying among credit generators and users. Superficially viewed, the Paris market would seem to be in a position of exceptional strength. The Bank of France holds about £12,665,000 more coin and bullion than it did this time last year, and the note circulation is less than £9,000,000 higher. We know, however, that beneath the surface the Paris market is labouring to overcome the effects of some very severe wrenches to private and corporate credit. The failures and suicides of the last two months have put the resources of French money dealers to a severe test, and on the top of this source of anxiety comes the Russian demand for money. It is said that the immediate amount which Russia wants to borrow is £72,000,000, and that subscriptions for this sum will be asked for in the German, Dutch, English, and American markets, as well as in that of Paris. The sum is a large one, and

it cannot be raised in Paris or anywhere else at the present time without bringing us to the verge of what might very well turn out to be a devastating credit cataclysm. Moreover, this can only be a beginning of Russian borrowings. At a moderate estimate the bureaucratic Government of the Tsar must be in want of from £150,000,000 to £200,000,000 in order to make good the devastation of capital caused by the Manchurian war, and Japan is also in need of more money. We have no reason to doubt that negotiations are progressing in Paris for the issue of a Japanese consolidation loan, to be emitted, it is said, directly after the Russian loan. Japan will probably add some millions for current necessities to the amount required for the redemption of the outstanding 6 and 5 per cents, and whether or not, a loan of this kind must mean the transfer of a large sum of Japanese internal debt to the keeping of the foreign creditor. From sources like these we therefore must expect an extraordinary pressure upon the stocks of gold held in the various markets, and most of all upon our own stock because ours is the one perfectly free gold market of the world.

And what is our position when confronted with a probability of this description? It is one of great weakness. At the present time the stock of gold in the Bank of England is nearly £3,000,000 less than it was at this time last year, and we have no hope of getting a sensible addition to it from any quarter by help of the existing 4 per cent. Bank rate. That has not yet stopped the outflow of gold from the Bank, and our only sure available help in meeting the demands now falling upon us, and likely to become greater in the course of the next six months is in the output of raw gold from the mines. Were time given that might be sufficient this winter, as it has been in past winters, to ward off any dangerous upset to the excessively delicate and over-distended fabric of our banking credit, but time will not be given because all other markets are in more or less urgent need of the metal. The New York exchange has been rising lately, in spite of the fact that bankers' money has been dear on the Wall Street market, touching $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on Wednesday, and averaging 6 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the rise in the exchange, so contrary to the necessities of the market, will not bring gold to London from New York for the simple reason that the Americans want the metal quite as urgently as any European country. The visible reserve of metal held by the New York Associated Banks is quite £10,000,000 below what it was a year ago, and all the time the exchange continues to advance we have the United States striving with other competitors for such parcels of raw gold as come into our market.

Money is also becoming stringent upon German markets, and the Imperial Bank of Germany has this week raised its rate of discount to 5 per cent. It had no choice because the demands upon it at the end of the quarter were extremely heavy, leading to a decline of £8,248,000 in the cash and an increase of £24,000,000 in the advances within one week. So pressing are the requirements of credit in Germany thus expressed that for weeks past the supplies of raw gold in our market have been bought up for export thither. There is consequently a conjunction of adverse circumstances which must not be lost sight of for a moment in attempting to estimate the probabilities of money market movements here in the near future. Everywhere, in spite of the large supplies of new gold brought to market, intolerably heavy masses of securities, carried at inflated prices, are forcing the wielders of credit to demand more and yet more supplies of hard cash.

Our Australian colonies cannot help us with gold. The partial return of prosperity there has either tempted them to enter into new commitments or tie their old resources up, so that were they to ship large amounts of bullion here the result would be a credit upset in Sydney and Melbourne which might have far-reaching consequences. Canada is in even a worse position, Montreal, in imitation of New York,

being the centre of one of those unbridled outbursts of gambling which periodically overtake the Canadian people, and always end disastrously for them and for those here who follow them. We therefore have only India to draw upon, and even in India, in spite of the artificial maintenance of the exchange, there is now little margin to come and go upon. We might even find none at all, for the crops have partially failed over large areas of the Peninsula, and it is quite within the range of probability that the Simla Government may before many months pass be driven to borrow money here in order to buy food for the starving people. It is a borrowing Government anyhow, notwithstanding its remittances of gold to London.

All the world has been working up towards some such conjunction of adverse credit conditions as we now see, and the severe pressure of world-wide necessities created by devastating wars, and quite as much by unbridled gambling, are certain to make themselves felt here with increasing severity. To meet unusual demands upon our banking resources, our cash above all, we are much less well furnished than we were this time twelve months ago, and it will therefore take the most careful and vigilant guidance to avert serious trouble. People are asking, as they always do at such times, whether a 4 per cent. Bank rate will be enough, and the more eager minds appear to be already contemplating a 5 per cent. one. We think it quite probable, and at no distant date either; it is all a question whether the raw gold coming in week by week will suffice for the world's necessities. If not the Bank rate must again go up, for the Bank and the London Money market behind it are much less well equipped against extreme rates for money than they have been for years.

American Insurance Office Scandals.

If things go on as they are doing we shall have to make this a permanent heading in the REVIEW. The further the investigations of the committee of the New York Senate proceed the more revolting grows the picture of heartless corruption unfolded. We say heartless because the interests of the policyholder have long ceased to be regarded in any form. He has become a mere victim of organised robbery, and when we recall the plausible statements, the unctuous lies with which the public in this country, as in the United States, has been plied in order to create business, exclusively for the profit of the leeches who live and grow fat thereby, we feel that no punishment can be too severe for the men deliberately and of malice prepense guilty of such moral turpitude. So many points are coming out week by week that it is almost impossible to summarise them. We, however, have been looking to see whether any light is going to be thrown upon the methods of these monstrous emanations of Yankee "graft" and grab enterprise in Europe, and especially in England. Many months ago, for example, we made public the statement that Mr. D. C. Haldeman, the British manager of the Mutual Life Office of New York, enjoys a salary of £20,000 per annum, or the same figure as that paid to Mr. John A. McCall, President of the New York Life. This statement was never contradicted, and is probably true, but it is of no interest except as an illustration of the consuming virulence of the greed with which all who can get the "pull," as it is called, pounce upon the money painfully collected under false pretences from those persuaded to take out policies in these companies in the belief that they are providing for their families. Everywhere extravagance, as for many years this REVIEW has insisted, characterises the management of these companies. We used to be told that our method of testing the quality of the management of life insurance offices by the ratio of their expenses to premium income involved fallacies, that the volume of new business had to be considered, and this and that. It remains the only true test notwithstanding, and we now find that by a recent development the New York Life Office has carried the cost of its new business to such a height that it compels old

policyholders to contribute; past accumulations are devoured in keeping the criminals fat. The office has invented a system called the "Nylic," a name the occult meaning of which we cannot guess. Its obvious meaning, however, is plain enough, for it is simply a device to swell out the earnings of agents of the company by giving them bonuses over and above their regular and already dishonestly excessive commissions upon the new business done. These bonuses range according to the length of time the agent has been in the service of the office, and the magnitude of the sums "written" by them, that is to say, of the policies they beguile the public into buying over a series of years. As described by Mr. T. A. Buckner, fourth vice-president of the New York Life Office, there are five degrees of leech notoriety in the Nylic hierarchy. Under the first degree a man who succeeded in gathering in victims to the extent of \$25,000 per annum in new policies for five years would receive an extra bonus of 50 cents per month per \$1,000 of insurance on the minimum amount he had written in any one year of the five. The second order in the hierarchy gets \$1 per month per \$1,000 written, and the third \$1½ per month. Modifications are said to have been made in this nicely got up system of plunder, whereby the total payment has lately been reduced, but surely it marks a degree of moral callousness scarcely paralleled in modern business that any such system should ever have been instituted. It does this, and it also indicates that these monster organisations have been at their wits' end for years to find expedients whereby the flow of premium money might be stimulated and maintained so that their vampire-like suction upon the assets might not suffer by any diminution in the supply.

Another direction in which much light has been thrown by the investigation is the syndicate business and the intimate relationship subsisting between these so-called life offices and various trusts and financial bosses. More or less in the dark, the INVESTORS' REVIEW has for years back been hammering at the community of interests the insurance offices and the trusts have maintained, and there also blame has been cast upon it for drawing inferences which the facts might not warrant. Our inferences, it turns out, were far too mild, and often far too indefinitely outlined, as may be seen now, when the facts beginning to be opened up to the public are grasped and understood. We never suspected the variety of uses to which a trust could be put in helping the insurance company to doctor its balance-sheets so as to conceal bad or illegal investments, its participation in syndicates, the systematic "graft" of its officers, whereby profits upon syndicate and other deals went to them and losses, if any, to the insurance company. A significant illustration of the kind of thing that goes on was furnished by the examination of various officers of the different companies. We may take one class of the New York Life Company's transactions as a sample. With a view to seem to keep its compact with the Prussian Government, it entered into a series of elaborate falsifications of the accounts. The Prussian Government, which displays a greater care for the interests of the people than ours, had laid down the condition that if the New York Life was to continue to do business in Prussia, it must not hold industrial securities. This put the New York Life management in a dilemma, seeing that it was continually dabbling in syndicates of all sorts, and that a partner in J. P. Morgan and Co.'s firm, Mr. George W. Perkins, one of its vice-presidents, had stuck it with many queer and fearful things, until it had upwards of \$39,000,000 of Morgan-produced securities in its possession. How was the difficulty got over? By the help of the New York Trust Company, the majority of whose shares the Life Company held. A "purchasing syndicate" was formed, which was to pay \$800 per share for a lot of 5,130 shares the New York Life Office held. This syndicate consisted of John A. McCall, the president, and George W. Perkins, the vice-president of the New York Life, together with Charles F. Fairchild, vice-president of the Trust Company. No real purchase was made as may be supposed. "A string was tied to the stock," as the *Evening Post* reporter

phrases it, and although nominally sold it, continued under the control of the Insurance Company, it being arranged that the Trust should hold until January 1, 1907, the New York Life having an option upon the stuff all that time. Did the New York office find the purchase money for the Trust Company? Well, its deposits with the Trust Company went up until they reached a total of \$10,816,000 in July, 1902.

That is one sample of what goes on, and examples might be multiplied indefinitely. A very frank and straightforward witness, one of the old officials of the Equitable Company whose name has never once come up with any smudge attached to it, gave many interesting details regarding that company's participations in syndicates. In only one of the many instances cited was profit shown on the trick, but the company appears to have been completely at the mercy of Mr. James Hyde "and associates," or of the large financiers who had operations to carry through for which its money was needed. It entered blind pools at the instance of these people, no accounts being ever rendered to show what had been the result of the transactions. The managers had to take what they got, and ask no questions. Some of these syndicates, like that of the Union Pacific share issue in which the Equitable is interested to the extent of 20,500 \$100 shares, appear to be still running. This by-product of the business is suggestive as showing how the resources of policy-holders are laid hold of by designing financiers and officials to be used for their own profit. No wonder that corrupt legislatures in the various States combine, as Mr. McCall describes it, to "blackmail" these giant cormorants. He told the investigation committee on Wednesday last that three-fourths of the measures dealing with insurance introduced in the various State legislatures were of this description, and went on to describe how insurance companies were badgered and harassed to death by bad Bills in order that they might be plundered. We cannot give him our sympathy, because if the companies had been doing a clean, honest business, it would have been impossible for any legislature, however corrupt, to blackmail them. In this, as in all other instances, corruption breeds corruption. The so-called legal expenses of the New York Life Company between June 1, 1900, and August 31, 1905, came to \$1,103,920, of which sum a Mr. Andrew Hamilton, the company's Albany manager of the legislators' bribery fund, it would seem, received \$476,927. No wonder that the sums expended in getting "new business," as another witness testified, exceeded by millions the amount received as first premiums. This is only another way of saying that if the average expense ratio of an insurance company to the premium income rises above a fairly well-defined average line, it represents a more or less fraudulent kind of business, entered into solely for the profit of agents and officials. These people deserved to be "blackmailed"; the policy-holder alone is worthy of commiseration.

Since the above went to the printer further evidence relating to the organisations by means of which policyholders in American life insurance offices have been ruthlessly stripped has been laid before the New York State Senate Commission. We make room for one or two statements. Mr. Robert S. McCurdy, son of the President or head swagsman of the New York Mutual Life Office, and European superintendent thereto, received between 1893 and 1904—presumably inclusive—\$1,059,267 by way of commissions on the foreign business done. In justice to him, it was also revealed that he had repeatedly obtained reductions in the rate of commissions paid to him, but that nevertheless his remuneration from this source rose until it amounted in 1902 alone to \$99,158, or about £20,000. Nor was this all; further evidence disclosed the payment to this same favoured son of his father of commissions on the home business of the office to the tune of \$541,852, again, presumably, for the like period of time. After that the handing of \$92,043 as commission to Louis A. Thebauld, husband of one of father McCurdy's daughters, looks like a mere trifle thrown to a church-door beggar. And it was this same father McCurdy

who once told a friend of ours in one of those effusive moments to which fellow passengers on ocean liners are prone, that "a reduction of the expense ratios of 'Amurican' life offices was the most urgent reform of the hour."

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE HALF-YEAR'S REVENUE.

From more than one point of view the total is harrowing in its magnitude. Between April 1 and September 30 no less than £61,444,678 has been swept into the Exchequer on Imperial and local taxation account. The Imperial portion of this stupendous revenue has amounted to £57,590,249 and the share assigned to local authorities is £3,854,429. Many people seem inclined to feel happy because the shortage of the first quarter of the year compared with a year ago has been made good in the second with £25,857 to spare on the totals paid into the Imperial Exchequer alone, but there is really not much ground for satisfaction in this change. During the first quarter of the year the Customs revenue fell off by £1,297,000 because it was known that the tea duty would be brought down from 8d. to 6d. per lb. on July 1. Hence a decrease of £939,000 in the aggregate receipts of the quarter paid into the Imperial Treasury, but in the September quarter the recovery of Customs was only £221,000 and the nett increase of £965,000 shown in the aggregate receipts at the end came principally from stamps, the Post Office, and income-tax. For the whole six months the Post Office has shown a moderate growth in its figures and the telegraph service likewise, but property and income-tax on September 30 last was still £260,000 below the corresponding figure of a year ago, and had it not been for an increase of £850,000 in estate duties and of £480,000 in stamps—both in some degree accidentals—there would have been no increase at all in the quarter's revenue. Customs, in fact, still show a decrease of £1,076,000, and Excise, although it did better in showing a smaller diminution in the September than in the June quarter, is nevertheless short of the total of a year ago by £320,000. We cannot, therefore, deem the public income elastic. It does not yet respond to the remarkable growth of the country's foreign trade.

Reverting to the entire revenue collected by the Imperial authorities, we find that up to September 30 last Customs yielded £16,726,000, Excise £16,052,000, estate duties £8,693,000, stamps £3,830,000, and income-tax £5,260,000. Adding in £400,000 for land tax and house duty, this means that about £51,000,000 in taxation alone has been drawn from the community in the lean six months of the year, the total being brought up to the figure named at the beginning of this note by £6,830,000 paid over from the Post Office and £2,080,000 from the telegraph service, Crown lands, Suez Canal shares, and other interest yielding investments and miscellaneous sources of income, helping to swell out the total to the extent of about £1,575,000. Surely £51,000,000 is a terrible toll of taxation for the people of this country to pay in so short a period to uphold its Imperial might; but great though the figure is it is not enough by a good deal, and the Government is always behind hand, never having the interest on the public debt ready at the due date. On September 30 last, for instance, the shortage came to £5,388,000, part of which will have to be borrowed from the Bank of England, so that the interest on the debt may not be in default, in spite of the fact that the balances of the Exchequer in the Banks of England and Ireland were £6,367,000. It is never safe to reduce these much below £3,000,000. The Treasury is in this position, in spite of the fact that it borrows continuously in order to feed the various extravagancies, instituted principally by the zealous activity in spending displayed by our fighting organisations.

During the six months, for instance, £18,450,000 has been raised by various forms of debt. All this is not new or additional debt, for about £12,720,000 of the money raised for supply has been refunded, leaving the nett increase in that form of floating debt at £2,000,000, but the Treasury has received £2,980,000 under the Exchequer bond issue made last April and £750,000 as money borrowed under the Naval and Military Works Act. It has thus spent at least £3,730,000 more than the revenue, and at most about £6,000,000, and as the end of the year approaches it will have to borrow and borrow again in order to make ends meet, trusting to the larger receipts of the final quarter of the year to bring the account out approximately straight. What, then, would be the position of the Treasury if by reason of a financial upset, or some grave interference with the even course of the country's trade, the revenue for the final quarter of the year were to fall short of expectation? How would the floating debt, still between £70,000,000 and £80,000,000, then be dealt with? Where are the resources that the Treasury can fall back upon? It has no assets that it can pledge—nothing but waste ironclads to sell and discarded guns. And it lives on credit while spending over £150,000,000 per annum.

MR. F. W. HORNER, M.P., AND "TRUTH."

Surely Mr. F. W. Horner, M.P., does not think that his fellow-countrymen will be satisfied by the intimation he has sent round to the Press to the effect that he had again commenced an action against *Truth*. He did the same when *Truth* told the story of his remarkable transactions with cheques on previous occasions and nothing came of it. Does he still imagine that the mere initiation of proceedings is going to silence people's tongues and still more to stop the Press from making any allusions to the astonishing further history of his financial exploits unfolded in this week's *Truth*. If he does he must be taught his mistake. The scandal has gone too far to be allowed to be covered over by any such coward's expedient. If Mr. Horner has been straightforward in his dealings with cheques it will be the easiest thing possible for him to confound the editor of *Truth* and all detractors by setting forth the facts without delay of an hour. To ignore the accusations made, and to all appearance proved, against him and merely issue a writ is in the circumstances an impudent mockery of the public conscience and common business decency. Were he an entirely private person this might not matter so much; the remedy of those who allege that he has defrauded them would lie along the ordinary channels of justice; but Mr. Horner is a member of Parliament, and therefore a public personage of a sort, a man whose conduct reflects upon the representative honour of the body to which he belongs. It is simply intolerable that the facts circumstantially detailed in the current number of *Truth* should be dodged and run away from by the mere expedient of a libel action. We are warranted in calling it an expedient by what has happened in the past. What the public wants to know now is whether Mr. Horner did cash cheques which were returned dishonoured, and whether these cheques are still unpaid. Is it true that he got £89 17s. from the proprietor of the Grand Hotel de Londres at Monte Carlo, and have the succeeding incidents been adequately described in the subjoined letter sent by the proprietor to Colonel Lockwood and quoted by *Truth*?

Mr. Horner has never been a client at my hotel, but having been presented to me by one of my clients, an American gentleman, he profited by that to ask me to cash him a cheque of £89 17s., drawn by Mr. C. A. Butcher, and endorsed by Mr. Horner, who assured me that the cheque was all right, and will be paid on presentation. I know that the position of English Member of Parliament must be a good one, and in this conviction I cash Mr. Horner's cheque with good faith on the 10 of June last.

A few days after Mr. Horner wrote me a letter from Italy to tell me that he has just flashed that his cheque may not be good, and asking me to keep it, that he would arrange the matter as soon as he got back to London. I had already cash this cheque, and it was returned to me unpaid about 14 days. I informed Mr. Horner immediately. He telegraphed he would come a few

days later to Monte Carlo to settle the matter. He came ready to Monte Carlo, but he did not come to see me. After several days he telegraphed again from London that he would come such a day and arrange his matter. He has come again, but again he did not come to see me. His entire behaviour is the one of a swindler. If I do not get satisfaction from him within one week, I shall ask my lawyer in London to make a complaint against Horner at the court of justice, and sue him criminally. His letters and telegrams prove sufficiently his bad faith.

I shall be very thankful to you if you can do anything for me in this matter.

Is it further true that he persuaded the proprietor of an hotel in Aix-les-Bains to cash a cheque for £162, which cheque was dishonoured and is not yet paid? Did Mr. Horner obtain £196 15s. from Mr. Max Hess, a banker at Bad-Nauheim, on cheques which have not yet been met? To dodge around and say that mistakes have occurred, that signatures have been wanting, and so on, will not do. Mr. Horner must face the music or take the consequences.

THE TIMES BOOK CLUB.

In the October number of the *Book Monthly* Mr. James Milne touches upon the excitement produced in the publishing world by this new move of the *Times*, but does not, except by implication, attempt to give judgment thereon. If it has come to stay, and as readers of books we hope it has, the Times Book Club seems destined to effect one more revolution in the publishing trade. We were sceptical before the thing started, but the manner in which the books are supplied, the promptitude and, so far, unfailing regularity of deliveries we confess have conquered, and we are not much concerned whether the *Times* coerces the publishers or not while new books are furnished to order for inspection with the readiness now shown. No labels are pasted on the covers, each volume comes in a nice paper box, and if kept clean by readers ought, when otherwise desirable, to be an excellent commodity to purchase at half-price after it has gone through the allotted probation. But what are the publishers going to do, and the booksellers, when confronted with this new method of distributing books and of selling them at an apparent loss? They, for one thing, cannot hope to continue to produce and sell books at the high prices hitherto fashionable. Mr. Milne, indeed, indicates the direction in which competition must proceed if the trade of bookselling as well as that of book-lending is not before long to be monopolised by the *Times* and other similar agencies which will doubtless be started in imitation. He instances the revolution which came about after the stoppage of the three-volume novel. It was but the other year when the book-lending libraries, finding themselves in danger of bankruptcy through this one source of expense, agreed to stop the purchase of any more three-volume novels. At the time it was thought by many that this resolution would be equivalent to a decree of extinction for the greater number of those who had provided the literary matter out of which three-volume novels had been manufactured. But the 6s. novel, which took the place of the old three-volume one, has multiplied to an extent that gives scope, and we believe revenue, to a far greater number of writers than ever existed under the old fashion.

Without alluding to the cause of the change, Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, in some interesting literary reminiscences which he contributes to this same number of the *Book Monthly*, draws a striking picture of the different conditions under which authors work to-day compared to those prevalent when he began his career as one of the lieutenants of Dickens some half-century ago. Probably the publishers will now be forced to take a further step in the direction of cheapening books to the buyer. Why cannot they imitate the French and produce new novels in paper covers at 2s. 6d. or 3s.? The so-called cloth binding is an expensive encumbrance which might very conveniently be abolished, and other books for which there is now no chance of a large sale might also be issued in the first instance with merely a paper wrapper at prices much below

those now exacted. For book buying is certain to be stimulated by an institution like the Times Book Club. Most of the volumes sent out by it will really be skimmed over or dipped into by the readers with a view to discover whether the work is worthy of being added to their libraries or not, and if the book is thought worth buying at all it will be an irresistible temptation to put down an order for it to be delivered at a future date at half the published price. Publishers may not suffer by this change, even though the *Times* does coerce or persuade them to sell books to it at a price far below that quoted to the trade. Booksellers, however, are bound to suffer and may find their occupation in great measure gone unless they can persuade the publishers to put them upon the same terms as the *Times*. If this is done, however, the price of a book must come down at first hand to the retail buyer, and we shall have all the old mischiefs of the discount system again rampant in an accentuated form. It will be as bad in the book publishing trade as in music publishing, with unpleasant consequences to all concerned; therefore, we think that Mr. Milne has indicated the true method of meeting the new circumstances which the enterprise of the *Times* has brought into existence. Books will have to be offered to the public at lower prices from the start, so as to extend the temptation to buy them when first issued to whole classes of people who dare not now indulge in any such extravagance. To help in reducing the price, the heavy boards will, first of all, have to be discarded, so that book producers may be able to put their wares on the market at the lowest attainable cost. A great impetus should in this way be given to the book binding trade in its higher departments. The majority of books are not worth even cloth boards, and those that prove to be good will be put into better, more sumptuous and durable casings by their owners. These seem to be the legitimate deductions from the success which appears to be attending this Times Book Club, and seeing that we have criticised it in advance, it is only fair now to admit that the lines on which the Club is worked are deserving of nothing but commendation. How it is to pay the *Times* we do not yet know, but we trust it will at least lose nothing by the enterprise, for we never before encountered a library so handy and accommodating. Its only defect is that it leaves the magazines out, but as the heavier of these are not nowadays read much, not the English ones at least, the omission is of no consequence.

A TRUST IN IRON AND COAL SHARES.

PLEASE NOTE.—To prevent misconception about these trusts we have to state that they are never drawn up to further private or personal interests. When this Review was started in 1892, we gave a pledge that it would never be used to "work the market" in any sense, and that pledge has been faithfully kept; therefore neither the conductors nor any brokers or speculators in the City have any interest in the stocks named in our "model trusts" the stocks in which are selected week by week wholly on their intrinsic qualities as far as known, and we publish the selections solely as a guide to serious investors in using their own judgment, not as a means of working off upon the public stocks bought and held for the rise.

Prosperity and adversity in the iron and steel trade seem to come in cycles; and as the tide appears to have turned definitely towards the former it may be worth while for investors to look at the securities in this and allied industries, and we have accordingly selected a few of the best for our model trust. The average yield on these works out at about £6 7s. 6d per cent., a rate which indicates without any need for emphasis on our part that the shares are of a speculative character, and any investment in them should, therefore, be kept within a moderate figure. Although the Weardale Steel, Coal, and Coke Company has not done so well in recent years, it has always managed to pay the minimum dividend of 6 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares, and its works are in such a condition that it should be able to take full advantage of the revival in trade. Clayton and Shuttleworth are, if anything, in a rather better position, and now that the directors appear to have recognised the necessity for accumulating a proper reserve there seems to be a

prospect that the balance-sheet will be improved. The South Hetton Coal Company was reconstructed in 1898, and has in its time paid fine dividends, at the same time giving some attention to the question of reserve. Another thing in its favour is that its mines lie in the district which has experienced the most pronounced recovery in business. North's Navigation Collieries, too, have done well, at any rate since 1899, paying dividends ranging from 10 per cent. up to 30 per cent., and even for the past year, when trade was far from good the company paid 10 per cent. William Cory and Son come at the other end of the trade, having their origin in an amalgamation of several firms of coal factors, merchants, lightermen, &c., and in addition they are interested in the retail coal trade through their holding of the ordinary share capital of Rickett-Cockerell, and Co. Fluctuations in the business of all these undertakings are, of course, inevitable, and while the outlook so far as can be seen at present is encouraging enough, investors who decide to adopt this trust should remember to keep themselves well posted on the course of trade.

	Nominal Amount	Price.	Divi- dend.
	£	£	£ s. d.
100 Weardale Preferred Ordinary shares.....	100	106½	6 0 0
10 South Hetton Coal Ordinary shares.....	100	175	10 0 0
100 Clayton and Shuttleworth Ordinary shares.....	100	100	6 0 0
20 Wm. Cory and Son Ordinary shares.....	100	155	10 0 0
20 North's Navigation Collieries shares.....	100	122½	10 0 0
	500	658½	42 0 0

GEDULD PROPRIETARY MINES.

Acting upon the advice of Messrs. A. Goerz and Co., managers of this company, the directors applied recently to the Transvaal Government for permission to re-locate the company's mynpacht. In a circular they now inform shareholders that the application has been granted. It is added that the board considers it important in the interests of the company to retain the services of Messrs. A. Goerz as technical managers beyond March, 1906, the date when the present agreement expires, "and this whether it shall be ultimately decided to float subsidiary companies or to retain and work the yet unfloat ground, a question which is engaging the board's serious attention." Accordingly, the directors have entered into an agreement with Messrs. Goerz to continue technical managers until March, 1911. This provides that should the directors decide not to form further subsidiaries, but let the Proprietary Company work the unfloat area itself, Messrs. A. Goerz will be allotted (in substitution of a 10 per cent. share of the vendor consideration in any new company) twelve shares in the Proprietary for each claim unfloat, the 400 Geduld "A" shares held by the managers being surrendered by them free of cost. The motive for this may not be as clear as noonday, but it looks as if the managers of this show have no confident hopes that the floating of subsidiaries would be successful. This would be a most reasonable opinion, looking to the attitude of the public towards all South African ventures. Up to the present the Geduld Proprietary has floated a couple of subsidiaries—the North Geduld and Central Geduld—and it has long been understood that four or five more were to be floated when there seemed a likely chance that the public would come forward and absorb. As investors show no disposition whatever to sink fresh money in South African mines, new or old, and are eager to get rid of the unprofitable stuff they hold, the directors of the Geduld are probably discerning enough to see that such a chance may never come. Hence this bowing to necessity. It would not do to

confess such a view except within the four walls of the board room. To admit it in the hearing of the public might cause the utter collapse of the frail edifice of the Kaffir market. And as some plausible excuse for the policy was necessary, what better could there be than that of the economical plea? "As one of the results of this alteration the company and its subsidiaries own a rectangular block, the boundaries of which agree much better than did the old ones, with the assumed contour of the reef. Another important advantage gained by the rearrangement is that the property can now be worked with two large hauling shafts less than formerly contemplated, thus effecting a large saving in capital expenditure." This anxiety on the part of the mine bosses to economise is not so wonderful as it seems. Could they feel assured they could get from the public what sums of money they chose to ask for, they would spend it in the old prodigal fashion. But as it is as difficult in these times to entice money out of the pockets of investors as to draw blood out of stones, there is nothing for it but to eke out existing resources as long as they can be eked. It would not do for directors and officials of all kinds to lose their jobs. They are too human voluntarily to submit to such sacrifices. Hence the wisdom, from their standpoint, of curtailing capital expenses. The money should now last the longer for fees and salaries. Were such economy practised solely in the interests of shareholders, why is the habit so new? How is it that boards and managers see so suddenly directions in which expenses can be reduced? Is it merely a remarkable coincidence that the discovery synchronises with the indisposition of the public to take up new shares in new companies? We do not think so. This assumed eagerness to be thrifty is nothing new in recent months. It is not exhibited by one company or one group. All are falling into line, as though the bosses had resolved upon a common policy as one way of trying to impress outsiders with their hypocritical altruistic aspirations. But the public are not in the mood to be deceived.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: GELDENHUIS DEEP.

The Geldenhuis Deep was the pioneer of deep level mining on the Rand. Its first crushings were awaited with considerable anxiety, as they were to demonstrate to the world whether it would be possible or not to make deep level mining pay. The first results of milling were very disappointing, for which various explanations were given at the time, the chief being the absorption of appreciable quantities of gold by the new plates. It is exactly ten years ago that crushing commenced, and the South African market was in a state of excitement. Bosses and market punters alike felt that a vast deal depended upon the results of working the Geldenhuis Deep. If they demonstrated that deep level mining would not pay, then the Rand mining industry would be short-lived, for the outcrops would be worked out in a few years. In the three months to the end of December, 1895, 100 stamps milled 24,640 tons, but the value per ton was only 18s. 1d., and as the working costs were 28s. 9d. per ton the operations resulted in a loss of 10s. 8d. per ton or over £13,000. In the following year, however, there was a great improvement, for 144,062 tons were dealt with at a profit of 6d. per ton, since when it gradually increased until the maximum profit of 23s. per ton was reached in 1899. The first dividend was paid in December, 1897, at the rate of 30 per cent., followed by 75 per cent. in 1898, 40 per cent. in 1899 and 1902, 45 per cent. in 1903, and 65 per cent. in 1904. The question is, will the company in the future distribute much higher dividends than the 65 per cent. paid last year? They probably will be higher, but it is doubtful whether they will be such as to remunerate the buyer of the shares even at the present comparatively low market prices. For one thing, the whole of the battery was not working last year, an average of 180 stamps being in operation out of the complete mill of 200 stamps. Although the company crushed 8,151 tons less than in 1903, the nett

profit was £58,128 better. This was the effect of an improvement of nearly 4s. 5d. per ton in the yield and a decrease of nearly 4d. per ton in the working costs. It shows, then, that the quality of the ore mined was appreciably better? No. There was an improvement in the grade, but it was only .23 dwts., the higher results being due to a better extraction in the cyanide works consequent upon the enlargement of the capacity of the plant. Again, the sands plant is being added to, so a further improvement may be expected in this direction. Costs were certainly low for such a mine—only 19s. 8d. per ton—but the profit was also comparatively low—18s. 5d. per ton—against 19s. 11d. per ton in 1898 and 23s. in 1899, but it was higher than in 1901, 1902, and 1903. There is little likelihood of the costs being reduced appreciably below the present figure, nor do we look for a much higher yield per ton of ore treated. For some months past the whole of the 200 stamps have been working. Three tube mills have been ordered, and it is hoped that two of these will be working by the end of the year, but it is premature to forecast what the effect will be. In the past three months the profits have fluctuated greatly. For the long months of July and August they were £15,000 and £13,350 respectively against £18,150 for June, so it is impossible to say what the aggregate will be by the end of the year. Last month's low figures are officially attributed to increased working costs and a falling off in quality. On last year's dividend the yield is about 6½ per cent. With 200 stamps the life may be anything between 20 and 30 years. Let us calculate it at 26 years. On the investment of £100 the return would be £169, leaving £69 for dividends, or a little over 2½ per cent. per annum, after allowing for commission and fees. As £2 10s. would have to be set aside annually for redemption of the principal, the nett yield would be about 4 per cent. Should the dividends average 80 per cent. for the remainder of the mine's life the nett yield would be raised to 5½ per cent. after allowing for redemption. It must, however, be borne in mind that the price is very low now compared with the past. Up to the end of June of this year the extreme quotations were 11½ and 10, and in 1904 they were 12 and 9½. Those, therefore, who bought at such high figures are not likely to find the share a paying investment.

DUAL DIRECTORIAL CONTROL: PREPOSTEROUS PLEAS.

At the general meeting of the shareholders in the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, held in Johannesburg at the latter end of August, the chairman dealt at some length with the various expressions of opinion made at the meeting of European shareholders held in London in July. At this meeting the directors of the company, particularly those residing in the Transvaal, were subjected to considerable criticism. One important point raised was that the real control of the company should be transferred to London, a most reasonable request, it seems to us. But, it is not surprising to learn, the answer of the local directors is, "It is practically impossible to efficiently control a company like ours from London. . . . In order to keep the directors fully informed, the general manager would have to neglect his actual mining duties and occupy a considerable portion of his time in writing long and laborious reports, greatly to the detriment of the real interest of the shareholders." This is a ludicrous objection. It is one of the primary duties of a general manager to write reports. If he is not the man to write them, who is? Do the directors write technical reports? Is it not the practice adopted by nine hundred and ninety-nine companies out of every thousand for managers to write them for the benefit of shareholders? This is the first time we have heard it declared that a general manager would neglect his duties by writing reports. Would it be to the real interest of the shareholders if he were not to do this, and keep them in the dark as to what was happening? Would it be to their interest for local directors just to drop in the general manager's office now and then and learn from

him verbally how things were going on, whilst the main body of shareholders learnt little or nothing? Would he not be neglecting his duty by chatting over a cigar and a glass of "cham" to gossiping directors? In fact more time is likely to be wasted in gossip than in writing, and the plea of the chairman is ridiculous. This, however, does not complete his egregious argument. "Indeed," he went on to say, "no man who was not a competent letter writer could for long retain the post of general manager without much friction with the London board. Some of the most successful mine managers I have known have been shockingly poor writers. The adoption of the recommendation made by some of the European shareholders would be a clear case of sacrificing the substance for the shadow. It would mean replacing a control that is suggestive and helpful by one which would, in the nature of things, be harassing and vexatious. It is impossible for directors 6,000 miles away to judge whether a mine is well or badly managed, provided the general manager is a plausible letter writer. All they can know of the property must come through the general manager, with the result that they are completely in his hands. A little consideration of the subject will, I think, convince shareholders that to remove the control to London would be a very unwise step to take in their own interest." A general manager may not be a brilliant literary man, a stylist, but, at any rate, he must necessarily be educated and cultured, know something of grammar, and be able to write a letter or report that could be comprehended by the average director, who knows as much about mining as a guinea-pig, who cares as much for style as a miser, and whose studies in literature are confined to market reports in the suborned Press. If some of the most successful mine managers have been shockingly poor writers, what more do directors and shareholders desire? They want such able scientific men, not writers of *belles lettres* to illiterate guinea-pigs, and a general manager who knows his business would not be harassed by the constant supervision and advice of lay directors. It would be an insult to him, just as it would be an insult to them if he were to advise them on their own business. The only business engaged in by the majority of directors is share rigging and gambling, which is assuredly not in the interests of shareholders. Why there should be friction between a board of directors and a manager who was no competent letter writer it is impossible to imagine. Directors are not appointed because they are literary critics. Few could give the necessary qualifications. They are appointed to engage competent servants; and when they have chosen men of experience and reputation they must put their trust in them until such trust shall be forfeited. Therefore, as it is the duty of a mine manager to take sole charge of a mine, the directors and shareholders "must be completely in his hands." Why should the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates be an exception? And why should this company have a London board and a London committee, in addition to a local directorate? If the local men are so clever and the London men so unnecessary and useless why should the shareholders pay the double lots of fees? This cannot be reconciled with the alleged anxiety to look after "the real interests of the shareholders." If the control be at Johannesburg a small transfer office and a clerk or two are alone needed on this side. Upon whose reports do the London directors have to rely?—upon those of the literary (?) local directors or those written by an illiterate general manager? What work can the London board do beyond that of discussing reports from South Africa? Does this dual control ease the work of management, or make it more cumbrous and costly? Is it not an unnecessary and wasteful expenditure of money which otherwise might help to give shareholders a dividend? But would that not mean a stoppage of fees? And would not shareholders rather pay fees to wealthy ornaments than see them reduced to sixpenny cigars? That is the real fear, we fancy, not the fear that a

capable general manager cannot write letters or do his work without being pestered by the supervision and advice of Mr. Abe Bailey and his fellow directors. No expert of reputation and of dignity would submit to such. If he does his work skilfully, honestly, and successfully nothing else is wanted. Instead of talking nonsense, directors would be looking after the real interests of shareholders if they practised thrift.

THE RAND INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

We hesitated much before deciding to print the letter signed by the chairman of this occult company, but at last came to the conclusion to let it appear as an illustrative document. It in no sense deserves to be printed as a reply to the criticisms published in our issue of the 16th ult. We then complained of the absence of a balance-sheet, and no balance-sheet reached us. Nor was any information furnished about the capital of the company, paid up or other, the ratio of expenses to gross receipts, or any other vital element in the composition of the affair. Therefore the chairman's letter in no way answers the criticisms of *THE INVESTOR'S REVIEW*. It wears the appearance of being nothing better than an attempt to secure a gratuitous advertisement, and as we, with the opinion we entertain, would not publish any advertisements of the concern at any price, the men in control must not think us unreasonable in intimating to them that there is no space in our columns for any more efforts of the kind printed this week. When they can supply to the full the facts and statistics we ask for, and indicate how and where the money entrusted to them is invested, we shall be only too pleased to make the information public.

"BANKET" SHARE PEDDLERS.

Some months ago we gave tables, which we took from the City columns of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, showing how eager were the insiders, in the persons of Mr. Abe Bailey, his nominees, and others, likewise those Rhodesian companies that helped to float Mr. Bailey's creation, to off-load their valuable (?) paper on the backs of the public. They are still getting rid of it with feverish haste, despite the reports of Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Garthwaite and sensational telegraphic "finds" on the Rowdy Boys claims. It is impossible to believe that this comes from an altruistic aspiration to enrich strangers. It comes from a most ordinary love of ready pelf, not from an impatience to await the results of mining work on the wonderful Eldorado and the Rowdy Boys property. At the present tortoise speed of development and shaft sinking the directors and their grandchildren may all be dead and buried before the company can hope to crush on a payable scale some of this marvellous conglomerate stuff, and, being human, they desire to make and enjoy their fortunes during their lifetimes. Far larger and speedier fortunes are to be made out of market rigging and selling to the pelf-hungry than out of a "banket" property in Rhodesia; hence the gentlemen seek to make them whilst the public delusion lasts. The *Pall Mall* publishes a further table showing the extent of the "shop" selling up to date, as follows:—

	Original.	Feb., 1905.	May, 1905.	Sept., 1905.
Abe Bailey	154,393	..	500	500
August Ries.....	114,393	61,988	45,000	{ About 33,000
Ex. Abe Bailey.	40,000	18,025	25	..
Arthur Everitt ..	20,000	14,400	14,400	12,900
Lomagunda Development.....	45,000	34,950	33,250	33,250
Rhodesia Exploration.....	42,000	34,000	26,350	26,300
Scottish Mashonaland.....	8,000	6,500	6,500	250
Oscar Michael.....	10,000	10,000	455	420
Totterdell and Smith.....	4,500	4,500	50	..
Harold Potter.....	18,000	..	12,425	{ About 7,000
Smart and Gamidge.....	..	..	..	..

It will be seen that Mr. Abe Bailey still has his "heavy" holding of 500 shares. Mr. August Ries and Mr. Arthur Everitt are his nominees, and though the first named has reduced his holding from 114,393

to about 33,000, Mr. Everitt has parted even with the 25 he held last May, and one can easily imagine the painful reluctance with which he must have sold them. Mr. Harold Potter, who received his original holding of 4,500 from Mr. Everitt, has also relieved himself from the burden of carrying a single share, whilst Mr. Oscar Michael has now a modest 250. The vendor companies have not been so eager in lightening their loads, but as the shareholders will have to bear eventual losses that is of little concern to private interests. Since May some 25,000 shares have been sold by the insiders, bringing the total number off-loaded since the inception of the company up to 175,000 shares. These have been got rid of at enormous premiums, for they are not sold when the market is dull, only when rigging is in full swing. Who have been buying? Not the "shop"; so outsiders, be they West-End gamblers or *bonâ fide* speculative investors throughout the country, will bitterly regret their greed and their folly. Certain financial organs and editors have encouraged and advised their readers to buy, and thus have assisted the inside robbers. Why? What have they stood to gain personally by stooping to tout? How do they manage to inspire the confidence of their readers in their honesty and ability? These men know that such rigging cannot last for ever; that few people must gain, the multitude lose. The losers are not usually those "running the show." Look at the ingenious use they made of the delay in publishing Mr. Garthwaite's report. How they rushed the price up and spread rumours that the report would be favourable! What was paid to get these rumours printed? Will this further lesson be lost on the public? And will the dupes of the financial Press be warned of their treacherous guides for all time? Not a bit of it. They think the tipping Press "in th' know," and despise facts.

THE DEBT OF JAPAN.

Count Okuma has been quite frank with his countrymen in laying before them what war means to the nation in money, in capital devoured. Speaking in Tokio before the Congress of Associated Chambers of Commerce, he stated that when the troops have all come home the cost of the war will have raised the debt of Japan to 2,500,000,000 yen, which is considerably more than £250,000,000, and that the interest charges upon this debt will amount to 150,000,000 yen, or over £15,000,000 per annum, "or nearly twice the amount of Japan's revenue ten years ago." Before the war the per head taxation of the people was 4 yen; now it is 12, or roughly a rise from 8s. to 24s. per annum, the capital burden of the debt being now fully £5 per head compared with 24s. per head before the war. The Count was none the less cheerful about the future, confident in the ability of Japan to carry the suddenly added load and flourish beneath it. We hope his confidence will be justified by events, but obviously if Japan is to advance in spite of her suddenly piled up new burden it must be mainly by an immense expansion in her foreign trade. The internal resources of her very poor population will not suffice, nor is there time to develop them to a degree adequate to the country's wants. Therefore we infer that the pressure of this debt and of the greatly augmented general charges of the Empire certain to follow the war must compel the Government and people to open up and rapidly develop their foreign commerce. That they can do this with Manchuria and Korea both in their hands and with China eager to put herself under their tutelage we do not doubt, but the competition is going to be keen as European merchants and manufacturers will soon discover. After some years there may be enough trade for all, but in the process of apportionment sure to go on with vehemence some competitors may be driven to the wall, and for a time Japan and China promise to offer free scope to the Western moneylender and to hardly anyone else. Only by the outpouring of new capital can the machinery of progress be started and kept running.

Passing Events.

According to a correspondent of the *Financial Times*, recent activity in the shares of the Scotch oil companies is due to discoveries which will, it is stated, revolutionise the process of shale oil refining. The claims put forward by the patentee are the abolition of chemicals, two distillations instead of three, 20 per cent. increased yield, and improved quality of all products. Results anything like these would have a very important bearing on the future of the industry, and shareholders will be anxious for further details. The managing directors of the various companies, or some of them, are said to have been favourably impressed with the results laid before them by the inventor, Dr. Macalpine, but as the annual exports are not due for a long time yet, proprietors may have to wait patiently for full particulars.

A first instalment of £250,000 on account of the Barcelona Tramways purchase has been paid over to the company, and notice has been given for the redemption of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stock. A further sum of £50,000 has been set aside to meet the liability to the holders of the 5 per cent. debentures (1888). On completion of the necessary formalities and payment of the remaining instalment of £387,000 proceedings will be taken for the voluntary liquidation of the company, when shareholders, no doubt, will receive the amount of the purchase consideration to which they are entitled.

The latest banking amalgamation is that of the private firm of Hedges, Wells, Morrell, Arding and Co., of Wallingford, with Lloyds Bank, Limited, which is thus continuing the policy of expansion now so popular with all the big institutions, whose desire it seems to be to concentrate all the banking business of the country into few hands. Apparently the institution to be absorbed is quite a small one, and has a note issue of £17,064, which will now lapse.

The attempt to join all the Welsh anthracite coal-fields into one huge combine has failed, at any rate temporarily, and it will not matter much if no more is heard of the project, as these great amalgamations usually come to a bad end. In the present case the promoters of the scheme dropped it because the prices asked for the properties by the various owners were so exorbitant that the new company, when launched, must have been so enormously over-capitalised that disaster was a foregone conclusion. We suppose there was no chance of adding on a good, fat intermediate profit, and still give the thing a respectable appearance, so that there was nothing for it but to let it go. No one need weep, because the £500,000 to be put into the new enterprise was not going to be handed over for nothing or even a little.

In a circular issued by the directors of the East Fingall Gold Mines is the following delightful sentence:—"The position is such that the directors are advised, and unanimously concur in the view, that the work should be more energetically pushed on to thoroughly open and develop the mine as rapidly as possible, and with that object they offer to the shareholders the opportunity of subscribing at par for 103,678 shares, being the unissued capital. Each shareholder can claim his right to an allotment of one share in respect of each three shares held by him." As this company was formed in 1902, and was reconstructed in 1904, it is a remarkable conclusion to come to that energy must be shown in developing the mine. We can understand, however, that energy can be paralysed without cash, and the shareholders certainly show no anxiety to supply this aid to physical exertion. Nor is the gentle intimation of the directors likely to stir them up to the enthusiasm that will open their purses widely.

Another mysterious fire at a Rand mine! The unfortunate company this time is the Ginsberg, of the Barnato group. It is stated that the mill and power station have been totally destroyed, and the damage is estimated at £100,000. The directors announce that they propose hiring a neighbouring mill, but the

shareholders will have to suffer much loss none the less. This, of course, will modify our calculations of life and yield in our article on the company, published on August 19. "Cause not known," says the cable. Nor, seemingly, has the cause of the recent outbreak at the Wolhuter mine been ascertained. Our suggestion at the time of this incident, that it was the work of Chinese incendiaries, may be true, therefore, otherwise some explanation would have been forthcoming by now. This later fire may also be the work of the coolies, driven to desperation and revenge, and, if so, it is likely to be followed by similar outrages. If they will murder women and children they will certainly burn, if they can, the property belonging to their merciless taskmasters.

A meeting of a Madagascar gold mining company—the Lyons Madagascar Exploitation Syndicate—has just been held at Lyons. The accounts for 1904; it appears, showed a profit of 25,290 francs, or considerably less than the profit of the previous year, the decline being attributed to several temporary circumstances. But the report of the directors shows that the results of mining operations have been very irregular, with poor yields. For instance, the Andre-mari reefs, which at first appeared likely to lead to the formation of an important and profitable concern, "are so irregular in depth that a great part of them would be unworkable." M. Dagontin reserves his opinion on the possibility of profitable operations. He sailed from Tamatave on 3rd inst., and as the field is a very complicated one he will need, it is said, some time to draw up his report. This is additional evidence that Madagascar is not likely to gain renown as a gold field, and should be another warning to investors not to put any money in its mining industry.

With regard to the modifications in the mining laws now in preparation, the report of the directors of the Lyons Madagascar Exploitation Syndicate says:—"We have acted in agreement with the companies having the same interests in Madagascar, and we have tried to demonstrate to the Ministry that the proposed modifications would lead to the complete stoppage of the mining movement in Madagascar and the ruin of small undertakings, and, as a consequence, would cause enormous damage to the colony, whose only real source of wealth is its gold." This is not a disinterested opinion, and looking back upon recent episodes, it would be no calamity if the mining movement in this island did stop. For one thing, it would mean less loss to individuals other than to those who "salt" properties, and the people for whom they practise such frauds. If it ruins those small undertakings that become very big ones when promoters try to sell them to the public so much the better. And if the only source of the colony's wealth is its gold, it must be terribly poor; indeed, as valueless as a sandy desert.

Just as we anticipated, the shareholders in the Ashanti Sansu have not been eager to subscribe to the new issue of debentures proposed by the directors, and we commend them for their common sense. Nevertheless, the directors, in spite of this rebuff, do not intend to throw up the sponge. "The only practicable course open," say they, "is to reconstruct the company." But to propose reconstruction and to induce shareholders to support it with their cash, are not equal tasks, and though the proposal may leave little to be desired, and may even be approved of at a meeting, it will be of no practical help if shareholders would rather forfeit their shares than pay an assessment. Nor will it make much difference to their disposition to learn that the vendor company, the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, which holds nearly one-third of the capital of the subsidiary, has agreed to reconstruction. Who in his senses would expect a disagreement so long as there was one chance left of getting a few more sovereigns from shareholders? It is proposed that the new company shall have a capital of £175,000 in 350,000 10s. shares, of which 315,000 will be required to satisfy the consideration for sale, leaving 35,000 shares for future issue. This will give a working

capital of only £12,000 after providing for the liabilities of the old company.

A ludicrous reason, which actually went down with the shareholders, was given by the chairman at Monday's meeting of Rhodesia, Limited, for registering the new company in Rhodesia. "Our primary reason," declared the chairman, "is one of economy. By registering in Rhodesia we save something like £1,500 to £2,000 in registration fees." Here is a company that has by reconstitution just wiped off losses amounting to nearly £200,000, anxious to save a paltry £1,500, and the shareholders are to forego for this price the protection which the English laws afford them. Why do the directors not raise the money they want in Rhodesia? Why come to the English public for it? Though registered in Rhodesia, however, the accounts are to be audited locally and in London, and the meetings will be held here. But if the directors are so anxious to economise they have plenty of scope in other ways—in administrative expenses, for instance. They have lost over £50,000 in bad debts to unsuccessful subsidiaries. Here is room for prudence. How can cheeseparing be reconciled with such thriftlessness as this?

Mr. A. J. McMillan, ex-managing director of the Le Roi Company, has just issued a very lengthy reply to the recent circular of the board. It shows more clearly than ever the weakness of the directorial position and strengthens the opinion we have formed that the proposed amalgamation will be against the interests of the company, and that the shareholders should keenly resent the ejection of Mr. McMillan from the board because he opposed it. It is difficult to speak of such high-handed action in calm language. Meanwhile, shareholders cannot do better than rally together and see, at any rate, that justice is done to them. In his circular Mr. McMillan gives the following figures as the holdings of the directors at the time of his removal:—Sir H. W. Tyler, 7,500 shares; A. J. McMillan, 1,430 shares; George S. Waterlow, 500 shares; and F. W. Rolt, 200 shares. In face of the tiny interests of Mr. Waterlow and Mr. Rolt, is it not preposterous for these directors to talk of Mr. McMillan opposing the interests of the shareholders? What is the risk they run? Anyway, a fight is toward. But one opponent strikes us as acting with dignity and fairness.

According to the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Financial Times*, an adjustment scheme has just been decided upon by which the Nourse Deep acquires the assets of the outcrop company, the Henry Nourse. The Nourse Deep sells thirty-three claims, underlying the Western section of the New Heriot, to that company, which will increase its battery to 100 stamps, with tube mills. The Henry Nourse mill will continue working, whilst the capitals both of the New Heriot and Nourse Deep will be increased. He says the financial details of the scheme are not yet finally settled, but he understands that the Henry Nourse shareholders will receive over 200,000 shares in the Nourse Deep.

It is well that the Imperial Council of Japan has ratified the treaty of peace with Russia. There was nothing else to do, and however disappointing the results of the war may apparently be to Japan it is infinitely better for the future of that country and its people that peace should have been concluded when it was. The war has left quite enough for the country to do, great though its undeveloped resources may be. For both combatants the aftermath will be a harvest of reaction and pain; at least, to some degree.

We are sorry for Mr. W. T. Stead, for the man is a well meaning enthusiast. He has, however, a fatal facility for advocating the wrong cause, for gluing himself on to some impossible hero to whom he becomes trumpeter, not often to the hero's ultimate advantage. In Russia he has unquestionably been doing mischief. We read the first of his effusions published by the Russian Press, in the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, while leaving that city, and marvelled at

the adroit stupidity of the man in sounding the wrong, the Imperialist, note. What call has he as an English journalist, fond of sensations though he is, to plunge himself into the vortex of Russian politics, and to take up the advocacy of despotism and bureaucratic autocracy at the very moment when all thinking Russians and millions of those who have not yet learned to think definitely, but only to feel, are determined to have done with both? So far as we can gather, the feeling amongst Russian people towards the Tsar is not one of hatred, of vengefulness, so much as of pitying tolerance. "A weak man," they say, "whose weakness is played upon until it has become a kind of haunting terror by the designing men who use his position as autocrat for their own ends." "Your leader, your saviour," bawls Mr. Stead, and is mischievously zealous in bawling. And surely it was far from good taste for him to allow the Press of Western Europe, by any hint or action of his, to suppose that he alone procured the early release of Professor Milyukoff from prison. That gentleman has administered to the fussy Englishman a well-deserved rebuke. It does not matter, perhaps, only we should be sorry to see the sympathies of Liberals here damped as a result of Mr. Stead's impulsive indiscretions. We do not want to take sides for or against the Tsar; but against a blind, heartless, blood-smeared bureaucracy, yes.

We are sorry to see it stated that General Gomez, Governor of the Santa Clara Province of Cuba, has arrived in New York with the intention of seeing Mr. Roosevelt to ask for his intervention in order that a fair election may be secured in the island. What is the meaning of this unrest in Cuba, and why should the ex-candidate of the Liberal Party there for the Presidency go to the President of the United States to ask for coercion? Are the machinations of United States financial wire-pullers tending to stir up rebellion anew in that unhappy island? We hope not, but there is something nauseatingly hypocritical in the statement of the New York correspondent of the *Times* to the effect that Cuba is degenerating into a condition similar to that which exists in other Latin-American Republics, and that the only thing which has so far prevented actual revolt appears to be the likelihood of intervention by the United States. Are politics so clean in the United States then that they can intervene with wholesome effect in the island? Is the position of Central American Republican Governments so very degenerate compared with that of the Government at Washington, of the various states composing the American Union? Really hypocrisy of this kind excites disgust.

As usual, the Sultan of Turkey is proving too many for the halting and irresolute Western Powers who are endeavouring to bring some sort of order into disturbed Macedonia and other parts of the Balkan Peninsula. They had elaborately arranged to send financial delegates to Saloniki to take control of the surrounding country, and the Sultan says, "I will not allow them." So now they have to lay their heads together again, and try to discover some other measure, or at least to concoct some new threat to be sent to the wily old man of Yildiz Kiosk, and all the while the Greeks and Bulgarians, Albanians and Turks, murder each other and lay the land waste, with nobody to say them nay.

We have not heard from the British Electric Traction Company with reference to the charges laid at its door by Mr. Gentry Bingham. Must we take its silence for an admission that it cannot rebut these charges? Surely not. The board of the company cannot have been party to any arrangement for dividing the spoil, or for ear-marking contracts in favour of its dependants. All the more regrettable is the silence.

A correspondent of the *Morning Leader* denies the accuracy of Professor James Long's figures, quoted by us last week. The average price of wheat is not, as that eminent writer said, 26s. 11d. per quarter, but 30s. English wheat forms only about one-eighth of the supply used by our millers, and "freight wheats have been ranging from 30s. to 34s. The writer of the

letter also declares the average price of bread to-day to be 4½d. and not 6d., as Professor Long alleged, and in poor neighbourhoods the 4 lb. loaf is selling at from 3½d. to 4d. So the baker is not growing rich; quite the contrary, he hardly makes a living profit. We can quite believe that the baker has to do his share of the self-denial necessary to make good the waste of capital from which the whole community is suffering, and will continue to suffer these many years to come.

Critical Index To New Investments.

JAPANESE AND EASTERN CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The programme of this company is a varied and ambitious one, the promoters stating that their primary objects are to establish a general financial and trust business for the investment of capital in Japan and the Far East generally, but mainly to aim at obtaining the financing of important undertakings, such as tramways, electric lighting, railways, &c. In carrying out these schemes the corporation intends to rely mainly on borrowed money and is content to start with a share capital of £50,000 £1 shares, of which 30,007 have been allotted, and the remainder apparently form part of an underwriting commission. It does not appear from the prospectus that definite plans have been made for the employment of any funds which may be obtained, but subscriptions are invited for no less than £1,000,000 5½ per cent. profit sharing perpetual debenture stock at a premium of 5s. for every £1 of stock. The stock is to be entitled to one moiety of the balance of nett profits available for dividend in any one year after a sum not exceeding 10 per cent. of the nett profits has been set aside for a reserve fund and a prospect of both eating the cake and having it is held out. An arrangement has been made with the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society under which in return for the payment of a single premium provided out of the extra 5s. per £1 charged, the society will repay the stock at 125 by drawings at intervals of five years between 1910 and 1990, but notwithstanding this reimbursement the stock will remain a first charge in perpetuity. This seemingly liberal provision has not obviated the necessity to pay 6½ per cent. in cash and £19,993 in shares for underwriting half of the issue and a further 1 per cent. in cash and 3 per cent. in shares on the full amount offered to the S. T. Syndicate for advertising and circulating the prospectus and paying all preliminary expenses down to the first general allotment of stock, other than brokerage and underwriting commissions and stamp duty and registration fees. We hope the Japanese like this sort of thing. We hardly do.

It is quite Scotch, though, in its humour, not to say "Aberdeen awa'." We never heard before of a "debenture" "secured" only on an insurance policy paid for by the subscriber who contributes a premium on the par of the stock by way of charity to the promoters, and whose chances of profit depend on projects unborn and Japanese tempers untried. To a fine, daring, and original leap into the unknowable like this Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, and Co. are indeed the most appropriate solicitors.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF SOMERSET.

An issue of 220 3½ per cent. debentures of £100 each are offered for subscription at par through Stuckey's Banking Company and their agents, Messrs. Roberts, Lubbock, and Co., in order to provide funds for educational purposes. The debentures will be charged upon the county fund and upon all the revenues of the County Council, and will have a currency of from one to thirty years, each bond being marked with a fixed date for repayment. Excluding the elementary education areas of the boroughs of Bridgwater, Taunton, and Yeovil, the rateable value of the county is £2,441,851 and the outstanding debt after deducting accumulated sinking funds is £131,111 in addition to

balance of £122,699 due on loans contracted by late School Boards. Trustees may invest in such of these debentures as are not liable to be redeemed within 15 years from the date of the investment, and although the issue is small the bonds should be a good enough purchase for those who do not crave for a security with a "free market."

CARDIFF CHANNEL DRY DOCKS AND PONTOON CO., LIMITED.

This company has a paid-up share capital of £175,000 and a debenture debt of £107,500, divided into £77,500 first debentures and £30,000 second "B" debentures, both bearing interest at 5 per cent., against which a reserve of £20,000 has been accumulated for the redemption of the last named. The business and properties of the Severn Dry Docks Co., Limited, were acquired recently for £65,000, and in order to repay a temporary loan from the bankers in connection with this purchase, and to provide for other expenses in connection with the development of the business, £80,000 5 per cent. debenture stock out of £100,000 created is offered at par. A valuation made last month by Messrs. Stephenson and Alexander puts the value of the properties at Cardiff, Barry, Newport, and Sharpness at £433,122 exclusive of goodwill, and other assets, according to the balance-sheet of March 31 last were worth £43,939, or a total of £477,061 so that the security seems ample for all the loan capital. Profits for the past five years, after providing for depreciation, directors' remuneration, &c., are stated to have been £138,244 or an average of £27,649, but it is admitted that last year the profits dropped to about £18,000, so that the fluctuations must have been very wide and it would therefore have been more straightforward if the annual figures had been set out in detail. Even so, however, the interest charges seem safe enough, and the new stock, which is redeemable at 105 per cent. on or before February 1, 1946, may be regarded as a fair average security.

FOUR PER CENT. INDUSTRIAL DWELLINGS CO., LIMITED.

Formed in 1885 for the purpose of providing the industrial classes with commodious and healthy dwellings at a minimum rent compatible with the yielding of a nett 4 per cent. dividend to the shareholders, this company has pursued an even course since its foundation. At present it is building a new block of tenements to be known as Navarino Mansions, Dalston, and a small block in Brady Street, Whitechapel, at a cost of about £94,000, of which £34,000 has been raised by an issue of debentures and in order to provide the balance of £60,000 required the directors invite applications for 2,400 shares of £25 each at par.

CARDIFF CORPORATION. 3½ PER CENT. REDEEMABLE STOCK.

Subscriptions will be received by the National Provincial Bank of England at par for £608,000 of this stock, which is issued for the purpose of repaying temporary loans, replacing waterworks mortgages paid off, and for the construction and equipment of electric tramways and other works. The stock is secured on the whole of the revenues of the Corporation, ranking *pari passu* with the existing redeemable stock, and may be repaid at par at any time between October 3, 1925, and 1965. On March 31 the net loan debt exclusive of the temporary advances to be paid off out of the present issue was £3,302,210, while the rateable value of the borough is only £1,096,696, but the corporation owns the waterworks, electric lighting, and tramways, all of which are revenue producing, as well as lands, buildings, &c., yielding over £12,000 per annum. The purchase price is payable £5 on application, £20 on October 18, and three instalments of £25 each on December 1, January 1, and February 1, and as a full six months' interest is payable on April 1, this will bring the cost a little below 100, against the quotation of 101½ for the old 3½ per cents.

OHLSSON'S CAPE BREWERIES, LIMITED.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, offers for sale at par £350,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. "B" mortgage debenture stock of this company. The whole amount must be paid up by February 1, 1906, when the last 45 per cent. is due, the middle payment being also 45 per cent., due on December 1 next. As usual, 5 per cent. must accompany applications, and another 5 per cent. becomes payable on allotment. The share capital of this powerful South African Brewery Company is £500,000, and there has been issued already £350,000 in first mortgage $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock, so that with the addition now made the total capital involved in the business will amount to £1,200,000, exclusive of the handsome reserve fund of £730,000 as at March 31 last. The prospectus sets forth a remarkable story of prosperity—12 per cent. dividends for the three years ended March 31, 1903, with bonuses of 23, 30, and 40 per cent. and an aggregate of £185,000 placed to reserve and 15 per cent. dividend for each of the two later years, with 25 per cent. bonus in each and £110,000 added to reserve. So the security ought to be very good of its class.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Prices again moved slightly against holders, and unless the demand shows some signs of broadening out any pronounced recovery in values seems unlikely. The strike in the Argentine at one time gave prices a slightly firmer appearance, but American markets are all distinctly easier and business can only be induced by some concession on the part of sellers. The London cargo market was dull throughout, partly on account of heavy Russian and Danube shipments, and northern centres are listless and apathetic, a little speculative dealing alone keeping markets alive. This condition of affairs is no doubt due to the good reports continually coming forward, and we gather that the English harvest now completed has turned out satisfactorily. The French yield is estimated at 42,550,000 qrs., the official figures, or sufficient for the home requirements, the Roumanian crop is the largest ever handled and rain has fallen in Russia, where there was some talk of drought. Canadian and Australian reports are also highly encouraging and Argentina promises a bumper crop. The Indian outlook alone gives cause for anxiety. Dornbusch estimates the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 1,390,000 qrs. compared with 1,540,000 qrs. last week, and to the Continent 2,255,000 qrs. against 2,120,000 qrs., but the figures were quite without influence, while Bradstreet's estimate, showing the quantity in sight east of the Rockies at 28,894,000 bushels against 25,842,000 bushels last week and 29,230,000 bushels a year ago, helped to keep prices down.

WOOL.—The market all round displays some firmness and here and there business is quite brisk, and the outlook for the winter trade is considered good. In Yorkshire top-makers who early in March offered 40's at $4\frac{1}{4}$ d. below present prices are now unwilling sellers. Spinners are willing to contract for more tops than top-makers can offer and contracting forward for a fall is slow. Crossbred spinners are more active and are purchasing to cover. In Leicester, although operations are restricted by the rates demanded by holders, inquiries are increasing and consumers show more anxiety to buy in advance of actual needs where favourable terms can be got. Sellers hold on to the restricted supplies with tenacity, as they are of the opinion that prices have not reached their maximum. Hence buying is very cautious and no encouragement is given to speculation.

LINEN.—Very little change has taken place in the conditions prevailing in this market, and the situation may be summed up in very few words. The demand for Irish yarns is still very much in excess of the production, but it is hoped that means will be found to check any further advance in quotations. Trade in manufactured goods is also well maintained and seems likely to expand considerably when once the autumn season is in full swing. A decided improvement has taken place in damasks and housekeeping linens, handkerchief manufacturers are doing more and most other branches are good, although the inquiry for brown power-loom bleaching cloths is not so brisk as it might be and the demand for cloths for dyeing purposes is only moderate.

COTTON (from our Manchester Correspondent).—The feature in the raw material during the week under review has been the slump in American cotton which took place on Wednesday last. The fall was caused by the Washington Bureau report being better as to the condition of the crop than the "bulls" anticipated. On Thursday prices steadied themselves somewhat. Lancashire spinners continue "bearish" in their operations. Latest advices of the growing crop in the States are favourable, and the same may be said with regard to the Egyptian plant. The business put through in piece goods for India has been again small; buyers are holding aloof, Luckee Day, which is fixed for Sunday next in Calcutta, is expected to be a poor one so far as business is concerned. Last year 23,000 packages were

sold, as compared with 15,000 the year before. The average sales of piece goods on that day for the past five years is 27,400. China remains for the most part inactive. The nearer markets present no feature of an encouraging character. Lancashire manufacturers are holding cloth prices very well, considering the comparatively small amount of business that has been put through during the past few months. Home trade American yarns have been dull of sale again, the total transactions of the week being considerably below the output of the spindles. Stocks of cop twist, it is said, can be met with in first hands; the margin is narrower to-day than at any time this year. Shipping yarns have moved off fairly well in 40's and 50's for India, and there has been a moderate trade done in doubled counts for Japan. Extra hard yarns for the Levant are well held. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton in the Bolton district and South Lancashire continue steady in the superior qualities, but the commoner kinds are rather in favour of the buyer.

In New York a heavy drop in cotton was the main incident at the opening of the week, the decline being the result of bearish cables and an anticipated bearish weekly Government crop report. There was a partial recovery on a bullish Census Bureau ginners' report. Further weakness developed on disappointing cables, liquidation, and selling by houses with New Orleans connections. In fact, persistent bear pressure caused quite a slump, quotations falling between thirty and forty points. After considerable fluctuations toward the end of the week prices have recovered a little and the position is steadier. Egyptian cotton has been weaker in sympathy with America. Futures are quoted at the close:—October-November, 5.30d.; November-December, 5.34d.; December-January, 5.37d.; Jan.-February, 5.40d.; February-March, 5.42d.; March-April, 5.44d.; April-May, 5.46d.; May-June, 5.48d.; June-July, 5.49d.; July-August, 5.50d.

COAL.—The outlook for the coal market is becoming brighter. House coal especially is much stronger, and big freights have been leaving the north for London and the Eastern Counties. In the steam and gas coal departments, on the other hand, trade has not been so brisk. In Wales there is much discussion going on in regard to the labour situation and the possibility of a strike. The general opinion is that the matter will be settled without recourse to any such conflict. In Cardiff latest quotations are:—Best large steam, 12s. 9d.; best seconds, 12s. to 12s. 6d.; seconds, 11s. 6d. to 11s. 9d. At Swansea the anthracite market is firm and export and import business is satisfactory.

COPPER.—Business has been on a pretty large scale, and prices were again distinctly firm at the opening under the influence of satisfactory American advices and a fair trade demand. This induced rather vigorous "bear" covering, something like 1,500 tons changing hands on Tuesday, and quotations went further ahead, but when the shorts had got in the tendency became rather unsettled. Values, however, did not recede to a noticeable extent, despite a slackening in the demand towards the end, and the close was steady at £71 17s. 6d. per ton for cash and £70 17s. 6d. for delivery three months forward. Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co. give the visible supply as 16,304 tons, against 15,875 tons a fortnight ago. Total supplies for September were 28,826 tons, and the deliveries 29,042 tons, the latter excluding 1,100 tons shipped to America. Stocks in England and France amount to 8,304 tons, against 8,975 tons on September 15, and the Chile charters for the month total 2,550 tons.

TIN.—The market opened quietly, but soon began to gather strength owing to firm Eastern advices, which enabled sellers to maintain prices at the previous high figures. The tendency was helped by moderate speculative support and considerable "bear" repurchases induced by the blocking of the Suez Canal, which may keep back supplies longer than anticipated. Later on some slackening in the demand caused quotations to become slightly easier, but the setback was soon recovered, and prices finished hard at £149 for immediate delivery and £148 for future shipment. Messrs. A. Strauss and Co. give the quantities on the spot and landing as 1,802 tons, against 2,808 tons a month ago. The monthly deliveries in London were 1,537 tons, and in Holland 1,096 tons, against 878 tons and 1,345 tons respectively for August. The Straits shipments total 4,995 tons, of which 3,360 tons are for London, 950 tons for America and 640 tons for Continent; and the visible supply is given as 14,237 tons, against 13,531 tons a month ago.

IRON AND STEEL.—The past week has shown a further improvement in the hematite trade, and buyers are becoming more numerous. Accordingly manufacturers feel themselves justified in increasing the make of iron. Stocks on hand are limited and these are mostly of special sorts. In the Midlands the steel trade is quite buoyant and makers are not only behindhand with local deliveries but they have to refuse orders from buyers who have failed to get their requirements fulfilled in the north. Manufacturers of pig-iron are also doing an active business and are, therefore, inclined to ask for higher prices. In Middlesbrough, too, the market has been very strong and active, consumers being spurred on by rapidly advancing prices and good prospects to become keen buyers, which encouraged producers to advance their quotations. A similar state of things prevails at Glasgow and the West of Scotland generally, where pig-iron warrants have been active all the week.

TEA.—Supplies of Indian tea offered this week were rather larger at 41,543 packages, but the consumption seems to be increasing and a good inquiry was experienced for all descriptions. Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson report that the advance in prices has been most pronounced in the case of teas just above

common, and from this they draw the conclusion that distributors are paying more attention to the improvement of blends. Thanks to this competition for medium and lower medium grades, the average price realised was again higher at 8.16 compared with 7.78d. a week ago and 7.23d. in 1904. Exports from Calcutta and Chittagong in the second half of September amounted to 10,740,000 lbs. against 15,316,000 lbs. last year, making a total from April 1 of 74,332,600 lbs. against 83,841,000 lbs. Only 18,792 packages of Ceylon teas were offered, and all qualities met with good support, even the commonest hardening, and the average for the week rose to 7.56d. compared with 7.48d. and 7.17d. The September exports to the United Kingdom were 8,250,000 lbs. or 590,775 lbs. over the corresponding month of 1904, and the total exports from January 1 amount to 85,870,000 lbs. against 75,607,887 lbs. last year.

SUGAR.—Recent events in Paris continue to dominate the sugar market, coupled with the uncertainty in regard to the yield of the beetroot crops just commenced. Prices have varied but slightly, and neither unfavourable weather reports nor a hurricane in Louisiana, nor a big failure in Paris was able to make much impression either way. Prices are low, but, as Mr. Czarnikow observes, speculation has received a shock, and business is more of a *bond fide* character between producers and consumers, actual sugars coming into sight. At the same time, the next crop is already offered at a moderate premium over May. The weather on the Continent has not favoured the quality or the ripening of the roots, and if it remain damp and cool the extreme estimates may not be realised. The demand for refined has continued good, but granulated is still scarce. New sugar, however, will soon be available. In America the market has been dull, with declining prices. Landings in the three ports for the week were 60,000 tons and meltings 48,000 tons, increasing stocks to 214,000 tons.

CONSULAR TRADE NOTES.

Most of the imports and exports of Formosa are naturally in the hands of Japan, which in 1904 had 73 per cent. of the total trade of South Formosa against 13 per cent. from China, 6 per cent. from the United Kingdom, 5 per cent. from America and only 1 per cent. from Germany, but, according to Mr. Consul Wileman, there would seem to be possibilities of an expansion in many directions. For instance, the extensive cultivation of rice and the planting of the Lahanne sugar cane are certain to cause a demand for simply constructed pumps of a large capacity for low lifts of about 10 to 30 ft. and requiring low power. Small, light portable rails from 9 to 14 lbs. will also be needed for the sugar fields, and later for feeders to the Government railway now being constructed, and another direction in which our manufacturers should do well is the provision of strong, light carts with tyres adapted for use in very rough country. At present the buffalo carts used to transport the cane are of the most primitive description, and have a carrying capacity when drawn by two buffaloes of 1,500 lbs. when the road is in first rate condition. When in bad condition the maximum load is 500 lbs., and even under the most favourable circumstances the rate of locomotion is one mile per hour. Simple motors provided with furnaces for burning paddy husk if for rice mills, or with bagasse furnaces if for sugar mills, are likewise needed. Kerosene engines also find a ready sale, but British imports so far have not enhanced the reputation of their manufacturers, and Americans hold the field, closely followed by Japanese with an imitation of the same machine.

With regard to the methods to be adopted for pushing British trade, the following suggestions of an Englishman described as having great practical experience in the working of rice and sugar mills, and being fully acquainted with the respective merits and demerits of both British and American machinery catalogues, are quoted by Mr. Wileman as worth consideration.

"In many instances British machinery catalogues are evidently issued only for the use of practical engineers, or for persons having a high technical knowledge, and do not compare favourably with American catalogues, which cater for farmers, contain much fuller and simpler details, and are easier of comprehension by the lay mind.

"It seems desirable that British machinery manufacturers should endeavour to improve their catalogues in a way calculated to remedy this defect and to adapt them to meet two conditions:—

"Firstly, for new markets like Formosa (or, perhaps, even like China) where machinery is but rarely employed; that is to say, for districts where the essential points to be considered are moderate prices and simplicity of construction and design, and where too many technicalities are to be deprecated on account of a possible lack of technical knowledge on the part of buyers.

"Secondly, catalogues for advanced markets, which should contain full technical details of highly finished or expensive machinery for the use of practical engineers and persons acquainted with the technicalities of machinery."

Very little Japanese tea comes into European markets, but it finds more favour in the United States than tea prepared for British consumption, and although the total production fell steadily from 63,103,429 lbs. in 1900 to 55,588,030 in 1903, the exports in the last year reached 48,239,484 lbs. valued at £1,422,535 compared with an average for the previous five years of 43,450,142 lbs. valued at £920,560. The industry is therefore one of increasing importance, and the report by Mr. Student Interpreter Phipps on the methods of cultivation and preparation is certainly interesting. According to this report the chief

producing districts lie between the 34th and 36th parallel of latitude, but tea can also be grown in suitable places as far north as 40 deg. N.C. Roughly speaking, the tea produced is divided into four classes, ranging from "hikicha," or "tencha," which is a powdered tea only used for the tea ceremony or on very State occasions, down to "bancha," consisting of last year's leaves, withered stalks, bush clippings, &c., which forms the tea of the poorest classes. The second grade in Mr. Phipps's classification is green tea, and is divided into two qualities—"gyokuro," made from bushes which have been roofed over and otherwise protected from the cold dews and the direct rays of the sun, and "sencha." This term, however, covers all qualities from the very highest down to those fetching no more than 15 sen per lb. "Bancha" is also divided into three qualities, the best being made from the leaves of the third crop, the second from stalks, leaves, &c., rejected from the better teas, and the third from the trimmings of the bushes when they are clipped after the first crop, dried in the sun.

The manufacture of black tea has not proved a success in Japan, as the leaf cannot stand the process of fermentation gone through by the Chinese variety, and the bulk of the Oolong tea shipped as Japanese comes from Formosa; the output in Japan proper being smaller even than that of black tea. No machines are used for the production of either hikicha or gyokuro, and even for sencha most of the firing and sifting, &c., is done by hand, but for the export trade machinery has almost supplanted hand labour. The remaking or preparation for shipment is chiefly done at Kobe, Yokohama and Nagasaki, but planters are now beginning to fire their own tea for export. Most of this tea is made from the first and second crops, but the third crop is sometimes used, and although the flavour is not so good it gives a hard leaf which finds a certain amount of favour in Canada.

Up to 1904 the Regency of Tunis enjoyed somewhat remarkable privileges under an arrangement with France regarding the movements of cereals between the two countries. A law passed in 1890 provided that the French President could sanction the introduction from the Regency of a certain quantity of cereals, which was fixed by the estimates of the crops. Apparently, although Mr. Consul-General Berkeley does not actually say so, this grain went in free, and as all flour and oatmeal shipped from France to Tunis received a drawback of 7 francs per 100 kilos. or 70 francs per metric ton the arrangement was decidedly advantageous for the Regency. But Tunis was importing grain from elsewhere free of duty, and it was discovered that France was paying several millions in drawbacks on flour while the wheat had paid nothing and an alteration was made, so that now all grain going into France pays 7 francs per 100 kilos., and a duty of 7 francs per 50 kilos. is charged on all flour imported into Tunis. Exports of wheat under the new scheme fell off considerably, but the general trade showed a decided improvement, thanks to the increase in exports of phosphates and zinc ore, and to a very large output of olive oil. A new French company has been formed to undertake the local manufacture of paper from esparto grass by means of a new process, which it is alleged will reduce the cost by 175 francs per ton, and should the company obtain special advantages, as seems to be probable, the exports at present amounting to about 200,000 tons per annum, almost entirely to the United Kingdom, are likely to be substantially reduced. Within recent years five important iron mines have been discovered in the north-west of Tunisia. One of these is being worked by a French company, while concessions for two more have been applied for by a Belgian syndicate, and it is asserted that between phosphates and these new iron mining developments something like 30,000,000 tons of extracts will be available for shipment within the near future.

Failure of the olive crop in 1904 accounted for a decrease of £63,604 in the value of olives and olive oil exported from Crete during 1904, and in spite of an increase of £27,424 in exports of animal and agricultural products, due to large shipments of oranges and mandarines to Constantinople and Odessa, the total exports showed a drop of £19,525 to £419,642. On the other hand most of the leading merchants replenished their stocks to such an extent in the previous year that they needed smaller quantities of goods, and imports fell off by £30,509 to £549,665, making a total reduction in the foreign trade of £50,034 to £969,307. Mr. Trifilli, Vice-Consul for the district of Rethymo, states that the villagers after obtaining their liberty made some progress in the planting of trees, and especially in the cultivation of the vine. He adds somewhat cynically that the inhabitants of Crete would be prosperous enough, as the island is naturally very fertile, if they took seriously to agriculture and left politics alone.

A cheerful report is that by Mr. Consul-General St. John on the financial and commercial condition of Peru in 1904. The national income is now more than double what it was ten years ago, but the country is busy developing her resources, and, amongst other things, provides large sums for railway construction or for guaranteeing interest on capital spent on railways, and still finds it difficult to make ends meet. Commercial intercourse between this country and Peru is described as satisfactory, but capable of extension if the requirements of the markets were studied more closely. At present Great Britain, India and the colonies account for 45 per cent. of the total trade of the country, but Germany and the United States are both making rapid strides, and a German bank is about to be opened. In addition to the numerous railways either in course of construction or projected, existing tramways are being converted to electric traction and new ones are to be built, but British manufacturers have allowed the business of supplying materials for these to fall into American hands.

Letter to the Editors.

BOND INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

SIR,—The criticism you have thought proper to publish in a prominent position in your issue of September 16 last, and which professes, after earnest consideration of the literature issued by this corporation, to analyse its objects and system of conducting its business, savours of such extraordinary prejudice and so far exceeds the bounds of fair comment that I must ask you to insert the following reply, and to give it equal prominence.

At the commencement of the article I see it stated that "These documents have engaged our earnest attention," and later I notice a complaint to the effect that "no genuine information whatever is vouchsafed in the documents sent us"—"Nothing is said as to what the ratio of expenses is"—"Nor is any information given about anything vitally important," and toward the conclusion of the article the question is asked, "Are the coupons called in by lot or how, and in what manner are the profits ascertained?"

Unfortunately for the value of the criticism, these extracts only serve to show that the "earnest attention" claimed to have been bestowed on the perusal of the documents sent stopped short with the perusal of the pamphlet, for not only is the fullest information given in the literature sent of the objects and purposes of the bond, but the method of redeeming the coupons and the manner of ascertaining the profits is dealt with at greater length than any other portion of the bond contract.

As to the comments on our actuaries, which strike me as being in particularly bad taste, I may dismiss them with the remark that the reputation and ability of Mr. George King are too well known to need any defence from us, and that we are in a position to prove that the other actuaries, although they may be "men of less prominence," have done their work both conscientiously and well—a contention that is amply borne out by the published opinions of the leading papers of the Insurance Press.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ERNEST P. PULLAN, Chairman.

London, W.C., October 3, 1905.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

The output of the mines in the Colar gold field amounted during September to 50,962 ozs., an increase of 421 ozs. over August, and of only 436 ozs. over the corresponding month last year. With the exception of a slight falling off in the Mysore return all the companies in our list show goodly increases.

Name of Company.	June.		July.		Aug.		Sept.	
	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Balaghat	3,950	3,426	4,100	3,547	4,200	3,621	4,100	3,649
Champion Reef	19,150	18,410	19,320	18,012	19,410	18,003	19,320	18,042
Coromandel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mysore	16,350	17,051	16,600	17,254	16,050	17,039	16,000	17,016
Mysore W. and Wynaad	2,295	1,027	2,162	1,033	2,112	1,001	2,083	1,000
Nunddroog	6,650	6,154	6,300	5,754	6,500	5,371	6,600	5,721
Ooregum	10,011	5,485	10,200	5,487	10,314	5,506	10,178	5,534

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1905 and the previous five years:—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	41,185	42,829	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999
February ..	39,238	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629
March ..	40,674	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629
April ..	40,774	42,038	38,329	48,271	49,991	52,324
May ..	40,021	42,110	28,093	48,628	50,445	51,095
June ..	39,872	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,533
July ..	39,355	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086
August ..	42,763	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	50,541
September ..	41,705	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	50,962
October ..	41,834	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,031	—
November ..	41,772	41,669	48,332	51,559	50,422	—
December ..	44,089	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	—
Total ..	493,342	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	459,818

Answers to Correspondents.

B. R.—This is a highly speculative share. Mine prospects are very doubtful, and the buying you speak of was probably an attempt at rigging.

Investor.—This is a share bound to sharply fluctuate, because it is made the medium of a good deal of speculation, some of it by rather weak people. Still we see no reason why you should accept a loss, as likely enough the price will again be pushed up near your figure. Unfortunately, you got in near the top.

In Doubt.—We think you should continue to pay the premiums for the present. All are undesirable companies to deal with, as we have warned people for many years past, but we do not doubt that the policies will be met on maturity, especially after what is now happening.

JOHN THOMPSON.—(1) We can find out nothing about this company, as its offices have been removed from the address given in the reference books. It is, however, a very small concern, and dealings in the shares would certainly be difficult. (2) The reports published by the journal you mention are paid for as advertisements, and the South American Railroads have not yet adopted this practice. Reports in the ordinary way would not be available to the public, but full analyses of all the leading companies appear in our columns.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and September 30, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 30, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 30, 1904.
Balances, April 1:	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	6,352,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	16,656,000	17,732,000
Excise	30,200,000	14,440,000	14,760,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	6,520,000	5,670,000
Stamps	8,000,000	3,830,000	3,350,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	520,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	5,260,000	5,520,000
Post Office	16,500,000	6,830,000	6,530,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,080,000	1,950,000
Crown Lands	470,000	190,000	190,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	678,309	608,432
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	705,940	733,960
*Revenue	142,454,000	57,590,249	57,564,392
Total, including balance		65,020,527	61,828,234
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		300,000	250,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	370,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		400,000	480,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		760,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		8,955,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	500,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	2,800,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		—	17,000,000
Total		75,775,527	90,542,224
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	57,590,249	57,564,392
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	69,769	77,021
Excise	5,291,000	1,611,851	1,609,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,172,839	2,119,242
Total	9,756,000	3,854,429	3,805,936
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	61,444,678	61,370,328

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Sept. 30, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payment from April 1, 1904, to Sept. 30, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	28,000,000	12,003,515	12,204,689
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	832,283	831,648
Payments to Local Taxation ..	1,160,000	644,966	644,926
Supply Services	111,304,000	52,226,061	56,192,643
Expenditure	142,084,000	65,706,825	69,873,906
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		240,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		90,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		450,000	300,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		1,663,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	1,700,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		105,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		230,571	—
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	2,800,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	5,000,000
Total		69,408,396	88,114,406
Balances in Exchequer:—	1905. Sept. 30.	1904. Sept. 30.	
Bank of England	£ 5,561,340	£ 1,560,979	
Bank of Ireland	805,791	866,839	
Total			75,775,527
			90,542,224

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended September 30, \$5,509.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 1, \$19,907, increase \$6,493; aggregate from January 1, \$617,249, increase \$139,539.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 2, Rs. 78,724, increase Rs. 20,282; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 5,70,091, increase Rs. 80,645.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 30, \$138,200, increase \$37,100; total from July 1, \$1,131,500, increase \$232,200.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 2, Rs. 25,564, increase Rs. 2,594; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,29,508, increase Rs. 13,237.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 16, £782, increase £145.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of September, \$29,688, increase \$1,139; aggregate from January 1, \$604,920, decrease \$3,960.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 2, Rs. 10,953, increase Rs. 1,907; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,04,373, increase Rs. 7,281.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended September 30 amounted to \$61,930.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending September 30, £1,252, increase £30; aggregate from July 1, £15,222, decrease £374.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending September 30, £944, decrease £40; aggregate from July 1, £13,379, decrease £1,394.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for July, £4,218, decrease £427.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending September 30, £407, decrease £30; aggregate from July 1, £4,002, decrease £670.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 29, £1,384, increase £466; aggregate from July 1, £18,298, increase £6,529.

Blessington and Poulaphuca.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 1, £17, increase £3; aggregate from July 1, £424, increase £14.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 29, £4,814, decrease £203; aggregate from July 1, £69,016, decrease £1,233.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending September 29, £29,246, increase £3,433; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,051,716, increase £99,346; 442 miles, against 421½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 30, £1,139, increase £14; aggregate from July 2, £14,991, increase £660.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 1, £122, decrease £14; aggregate from July 1, £2,335, decrease £61.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 29, £132, increase £6; aggregate from July 1, £1,929, increase £46.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 29, £4,778, decrease £75; aggregate from July 1, £70,982, decrease £430.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 30, £4,666, increase £114; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £191,375, increase £14,931.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 29, £247, decrease £20; aggregate from July 1, £3,601, decrease £221.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 28, £544.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 30, £563, decrease £120; aggregate from October 1, £32,106, decrease £2,934.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £15,197, increase £1,406; aggregate from April 1, £383,651, increase £59,738. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 30, £22,543, decrease £1,505; aggregate from July 2, £313,882, decrease £5,223.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 30, £7,514, decrease £232; aggregate from July 1, £104,496, increase £1,051.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 29, £207, increase £10; aggregate from July 1, £2,642, increase £136.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 30, £13,489, increase £532; aggregate from January 1, £515,327, increase £32,656.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of September, £10,584, increase £438.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to August 31, \$187,399, increase \$47,613. Net earnings from July 1 to August 31, \$84,550, increase \$30,461.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending October 1, £3,928, increase £559; aggregate from January 1, £134,606, increase £6,214.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £42,345, decrease £3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 30, Rs. 43,993, increase Rs. 5,491; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 5,58,968, increase Rs. 84,660.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of September, £2,767, increase £147. Total to August 31, £34,608, increase £6,213.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of August, \$422,051, increase \$32,854; aggregate from January 1, \$3,028,626, increase \$194,399. Net traffic receipts, \$246,512, increase \$35,913; aggregate from January 1, \$1,626,507, increase \$136,430.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Oct. 1	2,153	— 54	13	27,780	— 670	
Cambrian ..	..	6,798	— 290	13	112,180	— 6,230	
Central London ..	Sept. 30	6,363	— 111	13	75,135	— 1,885	
City and South London ..	Oct. 1	2,535	+ 20	13	30,393	— 538	
Furness ..	..	10,835	+ 1,384	13	146,328	+ 8,450	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	..	76,860	+ 4,535	13	954,728	+ 52,561	
Great Eastern ..	..	107,800	— 2,400	13	1,550,800	— 34,600	
Great Northern and City ..	Sept. 30	1,547	+ 319	13	18,815	+ 4,987	
Great Northern ..	..	119,100	+ 169	13	1,594,688	+ 8,460	
Great Western ..	Oct. 1	257,400	+ 13,800	13	3,403,600	+ 5,600	
Hull and Barnsley ..	..	10,215	+ 830	13	126,168	— 3,308	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	..	111,480	+ 3,203	13	1,612,522	+ 34,587	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	Sept. 30	73,982	+ 604	13	983,822	— 5,102	
London & North Western ..	Oct. 1	305,000	+ 15,000	13	4,004,000	+ 49,000	
London & South Western ..	..	98,900	+ 1,500	13	1,381,800	+ 5,200	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	..	9,766	+ 458	13	160,820	+ 1,569	
Metropolitan ..	..	17,271	+ 752	13	220,934	+ 222	
Metropolitan District ..	..	7,465	+ 458	13	84,274	— 3,096	
Midland ..	Sept. 30	243,527	+ 4,426	13	3,028,793	+ 62,920	
North Eastern ..	..	187,960	— 1,479	13	2,533,612	+ 6,487	
North London ..	Oct. 1	9,115	— 252	13	112,144	— 3,910	
North Staffordshire ..	..	17,814	+ 191	13	230,027	+ 879	
Rhymney ..	..	6,201	— 262	13	73,941	+ 15	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	Sept. 30	102,878	+ 3,756	13	1,429,755	+ 14,484	
Taff Vale ..	Oct. 1	10,238	— 72	13	235,017	— 4,413	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian ..	Oct. 1	96,656	+ 123	9	823,378	— 5,883
Glasgow & South-Western ..	Sept. 30	39,968	+ 1,587	9	369,339	+ 2,070
Great North of Scotland ..	..	11,507	+ 860	9	98,889	— 1,743
Highland ..	Oct. 1	13,227	+ 44	9	121,436	— 1,130
North British ..	..	101,720	— 156	9	899,889	— 10,79

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Sept. 29	2,923	+ 444	13	48,917	+ 398
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	..	1,873	+ 86	13	25,890	+ 491
Great Northern ..	..	20,003	— 761	13	281,459	— 3,414
Midland Great Western ..	..	13,145	— 1,111	13	150,491	— 7,102

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED **£5,500,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
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The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.
CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.
Total Security to Policy-Holders over **£1,000,000.**
FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.
NON-CONTENTIOUS POLICY CONDITIONS.
Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.
HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The LIST of APPLICATIONS will be CLOSED on or before the
11th October, 1905.

CARDIFF CORPORATION 3½ PER CENT. REDEEMABLE STOCK, 1925-1965.

ISSUE OF **£608,000.**PRICE OF ISSUE, **£100 PER CENT.**

First Dividend, being a full Six Months' Interest, payable 1st April, 1906.

The Trustee Act, 1893, authorises a Trustee, unless expressly forbidden by
the instrument (if any) creating the Trust, to invest funds in this Stock.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited, is authorised by resolutions passed by the Corporation of Cardiff on the 3rd October, 1905, to receive applications for £608,000 Cardiff Corporation Three Pounds ten shillings per Cent. Redeemable Stock, 1925-1965. Interest payable half-yearly at the said Bank or at any of its Branches.

This Stock is redeemable at par at the option of the Corporation at any time after the expiration of twenty years from 3rd October, 1905, by giving six months' notice, and must be extinguished by 3rd October, 1965.

The present issue of Stock is for the purpose of repaying temporary advances made to the Corporation, the replacing of Waterworks Mortgages paid off, further works relating to the Waterworks, Electric Tramways, Erection of a Lunatic Asylum, Electric Lighting, and other purposes.

The Stock is secured on the whole of the Revenues of the Corporation, and ranks pari passu as to security with all Cardiff Corporation Redeemable Stock already in existence.

The Ratable Value of the Borough is £1,096,696.

The Revenue Receipts of the Corporation during the year ended 31st March, 1905, amounted to £522,175.

The Net Loan Debt of the Corporation on the 31st March, 1905, was £3,302,210, exclusive of temporary advances which will be discharged by the present issue of Stock.

The Books of the Stock will be kept by the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, at 112, Bishopsgate Street, London, where transfers must be made (without charge, and also free from stamp duty) by the personal attendance of the Stockholder or his Attorney.

The Stock will be issued at par, and applications on the prescribed form, with the required deposit of £5 per cent., will be received by the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, 112, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

Applications must be for multiples of £50, but the Stock once inscribed will be transferable in any amount. Power is reserved to reject any applications not considered satisfactory.

Payment will be required as follows, viz.:

£5	per cent. on application,
£20	" 18th October, 1905.
£25	" 1st December, 1905.
£25	" 1st January, 1906.
£25	" 1st February, 1906.

Payment may be made in full on or after 18th October, 1905, under discount at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum.

Full Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, 112, Bishopsgate Street, London, and at its Branches; at the offices of Messrs. J. and A. Scrimgeour, South Sea House, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.; and from Joseph Larke Wheatley, Esquire, Town Clerk of Cardiff,
6th October, 1905.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Since the article on another page was written the position of our Money market has altered slightly for the worse in relation to other markets. Short credits remain dear in New York and yesterday touched 8 per cent., closing at 6 per cent., rates which at last told upon the exchange, driving it down 20 points. It is not, however, from New York or even from Paris that inconvenient demands upon the Bank of England's stock of gold are yet to be looked for. From Paris, indeed, we hear that instructions have been given to the London agents of the French banks to discount bills here freely, and in every way possible to endeavour to prevent stringency in our market until after the Russian loan is emitted. That loan is the more immediate cause of the trouble, but it will probably be from countries not usually regarded that the most insidious demands upon our gold will arise.

Short loans were not appreciably dearer to-day than yesterday, but neither were they abundant. Bankers got 3 to 3½ per cent. for seven day money, and call money was generally 3 to 3½ per cent., easing to 2½ and 2¾ per cent. in the afternoon. On the other hand it sometimes touched 3¾ per cent. Discount rates, however, were by some houses quoted decidedly higher, one leading company giving 3¾ to 4 per cent. as its quotations for remitted bills of practically all dates. Business, however, was done at 3¾ per cent., partly because of the above-mentioned determination of French banks to help our market, which made them buy a few bills below our rates.

The sentiment of credit jobbers becomes more and more reconciled to an early advance in the Bank rate to 5 per cent., and if it be true that the Bank was yesterday offering 3½ per cent. for money and that it got some from foreign banks to-day at that rate, we may regard an early advance as certain. Were it not in contemplation the Bank could wait for the astringent influence of its rapidly emptying bill case.

Next week perhaps the reserve of the Banking department will look a little better than it does this week, and it would need, for it dropped back according to the return issued on Thursday afternoon by £2,830,000 in the six days ended on Wednesday, to a total of £20,978,000, and in spite of decreases respectively of £2,188,000 in the public and of £2,911,000 in the other deposits, the proportion of reserve to liabilities has fallen to 38.58 per cent. A year ago it was 53½ per cent. No recovery in the reserve through a reflux of currency from the circulation can make the Bank look strong, and at the end of the month there will be the usual withdrawals of gold to cover the term expansion in the Scotch Bank note circulation.

Meantime the Bank remains powerless to command any of the supplies of gold coming in from the mines. New York is expected to take the small amount of about £260,000, due in next week, but Germany, France, Italy, and Egypt, let alone South American countries, are all in want of the metal, and some of them must get it from one source or another. A story was current that New York would get gold from Paris, but that is extremely improbable, at any rate, until that ominous Russian loan has been safely launched. So any morning we may find a grab made at the Bank's slender stock by some market in dire straits.

SILVER.

Sellers were very much in evidence in the end of last week, and as the demand was small quotations fell back to 28d. per oz. for spot and 27½d. per oz. for delivery two months forward. An equally sharp re-

covery to 28½d. and 28d. per oz. followed on Monday, on covering orders and some inquiry for the metal on Indian account, but since then there has been exceedingly little life in the market. Prices dropped one day to 28½d. and 27½d., but regained this loss almost immediately, and close at 28½d. per oz. for spot and 28d. for future delivery. Tenders for the Rs. 80,00,000 Council drafts on India on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 6,94,00,000 in bills, and Rs. 40,00,000 in telegraphic transfers, of which Rs. 58,66,000 were accepted in bills and Rs. 21,34,000 in transfers. Applications at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. 4 1-16d. per rupee respectively, only received about 6 per cent., and next week the amount to be offered is increased to Rs. 90,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 4, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 48,949,455	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 30,499,455
		Silver Bullion ..	£ —
	£ 48,949,455		£ 48,949,455

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 18,663,329
Reserve ..	£ 3,118,262	Other Securities ..	£ 32,373,591
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 12,015,042	Notes ..	£ 19,176,380
Other Deposits ..	£ 42,258,148	Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 1,801,489
Seven Day and other Bills ..	£ 70,737		
	£ 72,014,789		£ 72,014,789

Dated October 5, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :-

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Oct. 5.		Sept. 27, 1905.	Oct. 4, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,125,473	Rest ..	3,746,878	3,118,262	—	628,616
8,281,883	Pub. Deposits ..	14,203,316	12,015,042	—	2,188,274
43,674,807	Other do. ..	45,169,262	42,258,148	—	2,911,114
70,100	7 Day Bills ..	99,335	70,337	—	28,998
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
18,044,983	Gov. Securities ..	18,667,070	18,663,329	3,741	—
23,977,503	Other do. ..	35,297,160	32,258,148	2,923,569	—
27,682,777	Total Reserve ..	23,807,561	20,977,869	2,829,692	—
				5,757,002	5,757,002
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,671,145	..	29,271,435	29,773,075	501,640	—
37,903,922	Coin and Bullion ..	34,628,996	32,300,944	—	2,328,052
53½ p.c.	Proportion ..	40 p.c.	38½ p.c.	—	1½ p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £1,245,000 out.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.			WITHDRAWALS.		
Monday, Australia ..	£ 5,000		Saturday, Egypt ..	£ 250,000	
Friday, Germany ..	£ 5,000		Monday, Egypt ..	£ 1,000,000	
Net Efflux ..	£ 1,240,000				
Total ..	£ 1,250,000		Total ..	£ 1,250,000	

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'16	25'14½	Antwerp	short	25'22	25'22
Brussels	chqs.	25'20½	25'21½	Italy	sight	25'13	25'13
Amsterdam	sight	12'11	12'11½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	109'37	109'37
Berlin	chqs.	20'43½	20'44	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	179'10	168'10
Do.	3 mths	20'25½	20'24½	Valparaiso	90 dys	159'10	159'10
Hamburg	chqs.	20'42½	20'43	Calcutta	T.T.	1'47½	1'47½
Frankfurt	short	20'42	20'42	Bombay	T.T.	1'47½	1'47½
Vienna	sight	23'99½	24'00½	Hong Kong	T.T.	1'11½	1'11½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'85	93'85	Shanghai	T.T.	2'8½	2'8½
New York	60 dys	4'82½	4'82½	Singapore	4 mths	2'18	2'18
Lisbon	sight	50'8	50'8	Yokohama	4 mths	2'04	2'04
Madrid	sight	32'75	31'92				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Sept. 30.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£		£
Customs	651,000	National Debt Services ..	53,541
Excise	326,000	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Estate, &c., Duties ..	188,000	Charges	92,167
Stamps	117,000	Payments to Local Taxa-	—
Land Tax and House Duty.	—	tion	—
Property and Income Tax..	216,000	Supply Services	5,477,723
Post Office	180,000	Bullion Advances	—
Telegraphs	80,000	Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Crown Lands	20,000	Advances for interest on	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—	Exchequer Bonds	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	Exchequer Bonds	—
Miscellaneous	180	Uganda Railway	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	Military Works	—
Uganda Railway	—	Naval Works	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—	Telegraph Acts	—
count	—	Land Registry (New Build-	—
Telegraph Acts	—	ings)	—
Naval Works Acts	400,000	Public Buildings Expenses	—
Military Works Acts	350,000	Act	—
Land Registry Acts	—	Public Offices Site (Dublin)	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—	Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—	Suez Canal drawn Shares	—
Ways and Means	—	in reduction of debt ..	—
Deficiency	—	Cunard Agreement	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—	Deficiency Advances re-	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	—	paid	—
Transvaal and Orange River	—	Ways and Means Advances	—
Colony. Repayment of	—	repaid	—
Temporary Advance	—	Increase in Exchequer	—
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—	balances	—
tion payments	—		
Decrease in Exchequer	—		
balances	3,075,251		
	£ 5,603,431		£ 5,603,431

* Exclusive of £80,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £3,854,429.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	6 months	Jan. 2 ?	—
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
20,833,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
Week ending				
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 23	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
" 30	174,559,000	190,242,000	—	15,683,000
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,176,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
" 27	187,854,000	164,860,000	22,994,000	—
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
	9,399,568,000	7,924,412,000	1,475,156,000	—

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	4	May 25, 1900.	2½ 2½
Berlin	5	October 3, 1905	3½ 3½
Hamburg	5	October 3, 1905	3½ 3½
Frankfurt	5	October 3, 1905	3½ 3½
Amsterdam	2½	March, 1905	2½ 2½
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2½ 2½
Vienna	3½	February 3, 1902	3½ 3½
Rome	5	September, 1904	3½ 4
St. Petersburg ..	5½	February, 1904	7½ 7½
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4 4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	4½ 5
Stockholm	5	September 22, 1905.	4½ 4½
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4 4½
Calcutta	5	September 29, 1905	— —
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	— —
New York call money ..	4	—	—

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 26.	Sept. 28.	Oct. 3.	Oct. 5.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'40	25'40	25'40	25'42½
Hamburg	3 months	20'64	20'65	20'66	20'66
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'64	20'65	20'66	20'66
Paris	cheques	25'16½	25'16½	25'16½	25'16½
Do. do.	3 months	25'33½	25'35	25'35	25'33½
Marseilles	3 months	25'33½	25'35	25'35	25'33½
Switzerland	3 months	25'43½	25'45	25'46½	25'45
Austria	3 months	24'25	24'26	24'28	24'29
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'43½	25'43½	25'43½	25'45
New York	60 days	46½	46½	46½	46½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	36	36	36½	36½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'39	18'39	18'39	18'39
Christiania	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Stockholm	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Sept. 30, 1905	Sept. 23, 1905	Sept. 16, 1905	Oct. 1, 1904.
Specie	40,302,000	40,112,500	40,436,000	48,574,000
Legal tenders	15,210,000	15,116,000	15,310,000	15,749,200
Loans and discounts	214,320,000	215,288,000	217,164,000	228,600,000
Circulation	10,813,200	10,742,000	10,740,000	8,115,200
Net deposits	216,100,000	216,640,000	219,270,000	242,550,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,487,000 against an excess last week of £1,480,000.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1905.	Sept. 23, 1905.	Sept. 15, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1904.
Gold Reserve	30,361,888	46,185,666	46,366,291	48,574,208
Silver reserve	12,238,416	12,384,000	12,440,625	12,211,250
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	2,036,041	1,864,541	1,886,291	1,875,111
Note circulation	73,833,125	69,710,422	69,181,250	73,527,958
Bills discounted	21,950,541	17,076,375	16,716,667	18,365,625

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 28, 1905	Sept. 21, 1905	Sept. 14, 1905	Sept. 29, 1904
Coin and bullion	4,770,040	4,849,520	4,808,800	4,816,240
Other securities	23,018,400	22,843,120	21,443,400	21,707,160
Note circulation	26,839,240	26,410,480	26,597,720	26,196,560
Deposits	3,026,800	3,211,840	2,859,200	2,486,600

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 31, 1905.	Sept. 23, 1905.	Sept. 15, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1904.
Cash in hand	36,610,750	44,858,700	45,405,350	39,657,150
Bills discounted	67,160,850	51,756,250	52,539,750	51,966,950
Advances on stocks	8,955,600	2,687,700	2,823,600	8,630,850
Note circulation	84,132,300	66,448,700	65,641,950	79,953,350
Public deposits	27,818,750	31,681,850	33,956,550	26,635,400

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1905	Sept. 23, 1905	Sept. 16, 1905	Oct. 1, 1904.
Gold	14,949,107	14,942,269	14,936,778	14,803,214
Silver	22,674,077	22,609,001	22,556,043	20,451,690
Foreign Bills	2,556,228	2,512,092	2,420,554	1,732,456
Discount and Short Bills	45,288,654	45,174,156	45,280,888	38,922,316
Treasury Account	20,864,516	20,846,457	20,769,532	22,041,843
Notes in circulation	62,462,433	62,421,868	62,452,960	65,442,094
Current Account deposits	21,908,630	22,032,563	22,299,838	24,096,147
Dividends Interests	3,752,495	2,278,300	2,018,576	3,260,373
Government Securities	5,528,663	5,739,117	5,486,786	5,298,472

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 5, 1905.	Sept. 28, 1905.	Sept. 21, 1905.	Oct. 6, 1904.
Gold in hand	117,556,280	118,482,880	118,786,640	104,930,520
Silver in hand	43,935,600	44,105,280	44,228,440	44,252,200
Bills discounted	25,730,040	25,215,360	20,482,400	24,125,440
Advances	19,716,320	18,550,400	19,024,200	21,169,760
Note circulation	181,931,280	175,091,040	173,525,800	173,037,320
Public deposits	8,333,040	12,960,060	11,541,200	6,897,080
Private deposits	23,730,480	25,155,040	23,646,640	20,819,560

Proportion between bullion and circulation 88½ per cent., against 92½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 1/14, 1905.	Aug. 23, Sept. 5, 1905.	Aug. 16/29, 1905.	Sept. 1/14, 1904.
Gold	91,341,331	91,022,530	91,623,725	85,447,839
Silver and subsidiary coin	5,250,606	5,399,687	5,548,388	8,112,349
Advances and bills discounted	38,277,243	36,109,394	35,194,145	38,746,447
Securities belonging to the Bank	7,867,652	7,457,711	9,143,485	5,536,507
Notes in circulation	103,804,076	103,671,680	99,588,624	74,938,046
Deposits and current account	45,670,593	44,510,230	44,413,654	39,198,280
Treasury account	94,827,815	44,343,356	17,641,108	26,605,485

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1905.	Aug. 20, 1905.	Aug. 10, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1904.
Reserve	28,002,160	27,833,440	27,819,280	25,949,720
State notes and small change	458,840	582,840	517,360	504,320
Discount and loans	11,980,960	11,867,920	11,238,680	10,342,040
Public stock and State loans	7,824,200	7,885,680	7,886,480	8,407,440
Credits	6,778,400	5,693,920	5,521,720	6,653,360
Note Circulation	38,370,000	37,729,760	38,318,640	34,607,800
Current account	3,977,560	3,954,080	3,991,800	3,958,400
Deposits	2,944,720	3,308,400	3,151,120	3,405,480

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-4
Three months	3½-4
Four months	3½-4
Six months	3½-4
Three months fine inland bills	4-4½
Four months	4-4½
Six months	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
7 and 14 days' notice	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3-3½
for call loans	3-3½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

It would be a trial of the patience of readers to discourse at length on Stock markets this week. They are all dull because of the outlook in money, and Consols are naturally depressed because the contango was heavy, generally 3½ to 4 per cent. at the settlement this week, and because still higher rates are in prospect at settlements to come. The general attitude, however, is a waiting one. The public is not selling except where forced, and equally little is it buying until the prospects of the Money market grow better defined. As we cannot tell what is going to happen in that market we are unable to forecast in any sure way the future course of prices on the Stock Exchange. All that may be said with assurance is that if money becomes much dearer than it is now the hesitation at present shown by prices will give place to a more or less severe and wealth-compressing relapse. Readers can put their finger as well as we are able to do on conspicuously inflated securities, and can judge for themselves whether it would be wise to hold such just now, or anything but folly to buy afresh.

May we add that if money really becomes dear the intrinsic value of securities of all descriptions will be put to a test which has not really been applied to them for a good many years past. When rates of interest mount to a high level and are maintained there, only those securities which have great and durable intrinsic strength can hold up against the pressure thus applied. In times when money is cheap and the lifting of prices therefore easy for speculators, intrinsic qualities are often lost sight of, but it is quite otherwise when the borrower has to draw more or less severely upon current income for means wherewith to pay high rates of interest upon money borrowed against the pledge of securities, marketable or unmarketable, that yield no corresponding rate of interest, or no interest at all. It might be well, therefore, if readers were now to look through their lists of securities and apply the common-sense test to each item therein, asking whether it would be worth while to hold this or the other stock or share through a period of monetary stringency. If the stocks are all of good quality, yielding reasonably safe dividends or rates of interest, they should not be disturbed. It would be a mistake to sell a good thing at a loss, even although prices may go considerably lower before calmness and ease return to the Money market. Things, however, whose intrinsic value may be doubtful, or which yield no income or prospect of income, ought to be thrown overboard, if buyers can be found for them, before the greater strain now apparently imminent lays hold of the market. Very dear money we hope we shall not see, because that could hardly visit us at the present juncture without causing bankruptcy to overtake many

a business now deemed solvent. For we have been spending our capital in full-fed living and wasting it right royally.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The monetary outlook is the cause of much uneasiness on the Stock Exchange, and during the past week exercised a very restrictive influence on business. When the Berlin bank rate was put up to 5 per cent. on Tuesday operators instantly saw visions of a further advance in the Bank of England minimum, and since nothing is so effective as dear money in putting an end to speculation for the rise, spirits began to droop. In all directions there was a decided disposition to reduce commitments, and although prices never became actually flat, a decided setback was experienced in practically all departments. Consols were one of the

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{3}{4}$	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money) ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{3}{4}$	Do. Account (Nov. 2) ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100	100
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Local Loans (3) ..	100	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	Do. Account (Nov. 2) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
308	297	Bk. of England Stock (9 p.c.) ..	298 $\frac{1}{2}$	297 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1913 ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1918 ..	97	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1916 ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66	66

weakest spots, and no wonder. Tuesday was carry-over day for the monthly settlement, and after starting at about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. the contango gradually stiffened to 4 per cent., this rate being paid quite readily on Wednesday by belated borrowers. Compared with the previous settlement that meant a rise of no less than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, thanks to the intervening advances in the Bank rate from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent., and when a stock yielding about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. costs 4 per cent. to carry over, the unhappy "bull" usually thinks it time to clear out, particularly when faced with a difference of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ as on the present occasion. So prices went back sharply, dragging down other gilt-edged securities, particularly 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. annuities, Irish Land stock, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per cent., India sterling issues, and Bank of England stock. In the Home County and Corporation division there was some selling of Metropolitan Water Board, Metropolitan Consolidated, and London County issues, and also of Mersey Docks and Harbour 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Middlesex County Council 3 per cent., the last on the new issue, but Corporation of London 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and Stockport 3 per cent. finished better. The tendency was also towards lower prices amongst Colonial Inscribed stocks, but nothing gave way more than 10s.

Dealing was extremely narrow in the Foreign bond market and movements for the most part were quite unimportant, but towards the close the tendency became rather dull in sympathy with other sections. Russians were lifted a little at first in preparation for the new loan, but sank back again, dragging down Spanish, Turkish, and other leading Europeans. Japanese issues attracted rather less attention than usual, causing them to ease off fractionally here and there, Chinese were a little irregular with movements of the smallest, and the changes in leading South Americans were too unimportant to be worthy of special remark. The Buenos Ayres Provincial Cédulas, however, were rushed up rapidly on the latest cable to the effect that the full indebtedness of the province, including interest arrears, will be paid in full provided a sufficient margin of time is allowed and no more than reasonable interest demanded. Peruvians were also pretty good at the finish owing to the publication of another splendid traffic, and altogether this section probably suffered as little as any. Amongst Central American loans Colombians jumped 30s.,

losing part before the close, and Venezuelans were at first disposed to harden, but these, along with Honduras and Guatemalans, all ended rather easier.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
		5 p.c. Debs. ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail ..	99	99
		5 p.c. ..	99	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
106	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
		1902 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	96	96
97	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	97	97
98	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	97	97
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	96	94xd
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98	98
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	56	56
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	46	46
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External ..	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
107	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	106	105
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c. ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Greek, 1884 ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
44	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Renties ..	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. Funding ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	97	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. New ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102xd
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	105	104xd
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	95	94xd
82	76	Servian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
103	100	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
92	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	72	72
99	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	50	50

This week's Home Railway traffics were satisfactory enough, with the solitary exception of the Great Eastern, but the market was too much dominated by other influences for the figures to produce much effect. South Eastern and Chatham stocks spurted a little on a story that Dover was to be made a naval base, but speedily fell back as the market was affected by the fears of dearer money, and at the end practically the

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ordry. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	138	137
165	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157	157
131 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	124	123
120	111	Caledonian Ordry. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	114xd	114
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	37
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	92
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	84
17 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	41	41
65	51	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	61	65
35 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	35	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	18	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	101	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1) ..	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
145 $\frac{1}{2}$	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	139 $\frac{1}{2}$	138 $\frac{1}{2}$
56 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	53 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	46
112 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
100	89	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	90	89
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
71	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
70	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	67	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	45
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	134	North-Eastern (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	142	141
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	147	North-Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	156 $\frac{1}{2}$	156
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	93	93
134	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	131	131
58 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	160 $\frac{1}{2}$	159 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	107
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	56	55 $\frac{1}{2}$

only gain worth noting was in Furness, which advanced sharply on a continuance of the reports that the line was to be sold to the Midland. Great Central

preferred was fractionally harder, but Great Eastern, Great Western, North-Eastern, Hull and Barnsley, and Metropolitan all showed more or less substantial declines. Scotch stocks did not escape the general dullness, and Caledonian and North British issues were from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ lower.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	92½	92
108½	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	108	108½
120½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	115½	117½
102	97½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	101	101
61½	40½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	59	58½
193½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	187	186
38	27½	Denver Shares ..	36½	36
93½	85½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	92½	92
54½	38½	Erie Shares ..	51½	50½
87½	77½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	84½	84
80½	58½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	75½	75
186½	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	180½	186
161½	140½	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	159	158
36½	24½	Missouri and Texas ..	35½	34½
109½	140½	New York Central (5) ..	154	155
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	87½	87½
96½	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	95	95
65½	41½	Ontario Shares ..	50½	50
76½	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	71½	73½
63½	40½	Reading Shares ..	62½	63
48½	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	48	49
49	43½	Do. 2nd Pref. (3) ..	49	51
74	59½	Southern Pacific ..	71½	71½
39½	28½	Southern ..	37½	37½
104½	97½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103½	103½
142½	116½	Union Pacific (4) ..	130½	136½
102½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
24½	18½	Wabash ..	23	23½
49½	37½	Do. Pref. ..	43½	44
86½	69½	Do. Income Debs. ..	78	78
182½	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	179½	178
109	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	107
112	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111	110
26½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	26½	25½
104½	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	104	104
115½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
107	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	107	106½
62½	40½	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	62½	61½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½	108

An unexpectedly good return by the New York Associated Banks was followed by a demonstration of confidence in Wall Street, but the position disclosed was so extraordinarily good that doubts were raised as to the genuineness of the figures, and allegations of their having been "cooked" were freely bandied about. Our market for Yankee Rails deemed it more prudent to await developments, and accordingly there has been a repetition of the old familiar tactics. Prices hung round about their opening levels each morning, and

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	208½	216½
321	144½	Do. Def. (15) ..	305	310
127½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	124	123
131	113½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	128	128
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	83½	83½
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	145½	144
133½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	133	132
137½	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	136	136
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
110½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110
114½	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	112½	111
107½	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	106	105
170½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	166½	167½
109½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108	108
138½	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	138	139
92	79	Central Uruguay (3) ..	92	89
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	108	108
95½	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	95	94½
76½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	75½	74½
30½	28½	Costa Rica (1) ..	28	28
78	5½	Cuban Central ..	7	7
124½	104½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	112½	112½
107½	104½	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	106	106
95	72	East Argentine (4½) ..	91	94
7½	50½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	7	6½
84½	50½	Leopoldina (3) ..	78	78
97½	86½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	95½	95
110½	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	109	110
108	104½	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	105
29½	19½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	25	24
121½	103½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	117	116½
57	36½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	47½	47½
69½	48½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	59	59
17	10½	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	17	16½
108	16½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	17	19
208½	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	203	204
198	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	193½	198½

then went up and down according to the mood prevailing in Wall Street. On Monday the inclination there was to push quotations up, but the following day the rise in the German Bank rate damped the ardour considerably, and immediately on top of this came the

scramble for money when loan rates ran up to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. A theory put forward for the sudden dearness was that the banks had brought it about to discourage the "bull" movement, and there may have been some truth in this view as it has been known for some time that bankers were nervous as to the result of the manipulation for the rise. Apart, however, from the cliques engaged in pushing up prices, the opinion seems to prevail that stocks have been lifted to a dangerously high level, and except in isolated instances like Baltimore, New York Central, and Reading stocks, the tendency throughout the week has been downwards.

During the first day or two the campaign for the rise in Canadian Pacific shares showed signs of a revival, but as the date of the meeting drew near holders became nervous, and a good deal of profit taking followed. The decline in price became more severe when the meeting took place, and the scheme for dealing with the company's lands was not even mentioned, and New York especially unloaded pretty freely. Grand Trunk stocks were flat most of the week, the traffic increase of £8,300 being well below expectations, and although a slight rally followed the first decline, it was of short duration, and the market at the end was decidedly heavy.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	Allsopp Ordinary ..	23	23
71	40	City of London Ord. ..	66½	66½
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	555	560
27½	21½	Obolsson's Cape (40) ..	23½	23½
24½	13½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	22	22
37½	3	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	38	38
68½	48	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	59½	60½
35	15	Do. Def. Ord. Stock ..	25	25
105	99	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	102	101
78½	56½	Do. Def. Stk. (3½) ..	69	66
61½	57½	Aerated Bread (30) ..	6½	6½
78	6	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	6½	6½
68½	57½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	68½	68½
14½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	1½	1½
32	28	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	28	28
77½	5	Brunner Mond (35) ..	7	6½
17½	9½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	10½	11
51½	47½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	48	48
502½	483½	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	500	500
160	160	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) ..	160	160
160	160	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	160	160
160	160	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	160	160
160	160	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	160	160
160	160	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	160	160
160	160	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	160	160
160	160	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	160	160
160	160	Do. Debenture (4½) ..	160	160
160	160	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	160	160
160	160	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	160	160
160	160	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	160	160
160	160	Russian Petroleum (5) ..	160	160
160	160	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	160	160
160	160	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	160	160
160	160	Short's Deleter Ordinary (10) ..	160	160
160	160	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	160	160
160	160	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	160	160
160	160	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	160	160
160	160	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	160	160
160	160	Peruvian Ord. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) ..	160	160
160	160	Do. Debentures (6) ..	160	160
160	160	National Discount (10) ..	160	160
160	160	Union Discount (11) ..	160	160
160	160	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	160	160
160	160	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	160	160
160	160	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48) ..	160	160
160	160	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	160	160
160	160	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	160	160
160	160	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	160	160
160	160	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (70) ..	160	160
160	160	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	160	160
160	160	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	160	160
160	160	United States Steel Ordinary ..	160	160
160	160	Do. Preference (7) ..	160	160
160	160	Vickers Ordinary (12½) ..	160	160
160	160	Cunard Steam ..	160	160
160	160	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	160	160
160	160	Royal Mail ..	160	160
160	160	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) ..	160	160
160	160	Anglo-American Telegraph—Pref. Ord. (2½) ..	160	160
160	160	Do. Def. Ord. ..	160	160
160	160	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	160	160
160	160	Eastern Extension (7) ..	160	160
160	160	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	160	160
160	160	Western Telephone (7) ..	160	160
160	160	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	160	160
160	160	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	160	160
160	160	London General Omnibus (8) ..	160	160
160	160	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	160	160

Quotations for the leading Argentine Railway stocks have fluctuated within narrow limits from day to day, and in the majority of cases the movements, although

small, are adverse. Cordoba and Rosario first preference, however, was taken in hand and lifted to 95, and amongst the lighter-weight things Argentine Transandine "B" debenture stock touched 89. On the other hand Cordova and North-Western debentures, which sprang so suddenly into prominence within the past fortnight, were sold persistently, losing a good proportion of their recent gain, and profit taking was also pronounced in Buenos Ayres Great Southern ordinary. Uruguay stocks, too, were heavy, and United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock went back on the news of political troubles in the island, but Antofagasta ordinary was firm. Paraguay Central debenture stock showed a further improvement, while Leopoldina ordinary stock recovered part of last week's fall. Mexican Railway stocks were depressed by the poor traffic return and by the uncertainty as to the dividend to be declared next Thursday. In some quarters a distribution of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the first preference is expected and in others it is thought that the directors will content themselves with a 5 per cent. rate.

In one or two sections of the Miscellaneous markets a little activity was shown, notably amongst Iron and Steel things which continue to advance on the improved trade outlook. Nearly everything of a leading character was given a lift, and there seems no doubt that much improved profits are now being earned. Dick, Kerr went up on the proposal made at the annual meeting for splitting the shares, and South Durham Steel were supported on dividend rumours, rising to 25s. The Cargo Fleet Iron Company, with which the South Durham is closely connected, also came into prominence, but so little information regarding this concern has been made public that we are not sure of the real position. Its plant is new and up-to-date, and a good business is apparently being done, but to buy would be acting entirely in the dark, and that is usually risky. Perhaps the directors will publish some facts. Nitrate shares suffered a pretty general reaction owing to profit taking on the recent sharp rise, but Textiles showed strength, and Linotype issues continued to be favourably influenced by the amalgamation story, closing, however, rather easier. London Docks deferred and preferred were offered and went down, as also Surrey Commercial ordinary, and pronounced weakness was shown by Anglo-American Telegraph deferred, a thing rather widely gambled in of late and bound to suffer severely in any reaction. Lyons were good in the Catering division, but Gordon Hotels lost some fractions and Aerated Breads ended lower. James Nelson's ordinary shares went up and down rather sharply but other Meat shares were steady, and another all round advance took place in the Brewery section. Hudson's Bays were heavy all the week and are now a lot below 80. Mazawattee Tea rallied a shilling or so, but Sweetmeats and Gramophones were dull. Chinese Land and Exploration shares gave way with other things and Argentine Land shares did not further advance.

In the middle of the day markets were flat on the growing fear that a 5 per cent. Bank rate is inevitable. Consols fell prominently, and the decline was accompanied by a report that the Bank was borrowing on the stock, which, if true, would probably mean a 5 per cent. rate next week. The price recovered slightly before the close, and all other departments of the Stock Exchange hardened in sympathy, but still the market was sick, and Hudson's Bay shares dropped 2. Some sharp fluctuations occurred in Rio Tinto shares on a report that 50,000 new deferred shares will be created and issued at £56 per share in order to redeem an equivalent amount of the mortgage debt. On the strength of this statement the price of the shares rose almost to 67, but it fell back again before the close. The Kaffir Circus was miserable to behold all day.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

There has been no arrest of the drooping tendency of prices in the South African department. The announcement of the raising of the German Bank rate to 5 per cent. is declared by insiders to be another unfortunate event for this market, as it has postponed the probability of a general hoist of prices. But as they were steadily falling before anyone knew that the rate would go up such an opinion is of no value, especially having regard to the apathetic disposition of the public. If we are ever to see another general rise it must be the effect of a further mighty effort by the mine bosses, but the recent attempt seems so thoroughly to have exhausted them that it may take them many a long day to recoup. The resources their various companies possess to start and to maintain a "bull" campaign, and to absorb the stuff an advance in prices would immediately bring on the market, are not unlimited, and as outsiders refuse, or are unable, to assist the bosses with their resources, there is nothing to do but to look on passively and wait for something or other to turn up. Meanwhile, to relieve the terrible monotony of waiting, we have gazed on another tremendous conflagration, this time at the Ginsberg mine, where machinery has been damaged to the extent of £100,000. Probably it is the work of the coolies. Again, the drop in the value of the output from the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates for the month of August is attributed to the partial destruction by fire of the tram bridge over the Blyde River, so fires are becoming epidemic. Realisations have been heavy, both on Paris and London account, and in spite of some buying on the part of the controlling houses the aggregate losses on the week are considerable. Amongst the diamond group Premier deferred have again been erratic, with a tendency to weakness.

Rhodesians, like Kaffirs, have also been declining. Elsewhere we publish an article showing the eagerness with which insiders have been peddling out their "banket" shares since the beginning of the year, and the figures are instructive.

The most active section of the market has been what is now known as the American. Esperanzas and El Oros have been very active and strong, and there is great risk that the movement may be a mere freebooters' rig, so investors must be cautious. As soon as the prices of these shares go up they promptly fall, because profit-takers come forward immediately. In spite of these constant fluctuations there is an appreciable advance on the week's movements. The shares of a new company—the Mexico Mines of El Oro—have been introduced on the market at the high figure of $2\frac{1}{2}$, but as no particulars of the concern have been published, and it is a surreptitious way of bringing the shares to the notice of the public, we think the latter had better not touch them.

West Africans and Egyptians have continued to move against holders, whilst there has been a majority of relapses amongst West Australians. Strength has again been exhibited by the Broken Hill group, especially by the Proprietary shares, which have touched the highest price since 1899. Copper shares of all sorts have been flat.

STRATTON'S INDEPENDENCE.—A circular that may be described as a little cheering is issued by the directors of Stratton's Independence, inasmuch as it seems to foreshadow a prospect of higher profits in the future from the treatment of low-grade ore. Mr. Godfrey Doveton, a metallurgical expert, after exhaustive experimental trials on the company's dump ore, has arrived at the conclusion that the low-grade ores of the district, from 3 dwts. upwards, can be treated at a good profit by the Cassel process. Stratton's Independence holds a one-half interest in this process in the Cripple Creek district, and is also the holder of a two-fifths interest in the Metals Extraction Syndicate, the owner of the remaining interest in the process. Negotiations are in progress to form a company to acquire the Cassel process in the Cripple Creek district, and to treat the low-grade ore of the Stratton's mine and dump, and the directors "anticipate it will be possible to carry out these arrangements without interruption of the regular dividends to the shareholders from the ordinary mining profits on the existing scale." Accompanying the circular is a report from the company's general manager, Mr. Becker, in which he says the nett profit for the year ending June 30 last amounts to £98,324, and that the outlook for the current year is most promising. Although the tonnage for the months of July and August showed a little falling off, he believes this to be only temporary, and he looks for as good results in the next 12 months as in the past year. In reference to the treatment of low-grade ores by the process mentioned above, he says the Independence dump is estimated to contain one million tons, averaging 3 dwts. per ton. "It may be interesting also to know," he adds, "that there have been numerous offers made by local mining men to take the Independence dump, instal machinery for its removal at a cost of \$20,000, and pay us a royalty of 25 per cent. on the shipping ore obtained by so doing. I would not deem it advisable, however, to accept such an offer, in view of the results obtained by the Cassel process, inasmuch as the quantity of shipping ore so obtained, on which royalty would be paid, would be very small compared to what could be made at one dollar per ton profit as shown by the Cassel process. In conclusion, I may add that the amount of low-grade ore available in the Independence mine, regardless of its dump, that could be profitably mined and treated, at the rate estimated for

the Cassel treatment of low-grade ores by Mr. Doveton, would, in my opinion, exceed several millions of tons." Still, it remains to be seen whether or not the experts are a little too sanguine as to the capabilities of the Cassel process.

UNITED SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION.—For the second time since this financial company was formed in 1902 it has succeeded in earning profits, so shareholders receive another dividend. It has also distinguished itself by assisting to promote the Premier Diamond Mining Company, in which it now holds 10,225 deferred shares. In the year to June 30 last the realised profit amounted to £63,591, generally arrived at, the auditors explain, by deducting from the proceeds of shares sold their average cost price, and no increase in value over the cost is credited to the profit and loss account. In other words, the profits are the proceeds of speculation. Interest added £8,395, and transfer fees £188, a total of £72,175. Already some properties taken up by the company have been abandoned, thus accounting for past losses, and the present accounts are debited with a further £3,960 representing sundry investigation expenses and money spent on abandoned options. After allowing for London and Johannesburg expenses and depreciation, the net profit is £51,053, which wipes out the previous year's debit of £12,542, and gives an available surplus of £38,512. An interim dividend of 1s. 6d. per share was paid last January, and a similar payment is now recommended. This will make a total distribution of 3s. per share and leave only £547 to carry forward, so the directors are in a great hurry to divide up to the hilt. But, they hasten to say, the share holdings show a further very large unrealised profit. In reference to the same matter the auditors say the published value of the quoted investments and the cost of other investments and assets are together in excess of their cost to the company. There are Government stocks of a book value of £32,713, part of which are in pledge for a bank loan of £16,000, although the company can exhibit cash to the tune of £90,741. Other shares in various South African companies are valued at £72,554, whilst debtors owe £2,385 against creditors for £21,467. In addition there are some heavy contingent liabilities, set out as follows:—(a) For calls upon partly paid shares and stock, £20,900; (b) monthly and other liabilities on options, claim licenses, &c.; (c) for purchases of shares bought for future delivery, £11,644. With respect to the Premier Company the directors say they have the highest opinion of its prospects. It is anticipated that the new plant will come into operation about the beginning of next year, when the profits should increase considerably. We shall see. Interests are also held in tin, copper, and magnesite properties, of whose futures the directors are very sanguine. Time alone will prove whether or not such optimism is justified.

GLOBE AND PHOENIX GOLD MINING COMPANY.—An interim report, covering the six months to June 30, is issued by the directors of this concern, which is one of the very few Rhodesian companies paying dividends. On the whole, it is encouraging. In preceding years the directors have loudly bewailed the scarcity of native labour, but now they say it has been adequate. The reserves of payable ore, which on December 31 last amounted to 84,650 tons, have increased to 103,176 tons, the largest quantity in sight ever recorded by the company, the average value being 13.4 dwts. per ton. Working costs show a decrease from £1 11s. 5d. per ton to £1 10s. 6d., and, of course, the latter figure is still high. But the manager hopes to reduce the cost further. In the Phoenix mine the development on the 6th to the 9th levels has shown a reef of a greater width than on the upper levels, and of good grade. On the 9th level, it is said, the south drive shows an average of 14.9 dwts. per ton over a width of 46.3 inches, against 5.4 dwts. over 41.8 inches in the same section on the 8th level. The last part driven on the north drive of the 9th level shows low values, but it appears that only part of the reef has been opened up in the drive. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 1s. 6d. per share for the six months.

MONTROSE DIAMOND MINING COMPANY.—Pending the publication of the annual report the directors of this company have issued a circular giving information respecting the result of the recent work done on the property. The company owns the freehold of the farm Wryneb, consisting of about 2,000 acres, situated some four miles to the north of the Premier mine. Prior to the war the company won about 9,000 carats of diamonds from a portion of the property designated as the No. 1 pipe. After the cessation of hostilities a certain amount of prospecting work was taken in hand, but as the directors were dissatisfied with the results the work was temporarily suspended. Feeling confident, however, of the value of the property they decided to obtain expert advice, and appointed Mr. Leopold Kessler consulting engineer, who went to South Africa to look into affairs, and advise the directors on the policy of future working. On arriving at the property he commenced systematic prospecting operations, first of all testing pipe No. 1. During the test 653 loads were taken from various parts of the pipe, and washed by means of a hand rotary machine, the result of the washing being 288 carats, equal to 44 carats per 100 loads. Work is to be resumed here at a later date in conjunction with the work now proceeding on other portions of the farm. Prospecting operations in other directions have so far resulted in the discovery of a new diamondiferous pipe in the northern portion of the property. Although the exact boundaries of the pipe have not yet been defined, the circular states that the area already opened up is considerable. The directors also call attention to the fact that Mr. Kessler has only had time to prospect about one-third of the farm, and they understand that certain indications in another

portion of the property point to the probability of further discoveries being made.

HAINAUT GOLD MINE.—During the financial year to the end of May 41,209 tons were crushed for a yield of 14,651 ozs. of gold. Treatment costs have again been reduced, being 3s. 4d. per ton less than in the previous year. It was estimated last year that when the full thirty stamps were at work 3,900 tons would be dealt with monthly, but this estimate has been considerably exceeded and it is now expected that the output will average 4,300 tons a month. After writing off £11,320 for development and depreciation the profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £9,832, to which has to be added £8,601 brought in, making £18,433. An interim dividend of 1s. per share was paid on December 30, 1904, absorbing £6,037, and leaving £12,396. A further dividend at the same rate was distributed at the end of June and £6,108 is now left to carry forward. Expenditure on machinery and plant amounted to £9,297. The ore reserves have been largely increased and are calculated at 205,000 tons, equal almost to five years' supply at the rate of treatment during the year under review.

SUAKIN MINING SYNDICATE.—In their report for the year ending March 31 the directors state that in the course of investigation ancient excavations were discovered in various parts of the concession, but in no instance to any great extent, and whilst some of the reefs which the excavations were designed to exploit contained a little gold, the indications generally were far from favourable. All work was consequently discontinued and the Sudan Government were advised of the Syndicate's wish to surrender the licence. Negotiations were then entered into with the Sudan Gold Field, Limited, to acquire prospecting rights over a part of the latter's concession. An option for two years was secured over an area of some 1,000 square miles, for a consideration of £500 in cash, and in the event of the syndicate determining at any time to exercise the option and to form a company for the active development of the property a further consideration of £5,000 in cash and 15 per cent. of the nominal capital of the new company. An expedition has been organised to commence work on the option property. At the date of the balance-sheet 4s. per share had been called up on the 20,000 cash shares. On September 5 a further call of 2s. 6d. per share was made, payable on the 26th inst., so the directors think the finances will enable a thorough test of the option area to be made.

KLEINFONTEIN ESTATES AND TOWNSHIP.—On its farming operations this company derived a revenue of £1,662 in the year to May 31 last, and as expenditure came to £1,956 there was a loss of £294. From the sale of stands, however, it received £6,540 and from interest £393, making an income of £6,933 from the township business, and as the cost of the stands and the expenses were trifling, a profit of £5,194 is shown. To this is added £368 from ground rent and brokerage, as well as the balance of £707 from 1904, making a total of £6,269 to the credit of the general profit and loss account. Deducting various items of expenses, depreciation and the loss on farming, there is left a nett profit of £1,279 to take to the current year. Against £723 owing to sundry creditors and a loan of £7,719, bills receivable amount to £7,679, debtors stand at £2,218 and cash is £1,645.

VICTORIA AND QUEEN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The directorial report for the half-year to July 14 states that at the commencement of the term a chamber was excavated at 380 ft. in the vertical shaft, and a small vein of formation followed in a drive of 20 ft. Failing any satisfactory prospects at this point, a crosscut was driven 54 ft. north, with no result, so work was suspended at this place. The most important point of operations has been the No. 4 east level on the Victoria and Queen Reef. This drive was extended 134 ft., making its total length from No. 2 underlie shaft 182 ft. In the level the reef averaged 8 ins. of stone of variable, but payable quality. The stopes, 40 ft. in length, are up 25 ft. above the level, and carry from 4 ins. to 18 ins. of good quality stone. It is intended to continue the level to the dyke, which, says the report, has apparently been diverted from its course. A vertical winze will then be sunk east of the dyke to pick up the faulted reef, and on the west side a second winze will be sunk on the chute of stone which has given payable returns in the trial crushings. The output for the half-year, including trial crushings from the two formations now being worked, was 292 tons of ore for 456 ozs. of gold of a value of £1,510, with residues worth £173, total £1,683. In addition tributaries crushed 274 tons for 305 ozs., worth, with residues, £1,008. Thus the total output was 566 tons, yielding product to the value of £2,692, showing an average per ton of ore of £4 15s. The credit balance has been reduced from £7,334 to £7,039.

MADAGASCAR MINING REGULATIONS.—It is announced that the draft of the decree for the regulation of mining in Madagascar is still at the Ministry of Finance, where it is being examined by the Minister of Justice. As soon as the document is returned to the Ministry of the Colonies, M. Clementel will submit it to the Council of Ministers and will publish it as soon after as possible. The decree divides the mines of Madagascar into two categories—alluvial mines and reef mines. In the case of alluvial mines a tax of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* on the gross output, and an annual tax of two francs per hectare of land will be imposed. As regards reef mines, the system to be adopted will be similar to that in force in the Transvaal. There will be a tax of 200 francs per hectare and an *ad valorem* tax of 10 per cent., or 15 per cent. The amount of the *ad valorem* charge has not yet been finally determined, but it is very probable,

it is stated, that it will be fixed at 10 per cent. The classification of mines as alluvial or reef is to be decided by the Governor upon the advice of the Colonial Council. It is just as well, perhaps, that minds should be employed in dealing with these little conundrums, unimportant as they appear to be. From all accounts neither the alluvial nor the reef mines are likely to be profitable ventures except to promoters, though, it is true, some people do not mind promoters enriching themselves at their expense.

GOLD MINING IN VICTORIA.—The annual report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria, states that the yield of gold in the colony for the year 1904 amounted to 821,017 ozs. gross, or 765,600 ozs. fine, representing a value of £3,252,045, and although this is a decrease of 1,407 ozs. compared with the output of 1903 the yield has been exceeded thrice only in the past twenty-two years. Up to the end of November the gold won amounted to 743,383 ozs. against 741,710 ozs. in the corresponding eleven months, and there was, therefore, good reason for the belief that 1904 would prove a record year, but, unfortunately, the December returns fell far behind expectations. Since the first discovery of the precious metal the total amount of gold produced by the colony to the end of last year is 67,557,353 ozs., of a value of £270,062,756. Victoria, it may be pointed out, compares very favourably with some of the neighbouring States, where the decreases in two or three instances have been of a substantial character. In Western Australia, for example, there was a deficiency compared with 1903 of 81,571 ozs., equivalent in cash to £346,493; in Queensland the falling off was 29,395 ozs., and in New Zealand 11,849 ozs., representing values of £125,879 and £50,330 respectively.

KALGOORLIE MINERS' WAGES.—The West Australian papers give fuller particulars respecting the agreement arrived at recently on the important question of the miners' wages. In its issue of August 15, the *W. A. Mining Journal* says:—"What is practically a complete settlement of the present wages trouble at Kalgoorlie was arrived at this afternoon. For months past the industrial agreement, to which the mineowners and mine employers of Kalgoorlie are parties, and which expires on the 30th inst., has been the subject of earnest negotiations. At first the mine managers threatened to make a determined stand for an all-round drastic reduction of wages, and as a counterblast the workers submitted a scale of rates much above those now ruling. Both sides successively modified their demands until this afternoon, when what is practically a duplicate of the existing agreement was announced. The workers, as a rule, had expressed themselves ready to accept the existing scale of rates, but the mine managers held out—and they still hold out—for a broadening of the classification of certain classes of unskilled labour. This is one of the few points of difference between the parties, and although it will have the effect of reducing the wages and status of a minor section of the workers, it is not likely to cause much friction, as most of the men affected are not members of recognised unions, and, moreover, comprise considerably less than 10 per cent. of the workers on the field. It is expected that the members of the A.W.A. and the A.M.A., which comprise over 90 per cent. of the mine employees of the field, will record an overwhelming majority in favour of the new scale of rates agreed to at to-day's conference." The representatives of the employers agreed to a renewal of the existing rates, with the exception of those for cyanide vat labourers, filter-press men, and mechanics' labourers. "The only other rates now in dispute relate to the cyanide vatmen, filter-press men, riggers, and mechanics' labourers, and it is hoped that an amicable settlement may yet be arrived at."

EGYPTIAN OPTIONS.—The secretary writes that the directors have just completed negotiations which have been in progress for some time, and have entered into an agreement for dealing with two "valuable" concessions in Egypt, which, in the opinion of the board, "have the promise of a substantial profit to the company." Arrangements have been made to despatch a properly equipped expedition to start immediately to explore the country, and shareholders are to be informed "of any important developments."

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY COMPANY OF CANADA.

Gross receipts of this rapidly improving Canadian system for the half-year ended June 30 were £2,729,008 or £169,692 more than in the corresponding period of 1903, when traffic was greatly interfered with by the exceptionally severe weather. On the other hand, the working expenses rose £27,868 to £1,923,437, the ratio between expenditure and income being 70.48 per cent. compared with 74.06 per cent. Number of passengers carried increased 345,951, and although the average fare per passenger was 0.57d. less, the receipts were better by £50,240. Mails and express gave a slightly smaller return, but freight and live stock produced £117,489 more owing to an increase in tonnage of 635,338. The average rate per ton was 2.23d. lower, but the earnings per train mile showed an advance of 0.09d., proving that the traffic was more economically handled as it should be in normal times. The tons carried one mile reached the enormous

total of 1,255,101,395, or an average haul of about 190 miles, while the average rate per ton per mile on the entire freight business was 0.69 of a cent. compared with 0.72 in the corresponding half-year, rates which English lines will hardly strive to approach. As might have been expected, there was a considerable saving under the head of conducting transportation—what we should call traffic expenses—because a year ago a heavy increase was shown, but the actual decline of £94,267 was a good deal bigger than anticipated. It was largely due to an important saving in the cost of fuel. Maintenance of way and structures cost £22,089 more, maintenance of equipment advanced no less than £88,847, because of the greatly increased expenditure on the repair and renewal of locomotives and freight cars, and general expenses and taxes went up £5,963 and £5,236 respectively. Outlay per train mile worked out 2.43d. lower, and considering the extra business handled the increase in the train mileage of 572,105 cannot be considered excessive. The additions to rolling stock at the cost of revenue consisted of five passenger and ten mogul compound freight engines, 1,000 box cars, 28 brake vans, two coal cars, and one ice scraper. Balance of net revenue was £805,570 or an advance of £141,823, and with the addition of other items, including a much larger sum for general interest, the actual sum available is raised to £907,634 or £151,855 more. Fixed charges took a trifle extra at £612,185, but the sum advanced to the Detroit Grand Haven and Milwaukee towards the payment of interest on its bonds was nearly £9,000 less, so that the available surplus comes to £285,033 compared with £124,610. Add £6,619 brought forward and the balance is brought up to £291,652, or sufficient to provide the half-year's dividends on the guaranteed and first and second preference stocks with a credit carried forward of £7,423. For the corresponding period it was not possible to go beyond the guaranteed dividend, leaving a whole twelve month's dividend to be found on the first and second preference stocks at the end of the year, thus preventing any payment on the "thirds." Now traffics for the current half-year are keeping up in a satisfactory fashion, and although the rise in expenditure is also heavy the company looks like finishing the year pretty well, meaning that a dividend will be possible on the third preference. How much it is too early yet to say, but the capital amount of this issue is big, and if 2 per cent. is accomplished it will be a very fair performance. Some people are looking for 3 per cent. we know, or the price of the stock would hardly be over 60, but modest anticipations may prevent disappointment. Including £9,929 discount and commission on £300,000 4 per cent. guaranteed stock, the capital expenditure for the half-year was £104,844 for land purchased, double tracking and new works. Some further outlay on doubling the line will be incurred in the current six months and beyond, certain sections now in hand or contemplated being due for completion in time for next winter's traffic. On the Grand Trunk Western the gross receipts were £512,995 or £6,848 more against a decline in expenses of £3,436 to £429,438, leaving the net profit £10,284 larger at £83,557. Net revenue charges for the half-year were £76,121 against £72,745, meaning a surplus of £7,436 compared with £528, and if we deduct the deficiency at the end of December last, £4,637, and add the credit carried forward on June 30, £634, there is an available balance of £3,433 which will admit of the payment of 1 per cent. on the second mortgage bonds, the first return, we believe, since the reorganisation. Gross receipts of the Detroit Grand Haven and Milwaukee rose £17,025 to £134,771 and the expenses £7,902 to £107,980, leaving a balance larger by £9,123 at £26,791. Against that the net revenue charges were £37,206, or a trifle more, so that the deficiency is £10,415 compared with £19,383, as already stated. Work in connection with the surveys for the location of the Grand Trunk Pacific has been energetically pressed forward, and a considerable proportion of the line between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, and also of the Lake Superior branch has been definitely located. A contract on favourable terms has been let for the construction of 275 miles from Portage la Prairie, about 55 miles west of Winnipeg to Touchwood Hills, and a contract will immediately be made for the construction of the Lake Superior branch.

THE READING COMPANY.

This company, it must always be explained, controls the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company and the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, and in doing so confuses to some extent the financial position of all three. Taking the three companies together, the gross receipts for the year ended June 30 last apparently came to \$80,561,158 and the working expenses to \$56,457,255. This left \$24,103,903 as nett revenue, from which \$14,085,155 had to be deducted to cover the gross fixed charges and taxes of the three companies, leaving the free earnings before paying the Reading Company's dividend and the general sinking fund at \$10,018,748. The year before the free revenue was only \$7,757,538. These figures, however, contain some duplications, since the dividend paid on the stock of the railway company is counted as income to the Reading Company, so it is best to take the figures separately, after pointing out that as recently as 1902-3 the aggregate receipts were only \$62,140,743. Within two years, therefore, the amount available for dividends on the different classes of Reading shares has been enlarged by nearly \$5,000,000 or almost double. Coming now to the separate branches of the business, we find the earnings of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company put down at \$37,495,719 for the fiscal year. Working expenses took \$19,480,350 and \$1,010,438 was set aside to insurance fund and improvements, so that the final nett revenue was \$17,004,932, and fixed charges and taxes took \$9,645,769 of this, leaving

\$7,359,162 as the surplus available for dividend on the company's shares. As usual, the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company contributed largely to this result by yielding freight, but no nett receipts of its own. Its gross income was \$36,099,420, and working expenses and local taxes devoured \$32,035,951 of this, leaving only \$4,063,469 as nett earnings. From this, however, the cost of new works at collieries, together with interest at 2 per cent. on the debt to the Reading Company and a sum of \$478,326 representing depletion of lands fund, making in all \$3,791,556, had to be deducted as well as \$104,035 for fixed charges and taxes, so that the ultimate surplus of this huge business was only \$167,878. The Coal and Iron Company finds the material out of which the Railway Company distills its nett income. As for the Reading Company itself, its income, drawn almost wholly from the two dependents, the two concerns which it controls, was \$6,966,019, from which expenses took about \$139,000, and after meeting its fixed charges and taxes the surplus was \$2,491,708, making the aggregate surplus for the three companies \$10,018,748 as above stated, but part of this surplus must be duplication, since the income of the Reading Company is not to any appreciable extent drawn from independent sources. However, there the figures are, and the surplus as brought out enables the Reading Company to pay the full dividend on its first and second preferred stocks together with the probability that at least 2 per cent. will again be paid upon the common stock. With finance of this description one can never be sure of much. Last year's gross receipts, however, for the railway company alone increased by \$2,556,323 and the surplus was greater by \$3,042,897, while the payments on account of fixed charges and taxes were only \$171,232 up. A comfortable increase is shown in the anthracite coal business of the company which rose by 704,835 tons or 6.22 per cent. to 12,029,459 tons, but the increase in the carriage of bituminous coal was even greater, showing a gain of 1,125,178 tons or 13.96 per cent., making the total 9,184,421 tons for the year ended June 30 last. The revenue from coal traffic of all sorts increased by \$1,241,551 or 7.80 per cent. Merchandise traffic was also larger by 2,061,973 tons, the total reaching 18,965,193 tons, the increase being 12.40 per cent. in weight as against 9.25 per cent. in money, with gross receipts of \$13,036,536 or \$1,103,895 up. Passenger traffic showed relatively a much smaller expansion, the increase being 3.11 per cent. in number and 3.64 per cent. in money. Along with these increases in the various kinds of business done there were savings of expenses on maintenance of way and structures, savings explained by the heavy outlay in previous year, but \$979,643 were spent on improvements during the year and charged to revenue, so that the financial management of the companies appears to be conservative and the increase in the capital expenditure has not been important. During the year \$1,500,000 in general mortgage bonds appear to have been issued and mostly sold, but in the same period portions of various series of equipment trust certificates issued by the railroad had been paid off, so that the nett result of the year's dealings with the capital account was a reduction of \$381,369 in the railway company's obligations, and this although the whole of the \$1,500,000 of general mortgage bonds do not appear to have been disposed of during the year. Details relating to the working of the Coal and Iron Company do not possess much interest on this side; it is merely an adjunct to the railway company to whom it furnishes traffic, which is carried always at freight rates certain to leave the railway company a handsome nett revenue, whatever may come of the Coal and Iron Company. It may be interesting, however, to give the aggregate capital commitments of the three concerns. That of the Railroad Company was on June 30 last upwards of \$245,000,000, exclusive of the surplus above mentioned, and that of the Iron Company, on the same basis, was about \$88,500,000. This includes \$79,136,000 due to the Reading Company, which was brought into existence mainly to shelve or put away on one side the unwieldy obligations piled in past years on the top of the Coal and Iron Company. The mothering and smothering Reading Company's capital commitments, including \$20,000,000 of share capital, but leaving out of sight the current liabilities aggregating \$6,553,000, various insurance, equipment and other sinking funds, was upwards of \$90,000,000 at the date of the balance-sheet. We cannot separate up these figures sufficiently to be sure of giving an accurate summary of the nett liabilities of the three companies taken together, but it appears to be somewhere about \$345,000,000, or quite £70,000,000. Is there value for the money in the properties? We fear not.

ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY.

This company's traffic may be said to have marked time during the year to June 30 last, the gross increase against the preceding year being only \$204,637 at the huge total of \$68,375,837. The fact that any increase at all was shown was entirely due to the passenger business, which gave an increase of \$611,666, as freight was less by \$353,671, mail and express fell off \$31,133 and miscellaneous \$22,165. On the other hand, there was a large advance of \$3,295,352 to \$45,517,384 in the working expenses, sending up the ratio between expenditure and income by 4.63 per cent. to 66.57 per cent., and the nett earnings down by \$3,090,714 to \$22,858,483. It is, however, only natural to find this heavy expenditure due to abnormal causes, and the additional \$2,215,184 spent on maintenance of way and structures was almost entirely attributable to the disastrous floods of which we shall speak presently. On maintenance of equipment the advance was also heavy at \$908,729, due, perhaps, to the small balance at credit of the rolling-stock replacement fund on June 30, 1904. The amount was \$26,753 only, leading to the

large addition during the year of \$1,601,362, operating expenses contributing \$1,491,408 and other sources \$109,954. Of this credit \$1,136,275 was spent in the purchase of locomotives, freight cars and passenger cars, leaving the substantial balance of \$491,480 to go forward to the current year. Conducting transportation or traffic expenses was only slightly higher, thanks to the trifling growth in revenue, and general expenses went up by \$104,539. Referring to the year's business, the directors say that the grain crops were smaller than usual, but there was a slight increase in the cotton movement, and a considerable advance in lumber. Passengers, as noted, showed a sharp improvement, largely of a local character, as owing to interruptions by floods the through business, both passengers and freight, suffered severely. The year it seems was remarkable for excessive rainfall, not confined to any one locality, but almost universal and nearly continuous, and it is easy to see how greatly this must have influenced the year's operations by restricting business and causing an abnormal increase in the working charges. On at least three occasions the main lines in Arizona and New Mexico were totally disabled, besides innumerable smaller breaks, and for weeks it was necessary to advise intending patrons to ship or travel over other routes. We, who never experience anything of the sort, can have no conception of the havoc wrought, and it is quite staggering to read that 9,551 ft. of bridges, 35½ miles of track and 1,000,000 cubic yards of embankment were carried away, and the big stone building at Trinidad completely demolished. To repair all the damage plunged the company into an outlay of \$2,000,000, the greater part of which has already been provided, but a portion remained to be charged after the close of the fiscal year, as permanent repairs had not been completed at that date. So far as possible steps have been taken to prevent further disaster, but floods of the same magnitude would still work great destruction, and the directors can only fervently hope they will not recur. After providing taxes and rental of tracks and terminals the nett balance is \$20,638,203, raised to \$21,452,100 by interest and discount, income from investments and sundry adjustments. Deduct \$9,709,760 for interest on bonds, advances to subsidiary companies, and nett sum payable for rental of leased lines, and the surplus remaining is \$11,742,346. Preferred stock dividend of 5 per cent. takes \$5,708,690, and the 4 per cent. paid on the common stock \$4,078,220, and the directors in a manner go some way in "clearing up" the accounts by writing \$1,083,311 off property accounts in respect of expenses and discount on bond sales. Another \$319,635 goes to the fuel reserve fund, and the balance of \$552,489 increases the credit to profit and loss to \$19,739,492, an imposing figure, but almost entirely used in the business. During the year there was an increase in the funded debt of about \$7,000,000 at a total of \$246,226,300, which has since been increased to \$265,986,500 by the payment of the remaining instalments on the \$32,420,000 of convertible bonds offered to the preferred and common stockholders, so that capital is being poured out at a pretty fast pace, even allowing that some of the money was used for redemption of existing indebtedness. During the current year the actual interest charge for this big debt will be \$10,589,958 or practically \$1,000,000 more than in the period now under review, and it is fortunate that business is picking up again, or the margin behind the present dividend would not be a large one.

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross revenue of this important coal road for the twelve months ended June 30 was \$24,089,250, an increase against the preceding year of \$1,370,282, to which passengers contributed \$7,913, freight \$1,354,458, mails \$1,159 and express \$8,573. There was a slight decrease in miscellaneous income. Operating expenses reached a sum of \$14,614,434 or \$941,106 more, maintenance of way and structures being up \$241,746, maintenance of equipment \$366,299, conducting transportation \$322,988 and general expenses \$10,072. Thus the year's operations were quite devoid of striking characteristics, unless the additional freight business is worth special mention. Tonnage of revenue-earning freight showed an increase of 1,730,671 tons, of which 1,374,952 was in coal and 282,491 tons in coke. There was also a slight increase in the iron ore shipments, but lumber, limestone and pig-iron all contributed less. Maintenance of equipment or rolling stock included \$479,255 for replacing property destroyed or retired from service and \$235,000 credited to the fund for acquiring additional equipment, and we find that this account provided during the year 27 locomotives, 20 passenger cars, 6 combined baggage and express cars, 5 combined baggage and mail cars, 600 box cars and 370 hopper-bottom gondolas. Considerable additions were also made from the equipment renewal fund, and altogether we should consider the working stock had been maintained at a fairly high standard. We are also glad to note the extra money spent on the upkeep of way and structures, the outlay per mile of road being \$1,721 compared with \$1,660, because we know that the tracks of very few American railroads are in really first-class condition. Nett earnings from ordinary operations come to \$9,474,825 or an improvement of \$429,177, and other sources of income gave \$63,340 more, so that the total nett income is better by \$492,517 at \$9,685,398. There is, however, the usual increase in the funded debt and interest charges, the advance being \$347,365 at \$3,851,944, so that only \$145,152 remains from the nett gain of close on half a million dollars. Sum to be dealt with is \$5,833,454, which provides sundry payments to subsidiary and other companies, the preferred dividend of 4 per cent., two half-yearly distributions of 1½ per cent. each on the common shares, \$1,000,000 to the betterment fund and \$1,250,000 to the fund for acquiring additional equipment, leaving

\$449,995 to be added to the previous surplus, making it \$3,606,968 less \$405,000 provided for discount and commission on securities sold. Funded debt outstanding at the close of the accounts was \$68,289,500, including something like \$8,700,000 added during the year, the proceeds having been applied in reimbursement of expenditures previously made. A further \$2,000,000 divisional first lien and general mortgage bonds are held at the company's disposal whenever required, and likely enough will be called during the current year. In addition the company issued a new series of 4 per cent. equipment trust certificates amounting to \$2,000,000, payable in annual instalments of \$200,000 from April 1, 1906, to April 1, 1915, inclusive, but this, we take it, will be a charge against revenue and not capital. Nevertheless fixed obligations are being increased at a pretty fast rate, last year's additions, as we have shown, being decidedly important, and every \$10,000,000 of capital means an annual charge of at least \$400,000, a sum not easily earned even in the most flourishing times, especially considering the ever upward tendency of working expenses.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY COMPANY.

This railway increased the length of its own track by 53 miles last year, making the total length of its single line 1,135 miles exclusive of 348 miles of line worked through the ownership of the stock and various other subsidiary properties leased or used jointly by this company and others, the total length of single line worked over being 1,708 miles, of which little more than 200 miles was double tracked on June 30 last. Upon this road—a very small one for the United States—the gross earnings last year were \$20,724,371, an increase of \$1,426,846 on the previous year. Expenses went up only \$468,000 to \$13,250,966, the proportion being reduced from 66.2 per cent. to 63.9 per cent. Net earnings thus showed an increase of \$959,000, exclusive of \$177,287 received from outside sources, so after meeting interest on the funded debt, taxes, losses on a grain elevator and on the steamship line there was \$2,871,639 left as free revenue or \$927,127 more than at the end of the previous year. From this, however, the board deducts no less than \$1,952,476, payments on account of the capital and equipment trusts and other extraordinary expenses, while \$627,904 was disbursed in November last to pay dividend No. 6 upon the company's stock. This only left \$291,258 by way of free surplus. During the year the funded debt was increased by \$2,025,000, an issue of \$1,500,000 of 4½ per cent. general mortgage bonds having been made, together with \$525,000 of Paint Creek branch first mortgage 4 per cent. gold bonds. Further capital expenditures are in progress, and doubtless more bonds will soon be required, but the property is undoubtedly in a much better position than it was some few years ago, and there seems no reason to look forward to the future with any apprehension that it will wholly fall back again into its former miserable condition. At the same time its business, apart from coal and coke, does not seem to increase very rapidly. The increase under coal and coke tonnage last year was 26 per cent., but in other freight only 1½ per cent., while in passengers the increase was 5 per cent. in numbers. The passenger earnings, however, went up 6.7 per cent., although there was a decrease of 2½ per cent. in the earnings per passenger. No United States railroad, not even the Norfolk, has done more than this one to consolidate its train loads, and last year the revenue tonnage per train was again increased by 9.6 per cent. to 557 tons or including company's freight to 585 tons, an increase of 8.7 per cent. The aggregate capitalisation of the property is now about \$155,000,000 exclusive of current liabilities and assets.

MISSOURI, KANSAS AND TEXAS RAILWAY COMPANY.

During the year ended June 30 this company increased the mileage in operation by 159 making the total 3,043, and in considering the results obtained this circumstance must be borne in mind. The gross earnings were \$20,041,094 or \$2,274,499 more than in 1904, of which \$1,940,010 was absorbed in operating expenses and taxes, which came to \$14,937,719. Gain in net receipts therefore was only \$334,489 at \$5,103,374, but "other" income was more than \$100,000 larger at \$425,180, so that the total net income came to \$5,528,555 compared with \$5,085,608. Against that there was an increase in interest and rentals of \$242,125 at \$4,261,364, leaving the surplus at \$1,267,190, an improvement of \$200,822. Practically the whole of this, however, was absorbed in providing cash payments for new equipment and notes maturing within the year for equipment purchases previously made, the exact amount being \$1,238,142, so that only \$29,049 remained to be added to the actual balance, making it \$940,890. During the next five years the sum to be similarly provided reaches \$4,591,536, ranging from \$1,134,005 in the current twelve months to \$1,741,116 in 1911, and directors say quite frankly that unless fresh capital in the shape of debenture or preference stock can be issued to meet these notes as they fall due dividend payments for a long time to come are out of the question, constant rumours to the contrary notwithstanding. Remember that all the existing bond issues authorised are available only for new expenditure, and since these promise to be important it is clear that no useful purpose can be served by discussing dividend possibilities. Last year the company took over \$968,000 South-Western Coal and Improvement Company bonds on the acquisition of the Denison and Washita Valley Railway Company's property in Texas and the Indian territory, and issued \$1,484,000 Missouri, Kansas and Texas first and refunding mortgage bonds to retire \$337,000 Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma first extension bonds, for shops and terminals at Parsons, Kansas and Sedalia, Missouri, and to acquire terminals at Kansas

City. Then \$40,000 St Louis Division 4 per cent. bonds were issued in lieu of \$30,000 Missouri, Kansas and Eastern Railway second mortgage bonds, and shareholders are warned that a further issue of \$3,000,000 first and refunding mortgage bonds will be made during present year to provide new equipment, for the completion of the terminal property now being developed at Kansas City and the construction of new machine shops. All these are very important obligations, and must push dividends further into the background even if capital expenditures ceased with these outlays, which can by no means be the case. As we know, much remains to be done to improve the physical condition of the road, particularly in the way of reducing the grades and improving the alignment on certain portions of the old railway, but the more pressing necessities of the past have compelled the management to defer expenditures in these directions. Sooner or later, however, the work must be taken in hand, and then some reduction may be effected in the working expenses, now abnormally high owing to these grades, the heavy cost of maintaining the unballasted portion of the track, the inadequate shop accommodation for the locomotives and the expenses of the terminals. And yet we are told that Yankee Railroad shares are advancing on their merits. What possible justification can there be for the present price of the common shares of this company when not even the preferred are in sight of a dividend? The company seems to have persuaded the Government authorities of the State of Kansas to bring the suits in the name of the State to test the rights of the company to its land grant in the Indian territory—land apparently belonging to the Indian tribes and disallowed to the company by the Government. An earlier termination of the matters involved than at one time seemed probable is now anticipated, but the business is certain to be costly. Current trade indications are described as favourable throughout the agricultural and industrial communities, the wheat crop in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma being of tremendous extent. That should mean a heavy movement of grain to the South, but it may be well to note a large decrease in the acreage of cotton and wheat in Texas owing to the unfavourable season.

NEW YORK CENTRAL AND HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY.

For the quarter ended September 30 this powerful road had a gross income of \$23,281,500 (partly estimated) or \$2,266,100 more than in the corresponding period of 1904, but the working expenses were increased by \$1,848,600 at \$15,829,500, leaving a nett gain of \$417,500 at a total of \$7,452,000. Other income was up by \$1,300, but fixed charges and taxes rose \$252,500, so that only \$166,300 was saved from the big gross increase. As the New York *Commercial Chronicle* wisely remarks, railroad expenses are steadily rising year by year, and it is costing an ever-increasing sum to run the roads. Wages have increased enormously, hours of work have been shortened, and greatly enhanced prices have to be paid for materials and supplies, and for practically everything that enters into the expenses of a transportation line. Gamblers in Yankee shares may take note of these facts. The New York Central is, of course, an exceptionally wealthy line, and can meet its quarter's dividend of 1¼ per cent. and still show a surplus equal to as much again, but most other lines are not so well placed. And even the Central cannot do so well every time, as its dividends for the first half of the year were a good deal in excess of the nett earnings.

CHICAGO AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Another very satisfactory report is issued by this company for the year ended June 30, the gross earnings having risen by \$2,410,641 to \$55,745,275 at the cost of an increase of \$1,422,202 to \$38,649,312 in working expenses and taxes. Of the improvement in earnings \$312,005 or 2.39 per cent. came from passenger traffic, and was mainly due to larger receipts from round trip and excursion passengers, while freight traffic produced \$2,038,291 or 5.47 per cent. more. The tons carried one mile showed an increase of 5.57 per cent., and although there were decreases of 4.55 per cent. in the average earnings per ton and 4.61 per cent. in the average distance each ton was hauled the approximate earnings per mile run were \$0.12 up at \$2.19 or an increase of 5.80 per cent. Maintenance of way and structures cost \$300,635 more, and included the cost of 50,593 tons of steel rails used in replacement of light rails in 420 miles of track, as well as of 2,997,941 new ties. In addition 33 new steel bridges were erected on masonry and 13 on pile supports in replacement of wooden structures, aggregating 2,168 ft. in length, and other wooden structures were replaced with masonry arch and box culverts and iron pipes, making a total of 9,480 ft. Outlay on maintenance of equipment rose by \$909,446, of which \$623,752 was on new locomotives purchased and \$239,263 on replacements, renewals and repairs of cars. The net earnings for the year came to \$17,095,963 or \$988,439 more, and after providing \$7,231,576 for interest and sinking funds the available surplus, including \$553,435 from miscellaneous receipts, was \$1,018,081 up at \$10,417,822, out of which the usual dividends of 8 per cent. on the preferred and 7 per cent. on the common stock were paid, leaving \$5,242,898. Of this \$4,600,000 was appropriated for construction, improvements and permanent additions compared with \$4,000,000 a year ago, and \$642,898 was added to the amount brought forward, raising the credit balance to \$11,640,181. The total construction charges in the twelve months came to \$5,816,315, the cost of elevating tracks in Chicago and depressing tracks in Milwaukee being \$1,163,091, while \$765,823 was spent on additional equipment, and after deducting the amount charged to net revenue \$1,216,315 was added to cost of property, but this involved no change in the

capital stock of the company. The outstanding funded debt was reduced by \$141,800, of which \$135,000 was through the operation of the sinking funds and \$6,800 was by the purchase and retirement of the outstanding Sioux City and Pacific 7 per cent. preferred stock. Against the first of these operations \$135,000 3½ per cent. general mortgage bonds of 1937 were issued, together with a further \$1,000,000 on account of construction expenditures, but the whole amount was retained in the treasury.

CHICAGO GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

In the year ended June 30 last this company's gross earnings fell off by \$645,000 to \$7,378,000. Working expenses, however, were brought down by \$781,000 to \$5,123,000, so that the nett income was actually higher by about \$136,000 at \$2,038,618. Remembering the past history of this line, we cannot but be suspicious of such results, and one of these days the starving of the system they indicate will doubtless have to be paid for. All the decrease fell upon the freight traffic, which is also a bad sign, but during the year the company spent about \$714,000 in what is described as additions and improvements to the permanent plant, so accounts balanced somehow. This is exclusive of \$20,135 paid for new rolling stock out of capital. In addition to the company's main line, reduced to 818 miles by the transfer of about 56 miles to the Mason City and Fort Dodge Railroad Company, of which the Chicago Great Western is the owner, accounts are presented for both the Mason City line and the Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pacific Railroad, but they are too unimportant to be worth notice, and tell us nothing. As Mr. Stickney, the president, notes in his report, "these proprietary lines, being new, have not developed their full earning capacity, but it is confidently expected that during the coming year both their gross and nett earnings will rapidly increase." This kind of prophecy has frequently been indulged in by the same gentleman with reference to the Chicago Great Western itself, and his confident forecasts have not hitherto been brilliantly fulfilled. That there is room, however, for growth is beyond question, for the earnings of the Wisconsin line last year were only \$675,418 or nearly \$3,000 less than in the year ended June 30, 1904, but working expenses in this case also were severely kept down. A substantial increase, however, did take place in the Mason City line's receipts. That perhaps was because of the additional mileage assigned to it; at any rate, the figures of gross income were up by \$599,000 to \$1,466,000, while the working expenses were larger by only \$329,000 at \$984,000. It resulted that the nett income from working the line was nearly \$192,000, which was not much upon a property capitalised at about \$44,500,000. But the Chicago Great Western Company lives by and upon capital, and has always done that.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Another magnificent display is made by the premier road of Argentina for the year ended June 30 last. Gross revenue amounted to £3,350,102 or an increase of £497,096 against the preceding year, and the directors evidently believe in lavish working expenditure when business is flourishing, as the outlay went up £356,104 to £1,670,625, leaving the net revenue at £1,679,477 an improvement of £140,992. With balance brought forward £125,179, and revenue from interest, profit on remittances, &c., the sum for disposal is £1,839,057, and after meeting all fixed charges and maintaining the ordinary dividend at 7 per cent. the directors add £150,000 to the permanent way and rolling stock renewal funds, £10,000 to the pension fund and £5,000 to the staff benevolent fund, carrying forward £113,704. All this was accomplished on a mileage just three higher than in the previous year, and is a striking illustration of the prosperous conditions still ruling in the Argentine. Ratio of working expenses was 3.80 per cent. higher at 49.87 per cent.—rather a favourable circumstance than otherwise—and when a line can be operated at anything under 50 per cent. of the gross take there is not much cause for complaint. A smaller percentage than that is apt to create the impression that the public is not given value for its money. Number of passengers carried rose 753,079 to 8,029,915, giving larger receipts by £108,188; luggage and parcels improved £21,223, and as a result of moving 647,296 tons more goods the revenue therefrom went up by £292,604, of which £217,641 was due to grain alone. In all other branches of the business, however, development has been steadily maintained, with the exception perhaps of animals, which fell off by the trifle of 100,016, but even from this traffic the income was larger by £23,420 or just on 10 per cent. According to the report of the local committee the quality of wheat grown in the districts served by the railway compares very favourably with that produced in any other part of the country, and with the constantly increasing areas put under cultivation, together with improved transport facilities and the reduction in tariffs now being introduced, the wheat-growing industry will no doubt make very rapid headway. It provides very remunerative traffic, too; but expenditure seems likely to keep pace with the growing revenue, and shareholders are warned that any reduction in the present ratio between income and expenditure is unlikely. Attention is drawn to the remarkable development which has recently taken place at Bahia Blanca, and shareholders will no doubt recall our oft-repeated assertion that this city was destined to become one of the leading ports of Argentina. Evidently that view is shared by the Great Southern board, as permission has been obtained from the Government to carry out important additions and improvements to the present moles and wharves, including the installation of elevators and other facilities for handling grain in bulk, and every effort is being made to have a substantial portion of the increased accommodation available for the next

produce season. Further, the board has recently sold by public auction for building purposes 316,839 square metres of land in the hope that this will also assist the development of the place, leaving on hand 17,920,985 metres, standing in the books at a nett cost of £61,637. Seeing that the 316,839 metres realised over £87,000, the company apparently possesses in this huge land holding a hidden reserve of considerable magnitude. Orders for new equipment consist of 138 locomotives, three steam motor coaches, 56 passenger saloons, 2,200 40-ton bogie wagons, 50 goods brake-vans and 15 passenger brake-vans, a proportion of which will be charged against the rolling-stock renewal fund, strengthened in anticipation by the credit from revenue. The southern dock, in which the company has a large financial interest, has already justified its construction, we are told, as although the necessary authorisation of the National Government for the opening of the west quay for general traffic was only granted on January 5 last this portion of the dock was largely used during the last produce season, 80 ocean-going vessels and 539 coasters and barges having been berthed and 152,656 tons of cargo dealt with. The result was a profit of £2,587—not very much, truly, considering the heavy amount of capital sunk in the enterprise, but it may perhaps be considered satisfactory that any revenue at all was earned so soon after the opening. Capital expenditure continues heavy, the outlay for the half-year being £645,663, but £3,000,000 of new extension shares were issued in the early part of the year and the company still has a credit of £551,133 immediately available when wanted. There are reserve funds too of over £1,570,000 counting in the additions for the past year, a large part of which is separately invested, and there is no doubt at all that the position is a very strong one.

ENTRE RIOS RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED.

This comparatively small system has made really wonderful strides during the past few years, and although the results attained are, so to speak, still disappointing, inasmuch as a large part of the capital receives no return, there is reason to hope that the period of progress is not done with yet. In the twelve months ended June 30 the gross revenue was £189,479 or £38,298 more than in the preceding year, and it is decidedly instructive to note that since 1901 the income has more than doubled; that is, a rise of over 100 per cent. Against last year's sharp increase the advance in expenses was only £1,843 to £106,437, so that the nett revenue is larger by £36,455 at £83,041, and here again it may be interesting to revert to the year 1901. Then the nett receipts were under £22,000, and the latest display means improvement of nigh on 300 per cent.—surely remarkable headway. The decline in the ratio of expenditure to revenue, last year to this, was no less than 13.01 per cent. to 56.17 per cent. Coming to details, we find that the additional receipts were very evenly spread over all branches of traffic. In passengers the gain was £6,517 with an advance in numbers of 33,157, telegrams rose £532, luggage and parcels £730 and sundries £3,191. Special efforts have been made to encourage live stock traffic, and the result is now seen in an increased traffic of £6,450. Goods tonnage went up from 316,400 to 360,983, to which cereals contributed 26,883 tons, notwithstanding a falling-off in the carriage of maize and linseed of 8,798 and 16,406 tons respectively. That left the increase in wheat at no less than 52,087 tons, last year's good prices and an expectation of their continuance during the present year having led to the sowing of a much larger area, apparently to the detriment of the acreage devoted to linseed. Maize suffered from drought, and this together with heavy local consumption accounts for the shortage in the quantity moved. Flour and bran did very well, the traffic to the Concordia market and towns on the Upper Uruguay River continuing to make satisfactory progress, and wool and hair, although smaller in volume, gave larger receipts. Less came in from hides, skins, bones and grease, but no one will mind that because it was due to the almost entire absence of disease amongst the herds and flocks. Charcoal, firewood, posts and timber also brought in more money from a lesser tonnage, but bricks, lime and sand did very well indeed owing to brisk building operations and the keen demand for these articles in the Concordia market. This place is also the destination of much of the hay traffic, and as farmers are beginning to realise that the growing of alfalfa is a profitable business the company is looking forward to a steadily increasing income from this source. General goods added another 15 per cent. to the previous big increase, which is a very fair indication of the flourishing conditions now generally prevailing. We have already referred to the minute increase in expenditure which is traceable to the £4,400 less spent on maintenance of way and telegraph, and we hope the sum laid out is sufficient. Profits must not be produced at the expense of efficiency. Locomotive power cost £3,547 more, traffic expenses advanced £2,232, general charges rather more than £1,000 and miscellaneous expenditure £66. Carriage and wagon repairs were less by £664. To the nett balance must be added credit brought forward £5,838, general interest, transfer fees, &c., £910, and exchange account £1,229, while a small reduction has to be made for bill stamps, so that all told the sum for disposal is £90,973. From that the directors place £10,000 or £5,000 more to reserve and renewals, increase the dividend on the first preference stock by 2 to 4½ per cent. and carry forward £6,743. Details have already been given of the scheme for funding the arrears of dividend on this stock, and we need now only note that in August last £734,049 second preference stock was allotted to holders in discharge of all dividend claims and as compensation for the suspension of cumulative rights. This arrangement was a necessary preliminary to the raising of further capital in order to carry out

many important works which the directors consider necessary to ensure the continuous development of the system. Particulars of these extensions were issued in July, and in August £800,000 of 4 per cent. debenture stock was placed for the purpose of carrying them out. Construction of the new branches will be commenced at once, and the materials are now being shipped. Prospects for the current year to date are described as satisfactory, the area of wheat and linseed has been again enlarged to the extent of about 20 to 25 per cent. and the weather is reported as exceptionally favourable.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

This undertaking also enjoyed a highly satisfactory year, and gathered a revenue of £1,514,106 or £128,841 more than in 1903-4 at the cost of a rise in expenditure of £64,604 to £731,693, leaving the net income larger by £64,237 at £731,693. Proportion of working expenses to gross receipts was slightly higher at 48.33 per cent. These are excellent figures, but we must not forget that the number of miles open for traffic reached 966 against 816 last year, an increase of just 150 miles, and that capital continues to be spent at a very fast rate. We know that extensions and new works of all kinds cannot be undertaken without money, and are glad to find the heavy outlays of the past few years so fully justifying themselves, thanks to the unprecedented period of prosperity now being enjoyed, but the amount of British capital already involved in Argentine railways is so enormous that fresh expenditures must not be lightly embarked upon. We do not say they will be, but when reaction comes from the present good times, as come it must, it may be severe, and then unremunerative enterprises are sure to weigh heavily on investors' hands. It is not our intention to preach pessimism—that, indeed, is impossible so far as Argentine is concerned—but merely caution, because we are bound to take note of the fact that although with the capital in hand and the shares unissued the company has sufficient funds available to meet immediate requirements, further extensions in view, rolling stock and works in progress make additional heavy demands and the directors seek authority to increase the capital by yet another £2,000,000. Towards last year's fine gross increase the passenger traffic contributed £30,762, luggage and parcels £4,705, animals £884 and goods £86,365, due largely if not entirely to the magnificent wheat crop, the greatest ever carried, because maize turned out a partial failure. Including £82,220 brought forward and other revenue items, the actual nett balance is £880,956, from which debenture interest and preference dividend and other fixed charges together with the 3 per cent. dividend already paid on the ordinary stock absorbed £347,469, leaving £533,487. From that the directors propose to make up the ordinary dividend to the usual 7 per cent., adding £100,000 to the general reserve fund, £50,000 each to the permanent way and rolling stock renewal funds, £20,000 to the fire insurance fund, £10,000 to the staff pension fund and £5,000 to the benevolent fund. After doing all this there is the big balance of £50,987 to be carried forward. That, however, is considerably less than the credit over a year ago, and the fact must not be overlooked that the sum brought into the present accounts was larger by over £53,000. Against that the sums now put to the various reserves are greater by £80,000, and there is no doubt at all that the company has had a very good time indeed. Prospects for the current year are still considered good, but the company will once more have to depend upon the wheat crops for the greater part of its traffic, as the maize crop has again proved a partial failure, promising a smaller business even than last year's.

NORTH-EASTERN OF URUGUAY RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

The accounts issued by this company are exceedingly simple, as its line is leased to the Central Uruguay Railway, and its total income is derived from the rent paid. This rent is fixed at £56,000 per annum, and an additional £99 for administration, and after deducting income-tax at 1s. the amount available for the year ended June 30 was £53,299, but of this interim dividends at the usual rate of 7 per cent. per annum have been paid on the preference and ordinary shares, and the balance of £26,600 is sufficient to provide further distributions at the same rate for the second half of the year.

DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LIMITED.

This small Anglo-Indian bank contrived to do a little better in the half-year to June 30 compared with the corresponding period, the gross profit being returned at £22,140 or £1,699 more, against an advance of £1,272 to £14,139 in the management and other expenses. With the slightly smaller balance of £4,136 brought forward the amount for disposal is up two or three hundred pounds to £12,137, and after providing the usual dividend at 4 per cent. per annum another £1,000 goes to doubtful accounts and the credit carried out is raised from £4,089 to £4,385. What the real position is regarding the irregular accounts carried amongst the assets we do not know, but although £1,000 or so is regularly written off each half-year, the amount still to be provided to make good the losses is always stated at £17,000. Do fresh deficiencies keep coming to light? On June 30 last the amount due on current deposit and other accounts was £1,350,165 an increase of £61,817, and bills payable have gone up again to £5,111 an advance of £2,648. The bank has raised loans to the amount of £80,000 on sundry securities, which appear in the balance-sheet at £152,129, including bills purchased, a drop on the year of £72,419. Loans and advances, bills discounted, &c., have been increased from

£1,291,180 to £1,449,932, and cash in hand and at bankers has gone up £15,669 to £186,870.

NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING CO., LIMITED.

After deducting unnamed sums for depreciation, insurance, London and colony charges, and directors' fees, and adding £20,000 to reserves, this company earned a profit of £43,579 in the twelve months to June 30 last, to which was added £10,886 brought forward making £54,466. Debenture and other interest having been provided with £17,668, the directors again propose a dividend of 5 per cent., paid in two equal instalments, and carry forward £13,106. One boat was sold during the year, and after deducting the proceeds of the sale and the sum allowed for depreciation, the fleet of steamers is entered in the balance-sheet at £954,128. Against that the reserves reach £100,000, represented to the extent of £87,181 by investments of an undisclosed character. Other assets consist of offices and stores, furniture, plant, &c., £39,489, coals, stores, &c., £10,047, and cash, bills and sundry debtors £127,994, but floating liabilities are exceptionally heavy, and we should not be surprised if another capital issue became necessary before long. To ordinary creditors the sum owing is £117,697, and on bills payable £186,460, of which £124,500 is due for new steamers, and there are really no assets available to meet these debts, mainly because the issued share and debenture capital is greatly less than the outlay upon steamers.

DENVER UNITED BREWERIES, LIMITED.

This company did poorly in the twelve months to June 30 last, the sales showing a net decrease of 6,276 barrels compared with 1903-4, but the directors seek to solace the shareholders with the statement that from May to August the business done was in advance of that of the previous year. To add to the troubles of the period under review brewing materials were somewhat dearer, and we find the gross profit down from £58,814 to £52,443. Interest, rent and transfer fees gave £1,083 making £53,526, and amongst the Denver expenses of £15,899 we note an item of £7,273 for bad debts and reserve on book debts. That is more than 10 per cent. on the debtors, bills receivable and loans to customers, altogether reaching £70,738, and seems excessive. Equally heavy in another way are the London directors' fees of £1,000, and one is moved to ask what four men in London can do to justify so high a salary. Other items of expenditure worth special mention are the auditors' fees for London and Denver of £315, general charges on this side £540 and depreciations £7,265. The nett result is a free balance of £27,784, and as £2,492 was brought forward the directors have £30,276 to disburse. Debenture interest takes £11,670, and the remaining sum of £18,606 provides the full year's preference interest of 8 per cent., with £2,606 carried forward. That still leaves nine months' dividend owing, but the directors reduce the arrears to six months by a payment of one quarter's interest out of the preference dividend reserve fund. When circumstances permit the balance will no doubt be met, the amount set aside being sufficient for that purpose. Ordinary reserve fund, used in the business as working capital, is £20,000, a very slender sum even were it separately invested, because the real estate, buildings, plant, machinery and goodwill stand at the heavy figure of £531,609, a decrease on the year of about £5,000. Floating liabilities are fortunately light at £19,199, and in addition to the debtors, &c., already mentioned, the company has cash £10,026 and stocks £30,860. Shareholders are aware that in accordance with the arrangement entered into at the time of the new issue of debentures the sum of £2,000 for the purchase and cancellation of bonds has to be set aside each year when any dividend is paid. According to the balance-sheet the amount so purchased within the last twelve months was £1,100, and as £900 in addition has since been cancelled the total redeemed has been brought up to £6,500, the requisite amount.

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO., LIMITED.

After a couple of years of dwindling fortunes, this company enjoyed a fair measure of prosperity during the twelve months ended June 30, when the revenue from messages, subsidies, &c., rose by £1,435 to £18,282. Interest on investments, &c., yielded £159 less at £2,337, leaving the total income £1,276 better at £29,619; but against this expenses were £289 lower at £5,537 and the amount required for debenture interest, thanks to the steady redemption of the bonds, was £299 smaller at £3,607. Out of the surplus an additional £1,299 at £7,293 was transferred to the trustees for the debenture-holders, and after paying the usual dividends, making 6 per cent. for the year, £2,382 was added to the balance brought forward, raising it to £34,811. During the year 73 debentures of £100 each were purchased at par, and this amount has been written off cost of cable and equipment, bringing it down to £58,647. Investments still stand in the balance-sheet at £60,492, which is a good deal more than the market value of the securities on June 30. Trading accounts show a balance of about £800 in the company's favour, traffic and other credit balances amounting to £1,153 against £1,970 to come in, and cash has further risen by £1,815 to £13,170.

HALIFAX AND BERNUDAS CABLE CO., LIMITED.

The year ended June 30 proved favourable for this company likewise, and the income from messages, &c., increased by £1,187 to £18,234 or about the same as the revenue from all sources in the previous twelve months. Interest yielded £100 less at £1,083, making the total £1,087 up at £19,317, of which expenses, including £934 for laying new land cables at Halifax

and maintenance of cables, took £6,099. After meeting debenture interest and transferring £8,151 or £358 more to the trustees for the debenture-holders the net profits were brought out at £2,698 compared with £2,692, so the customary dividends, making 5 per cent. for the year, are paid, and the balance forward is increased by £198 to £17,236. The outstanding debentures were reduced to £46,500 by the cancellation of £8,200, which were bought and written off capital expenditure, bringing it down to £79,638. Liabilities to sundry creditors and for traffic balances amount to £1,747, against which there is £1,325 due, while £1,200 is held in bills receivable, and cash comes to £6,304.

ANTWERP WATER WORKS CO., LIMITED.

For the six months ended June 30 the income, including royalty from the Compagnie Electrique Anversoise amounted to £31,506 or an increase of £1,285, and as a saving of £133 was effected in working expenses at £8,532, the net revenue was £1,418 higher at £23,107. Receipts in London came to £139 or £5 more, and with £4,581 brought in compared with £3,715 a year ago the profits, after meeting London office expenses showed an improvement of £2,294 at £27,101. Of this debenture interest took £1,684 or an extra £428 and £783 was put to income-tax reserve against £778, leaving the surplus £1,863 up at £24,635, and the dividend for the six months is raised by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. This being only an interim report, no balance-sheet is presented, but the directors state that the installation at the new pumping station at Luythagen, which commenced operations in June, consists of three sets of triple expansion engines with the necessary pumps, boilers, electric light, &c., while space has been provided for two further sets of similar engines when these are required by the growing demands of the city. The new reservoir, containing 1,650,000 gallons, is also in use, and attention is now being given to Waelhem, where additional filtering beds and some modification in the pumping plant are needed.

ALLIANCE AND DUBLIN CONSUMERS' GAS CO.

The business of this undertaking continues to dwindle at an alarming rate and during the six months ended June 30 the sales of gas fell off by no less than 19,960,300 cubic feet. Receipts from this source were £4,607 smaller at £94,280, and at the same time public lighting yielded £79 less at £6,056, residual products gave £4,860 less at £19,047, and rents and transfer fees were also slightly down at £368. Meter rents, however, rose by £1,582 to £20,661, and the total income showed a reduction of £7,969 at £140,413, but some saving was effected in expenses notwithstanding an increase of £1,629 in rates and taxes for the half-year, and the net profits are brought out at £36,482 compared with £36,329. The balance brought forward was considerably lower at £4,966, so that the amount available came to £41,448 against £46,175, yet the directors not only maintain complete silence as to the cause of this shrinkage but proceed to distribute the usual dividends at the rate of 10½ and 7½ per cent. per annum. In order to do this the contingent and reserve funds have again to be passed over and the balance carried forward reduced to a mere trifle. During the six months £11,247 was spent on capital account, bringing the debit under that head up to £72,730, and on the other hand the various reserves have been reduced by £13,826 to £61,556, of which £43,076 is represented by investments. Liabilities on bills payable remain practically unaltered at £2,818 but sundry creditors have risen by £23,714 to £61,340, and in addition a loan of £9,350 has been obtained from the bankers. On the other side, debtors for gas and meter rentals owe £34,793 or £651 less, and there is £12,648 to come in from other debtors but the company has not a penny piece of cash in hand.

HORNSEY TEA ESTATES, LIMITED.

The career of this small Ceylon company has been somewhat chequered, and since its inception in 1896 the ordinary shareholders have only received small dividends on four occasions. In the first year of its existence the directors managed to pay 3 per cent., but in 1897-8 no distribution was possible, in the two following years the dividends were 2 and 1½ per cent. respectively, after which there was another blank period until 1903-4, when 2 per cent. was again paid. The twelve months ended June 30, however, were more prosperous, the yield per acre rising from 413 lbs. to 458 lbs., and the total crop showing an increase of 20,532 lbs. at 207,000 lbs. All of the output was disposed of in Ceylon, and realised 43.41 cents per lb., equivalent to 7.92d. per lb. in London or the same as in the previous season, and net profits consequently rose to £2,138. Deducting from the balance brought forward the dividends paid for 1903-4, which are shown in the profit and loss account, the surplus from that year was £18, and with £64 from rents, &c., the amount available came to £2,220. After providing for administration charges and debenture interest, writing off £200 for depreciation of machinery, and paying preference dividends there was a balance of £765, and the distribution on the ordinary shares is increased to 5 per cent., and £165 carried forward. The estates stand in the books at their original cost of £30,000, or about £66 10s. per cultivated acre, and the depreciation allowance on machinery is barely 7 per cent., while the company has not a penny piece of reserve. Current liabilities are trifling at £52, but are still larger than the liquid resources represented by £38 held in cash.

JAMES CYCLE CO., LIMITED.

This business has been gradually pulling itself together during the past two or three years, and now, after much weary waiting,

shareholders are to receive a dividend. It is not much, only 2½ per cent., but in their joy at getting anything at all shareholders will accept it with thankfulness, and dream of better things to come. Say the directors: "During the past season the policy of the company has been to consistently develop the trade for sound, high-grade machines at popular prices," and no doubt at all is entertained that the reputation of the "James" has been fully maintained. It will be kept up regardless of cost in the current year, ensuring, we trust, a vigorous trade, because the business is situate in Birmingham, and surely no foreign maker need apply there. But does Joe's own pet Corporation foster "home" industries? Unfortunately, no; to their shame let it be said. They charge the company no less than 1s. 10d. per thousand cubic feet of gas, whereas in other manufacturing centres the cost ranges from 1s. to 1s. 9d. A fearful exposure truly, but the company intends to get "even," and will put up its own gas plant. The directors are also unhappy over some suggested changes in the Income-Tax Act, which, should they be carried, will prevent the recovery of any overcharge, and urge upon taxpayers the necessity of defeating the recommendation by "vigorous public protest." Now we come to the question of profits. Their total was £3,160, compared with £1,407 in 1903-4, and with £555 brought in £3,714 is available. Depreciation is allowed to the amount of £600, and directors' fees take £200, and after providing the dividend of 2½ per cent. the sum carried forward is raised to £1,664. Depreciation fund will now be £3,190, and the reserve £2,865 against plant, machinery, fittings, and patents £14,782, goodwill £18,461, and tools £1,500. These accumulations do not seem over large, but it is a good point that they are represented by high-class investments altogether valued at £8,351 subject, however, to market depreciation. Creditors, including reserves, are only £2,999 against debtors £16,752, but £4,929 is owing to bankers less £701 cash and bills held. Stock, materials, and stores are entered at £6,541.

BRAMPTON BROTHERS, LIMITED.

Business with this Birmingham cycle company improved considerably during the year ended July 31, when the profits on trading account, with £2 from transfer fees, came to £13,859. After paying directors' fees and providing £4,339 for maintenance and depreciation of plant and tools, the net profits were £3,549 up at £9,170, to which was added £437 from the previous account, making a total of £9,607 available for distribution. Preference dividend having been met, the directors are able to increase the dividend on the ordinary shares by 1½ per cent. to 4 per cent., and to resume their appropriations to reserve with £2,000, leaving £1,232 to be carried forward. The balance-sheet is by no means so full a document as it should be, plant, machinery, freehold and leasehold land and buildings, goodwill, and patents being all included under one head, and valued at £113,823, and the position is further obscured by mixing up the amount allowed for depreciation with the outlay for the year on maintenance of tools. Trading balances are rather against the company, as it owes £14,854 to sundry creditors against £14,040 due by sundry debtors, but stocks are valued at £19,343, and cash and bills come to £8,709.

RAGLAN CYCLE AND ANTI-FRICTION BALL CO., LIMITED.

An increased number of bicycles and accessories was sold during the twelve months ended August 5, but the unsettled state of the trade and the cutting of prices prevented the company from reaping any benefit from this larger output. Profits, including £3 from transfer fees, were £1,914 lower at £3,951, and after meeting debenture interest and administration charges and writing off £771 or £692 less for depreciation of freehold land and buildings, fixed plant and machinery, loose plant and tools, the net balance was £368 down at £1,107. The company has long been hampered with a good deal of dead weight in the shape of paper assets, and during the past year a drastic reconstruction was indulged in with the result that the balance-sheet now presents a much more healthy appearance. To begin with, the share capital has been cut down from £120,000 to £40,000, and at the same time debentures to the value of £10,100 were redeemed out of the sale of securities, so that the total share and loan capital is now only £78,900. This has enabled the directors to write off the item of £81,633 for goodwill, patents, and trade marks, and to reduce the value of freehold land and buildings by £6,061 to £13,076, fixed plant by £9,250 to £9,423, and loose tools, &c., by £2,115 to £2,522. After paying off the above-mentioned debentures, there was a surplus from the sale of securities of £942, which has been utilised to commence a new reserve fund, and a further £2,500 has also been provided towards premiums on the redemption of debentures. The whole of the changes have been carried out at a very moderate cost of £250 and this sum is written off out of the nett profits for the past year leaving £857 to be carried forward, so that the company is now in a good position to take advantage of the turn in the tide of the industry which the directors believe has come. Sundry creditors have risen by £568 but are still moderate at £2,765, and while stocks are £7,789 down at £15,557, sundry debtors owe £3,769 more at £23,398, bills receivable are £1,914 higher at £6,307, and cash is £677 up at £15,839.

BRETT'S STAMPING CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking, whose business is connected with the cycle trades, did better in the year to July 31 last than in the previous one, the trading profit coming out almost £1,000 higher at £3,083. That is still a very poor result, but it indicates progress, and although the ordinary shareholders are still out in

the cold they must derive what comfort they can from seeing the preference holders get a part—not all—of their dividend. About £100 less at £1,434 was allowed for depreciation, and after providing this, together with £418 for debenture interest and £200 for directors' fees, the nett balance is £1,031 compared with a loss of £38 a year ago, when £240 was written off preliminary expenses, extinguishing that item. Add £249 brought forward, and the total for disposal is £1,280, from which the directors propose to pay a dividend at 4 per cent. on the 6 per cent. non-cumulative preference shares, carrying forward £540. Reserve fund will remain at the overpowering sum of £266 against goodwill, a practically valueless "asset," as things are, of £19,332. Depreciation allowance on buildings, plant, machinery, &c., seems fair, although in the case of the loose plant and tools the sum written off is a good deal less than the capital additions. All told, these assets, together with stock of goods and work in progress, are entered at £25,427. Sundry debtors, after making provision for doubtful debts and discounts, are nearly £2,000 more than the sum due to creditors, cash and bills reach £2,596, and there is an investment of £86.

ROBINSON AND CLEAVER, LIMITED.

During the year ended July 31 strenuous efforts were apparently made to minimise the effects of the depression in trade by extending the scope of the London branch, and eleven new departments were opened, but the results do not seem to have been brilliant. Trading profits fell off by no less than £6,738 to £47,569, and with £608 or £188 more brought in and £51 from transfer fees the total income was £6,541 lower at £48,228, out of which another £4,512 was transferred to the sinking fund for redemption of leases and £3,780 was put to depreciation fund. After meeting debenture interest and administration charges and writing £3,200 off preliminary expenses against £1,046 a year ago the amount available was £8,672 down at £21,462, but the directors manfully cut down the dividend on the ordinary shares from 6 per cent. to 2½ per cent. in order to transfer a further £5,000 to reserve and carry forward £714. Expenditure on new fixtures, &c., came to £16,470, making a total outlay on capital account of £551,021, against which there are the sinking fund of £24,067, the depreciation fund of £18,109 and a reserve of £25,000, or altogether about 12 per cent. Trading balances are only just in favour of the company, the liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable coming to £39,989 against £40,789 due from sundry debtors, but stocks have been increased by £32,948 to £151,682, while cash is £24,014 down at £14,982.

ANGLO-SICILIAN SULPHUR CO., LIMITED.

The twelve months ended July 31 was a much less prosperous period for this company than the preceding year, and gross profits, including interest on investments, &c., dropped back by no less than £49,759 to £138,150. Expenses, however, were slightly lower, and as on this occasion there was no need to write off anything for depreciation of investments the decrease in the nett income was £45,412 at £113,016. After providing for the 6 per cent. dividend on the preference shares the usual 20 per cent. of the surplus transferred to capital guarantee fund takes £14,203 or £9,083 less, £33,368 is added to the reserve against depreciation of sulphur stocks compared with £42,608 and £4,000 is provided for income-tax against £6,000, leaving £19,444 to be dealt with. A year ago the directors were able to put £25,000 to general reserve as well as to pay an extra ¾d. on the preference shares and 6d. per share or 50 per cent. on the ordinary shares, but on this occasion the disposable balance is only just sufficient to make similar distributions and the reserve is consequently passed over. The capital guarantee fund now stands at £112,039 or just over 15 per cent. of the issued capital, of which £108,274 or an increase of £27,484 is represented by investments, and in addition the general reserve comes to £151,481, a small sum of £1,288 having been added from interest on investments. Sundry creditors have risen by £11,809 to £87,772, but deposits received on contracts are £17,130 down at £2,266, and on the other hand stocks of sulphur are £150,582 up at £964,382 against which the reserves for depreciation come to £139,099, sundry debtors, including £46,594 for advances to producers, are £41,095 lower at £65,991 and cash has shrunk by £90,380 to £83,075. Temporary investments show a moderate increase of £4,535 at £97,283, but other investments remain at £40,563.

We hear the announcement will soon be made that the fine old County Fire Office is about to be absorbed by the Alliance Assurance Company, and that at the same time the Pelican Life will also be taken over.

THE NEWNES MAGAZINES.—The leading articles in both *Strand* and *Sunday Strand* concern themselves with Russian men of note. In the former, Father Gapon recites most graphically the tale of his connection with the terrible happenings of January 22, so fresh in the mind of every reader, while in the *Sunday Strand* we have an illustrated character sketch of Tolstoy, by Netta Peacock. Next in interest come an article by W. Fauconberg on "The Effect of Diet and Climate on the Face," and a description by Grace Ellison of a fantastic method of teaching French pronunciation by machinery. The *Grand Magazine* strives, above all things, after originality and individuality, and up to a point succeeds. Captain G. A. Hope contributes a good paper on "Origins of the Commonplace," and Dr. Litton Forbes, M.D., F.R.S.E., and Dr. John Haddon, M.A., M.D., discuss the question, "Do We Eat Too Much?"

MINING RETURNS.

Alaska Treadwell.—Crushed 85,568 tons ore; value, \$88,608; saved, 1,680 tons sulphurets; value, \$77,432.
 Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development.—233 ozs.; value, £925.
 Associated Northern Blocks.—Clean up for September: Milled 3,319 tons of ore, 99 tons slimes treated. Yield £15,436 sterling.
 Balaghat Gold.—4,100 tons, 3,363 ozs.; 2,750 tons of tailings (cyanide), 286 ozs.; total, 3,649 ozs.
 Barrett Gold.—541 ozs. gold; value, £2,200.
 Bonanza.—Mill crushed 8,530 tons, 2,222 ozs.; cyanide and slimes, 9,264 tons, 1,961 ozs.; total, 4,173 ozs.
 Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 2,960 tons; value, £7,400; cyanide, £1,018.
 Briseis Tin.—Black Tin cleaned up 76 tons, in addition to New Brothers Home No. 1 22 tons 8 cwt.
 British Broken Hill Proprietary.—4,959 tons crude ore produced 781 tons concentrates, containing 484 tons lead and 24,211 ozs. silver.
 Broken Hill Proprietary.—Refinery products: Fine silver, 338,770 ozs.; soft lead, 4,995 tons; antimonial lead, 41 tons.
 Broomassie.—Crushed 692 tons, 1,238 ozs.; three tons of concentrates of an assay value of £36 per ton.
 Cassel Coal.—Output 15,947 tons.
 Central Chili Copper.—Production of regulus 151 tons fine copper.
 Champion Reef.—19,520 tons, 15,654 ozs.; 17,334 tons tailings (cyanide), 2,388 ozs.; total, 18,042 ozs.
 Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal, 15,000 tons; sales, 15,000 tons; consumption, 1,200 tons.
 Coronation Colliery.—Output 14,100 tons.
 Crown Gold.—Crushed 300 tons, 233 ozs.
 Dundee (Natal) Coal.—Output 7,816 tons.
 Durham Navigation Collieries.—Output, 7,000 tons.
 Durham Prospect Gold.—1,366 tons of rubble and ore crushed, 398 ozs.
 Elands Laagte Collieries.—Output, 12,825 tons.
 Gaika.—Mill crushed 544 tons, 403 ozs.
 Geldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 16,625 tons, 4,263 ozs.; from tailings 2,150 ozs., from slimes 701 ozs.; total, 7,114 ozs.
 Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output, 8,495 tons.
 Golden Blocks (Taitapu).—Crushed 147 tons, 200 ozs.
 Golden Pole Gold.—Crushed 1,791 tons, 1,824 ozs.; sands, 230 tons, 118 ozs.; concentrates, 10 tons, 43 ozs.; slimes, 500 tons, 126 ozs.; total, 2,111 ozs.
 Great Eastern Collieries.—Output, 17,700 tons.
 Great Fingall Consolidated.—By mill 17,514 tons, 9,392 ozs.; tailings by cyanide 17,180 tons, 2,544 ozs.; concentrates 324 tons, 1,697 ozs.; total, 13,633 ozs.
 Hutti (Nizam's).—901 ozs. from 2,200 tons crushed; 170 ozs. tailings from 1,880 tons; total, 1,071 ozs.
 Ida H.—Crushed 1,500 tons, 1,104 ozs.
 Jumpers Gold.—Crushed from mill 1,200 tons, 2,736 ozs.; from concentrates, 281 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide, 1,514 ozs.; total 4,531 ozs.
 Kalgurli Gold.—8,030 short tons; 5,922 ozs.
 Kamfersdam.—Diamonds recovered, 3,632 carats.
 Kelantan Gold Dredging (No. 1).—148 ozs.
 Koffyfontein.—3,100 carats of diamonds.
 Lake View Consols.—Crushed 10,500 tons, 3,408 ozs.; 3,380 tons old tailings treated, 600 ozs.; total, 4,008 ozs.
 Le Roi No. 2.—Shipped 1,087 tons. The net receipts are \$19,412, being payment for 1,026 tons shipped, and \$1,963, being payment for 68 tons concentrates shipped. In all, \$21,375. Inclusive of \$2,818 for 250 tons from the dump.
 Merton's Reward Gold.—Crushed 2,900 tons, 648 ozs.; sands cyanide 1,422 tons, 151 ozs.; slimes 1,859 tons, 237 ozs.; total, 1,036 ozs.
 Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 678 tons, 323 ozs.; estimated value, £960; concentrates 24 tons, estimated value £350.
 Mount Boppy.—4,800 tons, 1,422 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 3,026 tons, 1,111 ozs.; slimes (cyanide) 1,230 tons, 602 ozs.; concentrates 25 tons, 290 ozs.; total, 3,425 ozs.
 Mysore Gold.—16,000 tons, 15,231 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 13,650 tons, 1,785 ozs.; total, 17,016 ozs.
 Mysore West.—Mysore-Wynaad.—Crushed 2,083 tons, 1,000 ozs.; cyanide 2,688 tons, 259 ozs. standard gold.
 Natal Navigation Collieries.—Output 22,194 tons.
 New Queen Gold.—Crushed 655 tons, 475 ozs.; concentrates £470.
 New Vaal River Diamond.—Value of diamonds registered by the diggers on the Vaal River £5,300.
 North Broken Hill.—1,805 tons of crude ore treated producing 320 tons concentrates containing 221 tons 2 cwt. lead and 5,952 ozs. silver.
 No. 2 South Great Eastern Gold.—Crushed 4,500 tons, 2,015 ozs.
 Nundydroog.—6,600 tons, 5,093 ozs.; tailings 7,020 tons, 628 ozs.; total, 5,721 ozs.
 Ooregum Gold.—Return for September: Stone 10,178 tons, 4,400 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 10,061 tons, 1,074 ozs.; total 5,534 ozs.
 Oroya-Brownhill.—Crushed 9,900 tons, 12,814 ozs.
 Peak Hill Goldfield.—5,369 tons crushed and 6,521 tons slime and sands by cyanide; from battery, 548 ozs.; from sands and slimes, 492 ozs.; total, 1,040 ozs.
 Penhalonga Proprietary.—Crushed 5,870 tons, 756 ozs.; 83 tons of concentrates, 548 ozs.; total, 1,304 ozs.
 Phoebe Gold.—515 tons; value, £2,200.

Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—128,199 loads, yielding 59,687 carats of diamonds.

Sons of Gwalia.—Ore crushed 10,192 tons, 3,323 ozs.; tailings by cyanide 5,680 tons, 1,253 ozs.; concentrates 215 tons, 722 ozs.; total, 5,298 ozs.

St. David's Gold.—Crushed 1,216 tons, 284'26 ozs.

St. George's Coal.—Output 7,704 tons.

St. John Del Rey.—Output £24,950.

San Francisco del Oro.—1,725 tons shipped, value £6,571; profit, £5,402.

Sheba Gold.—Output 3,100 ozs.

Talisman.—Treated 4,050 tons, value £10,426; profit, £4,873.

Tasmanian Consols.—Trial crushing of 100 tons at the intermediate level has yielded 25 dwts. of gold per ton.

Tasmania Gold.—7,390 tons, 4,231 ozs.; chlorination, 583 tons, 811 ozs.; total, 5,042 ozs.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained about 790 tons of lead, 128,000 ozs. silver, 217 ozs. gold.

Tolima.—Return 60 tons, £3,500.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—Output from colliery 27,750 tons.

Transvaal Coal.—Output, 35,700 tons.

Transvaal Gold.—Crushed 7,893 tons, 1,559 ozs. Central cyanide, 3,440 tons, 655 ozs. Central slimes.—2,240 tons, 324 ozs. Kameel's cyanide.—1,540 tons, 292 ozs. Kameel's slimes.—Treated 695 tons, yielding 122 ozs. From old slimes.—Treated 1,120 tons, 343 ozs.; total 3,295 ozs.

Wankie (Rhodesia) Coal.—Output, 10,857 tons.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Argentine Great Western.—Balance of 3½ per cent. on the preferred and ordinary stocks, making 6 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

Bengal and North-Western.—Usual for the half-year of 3 per cent.

Brazilian Street.—5 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended July 31, and 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Buenos Ayres Western.—A balance of 4 per cent. on the ordinary stock, making 7 per cent. for the year on the ordinary stock, placing £100,000 to general reserve, and carrying forward £50,987.

Central Uruguay of Monte Video.—2½ per cent. upon the ordinary stock, making 4½ per cent. for the year ended June 30, 1905, with £2,000 to pension fund and £18,042 carried forward.

Central Uruguay Eastern Extension.—4s. 6d. per share, making 8s. per share for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £2,040.

Central Uruguay Northern Extension.—4s. 6d. per share, making 8s. 6d. per share for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £2,459.

Great Indian Peninsula.—23s. 6d. per cent. out of surplus profits for the year ended June 30 on the 3 per cent. stock, making, with the guaranteed interest, £2 13s. 6d. per cent. for the six months.

Great Northern (U.S.A.).—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the preferred capital stock, payable Nov. 1.

Great Western of Brazil.—Interim of 3 per cent. for the half-year to June 30, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on both the preferred and ordinary shares, and a proportionate dividend at the same rate on both classes of the 1904 issue shares, in respect of the year ending Dec. 31 next.

Midland Uruguay.—An extra 1 per cent. interest on the debenture stock for the year to June 30, 1905, payable, November 1.

Nitrate.—Interim on the ordinary shares and the preferred converted ordinary shares at the rate of 3½ per cent. (7s. per share), payable Nov. 1.

Rio Claro Sao Paulo.—Interim at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum for the six months ended the 30th ult., payable, Oct. 18.

Rohilkund and Kumaon.—Usual for the last half-year of 3 per cent., and bonus of 10s. per cent.

Salvador Railway.—For the half-year ended June 30, on the preference shares of 6s. per share, being at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Western of Havana.—Balance of 8s. per share, making 7 per cent. for the year on the share capital, placing £20,000 to reserve, carrying forward £5,407; payable Oct. 20.

BANKS.

Bank of Scotland.—At the rate of 14 per cent. per annum.

London and Brazilian.—Interim of 10s. per share for the half-year ended July 31, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

MINES.

Brilliant Central Gold.—6d. per share, payable 14th inst.

Butters Salvador.—No. 19, of 5 per cent. (1s. per share), payable Oct. 6.

Camp Bird.—Interim of 1s. per share for the quarter ending Oct. 31, payable Nov. 4.

Ivanhoe Gold.—Second quarterly for 1905 of 5s. per share, payable Oct. 26.

Le Roi, No. 2.—Interim of 1s. per share.

Mount Boppy Gold.—Interim of 3s. per share on the fully-paid shares and 2s. per share on the new shares credited with 13s. 4d. per share as paid, payable Nov. 1.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—6d. per share, payable Oct. 20.

Sons of Gwalia.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share, payable Oct. 26.

Treasury Gold.—3½ per cent. (2s. 6d. per share) for the period ending Sept. 30.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. and F. Pears.—On the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and on the ordinary shares at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £4,678 to depreciation, £5,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £1,815.

Anglo-American Telegraph.—Interim for the quarter ended Sept. 30 of 15s. per cent. on the ordinary stock, and £1 10s. per cent. on the preference stocks, payable Nov. 1, with £5,000 to renewal fund.

Argentine Land and Investment.—2½ per cent. (2s. per share) on the 5 per cent. preference shares, payable Oct. 25.

Benger's Food.—Interim at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

British Columbia Development.—5 per cent., payable Oct. 14.

City of Santos Improvements.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30 on the ordinary shares.

Cuba Submarine Telegraph.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Dickins and Jones.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended July 20, at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum.

Direct United States Cable.—Interim of 3s. per share, being at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, for the quarter ended Sept. 30, payable 26th inst.

Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph.—Interim for the quarter ended June 30 of 2s. 6d. per share.

Edison and Swan United Electric Light.—For the year ended June 30 of 2½ per cent. per annum on the A shares.

Espartillar Estancia.—Final of 2 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £181.

Fleming and Ferguson.—On the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year.

Goldsmiths and Silversmiths.—Interim at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the six months to July 31.

Henry Ford and Co.—Second interim of 7½d. per share, being at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum.

Las Cabezas Estancia.—A further of 5 per cent., making 13½ per cent. for the year ended June 30, placing £4,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,790.

Milwaukee and Chicago Breweries.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

New Zealand Shipping.—5 per cent. for the year.

Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates.—Interim of 6s. per share on account of 1905.

Patriotic Assurance.—Ad interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

Realisation and Debiture of Scotland.—Preference stock, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, allocating an additional 2 per cent. to preference stock reserve; ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum; founders' shares 6s. per share for year to Aug. 31.

Reuter's Telegram Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

San Jorge Nitrate.—Interim of 2½ per cent. (2s. per share) for the half-year to June 30, payable Oct. 23.

Scottish Ceylon Tea.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Shaw, Savill, and Albion.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 on the preferred and ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Smith and M'Lean.—5s. per share on the ordinary shares for the year ended July 15, placing £3,000 to special reserve, and carrying forward £4,097.

The Stock Exchange.—Interim of £5 per share.

Val de Travers Asphalt Paving.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended June 30.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9.

Robinson and Cleaver.—Belfast.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10.

Standard Bank of South Africa.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11.

Associated Portland Cement.—72, Fenchurch Street, 1 p.m.

Cuban Mining and Development.—Winchester House, noon.

Delhi and London Bank.—123, Bishopsgate Street, noon.

Entre Rios Railway.—River Plate House, noon.

Newhaven Harbour.—London Bridge Station, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12.

Coruna Copper.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.

Central Egypt Exploration.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

Edison and Swan United Electric Light.—Winchester House, noon.

Grand Trunk of Canada Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Indian Electric Supply and Traction.—Winchester House, noon.

Otis Steel.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Russian Collieries.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.

United South Africa Association.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13.

Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur.—Winchester House, 2.15 p.m.

Brett's Stamping.—Coventry.

COMPANY MEETING.

PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL AND IRON.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of the Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron Company was held at the company's offices, Warrington, on Thursday, September 28, under the presidency of Mr. J. S. Harmood Banner, M.P.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: I have no doubt that the first point which will have struck the shareholders with satisfaction is the fact that we are able this year to pay an increased dividend. The two half-yearly dividends together make a payment during 1905 of 4 per cent. per annum, absorbing £38,650, whilst in 1904 the dividend paid was together for the two half-years at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, absorbing £32,596. My only fear is lest the shareholders should think we might have given them more, as the profits this year compare as regards the sum of £57,186 with the profits in 1904 of £46,747, but the directors' first consideration has been, as in previous years, a strong balance-sheet, and we have attempted to provide and look forward to the fact, which all manufacturers now have to consider, a scrap heap of the old machinery and the replacement of old machinery by new. I think the shareholders will perhaps not consider that they have had a very large dividend over our 32 years' working, as the average over the whole period is only at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, free of income-tax. At the same time, when they look at the balance-sheet they will be convinced that the directors have thought first of strengthening the position of the company before they have considered the fact of paying high dividends to the shareholders. There is one point on this I should like to refer to, and that is a comparison of the amount the shareholders receive with the amount of wages we pay our workmen. The dividend I have mentioned this year amounts to £38,650, and I believe I am right in saying that our wages sheet averages about £1,000 per day, or £365,000 per annum, so that I think we have a right as shareholders to ask our workmen to combine with us in doing their duty for the best interests of the concern. As regards the balance-sheet, you will see that this year the amount of goodwill is entirely extinguished, and does not appear on the balance-sheet at all. That is very satisfactory, and though I mentioned last year that we proposed doing it, yet it had not been carried out in the balance-sheet, and if you look at your present balance-sheet you will see "goodwill original valuation £315,559, written off out of profits" the same amount—a most satisfactory position. (Hear, hear.) The other amount to which I will a little later refer is the reserve fund investment account, which this year stands at £72,599, against the amount in 1904 of £65,938. As regards the general items, you will find the mine rents suspense account reduced. The stock account, curiously enough, is almost the same amount as in 1904, notwithstanding the many thousand items of which that consists. It is strange that the addition should amount in 1905 to £226,208 and in 1904 to £226,302. The debtors this year are larger—in 1905 £106,362, and in 1904 £99,048, and the cash in 1905 is £90,447 against the corresponding sum in 1904 of £82,346. On the other side of the account there is now, as heretofore, no debenture or mortgage debt. The creditors are slightly less, the reserve fund is reduced by the transfer of £100,000 to write off the balance on the goodwill account, and is increased by the transfer we made last year of £10,000. As regards profits, I have no doubt we shall have your concurrence in the fact that again this year we have regarded the capital account as closed, and are writing off the additions to our works in plant and machinery, £6,810, out of revenue. We have, as I mentioned before, the scrap heap always in view. It is a very painful feeling to be there, and it makes us very cautious in the declaration of dividends, but we feel bound to keep up a strong financial position in order to meet any requisite expenditure for improvements. As regards the sources from which we obtain our profits, we have every reason to be satisfied with the profits from the coal trade. There has been a diminution in output arising from the shortage in demand, and there has also been a diminution in price. This has been partly met to the extent of 2d. per ton by the reduction in wages which was awarded by Lord James in August, 1904. It is greatly to the credit of our managing director and manager that they have been able to meet this diminution in receipts and also the shortage in output of coal without involving us in any diminution in our profits. As regards the engineering trade, that has not been as satisfactory as we might have desired. There is great competition, and there has been a considerable dearth of orders during the past year. Undoubtedly it would be very desirable if some combination could be formed to keep up the prices in tendering for the work of municipalities and other large public bodies, and also if some arrangement could be made whereby the engineer of the contracting party should not be the sole arbitrator to determine the conditions of work and the questions of extras, and any other points there might be in difference as between the manufacturers who supply and those who are receiving the supplies. The general iron trade was slack in the first half of the year, but improved later, and the results were considerably better than in 1904, though the sales were less in total of cash received, but not in quantity of goods delivered. There are two matters to which I would like to refer. One is the fact that the railway companies have given notice to discontinue the use of cast iron bosses in the wheels for railway wagons, and this has been one of the great parts of our engineering trade, so it came upon us as a serious blow and necessitated consideration of the scrap heap idea to which I have already referred. We have not let the ground slip under us, but have at once made arrangements at a very considerable expense to put up new machinery for the purpose of meeting the demands of the railway companies, and of

our other customers, so as to be able to make wheels with wrought iron bosses of the very highest and most superior quality. You will agree with me it is desirable to be in the forefront, as we have been in the supply of cast iron wheels and axles up to the present time. I do not know why the railway companies have asked for it, because I think during the long experience of some 30 years we have never heard of a flaw in the wheels and axles which have been made by this firm. But still, there it is, and we have to meet it, and we have met it by a considerable expenditure. The other point is the question of our reserve fund investment account, upon which hitherto we have not, I think, given the shareholders any explanation. Some little time ago we found that in our wire rod trade we had alternate busy and idle periods in consequence of foreign competition coming in at times to offer goods at low rates and stop the continuous supply which we had with our customers. This was particularly so with one of the large customers with whom we were in close alliance, and an opportunity occurred, and we took it of purchasing a considerable interest in shares in that company. The result has been most satisfactory to the continuous working of our wire rod mill, as these intervals of foreign competition do not come in and stop the continuity. There is no doubt continuity means cheapness as well as many other advantages in our work. We have received dividends at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on that investment, and I can assure you that the cautious and careful policy as regards finance which characterises our own management is also being exercised in the management of that new firm in which we now possess a large interest in shares. As regards the future, undoubtedly if we take our experience from the reports in the Press and the speeches of presidents of large associations we should expect to have a very good year, and be able to pay you better dividends at the end of the year. There is no doubt that the good harvest of the past year, the peace between Japan and Russia, and the generally better settled state of political matters do tend to improve business, and we look forward to a gleam of sunshine. But still in this country we have no monopoly in trade, and no privileges even with the colonies and India, on whose behalf we pay such a heavy sum in taxes for naval and military expenditure. But let us hope the prophecies of the Press and what we have seen in the papers will be fulfilled, and that, at any rate, we shall have a better trade in coal and iron, which are, as you know, the products which ought to be a great advantage to us.

Mr. W. H. Bleckly: It is once more my privilege to second the resolution that the report and accounts now submitted be adopted, and this I have pleasure in doing. I think I ought to congratulate our shareholders upon the exceedingly satisfactory financial position of our company, as shown by the figures which we put before you to-day. During the past year the iron and steel trades have not been in a satisfactory condition, and a large number of our workmen have only been partially employed. At the present moment I am glad to say we have a more encouraging prospect before us, and we think we have reason to hope that we shall experience a more or less improved trade in the near future. The so-called Free Traders are now pointing to this condition of things as proving that the antiquated policy of 50 years ago is still a policy which the British nation ought to follow. Our experience in both good and bad trade during the last few years proves that Mr. Chamberlain's policy is absolutely necessary if we are to keep our workmen fully employed and prevent our old customers from supplying themselves from abroad. I can remember very well when continental manufacturers were never able to fill their books until the British works were fully employed. All this has now changed. English and Scotch works in these days are never, as a rule, able to secure much business until the foreigners are working full swing. This is not as it should be, and I trust the time will come in the near future when the British manufacturers will be in a position to defend themselves against their foreign-tariff-nurtured competitors in a manner which our present short-sighted policy prevents them from doing. The motion was unanimously passed.

The Chairman then moved: "That the usual dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the half-year ending June 30 last and a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares be paid on and after the 29th instant."

Mr. J. J. Bleckly seconded, and said: My duty on this occasion is an unusually pleasant one. An increased dividend is a thing that all of us welcome, and especially when we have the warrant not only of the Chairman's observations, but the figures that are placed before us that this increase is amply justified. Since we met in this room twelve months ago we have had to go through difficult and arduous times, and it has taxed all the resources of our establishment and the capabilities of our managers to produce the results we have done. The circumstance that we manufacture so many different commodities, and that our trade connection covers almost the whole world, mainly accounts for the fact that we have been able to produce these results. We are also very much indebted in our works department to the policy of this board in maintaining the financially strong position we have always presented, and allowing the management liberty to keep modernising their plant to meet the calls and the changes which are constantly coming over the trade. We have had to face lower prices during this year and a bare order book throughout. We have however, had some relief to compensate us in the shape of lower wages and cheaper material. But it has been a very heavy fight from the beginning to the end, and we, with the shareholders, I think, are somewhat surprised that we have been able to produce such a good return.

The resolution was carried, the re-election of Mr. Edward Beck to the board was unanimously agreed to, and Messrs. Blease and Sons were reappointed auditors for the ensuing year at a salary

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Sept. 25	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Sept. 25	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
5 1/2	Angelo	5 1/2	5 3/4	3 1/2	May Consolidated	3 1/2	3 3/4
3 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	3 1/2	3 3/4	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 3/4
6 1/2	Apex	6 1/2	6 3/4	8 1/2	Modderfontein	8 1/2	8 3/4
1 1/2	Aurora West	1 1/2	1 3/4	2 1/2	Do. B.	2 1/2	2 3/4
2 1/2	Bantjes	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 1/2	New Goch	2 1/2	2 3/4
2 1/2	Barnato Consolidated	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 3/4
2 1/2	Block B.	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 3/4
2 1/2	City and Suburban, £	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 1/2	North Randfontein	2 1/2	2 3/4
2 1/2	Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	2 1/2	2 3/4
2 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	2 1/2	2 3/4
2 1/2	Do. Pref.	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	2 1/2	2 3/4
1 1/2	Crown Reef	1 1/2	1 3/4	2 1/2	Randfontein	2 1/2	2 3/4
4 1/2	Drielontein	4 1/2	4 3/4	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 3/4
4 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	4 1/2	4 3/4	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 3/4
7 1/2	East Rand	7 1/2	7 3/4	3 1/2	Roodepoort United	3 1/2	3 3/4
2 1/2	East Rand Extension	2 1/2	2 3/4	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 3/4
19 1/2	Ferreira	19 1/2	19 3/4	12 1/2	Sheba (New)	12 1/2	12 3/4
2 1/2	French Rand	2 1/2	2 3/4	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 3/4
6	Geduld	6	6 1/2	5 1/2	S. A. Gold Trust	5 1/2	5 3/4
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	1 1/2	1 3/4	2 1/2	Steyn Estate	2 1/2	2 3/4
1 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 3/4
1 1/2	Glencarm	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 3/4
12 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	12 1/2	12 3/4	3 1/2	Treasury	3 1/2	3 3/4
7 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	7 1/2	7 3/4	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 3/4
7 1/2	Henry Nourse	7 1/2	7 3/4	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 3/4
4 1/2	Heriot	4 1/2	4 3/4	4 1/2	Vogelstruis	4 1/2	4 3/4
2 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	2 1/2	2 3/4	6 1/2	Wagdracht	6 1/2	6 3/4
2 1/2	Jubilee	2 1/2	2 3/4	5 1/2	Wemmer	5 1/2	5 3/4
2 1/2	Klumpers	2 1/2	2 3/4	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 3/4
4 1/2	Kleinfontein	4 1/2	4 3/4	2 1/2	Woluter, £4	2 1/2	2 3/4
4 1/2	Knight's	4 1/2	4 3/4	8	Worcester	8	8 1/2
1 1/2	Lancaster	1 1/2	1 3/4				
3 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	3 1/2	3 3/4				

DEEP LEVELS.

12 1/2	Angelo Deep	12 1/2	12 3/4	4 1/2	Nourse Deep	4 1/2	4 3/4
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4
2 1/2	Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 1/2	Rand Victoria	2 1/2	2 3/4
14 1/2	Crown Deep	14 1/2	14 3/4	5 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	5 1/2	5 3/4
2 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	2 1/2	2 3/4	1 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4
2 1/2	Deep	2 1/2	2 3/4	6 1/2	Rose Deep	6 1/2	6 3/4
9 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	9 1/2	9 3/4	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4
2 1/2	Knight's Deep	2 1/2	2 3/4	5 1/2	Village Main Reef	5 1/2	5 3/4
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 3/4

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 3/4	2 1/2	Northern Copper	2 1/2	2 3/4
2 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	2 1/2	2 3/4	7 1/2	Rhodesia, Ltd.	7 1/2	7 3/4
16 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	16 1/2	16 3/4	3 1/2	Do. Exploration	3 1/2	3 3/4
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 3/4	2 1/2	Rice Hamilton	2 1/2	2 3/4
2 1/2	Lomagunda Development	2 1/2	2 3/4	6 1/2	Selukwe	6 1/2	6 3/4
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 3/4	9 1/2	Tanganyika	9 1/2	9 3/4
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 3/4	9 1/2	Wankie Coal	9 1/2	9 3/4
				9 1/2	Willoughby	9 1/2	9 3/4
				1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 3/4

DIAMONDS.

18	De Beers Deferred	17 1/2	18	7 1/2	Koffyfontein	7 1/2	7 3/4
18	Do. Preferred	17 1/2	18	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 3/4
4 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	4 1/2	4 3/4	14 1/2	Orange Free State	14 1/2	14 3/4
7 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	7 1/2	7 3/4	14 1/2	Diamond	14 1/2	14 3/4
4 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	4 1/2	4 3/4	9 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	9 1/2	9 3/4
4 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 3/4	9 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	9 1/2	9 3/4
1 1/2	Kamersdam	1 1/2	1 3/4				

WEST AFRICAN.

13 1/6	Abontiakoon	13 1/6	13 3/6	7 1/6	Gold Coast Agency, new	7 1/6	6 1/6
1 1/6	Abosso	1 1/6	1 3/6	2 1/6	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/6	2 3/6
1 1/6	Akinassi (New)	1 1/6	1 3/6	3 1/6	Gold Coast (Wassau)	3 1/6	3 3/6
4 1/6	Ainkobra	4 1/6	4 3/6	3 1/6	Deep	3 1/6	3 3/6
4 1/6	Ashanti Consols, 2/1 paid	4 1/6	4 3/6	1 1/6	Goldfields East'n Akim	1 1/6	1 3/6
10 1/6	Do. Goldfields	10 1/6	10 3/6	8 1/6	Human Concessions	8 1/6	8 3/6
4 1/6	Ashanti Sansu	4 1/6	4 3/6	6 1/6	Obbassi Syndicate	6 1/6	6 3/6
1 1/6	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/6	1 3/6	1 1/6	Prestea	1 1/6	1 3/6
1 1/6	British Gold Coast	1 1/6	1 3/6	2 1/6	Sekondi and Tarkwa	2 1/6	2 3/6
15 1/6	Broomassie	14 1/6	14 3/6	1 1/6	Taqah and Abosso	1 1/6	1 3/6
4 1/6	Efuentia (Wassau)	4 1/6	4 3/6	1 1/6	Wassau	1 1/6	1 3/6
10 1/6	Fanti Consolidated	10 1/6	10 3/6	3 1/6	W. A. Gold Trust	3 1/6	3 3/6

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	27 1/2	27 3/2	11 1/2	Ida H.	11 1/2	11 3/2
3 1/2	Associated	3 1/2	3 3/2	7 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	7 1/2	7 3/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 3/2	8 1/2	Ivanhoe South	8 1/2	8 3/2
3 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	3 1/2	3 3/2	8 1/2	Kalgurli	8 1/2	8 3/2
7 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	6 1/2	6 3/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 3/2
1 1/2	Brownhill Extended	10 1/2	10 3/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 3/2
2 1/2	Chaffers	2 1/2	2 3/2	12 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	12 1/2	12 3/2
6 1/2	Comop'n Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	6 3/2	12 1/2	Mount Boppy	12 1/2	12 3/2
7 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	6 1/2	6 3/2	2 1/2	North Kalgurli	2 1/2	2 3/2
3 1/2	Golden Links	3 1/2	3 3/2	3 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	3 1/2	3 3/2
1 1/2	Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 3/2	2 1/2	Peak Hill	2 1/2	2 3/2
24 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/1	24 1/2	24 3/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 3/2
15 1/2	Do. Perseverance	15 1/2	15 3/2	2 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	2 1/2	2 3/2
6 1/2	Great Fingall	6 1/2	6 3/2	2 1/2	W.A. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 3/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 3/2	4 1/2	W'str lia Mt. Morgans	4 1/2	4 3/2
2 1/2	Hampton Plains	3 1/2	3 3/2	1 1/2	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf.	1 1/2	1 3/2
2 1/2	Hannan's Star	2 1/2	2 3/2				

MISCELLANEOUS.

6 1/2	Anaconda, 25 do.	6 1/2	6 3/2	27 1/2	Mount Lyell	27 1/2	28 1/2
28 1/2	Bagahat, full paid	29 1/2	30 1/2	2 1/2	M't. Morgan	2 1/2	3
10 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	10 1/2	10 3/2	6 1/2	Mysore, ros.	6 1/2	7
49 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	50 1/2	51 1/2	3 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	3 1/2	3 3/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 3/2	11 1/2	Do. West, 19/1	11 1/2	11 3/2
5 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 3/2	11 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 19/1	11 1/2	11 3/2
32 1/2	Crown Reef, 10s.	33 1/2	33 3/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 3/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 3/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	1 1/2	1 3/2
1 1/2	Copiapu, £2	1 1/2	1 3/2	1 1/2	ndydrag, 10/ shares	1 1/2	1 3/2
3 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	3 1/2	3 3/2	20 1/2	O'egum	20 1/2	20 3/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 3/2	1 1/2	Do Pref.	1 1/2	1 3/2
17 1/2	Erkontio and Bolivia	16 1/2	17 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 3/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 3/2	9 1/2	St. John del Key	9 1/2	9 3/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 3/2	6 1/2	Thariss	6 1/2	6 3/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 3/2	6 1/2	Walhi	6 1/2	6 3/2
4 1/2	Linare, £5	4 1/2	4 3/2	8	Ymir	8	8 1/2
1 1/2	Mason & Barry £1	1 1/2	1 3/2				

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.
Alcoy and Gandia	Sept. 30	Ps. 15,000	+ Ps. 6,000	** Ps. 546,100	- P. 8,900
Antofagasta (Chill) and Bolivia	M. of Ag.	\$960,000	+ \$111,000	** \$7,458,000	+ \$168,000
Argentine Gt. Western	Sept. 29	13,221	+ 3,033	** 164,947	+ 26,510
Algiciras (Gibraltar)	" 30	Ps. 44,281	- Ps. 706	** Ps. 429,999	- Ps. 63,731
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 30	26,693	+ 8,685	** 330,444	+ 91,356
Buenos Ayres & Roso and Cen. Argentine	" 30	73,654	+ 2,005	** 3,019,323	+ 107,910
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	Oct. 1	66,943	+ 11,038	** 806,302	+ 165,759
Do. Western	" 1	33,361	+ 6,472	** 371,158	+ 71,869
Do. Ensenada	" 1	294	+ 18	** 3,764	+ 205
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	Sept. 1	7,393	+ 311	** 87,825	+ 8,338
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 30	1,548	+ 145	** 15,437	+ 1,589
Do. Northern Ex.	" 30	813	+ 1,139	** 12,737	+ 4,561
Do. Western Ex.	" 30	1,021	+ 106	** 12,361	+ 3,766
Cordoba Central	Oct. 1	4,190	+ 560	** 116,155	+ 4,510
Do. Northern Ex.	" 1	9,520	+ 2,340	** 253,520	+ 12,285
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 1	2,925	+ 625	** 72,470	+ 3,725
Cordoba and Rosario	" 1	4,105	+ 1,370	** 60,575	+ 2,940
Costa Rica	" 30	4,343	+ 726	** 51,482	+ 2,291
Cuban Central	" 30	4,342	+ 401	** 61,517	+ 11,899
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 30	7,807	+ 4,075	** 294,915	+ 124,160
Entre Rios	" 30	3,068	+ 828	** 39,164	+ 11,003
Int. Oceanic of Mexico	" 30	\$144,200	+ \$ 6,950	** \$1,404,700	+ \$76,760
Leopoldina	" 30	30,200	+ 11,755	** 772,478	+ 200,753
Mexican	MofAug.	\$570,500	+ \$79,680	** \$1,088,000	+ \$148,460
Mexican	Sept. 30	\$106,000	- \$6,300	** \$1,547,000	+ \$113,800
Do. Southern	Aug. 30	\$29,273	- \$4,544	** \$919,690	+ \$32,045
Do. Central	M. of Ag.	\$2,295,000	+ \$205,000	** \$2,149,239	+ \$172,426
Do. Do.	MofAg.	\$739,000	+ \$124,000	** \$612,535	+ \$96,933
Manila	Sept. 30	\$24,076	+ \$24,551	** \$1,377,536	+ \$267,353
Nitrate	Aug. 30	21,677	+ 1,664	** 399,169	+ 81,356
Ottoman	Sept. 30	12,666	+ 751	** 379,176	+ 16,702
Peruvian Corporation	MofSept.	\$624,400	+ \$87,800	** \$1,831,925	+ \$292,325
San Paulo	Sept. 24	\$44,871	+ 7,254	** 422,419	+ 47,186
Salvador	" 30	\$10,200	+ \$1,800	** \$167,528	+ \$12,337
United of Havana	" 30	7,486	+ 1,384	** 109,771	+ 17,819
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 30	1,020	+ 203	** 44,054	+ 5,325
Western of Havana	" 30	3,475	- 203	** 61,707	+ 4,329

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The Investors' Review.

What Should Holders of American Life Policies Do?

This is becoming a question of urgency. Up to now we have steadily advised the unfortunate victims of American misnamed "life insurance offices" to hold on to their policies, and to continue paying the stipulated premiums thereon. The further, however, the revelations proceed before the committee of the New York Senate the more do we doubt the wisdom of this advice. Our reasons for giving it were simple enough. It would be playing into the hands of the rapacious financiers who have got complete control of the assets of these insurance offices to cease paying premiums. Those who have only been policy-holders for two or three years would get nothing whatever were they to cease paying their premiums now, and policies of old date would only be offered derisory surrender values if their holders decided to discontinue. It seemed better, therefore, to stick to the policies in the hope that the public conscience would be so aroused in the United States as to force upon the people now controlling these great premium gathering and swallowing institutions the obligation to cultivate some measure of common honesty under penalties. And that may still be the best policy, only we begin to doubt whether the assets set forth with such parade in the balance-sheets of the three surviving companies known on this side are really to the full there. If the managers of the New York Life Office could falsify the statement of its assets for one purpose—for the purpose of placating the Prussian Government—why not for another? If the managers of all these offices habitually concealed their transactions with financiers and their participations in syndicates organised for the purpose of perpetrating robberies in one form or another upon the United States people, upon investors everywhere, what is to hinder them from falsifying the exhibit of the assets throughout? We hope they have not done this, but cannot now feel sure. At the same time it is still impossible to advise the victims of these offices in this country or on the Continent to play into the hands of the men who have swept away countless millions of premium money, wheedled out of their victims in past years by means of lapses, derisory surrender values, shearings away of promised bonuses, and other tricks too despicable for the resources of the English language to adequately describe.

What, then, is to be done? An eminent authority on life insurance in this country has suggested to us that policy-holders here should unite to demand fully paid-up policies based upon the amount they have paid in premiums. In this way some hold upon the rapacious organisations seated in New York would be retained at the same time that the necessity to furnish them with further supplies of money would cease for the policy-holders. This seems to us good advice, but in order to make it effective combined action will be necessary. It is quite useless for the individual policy-holder to go to any of these offices and suggest an arrangement of this description in the hope of receiving fair treatment. He would simply be swindled, there is no other word for it. It does not suit the aims of these individuals to let their victims go unstripped, least of all when the inrush of "new business" is

ceasing to bring grist to their mills. The longer they can now draw money from those already ensnared the greater is the wealth flowing into their pockets, unless they can frighten them into going altogether, and without compensation, in which case they "collar the whole swag." Therefore the victims of these offices ought to draw together and through their unity gain strength enough to compel something like fair treatment at the hands of the men by whom they have been victimised and plundered for so many years. Possibly the wrath of policy-holders in the United States and the white heat of indignation developing there amongst the community at large may force the Government of Washington to introduce drastic reforms into the method of conducting insurance business, but we cannot rely upon any such help. Public indignation is a fitful and transitory passion, prone to evaporate and always liable to be "side-tracked," as American slang would put it, by being made to chase chimæras, false issues, the wrong culprits. And no reformation now possible can undo the wrong which has been done to a whole generation of trusting people who have been beguiled and cajoled by false pretences into parting with their savings in order to provide for those they leave behind them. The cruelty of the whole system, may we be allowed to say, impressed us so profoundly many years ago that when this REVIEW was started one of the rules laid down for its guidance was that no advertisement of a Yankee life insurance company should ever be admitted into its columns. We have never departed from this determination, and it is a source of legitimate satisfaction to us to-day to know that no individual in the United Kingdom, or wherever THE INVESTORS' REVIEW goes and is trusted the world over, has been induced by it, through advertisement or otherwise, to become a dupe of any one of these organisations. To us their advertisements have always appeared to be on the same moral plane as those of Yankee quack-doctor nostrums—perfect cures for rupture or deafness, magical ointments, miraculous heal-all pills, lotions or plaisters—with the ghoulish laudations which the columns of so many of our newspapers have been burdened and defiled. There was the same oleaginous profession of zeal for the public good, the same hypocritical solicitude for the welfare of the individual, in the one class of advertisements as in the other, and it seemed to us that we should become participants in a peculiarly heartless form of cruelty did we permit these insurance offices to spread their lures in our columns.

It was obvious for other reasons that there was fraud of the most heartless description behind the methods of these Yankee insurance offices. We believe that no reputable or first-class British life office ever allows its loading upon premiums for expenses to exceed 20 per cent. of the premium income, all kinds of business, new and old, included; and as is well known, the best and most carefully managed among them work at a much finer percentage of cost than this, to the solid profit of their policy-holders, whereas the companies hailing from the United States have every one of them really worked at considerably more than 30 per cent. of the premium income, if allowance be made for the fact that so much of their business consists in the vending of "endowment" or more or less short-term policies. Of the three monsters known here, however, the Mutual of the United States has been the most conspicuous sinner, showing a working expenditure of upwards of 30 per cent. of the premium income on the ordinary basis of calculation. No wonder, therefore, that its president, the Irishman McCurdy, has given himself a salary of £30,000 a year, or that within a comparatively brief period of time he and two or three members of his family have together taken upwards of £900,000 out of the pockets of policy-holders. It is a shameful business, a loathsome record; no language can be too emphatic in denouncing a traffic in human lives conducted with such lavishness and unscrupulousness, such perfect disregard of the most rudimentary maxims of common honesty. In order to keep the imposture going every

possible expedient has been invented to procure new business, to expand the premium revenue, much of it drawn out of the pockets of people who, tempted to over-insure, could not keep up their premiums, and who therefore yielded a golden harvest of lapses. So zealous was the industry of canvassers in this direction that President McCurdy's son seems to have a year ago pocketed about £20,000 by way of commissions over and above his salary of £6,000, and now there must be an enormous gap to be bridged over if the current liabilities on active policy contracts and actual assets are fairly estimated and brought side by side. The higher rates of interest formerly obtained on investments in the United States cannot be secured any longer, and there is no way by which the loss arising from the excessive current expenditure can be made good, except by defrauding those persuaded to enter the net of these spiders. For this reason also we think that policy-holders here should bestir themselves and, refusing to part with their rights, force upon the three companies the granting of paid-up policies for at least the amount of the premiums collected.

One moral seems fairly deducible from the facts now known; it is that under no consideration should any citizen of the United Kingdom allow himself to be persuaded to buy a life policy of any form from a company whose head office is abroad. We have some English offices here that are not altogether models in their morality, but at worst the assets of even the doubtful companies can be reached here should anything go wrong. Not so the assets of companies whose seats are in the United States or the colonies. We have often before insisted upon this vital weakness, but an object-lesson was needed to bring the wisdom of the advice home to the public mind. That object-lesson has now been given, and it ought to suffice for all time to put a stop within the United Kingdom to the ravages of alien companies professing to do life insurance business. After all, there is an atmosphere, if the term may be used, an *esprit de corps*, in our insurance world which acts as a guarantee that the business they do will be, on the whole, healthily and prudently conducted. A code of honour exists among actuaries and managers such as no prominent life office dare transgress, and insurers therefore have not only the security of the assets but of the sentiment of honour governing the whole temper and aims of life insurance business as conducted by our best companies and societies. British policy-holders in the United States and other foreign offices would have nothing but a few books and ledgers, waste paper of various kinds, a few revenue and postage stamps perhaps, and the branch office furniture of a company located abroad—to fall back upon should the worst befall.

But do not give up your foreign life policies on any pretext without first making a determined and united effort to secure some kind of *quid pro quo*. It will not be adequate—of that you may be sure, unhappy victims—for too much of your money has gone in wanton extravagance; but it will do something perhaps, your combined demonstration, to stir the Washington politicians up to do their duty, and a fully paid up policy, if obtained, will at least release you from the obligation to continue to feed Yankee cormorants and pious financiers. With the money thus rescued from dishonest keeping you can take out a new policy in a good home office, and eschew the fellowship of knaves ever after.

"This is strong language." Yes, and it but feebly expresses what we feel and have for many years felt. It has seemed to us always so heartlessly brutal a deed to persuade the parent solicitous to provide for his offspring, the man or woman of slender resources for old age, to invest in life or endowment policies on terms which could not possibly be fulfilled under existing conditions. The rank and file of touts and canvassers may have been, probably were, ignorant of what they did; not so the directing spirits, whose pockets bulged

more and more with the gold out of which their victims had been cajoled. If the people of the United States mean to retain their good name among nations they must put an end to this great wrong and make restitution. Is the rest of the world to know the great Republic only by the quacks, confidence tricksters, and thieves it sends us?

Johannesburg Investment and Barnato Consolidated.

It is quite a new departure for the directors of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment and the Barnato Consolidated to issue their reports and accounts prior to the annual meetings, but it is a change over which we need not grieve. In future, however, there will be but one company, for the Barnato Consolidated is to disappear by becoming merged in the Johannesburg Investment. When the proposal for absorption was announced some weeks ago it was received with considerable hostile criticism. This was justified, for though the Investment Company has done nothing brilliant the Barnato Consolidated has been a failure and is burdened with assets which may have to be nursed unprofitably for many a year to come. To buy such assets at the price proposed seems a most unpromising bargain for any company, and as the amalgamation is to be carried through the criticism applies as strongly now as ever. It may be recalled, too, that the scheme provided for the raising of more working capital, but the directors are conscious that it is more difficult to raise capital than to ask for it, for the magic of the Barnato name has gone. Accordingly, though the shares are to be created, they are not to be sold over the counter until we all appear to be richer. We take, it however, that should some intrepid old gentleman enter the paper emporium and ask for a small bundle of the new certificates the directors will be happy to oblige. Otherwise they will have no choice but to wait until a crowd collects around the doors, and that may not be seen this side of the millenium.

The report and accounts of the Johannesburg Investment Company, to be submitted to the meeting at Johannesburg on November 23, cover the twelve months to the end of June, and the profit and loss account is more interesting than usual. It is also more depressing and painful from the standpoint of shareholders. Dividends received gave £21,000 more at £104,740, rents and licence moneys brought in £28,000 less at £49,440, whilst interest and commission amounted to £91,214 against £85,804. A large number of stocks and shares were sold for a profit of £172,512, but as the directors sold a quantity at a loss of £128,782 the nett profit on such speculative business was only £43,730 against £52,885. Adding £32,569 from several other sources and including £342,506 brought in, also premiums of £60,156 on the issue of 40,104 reserve shares, the gross credits totalled £728,602 in comparison with £726,995. In the previous profit and loss account the directors exhibited a profit of £613,495; this time it is only £173,736, because they are now very properly making provision for heavy losses of all sorts. Thus no less than £227,024 is written off stocks and shares, whilst £250,000 made up of the above premiums and £189,844 out of earnings is set aside to a special reserve fund to provide for any losses in connection with old advances to mining companies. In other words, it is to extinguish losses represented by bad debts, the interest on which never has been and probably never will be paid. Including the losses on share selling, no less than £605,800 goes at a swoop, and shareholders have to whistle for a dividend. Not only that, but they are to be asked to buy up a lot of paper lumber sold to them at a fancy price by the Barnato Consolidated, to increase the capital to a prodigious figure, and to provide fresh resources to the extent of hundreds of thousands. If the company can pay but tiny dividends on a small capital, how can it hope to pay any at all on

a much larger one? And if the Barnato Company has never earned a dividend on its present assets, what hope is there that the Johannesburg Investment can earn them? But it is only fair to quote what the directors say—namely, that the value of certain of the company's investments showed a surplus at the end of June of £330,715 over book values, for which no credit has been taken. The loss of £128,782 on shares realised represents, it is explained, mainly that sustained through the company's interest in the Coronation Syndicate. It would be interesting to know if the Barnatos personally lost a cent in this glorious enterprise in market mining.

In the balance-sheet several important changes emerge, especially on the assets side. A new item is £304,421, representing dividends and distributions accrued, since received. Stocks and shares held are £284,008 lower at £2,161,255, loans to mining and other companies are reduced by £199,497 to £666,654; bills receivable and debtors are £141,060 less at £60,114, whilst contango loans have shrunk by £23,274 to £390,647. Cash in hand is £123,949 against £126,401 and deposits with bankers amount to £100,298 compared with £105,000. The principal increases are £160,785 in loans on bonds and real estate, and £75,349, at £718,233, on investments in real estate. On the other side money on deposit and loan has increased from £726,547 to £802,283, but creditors have dropped from £104,078 to £52,915, the total of the balance-sheet being £5,028,935 in comparison with £5,154,816. As already stated, the profit and loss balance, carried forward, is only £173,736 against £613,495, out of which the directors subsequently paid a dividend of 10 per cent. Who will be rash enough to predict when the next distribution will be made?

The accounts of the Barnato Consolidated cover the eight months from November 1 to June 30. Dividends on investments totalled £31,387, interest gave £2,219, and a profit of £2,022 was made on the sale of shares, making an aggregate increase of £35,629, raised to £263,314 with the addition of the accumulated balance brought forward. Management and other expenses took £4,466, and the balance of the vendors' lien, £100,000, has now been wiped off, so £158,847 is carried forward. The following table shows the company's principal assets, and readers will be able to form some idea of their values:—

Name of Company.	Holding 31/10/04.	Since Acquired.	Since Sold.	Holding 30/6/05.
Farm Leeuwpoot Wit watersrand:—				
Rand Central Gold Mines, Ltd.	124,500	—	—	124,500
B. L. K. Syndicate, Ltd.	10,000	—	—	10,000
Leeuwpoot G.M. Co., Ltd.	6,267	—	—	6,267
Sub-Nigel, Ltd.	250	—	—	250
Main Reef West, Ltd.	52,778	590	—	53,368
Jumpers Deep, Ltd.	19,304	—	—	19,304
Transvaal Estates and Development Co., Ltd.	6,489	—	6,489	—
Ferreira Deep, Ltd.	251,100	—	—	251,100
Delagoa Bay Lands Syndicate, Ltd.	7,604	—	—	7,604
Orkney G.M. Co., Ltd.	100,000	—	—	100,000
Kleinfontein Deep, Ltd.	309,501	—	—	309,501
Randfontein Deep, Ltd.	48,668	276	—	48,944
Van Ryn Deep, Ltd.	364,499	—	—	364,499
Angelo South Mines, Ltd.	93,644	Exchanged for	Angelo Deep	G.M., Ltd.
Angelo Deep Gold Mines, Ltd.	—	—	—	47,991

Most of the above properties are in the earliest stages of development, and it will be a very long time before they can hope to reach the crushing stage. And when they do, how is it possible to foretell at this time of day what profits they will earn? And how many years will it be before the mothering or foster-nursing company can hope to receive any income in the shape of dividends? "But we shall sell the shares at a fat profit when the market becomes more active," would probably be the answer of the directors. That possibility, however, is too romantic to be taken into serious consideration at present. By the scheme of absorption the Johannesburg Investment is to give the

Barnato Consolidated 1,200,000 shares for such assets and the liabilities, which consist mainly of £161,285 uncalled capital on the Kleinfontein Deep, the Main Reef West, the Orkney Gold Mining Company, and the Van Ryn Deep. Cash amounts to £79,646, the shares are valued at £1,303,100, there are loans on mining properties of £20,617, and debtors owe £3,392 against £4,477 owing to creditors. The capital of the Johannesburg Consolidated is to be raised from £2,750,000 to £4,500,000 by the creation of 1,750,000 new £1 shares. Of these 395,000 are to be issued, "when times are more favourable," to provide further working capital, and the balance of 155,000 is to be held in reserve. The directors explain that the fresh capital is needed for the completion of the company's building commitments in Johannesburg and for the development of the various mining properties owned by it and the Barnato Consolidated. The scheme is decidedly not attractive, and the displeasure it has aroused is justified. Shareholders in both concerns have already lost vast sums of money, and they are more likely to lose much more than to be recouped. The directors are waiting for more favourable times to ask for more money. Such a scheme as this has not hastened their advent, and twelve months hence they may still be appealing to Pluto for the needed wonder sign.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE "MATIN" REVELATIONS.

We fear it will hardly do to comfort ourselves with the self-satisfied assurance that the story of German intrigue and English futility published by the *Matin* is mere pandering to the love of the sensational. Doubtless one of the evil consequences of indulgence in the passion for conquest with manslaughter as excited and gratified by a war, is the degradation of the public mind and conscience to a condition similar to that of the drink debauchee. After a more or less prolonged diet of sensationalism and gratification of the lust for human sacrifice, the peoples of war-devoured countries cannot settle down to their old, uneventful routine. Those, therefore, who cater for the public taste in newspapers and magazines in such countries are constrained to go on concocting spiced dishes of sensational stuff, and we are treated to horror after horror, alarm after alarm, until satiation at last brings its punishment on cook and glutton alike. Because we are nearing the stage of repletion and nausea in this country it has been all too hastily assumed that the *Matin* is merely playing down to the debased taste of the mob. But why should it? France is not now the victim of gratified military lusts; France is eminently cool, wary, and circumspect, and therefore a leading French newspaper like the *Matin* had no motive impelling it to curdle the blood of its readers with mere inventions about German diplomatic plots and activities, not even the motive supplied by a desire to play into the hands of British jingoes of the type bred mostly in the Donnybrook Fairs of club and society. No, there is more in its narrative than we wish to allow, and those Liberal politicians who affect to believe that our present Government, shallow-brained though it may be, is incapable of offering to land a British army of 100,000 men in Schleswig-Holstein—to repeat the insane, disastrous mistake of the Walcheren Expedition under that renowned and redoubtable warrior the Duke of York—are too generous and confiding by half. We believe the Government of Mr. Balfour to be quite capable of making this offer. Have not all its platform and Press hacks and neck-or-nothing backers been labouring their hardest to excite public feeling against Germany; educating the masses—or such part thereof as they can reach, which, mercifully, is not the larger, still less the more intelligent part—to regard Germany as "the enemy"? What more natural than that they should think to play a

master stroke of policy or bounce and win gallery applause by displaying, from a safe distance and under properly shielding reservations, a readiness to fight—"We don't want to fight, but by Jingo if we do, our 100,000 men will make the *Deutschers* rue." Write us a new version, poet Kipling, please. Eh? He has ratted, and poetically drinks gore no more? Never mind, the towering Alfred is still possessed of ink.

The *Matin* story is consistent, grave, responsible, and ought to be treated with all gravity. We can offer a curious piece of corroborative evidence in support of it on one seemingly trivial point. Months ago exactly the same account of the German Emperor's behaviour at Tangier was given to us that the French journal made public last week, and by one whose sources of information were beyond question first-rate. If the history is true at one point, why not at all points? No serious-minded person would invent such a statement as that about our Government's promise to mobilise a fleet and land troops in Germany, and we shall believe the promise to have been given until its falsehood has been put beyond dispute. That being so, is it not about time the nation and its responsible politicians woke up to the danger the country runs from the present anti-German campaign in the jingo newspapers, in magazines like the *National Review* and other resorts of the lost and abandoned? As a people we have no quarrel with the Germans nor any cause of quarrel. Nothing substantial to either country is in dispute. We have no hatred the one for the other. The whole noise is merely a product of decadence, of diseased and, in our case, sorely wounded vanity. Our political botch-alls and discredited professional manslaughterers are ill at ease and in some measure conscious of their nullity, of the mean figure they have cut in recent years, and so they must yap and scream and square up, now to this imaginary foe, now to that, just to show what they would do yet if only they had another chance. And they are dangerous enough to be able to plunge us into another war unless the curb of a stern public opinion forces them out of office, deprives them of the power to work mischief. From this point of view the revelations of the *Matin* should act as a warning to the country to be vigilant and clamorous for the removal from power of such men, capable surely of the very worst form of treachery to the empire any citizen in it could commit, the treachery that would betray us into war with a friend and neighbour.

THE ZEMSTVO CONGRESS.

Monday and Tuesday's *Manchester Guardian* contained the most interesting letters we have yet seen descriptive of the reform movement in Russia as embodied in the Zemstvo Congress which recently met and deliberated in Moscow. Monday's letter is chiefly occupied with the extraordinary utterances of Mr. W. T. Stead, and after we read what the *Manchester Guardian's* correspondent had to say about him, our estimate of his judgment and discretion sank lower than ever. The poor man seems to have done his best in his blind zeal for the Tsar and absolutism to upset the whole movement, and we do not wonder that he looked ill at ease when Professor Milyukoff read a telegram announcing that the Press censor had forbidden the publication of any but complimentary references to him, and requesting that he should make use of his influence with the police authorities to ensure his being treated as an ordinary mortal. The audience was highly amused at this, the correspondent says, but Mr. Stead did not appear to share in that amusement. He delivered speeches glorifying the Tsar, and in other ways, to speak plainly, made a fool of himself, winding up by getting a letter praising Moscow as the historic seat of loyalty to the Tsar, printed in the *Moscow Viedomosti*, the most deeply detested organ of the reactionaries in all Russia.

Much more interesting to us was the account of Tuesday's sitting, when the Congress, apparently relieved from the interventions of the fussy and irre-

sponsible English journalist, got seriously to work with the problems before it. With but slight opposition the decision was come to that local autonomy ought to be one of the leading principles in the reform programme. "By a large majority," the *Manchester Guardian's* correspondent says, "the Congress declared in favour of decentralisation and federation, and adopted in regard to the special case of Poland a resolution urging that in view of the fact that Poland constituted a unity distinguished by reason of its economic condition and the almost uniform character of its population from the rest of the Empire, measures should be taken as soon as the fundamental liberties had been guaranteed to all the citizens of the Empire, to give Poland autonomy in her local affairs by means of the constitution of a Diet elected on the principle of universal and direct suffrage." More remarkable still in some respects, although this resolution endorsing federation and freedom for the various races was indicative of the highest political capacity and far-seeing statesmanship, was the expression of opinion that more land should be given to the people as a means of remedying the chronic distress in which the peasants live. If men like the members of this Zemstvo Congress can be returned to the Imperial Duma, there is great ground for being hopeful about the future of the Russian people and Empire. Absolutism with its oppressive bureaucracy and all the childish and malignant tyrannies associated therewith will have to vanish into the night of time before the march of enlightened humanitarianism. In its place, at no distant day, may one hope to see arise a United States of Russia, composed of free peoples no longer harassed by the spy or ground to the dust by tax collectors' rapacity, but living in harmony, proud of their great country and the peace it guarantees?

NINE MONTHS' FOREIGN TRADE.

Take first the figures for the month of September, and they surely dissipate all fear as to the position of this country amongst the trading nations of the world. If our domestic business were but as elastic as our foreign, less would be heard of the cry of the unemployed in the land. In September last the imports came to £45,732,648, an increase of £2,658,642 or 6.1 per cent. on September, 1904. Exports did better still, increasing by £3,421,801 or 13.2 per cent. to a total of £29,350,460. There was also an increase of 15.7 per cent. in the value of foreign and colonial merchandise reshipped abroad, the total being £5,521,237 or £749,241 more than in the previous September, and expansion distinguished nearly every important class of the country's overseas business. Measured by values alone there was an increase of £1,029,000 in the cost of our grain and flour imported, Indian corn forming the largest element in this increase. We imported rather less meat, fruit, potatoes, coffee and refined sugar, but on the whole food and drink imports showed some expansion on September, 1904. In raw material of most kinds except wood and timber and raw cotton there was also a satisfactory growth, and the decrease in raw cotton was in value alone, by no means in quantity. Equally satisfactory were the exports which swell in all directions, especially in some of those classes of commodities about whose coming disappearance from our trade troglodites the Tariffites of Birmingham wailed so loudly two years ago. While we imported just about £4,000 worth less iron and steel and the manufactures thereof, we exported £409,000 worth more of the same class of goods, and in machinery and millwork there was an increase of about £112,000. New ships also sold to foreign buyers increased in value by nearly £942,000 on the month.

When we come to the nine months the story is equally satisfactory, for we find that while imports have risen 4 per cent. in value during that time exports have gone up 10.23 per cent., and the reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise nearly 10.4 per cent. Here again the imperilled industries of the country come forward boldly and well to deny their decadence.

Iron and steel and the manufactures thereof have risen, for instance, upwards of £1,500,000 in value in the nine months now expired. If, however, we take the total of iron and steel goods exported for this period the increase is not much more than £500,000. We have also done a better trade in hardware, tools, scientific instruments, locomotives, agricultural

IMPORTS.

	September.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise	£ 45,451,184	£ 43,074,006	£ 45,732,648	+ 2,658,642
Gold	3,083,303	3,462,534	2,976,615	- 485,919
Silver	915,044	840,381	902,649	+ 62,268
	49,449,531	47,376,921	49,611,912	+ 2,234,991

EXPORTS.

	September.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 23,315,751	£ 25,928,659	£ 29,350,460	+ 3,421,801
For. and Col. M'dse..	4,981,573	4,771,996	5,521,237	+ 749,241
Gold	4,346,748	1,878,869	4,446,579	+ 2,567,710
Silver	846,597	704,145	1,138,501	+ 434,356
	33,490,669	33,283,669	40,456,777	+ 7,173,108

IMPORTS.

	Nine Months ended September 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise.	£ 394,237,561	£ 398,364,875	£ 410,409,829	+ 12,044,954
Gold	20,847,902	24,771,950	29,744,792	+ 4,972,842
Silver	7,033,499	9,342,875	9,784,853	+ 441,978
	422,118,962	432,479,700	449,939,474	+ 17,459,774

EXPORTS.

	Nine Months ended September 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 217,378,805	£ 221,188,788	£ 242,395,568	+ 21,206,780
For. and Col. M'dse..	52,549,871	52,507,204	57,776,644	+ 5,269,440
Gold	16,759,475	18,484,613	22,552,733	+ 4,068,120
Silver	7,764,222	10,254,439	10,648,137	+ 393,698
	294,452,373	302,435,044	333,373,082	+ 30,938,038

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	September.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports	£ 49,449,531	£ 47,376,921	£ 49,611,912	+ 2,234,991
Exports	33,490,669	33,283,669	40,456,777	+ 7,173,108
Excess value of im- ports over exports	15,958,862	14,093,252	9,155,135	- 4,938,117

	Nine Months ended September 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports	£ 422,118,962	£ 432,479,700	£ 449,939,474	+ 17,459,774
Exports	294,452,373	302,435,044	333,373,082	+ 30,938,038
Excess value of im- ports over exports	127,666,589	130,044,656	116,566,392	- 13,478,264

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

machinery and miscellaneous steam machinery, but slight declines are shown in agricultural machinery other than steam, in sewing-machines, and in mining machinery—declines, however, more than compensated for by the increased export values of textile and miscellaneous machinery. A notable increase, for instance, has taken place in our exports of electrical

machinery, which grow steadily, a sure proof that this country is overtaking its foreign rivals in this class of work. Altogether the increase in the value of machinery of all descriptions exported in the nine months was nearly £1,400,000. It is still, however, our great cotton trade which shines out as the most vigorous of all our exports, the increased value of cotton tissues of all kinds exported this year to the end of last month being nearly £6,000,000. No indication whatever is as yet given in the returns of any evil effects resulting from the attempt in Bengal to boycott British cotton tissues. On the contrary, the import of piece goods of all kinds into Bengal has this year to date increased by nearly 61,000,000 yards over the figures for the same period of 1904. A greatly increased business has also been done with China. Turkey has taken more, as have the Dutch East Indies, Japan, Chili and both British West and South Africa. Our exports to Canada, however, have been sensibly smaller, and taking New Zealand and Australia together the demand there has been practically stagnant. In woollen tissues business has been satisfactory at distinctly improved prices, and no branch of the country's trade abroad can really be deemed retrograde. The linen trade which dragged for years is strong and expansive, up about £365,000 in value on the nine months. Instances might be multiplied to tediousness, all leading to the same inference that our foreign trade is elastic to a very unusual degree, and almost throughout prospering.

THE CANADIAN BUDGET.

We have been reading with no small interest the able exposition of Mr. Fielding, the Canadian Minister of Finance, of the condition of Dominion finance. He delivered his speech on July 6 last, when the figures for the year ended June 30 had not become fully known to his department. Some allowance had to be made for this ignorance in the estimates laid by him before the Canadian House of Commons. According to a telegram sent by the Ottawa correspondent of the *Times* on October 8 the Dominion revenue for the fiscal year was £14,236,125, and the expenditure £12,661,861, thus bringing out a surplus of £1,574,264, or £250,000 less than Mr. Fielding's estimate in his budget. This looks like an overpowering condition of prosperity, the small reduction in the final surplus notwithstanding. Unfortunately, however, the Canadian budgets are complicated both by the overlapping of accounts and, still worse, by an item called capital expenditure, and during the year the total amount of "capital" spent was £3,082,880, or about £900,000 more than in the previous year. Now we do not care for capital expenditure in dealing with the finances of a state. It is always a misleading category, and if we add in this so-called capital expenditure, the total outgoings of the Treasury for the 12 months will be found to amount to £15,695,000, leaving a deficit of £1,459,000. What the capital expenditure consists of we do not gather with any clearness from Mr. Fielding. Much of it is doubtless on public works of various kinds, but from questions addressed to him by Mr. Foster and other members of the Opposition we should judge that a great deal, if not all, of this sort of outlay ought really to be met out of current revenue. That being so, Mr. Fielding's boast that the Treasury of the Dominion had realised a net total surplus in eight years of about £11,500,000 does not reassure us much. What has been done with this money—with the proceeds of all the loans likewise? What revenue does it return to the State? Is the expenditure upon railway surveys remunerative, and can it really be justifiable to charge the bounties handed over to iron-masters and other favoured industrials to capital account? Mr. Fielding said that under his predecessors these expenditures—railway subsidies and suchlike—were charged to revenue, and that it did not matter much where they were allocated. If not, why make the change? "We need not dwell very much on this," he says, "because the difference between

charging these bounties to income and charging them to capital would not affect to any considerable extent the question of surpluses," and he argues that the net surplus for the entire eight years would only be diminished by about £670,000 if the whole of those subsidies and bounties had been charged to current expenditure account. That has nothing to do with settling the question, which is one of principle. Loose book-keeping means bad finance. If the governors of a state play fast and loose with one item of account in this fashion, why not with another?

Mr. Fielding gave a very encouraging account of the position of the Canadian debt. It really diminishes with growing, according to him, and in this connection again we find an unhappy method of classifying debt as gross and nett resorted to. By this calculation the nett amount of interest on the public debt, the real burden on the people, on June 30, 1904, was only \$8,892,381 compared with \$9,202,659 at the end of June, 1897. All the time the gross volume of the debt had been growing, but by deducting "money received as interest on sinking funds and other investments" at each of the two dates, he is able to show a diminution in the nett public burden. But does not the country furnish the interest upon the sinking fund investments? And where, by the way, are these sinking funds? We ask this question because of what Mr. Fielding said about the necessities of the State in relation to loans falling due. "I am glad to say," he remarked, "that we have only one temporary loan outstanding—viz., a loan of £600,000 in Treasury Bills placed in London a short time ago at the very satisfactory rate of 2½ per cent. interest." This, of course, is exclusive of expenses, which were small. But there is another loan of £1,000,000, the 4 per cent. loan of 1875, maturing next month, and next year one of £2,500,000 falls due, while further large loans mature pretty continually down to the year 1913. This would not matter if the money were in hand with which to pay them off, but that does not appear to be the case. Yet, if we mistake not, every loan issued here by Canada—certainly the two here alluded to—was supposed to be provided with a cumulative sinking fund, piling money up automatically so that the whole amount required to redeem the debt might be in hand at the end of the term. If this is so, why bother about arrangements for renewing this debt? "It may be found advantageous to Canada," said Mr. Fielding, "to carry on our £600,000 loan, and the £1,000,000 loan about to mature by means of Treasury Bills for a short period until peace is proclaimed, and the market is in a more satisfactory condition." Well, peace has been proclaimed since he spoke, and the market is certainly not in "a more satisfactory condition" for loan issuing. What, then, will Canada do about this £1,600,000? Where are the proceeds of the sinking fund for the £1,000,000 loan? These suggest points on which we should like much more information than is afforded by the budget speech before us, and there are other obscurities much in need of elucidation. In the current year, for example, an expenditure ascribed to capital account amounting to about £3,340,000 has to be provided, or fully £1,700,000 more than the surplus brought out in the accounts for the past year. Of this sum about £740,000 will be absorbed by the Transcontinental Railway, and a great deal of money called capital appears to be always getting scattered miscellaneously over the territories. This may be quite right. Raw, unopened countries do require a great deal of capital in order to make them habitable, and there is no objection, on principle, to the outlay of money in such directions, provided the country can afford it. That is just what we should like to be fully persuaded about. Is Canada, as a nation, spending money faster than the condition of the people, the prospects of her trade, the expansion in the number of her inhabitants warrant? It is not with her as with New Zealand, or even Australia, where the State does all the spending; her railways alone suck up millions every year. Is value given for the money and without hurt to the people?

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: ROSE DEEP.

The Rose Deep, a subsidiary of the Rand Mines, Limited, was formed in the year 1894, and crushing operations commenced three years later with 100 stamps and cyanide plant. A further 100 stamps have since been added, bringing the total capacity of the battery to 200 stamps. Its first and highest dividend was paid in 1898 at the rate of 40 per cent., followed by 40 per cent. in 1899. After the suspension of operations the third distribution was in 1902, at the modest rate of 10 per cent. In 1903 $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was paid, and in 1904 30 per cent., the capital, all issued, being £425,000. The company was not able to run the whole of its stamps last year—the financial year ends on December 31—50 out of the 200 standing idle, but 1904 is a good year on which to calculate probable future results. The quantity of ore crushed was 262,471 tons, which yielded gold to the value of £417,490, at the rate of nearly 31s. 10d. per ton, at a total cost of £225,759, thus leaving a working profit of £191,731, or 14s. 7d. per ton. Adding £1,561 for interest, the nett profit was £193,292 against £132,748 in 1903. Compared with the previous year the yield showed an increase of 2s. 1d. per ton, and the working costs a decrease of 6d. per ton. These figures, compared with many other mines, are very good, the costs especially being very low at 17s. 2d. per ton, with a revenue of £1 11s. 10d. per ton, but they are not nearly so good as the results prior to the war. In 1897 and 1898 the value per ton was £2 3s. 10d., and in 1899 £2 2s., the expenses being, respectively, 25s. 1d. per ton, 22s. 9d. per ton, and 22s. 7d. per ton. Though the costs have been reduced considerably, the value of the yield per ton has fallen off to a much greater degree, making the profit per ton compare with 20s. 3d. in 1897, 21s. 1d. in 1898, and 19s. 5d. in 1899. Nevertheless, it is possible that when the full 200 stamps are in operation for a complete year dividends may again reach 40 per cent., though we would not like to say they may be higher. In fact, since February last the entire mill has been in full work, so the present year should give us a good idea of what the mine can do. It seems most improbable that there can be a further saving in the working costs—any appreciable saving at any rate—and a higher rate of yield is as unlikely. On last year's dividend of 30 per cent. the yield works out, say, at 5 per cent. It is impossible to say what the life of the mine will be, but on the basis of 200 stamps it should last another quarter of a century at the least. Thus the return on an outlay of £100 would be only £125, or no better than 1 per cent. per annum. If, however, we raise the yield to 7 per cent., on 40 per cent. dividends, that would give £175 per £100 in 25 years, leaving £75 for dividends, or only 3 per cent. per annum. About £2 12s. 6d. would have to be set aside annually at 3 per cent. compound interest, thus giving a yield of £4 7s. 6d. This would not be a bad return if it could be absolutely assured for 25 years, but that cannot be regarded as certain in a mining venture of this description, liable to all kinds of changes and accidents. The price of the share, too, is now very low compared with past years. Since 1898 the highest and lowest quotations have been:—1898, $9\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$; 1899, $11\frac{3}{4}$ — $6\frac{1}{2}$; 1900, 10— $6\frac{1}{2}$; 1901, 10—7; 1902, $10\frac{3}{4}$ —8; 1903, $9\frac{3}{4}$ — $6\frac{3}{4}$; 1904, $9\frac{1}{2}$ — $6\frac{3}{4}$; 1905, $9\frac{1}{2}$ — $7\frac{1}{4}$. Those who have bought at 6 and higher are therefore not likely to find the investment remunerative in the long run.

ANOTHER RAND AMALGAMATION.

What may be regarded as a new Rand amalgamation scheme is that proposed by the directors of the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, and shareholders are to give their decision upon it at next Tuesday's meeting. They have been given a fairly long time to think over it, and we do not fancy that much opposition will be shown. The company has been a tolerably successful one for a number of years, and shareholders have received many substantial dividends. We have looked upon it with rather a favourable eye, deeming it to be soundly managed, though its interests seem to

us to have been rather too widely scattered. Had they been concentrated upon a smaller number of companies and gold fields it is possible that the company would have been still more successful. There seems, however, to be a tendency in this direction now, as the amalgamation scheme before us indicates. In the circular issued to the shareholders only the vaguest allusions are made to the properties to be taken up, but probably details will be fully outlined at the forthcoming meeting. "In the opinion of the directors," the communication runs, "the position of the Rand mining industry fully justifies the direction of the special attention of the company to the development of certain most promising areas, and the ultimate provision of large working capital to bring them to the productive and dividend-earning stage. This object will be best attained, according to the advice of the most capable engineers, by the consolidation into larger blocks than were formerly worked by single companies, and by the concentration of work through a smaller number of shafts, together with the surface equipment on a very large scale, to reduce the average of working costs and the total capital outlay required." To this there can be no objection whatever. It is preferable to prodigality, so should the areas unfortunately prove to be less promising than the directors expect the losses will not be so heavy. The venture will none the less involve much speculative risk, with all respect for the opinions of the company's engineer. A provisional agreement has been entered into with Messrs. A. Dunkelsbuhler and Co., a firm with which the company has always been intimately associated. It is said that the Johannesburg branch of the firm, trading under the name of B. Kitsinger, has important interests and influence in the districts, "which are specially interesting to the company at the present time," and the agreement provides for the amalgamation of the Johannesburg interests of A. Dunkelsbuhler with those of the Consolidated Mines Selection. After making a valuation of the assets, it has been decided that the allotment of 400,000 shares to the other party would be a fair bargain. As fresh capital will be needed, the directors deem it wisest to issue debentures to the extent of £400,000, carrying 5 per cent. interest. These are to be offered in the first instance to shareholders in the proportion of £20 of debentures for every 30 shares. Within three years of issue they will be convertible into fully paid shares at the rate of one share for every £2 of debentures; thereafter for five years they may be redeemed at the option of the company at a premium of £5 per cent., and after January, 1914, at par by 15 annual drawings. So the directors are looking far ahead, and seem pretty hopeful that the company will be thriving in nine years' time. The issue has been guaranteed by the Bank für Handel und Industrie at a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. To carry out the arrangements the capital is to be raised from £600,000 to £1,200,000 in £1 shares, 200,000 of which are to be held in reserve for conversion purposes. The articles of association are to be amended, providing that so long as Messrs. Dunkelsbuhler hold 50,000 shares they shall have the right to appoint three directors, of whom one shall be managing director, all to continue in office during the pleasure of this firm. As this is tantamount to control, it looks as if the advantages of the amalgamation will not be equal, but if the shareholders have no objection to such an arrangement it matters nothing to us. Anyway, such a one-sided kind of bargain is not likely to make the scheme more attractive, and we wonder the directors propose it.

THE BUDGET OF VICTORIA.

If it be a test of wise and thrifty statesmanship that large revenues should be raised and spent by its governments, then the colony of Victoria is in a flourishing position. Its Treasurer, Mr. Bent, told the Legislative Assembly in Melbourne the other day that the revenue for the year ended June 30 last came to £7,509,000, while the expenditure was only £6,982,000, so that the surplus was £527,000. "For

the first time in the history of the State," he explained, "the redemptions of debt exceeded the borrowings for the year." That is indeed good news, and the revenue from taxation does not seem to have been so very oppressive, only we wonder why with such an income more money might not be available for public works. The total revenue, excluding railway receipts, is put at £3,900,000 or £131,000 more than the estimate. As for the railway revenue, it was "the largest ever earned," being £159,000 above the estimate of £3,609,000. All this is good, and we trust that Victoria will continue to prosper in this fashion, and to cultivate economy in State affairs. It is a pity, though, that Mr. Bent follows the fashion in boasting about the amount of the debt absorbed in public works. The total debt of the State he puts at £52,141,000, funded and unfunded, and of this no less than £47,856,000 is described as being invested in reproductive works, £39,457,000 in railways, and £7,784,000 in waterworks. What would the railways be worth if they had to be put in the hands of the man-in-possession for behoof of the State creditors? Assuredly not worth the figures at which they are put down in the accounts of the State, and almost all this debt carries interest which has to be paid in the United Kingdom, which is therefore in unmeasured extent a source of impoverishment to the inhabitants of the country. However, the season was good and trade prosperous during the year ending June 30 last, while the prospects for the current year are said to be excellent in all directions. There are nearly 2,500,000 acres of grain to be harvested, and the dairy industry shows steady and satisfactory expansion. We hope this will continue.

STOCK EXCHANGE REFORM.

Another effort is about to be made to enlarge the power of members of the Stock Exchange over the fortunes and business arrangements of the institution. At present the voting of proprietors is curiously limited, so that a holder of a considerable number of shares only possesses three votes. As may be remembered, however, the membership has been agitating for some time with a view to, if possible, in time make membership and proprietorship in a sense synonymous terms. At present, and in spite of the recent regulations, in virtue of which new members must possess themselves of three shares before they can be admitted, the ownership is still in the hands of comparatively few of those who pay the annual subscription. In order to remedy this grievance—for a grievance sometimes well-nigh intolerable it has proved to be—a proposal is now made by the managers that holders of three shares shall be given one vote for each share instead of one vote for three shares as at present, but, on the other hand, holders of 25 shares and upwards who now have only three votes are henceforth to have one vote for every share up to 25, with no vote at all for any beyond that number held. The maximum number of shares, moreover, that one member is to be allowed to possess is to be reduced from 200 to 100. To these proposals strenuous opposition has been offered by the reformers, led, we believe, by Mr. Faithful Begg, and the managers were defeated when they last attempted to push their new healing measure through. Another meeting has been summoned, to be held in the settling-room at the Stock Exchange on Tuesday next at one o'clock, for the purpose of considering and passing the arrangements just described, and one cannot help hoping that the managers may be again defeated, lest they should by success call into existence and stereotype a new bunch of anomalies. Why should the voting power of rich proprietors be so overwhelmingly enlarged at the same time that the small holder is kept down to his one vote per share? There is no equitable equivalent between 25 votes for 25, or 50, or 100 shares and three votes for three shares, which is to be the minimum any new member must now hold. The large proprietors will still under this arrangement, so far as we can see, be in the position of masters. A much more drastic

reform would appear to be necessary, and it is difficult to see why some plan cannot be found whereby the proprietary element would be extinguished altogether. Perhaps that is too much to hope for as long as the Stock Exchange is prosperous, but should lean years come upon it again we think this will be found to be the only real and durable solution of a vexatious anomaly.

THE NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY AND ITS NEW RISKS.

Amongst insurance people this question is being asked—What right have the managers of a mutual life office like the Norwich Union to accept such a grave risk as that implied in the redemption guarantee given by it to the Japanese and Eastern Corporation, Limited, so as to make that corporation's debenture stock marketable? It is undoubtedly a very serious point. A proprietary life office might possibly enter into an engagement of the kind and accept the risks provided they were laid wholly upon the shareholders, but a mutual office does not seem to have any right or liberty to do anything of the kind. Yet here is the Norwich Union Office undertaking to pay at 125 per cent. by drawings at intervals of five years between 1910 and 1990 £1,000,000 of 5½ per cent. "profit sharing" perpetual debenture stock offered for subscription by the said Japanese and Eastern Corporation. It undertakes to do this apparently in return for a single premium paid down at once, and in doing so accepts, among other risks, that vital one involved in the fluctuation of the rate of interest obtainable upon first-class securities. Some years ago before the African war the 3 per cent. debenture stock of the London and North-Western Railway was selling at 120, and all other first-class stocks were at similarly elevated prices. Suppose the cycle of high prices were again to return, as it very well may more than once between now and the date when the last of this debenture stock has to be paid off, upon what fund will the Norwich Union charge the resulting loss? Has it any right to throw that loss upon its policyholders? If not, what business had its management to enter into any such contract? That is the question now exercising the minds of members of the Society of Actuaries and other insurance people jealous for the honour, safety, and good name of British life offices. We should be glad to have some explanation from the Norwich Office of a kind capable of in some degree allaying the feeling of uneasiness its unusual enterprise has created.

CAPE ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.

If we were interested as shareholders in the Cape Electric Tramways we should feel very much inclined to "get shot" of our shares at the earliest opportunity of a favourable kind. Proprietors are treated with a shameful contempt which no self-respecting body would put up with, and since the Breitmeyers, Philipps, Harris, and other delightful patriots are in supreme control of the undertaking and cannot be brought to book for their misdeeds, it seems to us that, in the long run, outside will be a much safer place than in. Call to mind the disclosures in connection with the Camp Bay tramways brought to light by Mr. Parrish, one of the directors, and finally obscured by the compulsory retirement of that gentleman from the board. Thanks to Mr. Parrish's action that little job was neatly frustrated, for a time at least, but depend upon it shareholders will be betrayed one of these days. They have just received a circular curtly stating that an extraordinary general meeting has been called for the purpose of obtaining authority to raise further capital not exceeding £200,000 in debentures or debenture stock. Not a word is said about the objects for which the money is required or the terms of issue, and for all shareholders know to the contrary the cash when raised may be used for a deal of the Camp Bay type. If not, why the secrecy? But the independent section of the proprietors are quite powerless to prevent the raising of the money even if they would, and any demand for

complete details can be treated with contempt for the simple reason that the board control sufficient voting power to carry anything they like. Is that the kind of company to be interested in? Could not the business have waited until the issue of the report and accounts about a month hence?

EDISON AND SWAN UNITED ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.

The directors of this well-known business are conducting its affairs in a very remarkable fashion. In the early part of 1904 the board brought forth proposals for a reduction of the capital account by the comparatively slender sum of £58,910, just sufficient to clear off an item in the balance-sheet known as "balance of special charges £58,473," still leaving the great item of "cost of establishing the business, goodwill, remaining patents, &c., £443,451," untouched. No doubt it would prove very difficult to deal adequately with this so-called asset, because to write it down to its true proportions would mean the sacrifice of nearly all the share capital, and as things are we know that to be quite impossible. But the directors seem to have a mania for tinkering, and without a word of explanation calmly intimated in the annual report that a resolution would be submitted at the meeting for a further writing down of capital by £53,019, that sum having been lost or being unrepresented by available assets. The latest reduction is to be accomplished by reducing each of the 23,564 "B" shares of £2 10s. each to 5s., bringing down the nominal capital from £941,090 to £888,071, and the issued capital from £442,388 to £389,369. In which particular direction this money was lost proprietors were not informed by means of the report, as they should have been, and were compelled to wait for the usual annual gathering held on Thursday. We deal with the matter in a separate note. During the year the company's debenture debt was reduced by £43,947 at a profit of £6,970, thanks to the discount at which the company's stock stands in the market, and this excess has been appropriated partly to providing discount on sums due by debtors—not a healthy sign—and partly as a reserve against stock depreciation. In doing this we may be sure that the directors have used the money to good advantage, and probably enough shareholders would receive a pleasant surprise were they assured that the present balance-sheet value of the stock, £237,553, represented true worth. Another rather doubtful asset is the interest in the Altrincham Electric Supply Company amounting to £66,846, as although the shares are taken at their par value, we cannot trace that any dividend on them is forthcoming. The concern is making progress, the directors say, and last year reduced its indebtedness to the Edison company by £2,265, but the auditors remark that the amount for goods supplied to December, 1902, is still outstanding. However, materials bought since then have been regularly paid for, and of £12,722 owing for interest on current account and on debentures £11,144 has been met. Freehold and leasehold property is entered at £77,102, sundry debtors owe £44,789, and investments amount to £14,562, and as no more than £26,238 is owing to sundry creditors, the company should have no immediate difficulty in paying its way. Cash in hand and at bankers, however, £5,440, will not be sufficient to provide the dividend now recommended. Profits, we are glad to note, again showed some improvement, being returned at £47,898 compared with £42,604 in the preceding twelve months, and after providing £18,761 for debenture interest as before, about £1,000 more at £13,553 is allowed for depreciations, £2,677 against £1,508 is reserved against bad and doubtful debts, and £1,000 against future stock depreciation. These deductions made, the balance over is £11,907 or £3,015 more, and as there is now a credit brought from the previous account of £5,302 against a deficiency a year back, the directors have £17,209 at their disposal, an improvement of £11,907. Therefore a dividend is proposed at the rate of 2½ per cent. on the "A" shares absorbing £9,587, and leaving £7,622 to be carried forward.

These "A" shares are entitled to 7 per cent., cumulative, but the full distribution has not been forthcoming for something like a decade, so it does not matter much whether the "B" shares are nominally worth £5, their original value, or 5s. None the less some very painful losses are implied in this reduction. As we know the company was capitalised on a monopolist basis, and the expiry of the patents, opening the way to vigorous competition, was bound to result in much suffering because no proper provision had been made against changing times.

AUSTRALIAN MORTGAGE LAND AND FINANCE.

This undertaking was always a cut above most of the mortgage and loan companies operating in Australia, and although it suffered with the rest from the devastation caused by those seven waterless years, its recovery, since Australian affairs began to improve once more, has been decidedly rapid. So much so that the directors are now able to tell the shareholders that the result of the revaluation of the station properties is to show that all losses have been fully provided for, and as there is no reason to suppose that the end of the period of progress is yet in sight, we can indulge the hope that the undertaking will now go on and prosper. It was in the report issued in April, 1902, that the directors first intimated their intention of having a revision of the assets carried out, three and a-half years ago, a very long time truly for such an operation, but the company is hardly to blame for that, the delay being due to the tardiness of the New South Wales Government in fixing the rentals of the leasehold properties held under the Western Lands Act. This business, however, has at length been disposed of and shareholders will not mind the long period of suspense now that the outcome has proved so satisfactory. The item which formerly caused misgiving was the loans on land, stations, and stock, and the properties owned, at present standing at £2,248,185, a reduction against the previous balance-sheet of £114,677, which comes on top of a decline immediately before that of £41,170, proving, we trust, that the directors are pursuing a cautious policy and where possible drawing rein. From last year's profits the directors applied £20,944 in order to make good the depreciation on the reserve fund investments, and these, amounting to £301,413, or a trifle less, are entered at realisable worth. Cash and short loans in London reach £266,568, or over £100,000 more, the previous figure also including bills receivable, the increase being due to the decline in the "fixed" assets, sundry debtors owe £93,194, an increase of £30,710, advances on wool and produce come to £34,975 against £53,262, and the freehold and leasehold premises, furniture, and plant are a trifle down at £53,187. Against this important array of liquid assets the floating liabilities, including interest accrued on debenture stocks, are by no means excessive at £195,547 and clearly the financial position is steadily growing stronger. There is a reserve fund of £250,000, besides another £38,000 hidden away somewhere, all invested in high-class securities, and even if the smaller sum has been used up in making good deficits, the company still possesses a stout barrier against a recurrence of bad times. A few debentures seem to have been redeemed during the year, just £3,200, as the total of the debenture debt is now £2,007,400 against £2,010,600, but the share capital remains the same, £520,000 paid up out of £3,000,000 subscribed. At one time it seemed possible that a call and corresponding reduction in capital would be necessary in order to fill up gaps in the assets, but that seems a very unlikely contingency now. After providing for bad and doubtful debts the profits for the year to June 30, including the net result of the wool and produce departments for that period and of the working of the stations for the twelve months to December 31, 1904, were £160,089, or a full £44,000 in excess of the previous year. Current expenses were about £1,600 larger at £25,983, interest on debenture

stocks, &c., was rather lower at £79,281, and income-tax absorbed £1,565. Balance still left was £58,520 against £18,261, in each case including the credit brought forward, and besides writing off £20,944 from the reserve fund investments as already stated, the directors increase the dividend from 2½ per cent. to 6, and the carry forward from £5,261 to £6,376.

THE CAUCASUS COPPER CO., LIMITED.

In its report for the year ended June 13, 1905, the board of this company makes an appeal for more capital to erect a plant capable of treating at least 500 tons of ore per day, and a resolution authorising the issue of £500,000 of loan certificates bearing 6 per cent. interest per annum and falling due at the expiration of 20 years is to be put at the shareholders' meeting. The prospects would indeed need to be good to warrant any such addition to the capital, and the reports about the mine are certainly encouraging, no less than 3,000,000 tons of ore being said to be developed of an average value of 3 per cent. in copper, and the directors calculate that, taking the standard price of copper in the London market at £55 per ton, the company working with a 1,000-ton plant would be able to make a profit of £35 per ton. Meantime, however, the financial position is such as renders the supply of additional capital imperative. There is a floating debt of about £193,000 which will be funded in the new loan, and at the date of the balance-sheet the company had barely £500 in cash to go on with. It paid £399,000 to the General Exploration Syndicate, Limited, for the property taken over, and has since that date spent about £242,000, from which only about £11,000 has been written off. At the end of the year, moreover, the debit to profit and loss accruing from the operations of the company between June 14 and September 2, 1904, was £3,070. This loss does not necessarily bear any sinister interpretation, because the company's property is obviously in the initial stages of development, but it does indicate what a costly operation it is to create a paying copper mine, and also appears to suggest an excessive price paid to the vendors. And there is one thing that we cannot at all understand. It is stated by the directors in a circular drawn up by them and sent along with the report, that "a deed of covenant or trust deed will be executed in favour of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, as trustees for the certificate holders both in respect of their participation in the bond debt and their rights under the profit certificates below mentioned." Why has it been necessary for an English company to go all the way to Maryland in order to find a trustee for its debt certificate holders? Surely this function might have been undertaken by a competent and trustworthy agent nearer home. Supposing the anticipations of the board are not fulfilled, and that it becomes necessary for the holders of the proposed £500,000 of loan certificates to enforce their rights, will a company in Maryland be in a position to do that either here or in Russia? Some explanation of this curious step appears to be necessary.

THE ASSAM TEA COMPANY.

Some time ago we gave publicity to sundry items of criticism of the management of this company made by Mr. T. G. D. Reed, and after going the round of the Indian papers the paragraph containing our summary at last reached the Assam Company itself, on whose behalf some explanations have now been submitted to us. As we should never dream of wittingly doing it or any company an injustice we hasten to summarise the counter-statement here. With justifiable pride the fact is pointed out that, though it may be quite true that too much was distributed as dividend in prosperous years, the company has never in the worst times paid less than 5 per cent., in this respect standing out well in comparison with its neighbours. We are also told that the labour force in the company's gardens is recruited in the ordinary way from Bengal, and that it pays only the same rate of wages as other

tea concerns in the same district. To a moderate extent this supply is supplemented by cacharries, who, however, will only work for high wages, so that it would be madness to depend upon this class of labour for the general working of the gardens. Furthermore, the company has never cut its own tea chest box boards for any appreciable portion of its crop, there being no timber available on its estates for this purpose. It has altogether only spent during the last 12 years five crores of rupees under this head, or less than half the amount which Mr. Reed contended had been lost on boxes during the same period.

Then comes the question of the Sissi Mills regarding which the company appears to have a satisfactory and honourable answer. In virtue of this answer we are bound to say that it was unreasonable to allege, as Mr. Reed did, that the company had been mixed up in any discreditable manner whatever with these mills which have supplied the Assam Company with box boards as a rule since 1890. Some relationship seems to exist between the managing director of the mills and a leading official of the Assam Company, but there is nothing necessarily objectionable in that. Then as to rice, it is stated that this grain is tolerably plentiful in the company's district, and that accordingly it does not import to any appreciable extent, the coolies being encouraged to grow rice upon plots of land which they rent from the company. This serves the double purpose of retaining the coolies and supplying them with rice food without risk or loss to the company. It is added that the total loss on rice supplied under Government regulations to its coolies by the Assam Company during the past three years was Rs. 9,767, or £651, and it is added that the Doom Dooma Company did not make a profit of Rs. 20,000 on this article of food in 1903. On the contrary, it made a loss of Rs. 42,896 in 1902, and of Rs. 23,516 in 1903; that is to say, the reduction in the loss, not the "profit," as Mr. Reed made out, was about Rs. 20,000, whereas the Assam Company's losses on rice in these two years were respectively Rs. 6,455 and Rs. 2,304. No tea companies, it is contended, "go in" for rice cultivation, all available labour being more profitably employed in growing and manufacturing the tea crop. All this is straightforward and satisfactory, and we are also glad to learn that the company is quite willing to send its reports to the Press if asked for, although it has never been the rule for it to do this.

Passing Events.

In our "Mining Notes and News" last week mention was made of the "Cassel process" for extracting gold from the dumps of the Stratton's Independence Mine. Some other proposal for dealing with the waste had been made to the management of this company but it was rejected in favour of the Cassel process, and a correspondent writes to us from Glasgow to tell us something about Mr. Henry Renner Cassel, to whom this process, said to be successful, belongs or of which he is the inventor. From what he says we should like to know more about Mr. Henry Renner Cassel—whether it be true, for example, that in 1885 a Cassel Gold Extracting Company, Limited, was floated by him in Glasgow with disastrous results to all concerned. Perhaps the board of Stratton's Independence will throw some light upon this point, and also give some particulars of the method now stated to be so pre-eminently successful. The process of the company started in 1885 was an "electrolytic" one, and at one time or another we have seen a good deal of gold extracting by electricity without becoming enamoured of it. But was Mr. H. R. Cassel a heavy loser by the 1885 company?

To be a shareholder in a Russian industrial enterprise is not a very enviable position just now—will not be for some years, we fear—and the proprietors of the Russian Collieries Company are now tasting the bitter fruits of the last 18 months of war and anarchy. During the early days of its existence the concern did

very well indeed, one year paying 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, but since the first part of 1902 the position has been gradually getting worse, and a desperate expedient has to be resorted to in order to prevent collapse. A steadily shrinking demand, low prices and high cost of labour have slowly yet surely brought the balance of profit and loss account round to the wrong side, and we gather that the company's resources have at length become completely dried up. Now it is fairly obvious that unless production can be materially and speedily increased the present state of affairs must grow worse and not better, but to accomplish these things a lot of development work will be imperative, and that, in its turn, means money. It must be provided unless proprietors care to face the prospect of foreclosure, and the directors therefore propose to suspend the operation of the debenture sinking fund for four years, and to create 7 per cent. prior lien bonds for an amount not exceeding £25,000 to be redeemed within three years from the date of issue. Not a pleasant outlook truly, but we fear the proprietors will have to accept the position with as good grace as possible.

The directors of the Alabama, New Orleans, Texas and Pacific Junction Railways have had under consideration the desirability of dealing with certain heavy debits appearing in the balance-sheet, and the best method of doing so. They have been frequently referred to in these columns, and consist of discount on debentures, expenses of issue of share capital and debentures, and preliminary expenses £471,946, and a revenue debit of £111,427. The first item does not prevent the payment of dividends, although it has to be got rid of before the debentures become redeemable in 1940, but the second item must be dealt with before any return can be made on the share capital. Such being the position, a suggestion was hazarded that an application should be made to the Court to sanction a reduction of capital, but taking all matters into consideration, the directors do not seem to think this worth while. Difficulties they think would be encountered in getting the business accomplished, and as there is already a balance available of £57,714 to go against the revenue debit, and another £25,000 should be forthcoming from the profits of the current year, the deficiency is all but made up. It must be remembered, of course, that were the reduction allowed this money could not be distributed by way of dividends, but only future earnings. Another year, barring unforeseen circumstances, and the loss should be entirely wiped out, and it certainly would appear unwise to sacrifice about 10 per cent. of the capital in order to bring dividend payments twelve months nearer, say a return of 1½ per cent. Under the circumstances the directors recommend the shareholders not to take action but to allow the debit to disappear in the ordinary way. There will then only remain to be dealt with the big item mentioned, and that can be extinguished in time for the redemption of the debenture debt by the annual payment of about £6,500.

Labour troubles on the Argentine railways have occurred with too much frequency lately, and it is not at all pleasant to hear of a state of siege being declared throughout the Republic for a period of 90 days. It is described as only a police measure, but martial law is not resorted to without adequate cause, and it would not be surprising were the movement of greater importance than we are led to suppose. What is the reason for these constantly recurring strikes, and have all means of preventing them been exhausted? Doubtless the whole business will be laid at the door of the Socialists and paid agitators, so-called by the local committees and managers, but the language these gentlemen usually indulge in when referring to the disturbances in their regular reports cannot help matters much, and it might prove useful if the directors on this side made a thorough investigation into the whole business. Are the men being paid adequately for services rendered, bound to be onerous in these prosperous times? Are the foreign agitators solely to blame for the unrest?

That was not a very cheering address which Mr. J. Drake delivered to the shareholders of the Standard Bank of South Africa on Tuesday last. He was hopeful enough regarding the outlook—we never knew a South African bank chairman who was not—but some of the facts and figures he quoted were eloquent of the commercial depression now prevailing in the unhappy land, and show clearly the reason for the rise and fall in banking profits. We know how goods were poured into the country at the close of the late war, and how the financial commitments which this fictitiously swollen trade involved helped to create abnormal revenues for the banks, and no one needs to be told of the tremendous reaction which has since set in. In 1903 the imports, which were about double those of 1902, exceeded exports by nearly £23,000,000, but in the following year the excess was down to the odd £3,000,000, and since then the balance has gone round to the other side to the extent of £1,600,000. Figures are only illustrations, according to the political bagman who is responsible for South Africa's ruin, but they possess a deadly significance in this instance. Especially so when in the same speech we read how speculators in properties, mining and industrial shares, find their investments at present incapable of realisation except at heavy loss, and of the ambitious and utterly unjustifiable building schemes entered upon in most of the larger towns, a large number of which have turned out failures. All this contrasts strangely with the statement or the implied opinion that on the gold mining industry the salvation of the country depends. Probably it is not too much to say that every ton of ore mined leaves the country poorer, because profits are not used for the development of the land and general benefit of the community, but sent away for the enrichment principally of the crowd whose sole aim is the faking and rigging of the market for the object of fleecing the public of its last few pounds. There is no accumulation of wealth in South Africa except from the proceeds of the everlasting loans raised on the London money market, and these, it might be noted, reached nigh on £10,000,000 for the half-year to June 30, with another £2,000,000 or thereabouts since. Can the country bear this constantly increasing load of debt? We must leave the future to answer the question, and meanwhile look elsewhere for our investments.

Are the Canadian Pacific crowd scared by the growing opposition to the proposed Le Roi amalgamation scheme? It looks like it. According to the *Financial News*, the following paragraph appears in the *Rossland Miner*, the organ of the War Eagle and Centre Star groups:—"W. D. Mathews, one of the Canadian Pacific Railroad directors, who visited Rossland yesterday, is the president of both the Centre Star and War Eagle companies. . . . So far as could be elicited from Mr. Mathews, it is not the immediate intention of him or his associates to attempt an amalgamation of the Centre Star and War Eagle with the Le Roi or any other company, not even the Canadian smelting works at Trail. He seems quite content to have things proceed on their present basis." If there is anything in this, it means that these people are backing out of the scheme, as they will be wise to do, looking to the indignation it has aroused. And if they are so astute no sympathy whatever can be felt for the directors of the Le Roi, who have acted in a fashion that has excited keen resentment. On the other hand, this may be a deep and clever move in the game, and Le Roi shareholders must not be lulled into serenity. If they have any regard for their own interests they must exert themselves with energy. Mr. McMillan should be reinstated on the board, and if they can also find fresh colleagues for him, who can resist the blandishments of certain interests in Canada, they may never regret it.

A representative of the *African World* has had the pleasure of a chat with Herr Beit, and asked this lover of mankind how he viewed the Kaffir depression. "Simply a market condition, which has nothing to do with markets themselves," replied this great logician. "A certain section of the public, especially in France, who expected a great revival after the introduction of

Chinese labour, is apparently considerably disappointed, and there is at present certainly a tendency to sell in a few months what they took more than ten years to acquire. The London market cannot, of course, stand such continuous sales." If people are intelligent enough to see that the Chinese have cost considerably more than they are worth, that the magnates have misled them, are they not wise to sell? Why hold for the benefit of the bosses? And if selling, the excess of supply over demand, has nothing to do with markets, what has it to with? What is a market but a place where prices are regulated by buying and selling? We have shown that even now, despite the levels to which continuous unloading has sent prices, they are too dear on present and prospective dividends. Is this a mere market condition, Herr Beit? And is it a market condition that the Wemmer and other companies should pay no dividends; that many must reconstruct, some amalgamate? And if it is a mere condition, how do the bosses hope to change it so as to induce investors to buy and support schemes now hatching for the raising of hundreds of thousands, yea, millions of capital?

Sir Robert Findlay, the Attorney-General, has intimated to the Provost of Inverness that as representative in Parliament of the capital of the Highlands he has decided to offer his most strenuous opposition to the scheme for amalgamating the Highland Railway with the Great North of Scotland. He could do no less, for Inverness, and in fact the whole of Scotland north of that city, is up in arms against the proposal, fearing that should two rivals come together it will be squeezed to death between them. We have much sympathy with that feeling, and cannot become enthusiastic over this project.

In his public examination before the New York Senate the renowned Mr. McCurdy, president of the New York Mutual Life Assurance Society, and, as Reuter adds, head of the family which according to previous evidence has drawn some \$4,000,000 within a comparatively short time from its funds, emitted the opinion that "the popular impression with regard to insurance offices is wrong," they are "eleemosynary institutions, and each policyholder assumes obligations towards his fellow man." Well, they certainly assume heavy obligations towards Mr. McCurdy and the members of his family, the directors, lawyers, and staff—very heavy. It is droll, though, to find the good man thus posturing, and eleemosynary is a most expressive word, capable of suggesting a new and appropriate meaning if proper emphasis is laid on the first syllable.

The Say Sugar Refineries Company of France is about to be reorganised. At present it has a capital of 38,250,000 francs, in 500 franc shares, and this is to be reduced to 15,300,000 francs by cutting 300 francs off each share. Does this mean that the company has lost £918,000 by the operations of its managing director, M. Cronier, who recently committed suicide? No light was thrown upon that question, it being decided that the discussion of the unhappy man's management should be postponed to the ordinary general meeting due next month. Meanwhile, however, fresh capital is required, and it is proposed to find it to the extent of the amount written off the old shares by an issue of 114,750 new shares of 200 francs each. It is calmly proposed, moreover, to issue these shares at a premium of 40 francs, of which 30 francs will be placed to reserve and 10 francs set apart for the expenses of guaranteeing the issue. Does this mean an underwriting commission of 5 per cent.?

Since the above was in type a fuller report of a meeting of the Say Refineries shareholders has appeared in the *Financial Times*, from which we learn that the confessed loss by the late Mr. Cronier's depredations is £1,040,000. It is impossible to believe that the effects of such a destruction of capital can be made good merely by issuing preference shares. And what about the Egyptian business?

By a silly lapse the word "Pelican" was substituted for "Provident" in a paragraph published by us last week, announcing that the Alliance Assurance

Company is about to absorb the fine old County Fire Office. With that business, as any insurance man will have understood, it will also take over the Provident Life Office, whose seat is in the same building with that of the County Fire. We are very sorry, and only consoled by the thought that the mistake could not possibly do a strong and growing business like that of the united Pelican and British Empire. Mutual the slightest bit of harm.

While doing penance for blunders may we also point out that the heading to last week's note on the "Bond Investment Corporation" was absurdly printed *Rand Investment Corporation*.

Immediately after Lord Selborne's departure from Krugersdorp the Boers held a meeting at which they decided to forward a resolution to the Imperial Government requesting that the importation of Chinese coolies shall be discontinued, and that those already in the country should be repatriated. This is an emphatic answer to the statements that the Boers have all along approved of the Chinese. At the same time the meeting expressed regret at the prevailing state of insecurity in the country and danger to life and property, and deplored the unarmed condition of the people. A suggestion was made that a Commission should be appointed to investigate the treatment of the coolies, and ascertain the cause of the desertions. But who will listen to the Boers? Not the bosses who sought their extinction, you may be sure. And the poor coolie was going to be so cheap!

That the shares of the City of London Company and Charing Cross and Strand Electric Lighting Company have been going up in price lately is said to be due to an "amicable arrangement" come to between the two corporations. Nothing definite has been made public as yet, but a friendly understanding ought to be productive of good, provided it is not allowed to press hardly on the consumer.

The Hudson's Bay Company continues to do splendidly with its land sales. During the six months ended September 30 the sales of farm lands and town lots amounted, approximately, to £190,900, payable over a term of years, while the cash receipts were £119,200. For the corresponding period the figures were £79,400 and £95,600 respectively, and while there is probably no justification for the height to which the shares recently soared, the current year is pretty certain to show a brilliant result.

We are not sure that our Post Office would be warranted in sacrificing £125,000 per annum in establishing a penny post throughout the world, but Mr. Henniker Heaton is deserving of every encouragement and commendation for agitating so unweariedly in favour of this reform. The decision, however, cannot rest with the United Kingdom alone, and unless other nations can be persuaded to join us we fear nothing can be done. It is not merely a question of reduced postage for letters leaving our country which has to be considered, but the far more important question whether foreign nations will permit our penny letters to be delivered within their territories without surcharge. It has been difficult enough to establish uniformity in the 2½d. foreign postage rate, and some countries still charge a higher rate on their letters sent abroad? We believe, for instance, that Argentina charges 3d. per ½ ounce, or for the metric weight as near as may be equivalent to ½ ounce. Other countries may charge a little less than 2½d., but until they can all be made to agree to lower their rates of ocean postage, and each to bear some share in the temporary loss involved, there is little to be done except to agitate, and Mr. Henniker Heaton is a first-class hand at that.

Last week's revenue came to £1,971,000, but as the National Debt took £4,718,000, and as the total outgoings of the week amounted to £4,918,000, the balances in the Banks of England and Ireland had to be depleted to the extent of £2,947,000. Nothing unusual is revealed by these figures, only we should like to know how much the Treasury was compelled to borrow in order to meet the dividends. It should have had the proceeds received to date on these April Exchequer bonds in hand. Was that enough?

Bengal is plainly in earnest and begins to inflict some injury upon the British merchants trading in Eastern India. We are inclined to think that the "boycott of British goods" demonstration will only be temporary, but there is no knowing. As marking a tendency amongst the misgoverned or neglected in all countries this Bengal manifestation may have considerable permanent significance. Supposing people were to carry their union still further and to passively resist the collection of taxes as a demonstration against what they consider the injustice of British rule, how would the Simla Government be able to cope with that? If once, in other words, "proletariats," the common people in modern states, take to combination in passivity for the purpose of compelling attention to their grievances, there is no saying what might happen, and from this point of view we do not feel at all as comfortable at the prospect as British merchants in Bengal and British officials say they do. The persistence with which the Bengalese have, so far, maintained and extended their suddenly-reached determination to have nothing to do with anything British might be the beginning of many things. You cannot force buying at the point of the bayonet.

Critical Index To New Investments.

SIMMER AND JACK EAST, LIMITED.

Already this company, which is practically one of the deep levels of the Simmer and Jack Proprietary, has sunk £650,000 of its share capital together with £500,000 raised by first debentures and a considerable sum borrowed from the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa. It dates back to 1895, but seemingly only began to crush in July last when 50 stamps were started and this number has since been increased to 100. The directors have decided to erect a further 150 stamps, and seek to provide the funds required by an issue of £400,000 5½ per cent. second debenture stock secured by a special hypothecation of all the diggers' claims and mynpachts, plant and machinery, &c., and by a floating charge on the other assets, all subject, of course, to the first debentures. Interest is guaranteed by the Consolidated Gold Fields for a period of 16 years from September 1, 1905, and the debentures will be redeemed at par by annual drawings of £33,300 after 1910, but they may be exchanged for shares at the holders' option at £2 per share up to September 1, 1907, £2 5s. up to September 1, 1908, and £2 10s. up to September 1, 1909, or the directors can pay off any outstanding amounts after 1910 at 103 per cent. Preferential consideration will be given to applications from shareholders in the two companies, and the debentures may safely be left to them by the ordinary public.

RHODESIA, LIMITED.

After much preliminary puffing of an unusually extravagant character, the prospectus of this reconstructed company made its appearance on Thursday, and is certainly not a document to inspire much confidence. According to the particulars given, the assets which on December 31, 1904, stood at £482,146 after deducting depreciation, were further scaled down on June 30 to £322,000, including book debts valued at £43,250, but which were in reality apparently worth no more than £31,500. These assets consist of share and debenture holdings in various struggling concerns, and are acquired by the new undertaking, subject to a debenture debt of £100,000, for £166,667 in shares and the payment of liabilities estimated at £42,000. The nominal capital is £500,000 in £1 shares, but 108,333 are to be held in reserve, so that the present issue is only 225,000, and of these 115,000 have been underwritten by the Share Guarantee Trust, Limited—a concern which has been much in evidence in connection with new creations lately—for a commission of 5 per cent. in cash and the call at 25s. per share for two years of 57,500 shares. Part of the underwriting has been taken over by the British South Africa Company and the Charter Trust and Agency, each company guaranteeing 26,250 shares. In addition to the

underwriting the Share Guarantee Trust receives 2 per cent. on the nominal capital and 2½ per cent. on all shares over 115,000 subscribed and allotted in consideration of its paying the preliminary expenses. At the shareholders' meeting on October 2 the chairman declared that the primary reason for registering the new company in Rhodesia was that a saving of £1,500 to £2,000 would be effected in fees, but that was by no means the whole truth, and it now appears that this registration enables the directors to insert a "waiver" clause with regard to contracts, a thing no longer possible for companies registered in this country. Another and most potent reason is, of course, that by registering the company in Rhodesia all inconvenient inquiry is burked.

THE CORDOBA CENTRAL BUENOS AYRES EXTENSION RAILWAY, LIMITED.

A network of narrow gauge railways occupies considerable territory north and west of Rosario and Cordoba cities. At present the river port of Rosario is their terminus, and this company proposes to bring them into the capital, Buenos Ayres, by means of a line 187 miles long, which will cut in between the trunk roads of the Buenos Ayres and Rosario company. There may be room and traffic for the new line, especially as the Cordoba Central is pushing out branches in various directions, one in particular running away north to the frontier of Bolivia, that great untapped country. But it will be an expensive business, and this company, with a share capital of £700,000 in £10 shares, proposes to issue, in all, £3,500,000 in debentures, all but £250,000 of which will be used up in the construction of the new line. The present issue is £2,000,000 in 5 per cent. bonds at par, but one-third of it has been reserved for preferential allotment to the share and debenture holders of the Cordoba Central Company, which has undertaken to build the line for £2,923,750, presumably in addition to the £575,000 (£50,000 of it in cash) paid to it for the concession, which is a most liberal one. Interest on the debentures is guaranteed by the Cordoba Central Railway Company up to October 15, 1912. After this guarantee expires the debentures become entitled to two-thirds of any surplus profits remaining, after 5 per cent., non-cumulative, has been paid on the ordinary shares, and after 1917 the bonds may be redeemed at 110, on due notice given. Subscriptions will be received by the Capital and Counties and Martin's Banks, and the project looks rather tempting in the present condition of Argentina.

ISSUES BY TENDER.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on Monday for £2,000,000 in bills of six months' currency. Of this amount £1,463,000 is to replace bills which were issued for the purpose of a loan to the St. Marylebone Borough Council for their electric lighting undertaking, and mature on October 20, and the balance is for capital expenditure in the current financial year.

WINCHESTER WATER AND GAS.—Tenders are invited up to October 21 for £10,000 4 per cent. preference stock.

INTERNATIONAL COPPER.—Shareholders in the Famatina Development Company are offered 5,000 £1 shares in the International Copper Company in the proportion of one for every fifty held.

BELFAST HARBOUR 3½ PER CENT. REDEEMABLE CONSOLIDATED STOCK.—An issue of £100,000 redeemable at par in 1965 was offered this week at 97 per cent. through the Belfast Banking Company.

CROYDON GAS COMPANY.—Tenders will be received up to November 1 for sufficient 4 per cent. perpetual debenture stock to produce with the premiums realised a sum of £23,177 13s. ad. The minimum price has been fixed at 103 per cent.

BARNAGORE JUTE COMPANY.—Subscriptions are invited at par for 6,000 new ordinary shares of £5 each and £100,000 4½ per cent. debentures. The shares will rank *pari passu* with the existing shares, while the debentures form part of a total of £150,000 secured on the works at Barnagore, and a freehold site and new mill to be erected at Bally. They are redeemable on December 31, 1915, but may be paid off on six months' notice at any time after December, 1906, at 110 per cent. if before 1910, and at 105 between 1910 and 1915.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.—An issue of 356 debentures of £100 each, bearing interest at 3½ per cent. per annum, and repayable on November 1 in each year during periods of 11, 25, 29, and 30 years, are offered for subscription at par. The debentures and interest will be secured upon the county fund and county rate, and as the rateable value of the administrative county is £1,742,684, while the nett debt, exclusive of this issue, is only £48,588, the bonds should be good investments for those who intend to hold their purchases.

PELICAN & BRITISH EMPIRE LIFE OFFICE. A.D. 1797.

70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Total Assets exceed - £5,100,000.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

All week until to-day bankers lent credit for seven days at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., call money varying in price from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ and sometimes 4 per cent. The India Council has been lending and renewing for a month at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This morning, thanks to the conjunction of the Stock Exchange settlement payments and the transfer of £1,000,000 of Japanese Government money from the market to the Bank of England, the essential insufficiency of banking credit became emphasised enough to force borrowers to the Bank for a considerable amount on seven day loan at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the Bank likewise did a fair discount business at its minimum, advancing altogether quite a heavy amount. The help thus given relieved the outside market so that it closed comfortable enough for money till to-morrow, though convinced now that the Bank rate must soon go up to 5 per cent.

Discount rates were in consequence of this view also harder to-day, but throughout the greater part of the week the market has had a struggle to keep the quotation for remitted paper of three months' usance and upwards from tumbling well below $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In fact, six months' bills were done early in the week at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., French houses being still competitors in our market for a portion of the available paper. To-day, however, bill brokers braced themselves up and demanded $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent. on three months' bills, and the working rate for bills of all usances may be said to have been $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It was quite time the market did harden, for its prospects are not in the slightest degree better than when we wrote last.

How can they be with a Bank return again weaker, showing a reserve down to little more than £20,000,000, and a position altogether as bad now as it was in the end of December last year? We note that an astute French banker thinks we shall struggle through this year with the 4 per cent. rate, "unless something happens in New York," but that is a big "unless," and it is just because New York and all other markets are living in a state of over-strained credit, and carrying such masses of their diseased speculation by help from our banks here that we so much dread the future. Not only are there enormous operations in pure finance, in market bolstering, and such like pivoting upon us, but there is our expanding commerce to be supplied with current capital, and we have not the means to satisfy all demands, therefore the Bank rate must soon be again advanced, so as, if possible, to pull gold in.

Next week's supply of gold is put at about £600,000, and it seems likely that it will all be bought for abroad. The Bank, however, secured about £100,000 of the small amount of the raw metal offered here last Monday, and it has been dribbling in from the refiners most days since. Payments aggregating altogether nearly £7,000,000 have to be made to-morrow and Monday on account of the Daira Sanieh bond repay-

ments and Sanieh Company's dividends; that is to say, to-morrow £4,612,000 will be paid out in redemption of the Daira Sanieh bonds and on Monday £2,000,000 for the company's dividends. How far this will ruffle the credit market we do not know.

SILVER.

The silver market has been entirely without support from the East all week, and quotations were at first allowed to slip back until they touched 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for spot, and 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for future delivery. Supplies, however, have been on a very small scale and barely sufficient to meet the local requirements, so that a gradual recovery was brought about, leaving prices $\frac{1}{2}$ d. up, compared with last Friday at 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. Tenders for Rs. 80,00,000 Council drafts on India received on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 5,76,15,000 in bills and Rs. 2,00,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 63,13,000 were allotted in bills and Rs. 26,87,000 in transfers, applicants at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per rupee respectively receiving about 8 per cent. Next week Rs. 1,00,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 11, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 48,207,265	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	29,757,265
		Silver Bullion	—
	£48,207,265		£48,207,265.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 18,513,329
Reserve	3,157,740	Other Securities	28,251,186
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	8,491,728	Notes	18,832,625
Other Deposits	41,040,766	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,753,439
Seven Day and other Bills ..	107,345		
	£67,350,579		£67,350,579

Dated October 12, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Oct. 12.		Oct. 4, 1905.	Oct. 11, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,132,454	Rest	3,118,262	3,157,740	39,478	—
5,029,657	Pub. Deposits ..	12,015,042	8,491,728	—	3,523,314
44,240,186	Other do. ..	42,258,148	41,040,766	—	1,217,382
86,228	7 Day Bills ..	70,337	107,345	37,008	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
16,298,118	Gov. Securities ..	18,663,329	18,513,329	150,000	—
23,645,078	Other do. ..	32,258,148	28,251,186	4,122,405	—
27,098,329	Total Reserve ..	20,977,869	20,586,064	391,805	—
				4,740,696	4,740,696
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,403,200	Coin and Bullion ..	29,773,075	29,374,640	—	398,435
37,951,529	Proportion	32,300,944	31,510,704	—	790,240
54 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	Bank Rate	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	—
3 ..		4 ..	4 ..	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £434,000 out.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'14 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'15	Antwerp	short	25'22	25'24
Brussels	chqs.	25'21 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'23	Italy	sight	25'13	25'13
Amsterdam	sight	12'11 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'13	Constantinople ..	3 mths	109'37	110'05
Berlin	chqs.	20'44	20'45	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Do.	3 mths	20'24 $\frac{1}{2}$	20'24	Valparaiso	90 dys	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'43	20'44 $\frac{1}{2}$	Calcutta	T.T.	1'4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1'4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Frankfort	short	20'42	20'42	Bombay	T.T.	1'4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1'4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vienna	sight	24'00 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'03	Hong Kong	T.T.	1'11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1'11 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'85	93'75	Shanghai	T.T.	2'8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2'8 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York	60 dys	4'82 $\frac{1}{2}$	4'82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore	4 mths	2'1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2'1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lisbon	sight	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	Yokohama	4 mths	2'0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2'0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Madrid	sight	31'92	32'25				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended Oct. 7.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs 649,000	National Debt Services .. 4,717,870
Excise 287,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties .. 319,000	Charges 40,573
Stamps 186,000	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion 10,000
Property and Income Tax.. 380,000	Supply Services 150,000
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs 150,000	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous 76	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances 2,947,367	
£4,918,443	£4,918,443

* Exclusive of £25,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £3,879,429.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Tuesday, Bars £64,000	Saturday, Egypt £400,000
Wednesday, Bars £47,000	Monday, Egypt £100,000
Thursday, Bars £47,000	Tuesday, Oporto £5,000
Friday, Bars £18,000	
Net Efflux £529,000	
Total £505,000	Total £505,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£			
1,800,000	6 months	1906.	
11,200,000	—	Jan. 1	1 19 11
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 2	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	April 5	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	May 27	2 9 0
20,833,000		June 24	

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
Week ending				
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,260,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,998,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,049,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 23	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
" 30	174,559,000	190,242,000	—	15,683,000
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
" 27	187,852,000	164,860,000	22,992,000	—
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,726,000	27,856,000	—
	9,612,150,000	8,109,138,000	1,503,012,000	—

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 5, 1905.	Sept. 28, 1905.	Sept. 21, 1905.	Oct. 6, 1904.
Coin and bullion	£4,925,560	£4,770,040	£4,849,520	£5,009,280
Other securities	23,555,520	23,018,040	22,843,120	21,452,040
Note circulation	26,754,480	26,839,240	26,460,480	25,545,400
Deposits	3,787,280	3,026,800	3,231,840	2,989,400

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2 1/2 2 1/2
Berlin	5	October 3, 1905	3 3 1/2
Hamburg	5	October 3, 1905	3 3 1/2
Frankfort	5	October 3, 1905	3 3 1/2
Amsterdam	2 1/2	March, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Brussels	3	December 28, 1903	2 1/2 2 1/2
Vienna	3 1/2	February 3, 1902	3 3 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	4 4
St. Petersburg	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2 7 1/2
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4 4
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5 5
Stockholm	5	September 22, 1905.	4 1/2 4 1/2
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Calcutta	5	September 29, 1905	— —
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	— —
New York call money ..	5 1/2	—	— —

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 3.	Oct. 5.	Oct. 10.	Oct. 12.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12 2 1/2	12 2 1/2	12 2 1/2	12 2 1/2
Do. do.	3 months	12 4 1/2	12 4 1/2	12 4 1/2	12 4 1/2
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25 4 1/2	25 4 1/2	25 4 1/2	25 4 1/2
Hamburg	3 months	20 6 1/2	20 6 1/2	20 6 1/2	20 7 0
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20 6 1/2	20 6 1/2	20 6 1/2	20 7 0
Paris	cheques	25 1 1/2	25 1 1/2	25 1 1/2	25 1 1/2
Do. do.	3 months	25 3 1/2	25 3 1/2	25 3 1/2	25 3 1/2
Marseilles	3 months	25 3 1/2	25 3 1/2	25 3 1/2	25 3 1/2
Switzerland	3 months	25 4 1/2	25 4 1/2	25 4 1/2	25 4 1/2
Austria	3 months	24 2 1/2	24 2 1/2	24 3 0	24 3 0
St. Petersburg	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Moscow	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25 4 1/2	25 4 1/2	25 4 1/2	25 4 1/2
New York	60 days	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	36 1/2	36 1/2	36 1/2	36 1/2
Lisbon	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Oporto	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Copenhagen	3 months	18 3 1/2	18 3 1/2	18 3 1/2	18 4 0
Christiania	3 months	18 4 0	18 4 0	18 4 0	18 4 0
Stockholm	3 months	18 4 0	18 4 0	18 4 0	18 4 1

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Oct. 7, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1905.	Sept. 23, 1905.	Oct. 8, 1904.
Specie	£39,008,000	£40,300,000	£40,112,500	£47,500,000
Legal tenders	14,812,600	15,210,000	15,116,000	15,200,000
Loans and discounts ..	211,940,000	214,320,000	215,288,000	229,200,000
Circulation	10,828,400	10,813,200	10,742,000	13,358,200
Net deposits	211,860,000	216,100,000	216,640,000	241,060,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £855,600 against an excess last week of £1,487,000.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1905.	Sept. 23, 1905.	Oct. 7, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£45,574,000	£45,542,833	£46,185,666	£48,188,458
Silver reserve	12,120,958	12,238,416	12,384,000	12,089,666
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	2,083,416	2,036,041	1,864,541	1,859,708
Note circulation	72,588,250	73,833,125	69,710,422	71,375,833
Bills discounted	21,298,541	21,950,541	17,676,375	17,501,666

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1905.	Sept. 31, 1905.	Sept. 23, 1905.	Oct. 7, 1904.
Cash in hand	£37,758,750	£36,610,750	£44,858,700	£39,472,200
Bills discounted	61,092,100	67,160,850	51,756,250	47,338,850
Advances on stocks ..	3,546,450	8,955,600	2,687,700	5,882,450
Note circulation	76,818,150	84,132,300	66,448,700	74,117,500
Public deposits	26,213,650	27,818,750	31,681,850	24,806,450

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1905.	Sept. 23, 1905.	Oct. 8, 1904.
Gold	£14,956,367	£14,949,107	£14,942,269	£14,808,225
Silver	22,381,274	22,674,077	22,609,001	20,129,705
Foreign Bills	2,469,162	2,556,228	2,512,092	1,663,257
Discount and Short Bills	45,632,337	45,288,654	45,174,156	39,089,774
Treasury Account	20,822,953	20,864,516	20,846,457	22,026,612
Notes in circulation	63,316,241	62,462,433	62,421,868	65,905,577
Current Account deposits	21,543,432	21,908,636	22,032,563	24,911,114
Dividends Interests	3,181,941	3,752,495	2,278,300	3,028,180
Government Securities ..	5,091,626	5,578,663	5,739,117	5,017,285

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 12, 1905.	Oct. 5, 1905.	Sept. 28, 1905.	Oct. 13, 1904.
Gold in hand	£116,949,960	£117,566,280	£118,482,880	£104,500,080
Silver in hand	43,762,440	43,936,600	44,105,280	44,098,520
Bills discounted	26,242,360	25,730,040	25,215,360	24,476,000
Advances	19,090,280	19,716,320	18,550,400	20,332,520
Note circulation	180,578,520	181,931,280	175,091,040	172,859,840
Public deposits	9,391,560	8,333,040	12,960,960	7,792,840
Private deposits	21,322,040	23,730,480	25,155,040	18,595,040

Proportion between bullion and circulation 89 per cent., against 88 1/2 per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 1/14, 1905.	Aug. 23, Sept. 5, 1905.	Aug. 16/29, 1905.	Sept. 1/14, 1904.
Gold	£ 91,341,331	£ 91,022,530	£ 91,623,725	£ 85,447,839
Silver and subsidiary coin	5,250,606	5,399,687	5,548,388	8,112,349
Advances and bills discounted .. .	38,277,243	36,109,394	35,194,145	38,746,447
Securities belonging to the Bank .. .	7,867,652	7,457,711	9,143,485	5,536,507
Notes in circulation ..	103,804,076	103,671,680	99,588,624	74,938,046
Deposits and current account	45,670,593	44,510,230	44,413,654	39,198,280
Treasury account .. .	94,827,815	14,343,356	17,641,108	26,605,485

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-4
Three months	3½-4
Four months	3½-4
Six months	3½-4
Three months fine inland bills	4½-4½
Four months	4½-4½
Six months	4½-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½
" for call loans	3½-4

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Keep away from the Stock markets just now if you possibly can. Should you be involved in anything you are obliged to hold with borrowed money, clear out of it if possible and remain free until the worst is over. It is little use to enter into an analysis of the position of Stock markets this week, for there is nothing fresh to say. The play thereon is more and more that of professional men struggling like Sisyphus against the inevitable, and the number of hoping-against-hope people who are barely scrambling through the mid-monthly settlement payments to-day is greater than it was last account, and will in the end of the month be greater than now, because the process of exhaustion is continuous and as inevitable as death. No group of men, however credit rich, or group of national markets, can for ever act as if the unreal prices they have put upon most of the articles in which they trade represented something substantial, something that will furnish genuine revenue in amounts adequate to meet the drain of interest and the deadly waste of market warfare, without reaching a point where it is no longer possible to disguise the truth, a point at which by no conceivable device can ends be made to meet. Whether or not that point is near at hand on our Stock Exchange or on Wall Street, or on the Paris and Berlin Bourses, it would be rash for anybody to say. One thing, however, we are sure of, symptoms of hidden mischief of the gravest description are abundant everywhere, and multiply. Look how Wall Street quivers and gyrates, how artificial the raisings and lowerings of prices there continue to be—machine-made prices we may call them, one clique dashing in to prop up the crumbling mass of rottenness as another gets exhausted, and all struggling in a grim life and death wrestle to avert their doom.

Never forget that the Russo-Japanese War has yet to be paid for, and that, in conjunction with the formidable demands of Russia's unpaid creditors and all the further capital requirements of Japan—requirements that must be gratified if she is to cultivate with effect the fruits of her victory—millions upon millions of floating capital will be absorbed in meeting the enlarged demands of the world's credit-stimulated commerce, our own in particular, and that there are other accumulations of credit demands of all descriptions hanging over us, that in the United States the cry of all corporations is "More capital, more money," and then try to conjecture how all these demands are to be satisfied. We cannot make any reasonable or satisfying guess how, and yet it is upon our market in the last resort that all the pressure comes. Paris itself is not able to stand alone, is clogged up and hampered to a dangerous extent by the commitments already entered

into, by its recent astounding losses, and we have to stand the racket with a smaller Bank reserve by £10,000,000 than we ought to have had at this time of year, to be safe from alarms and clear of the danger of a 5 per cent. Bank rate and all that its establishment may portend. Keep away from speculation of all kinds just now if you wish to enjoy peace of mind, to be able with calmness and resolution to encounter the coming trials.

The Week's Stock Markets.

This has not been a very cheerful week on the Stock Exchange. The monetary outlook continues to be a source of great anxiety, and with no prospect of any amelioration of the present position, but, on the contrary, every probability of the strain becoming greater, dealers are looking forward to the next month or so with anything but pleasant feelings. Dear money is troublesome enough when the Stock Exchange position is sound and healthy, but when it follows a period of unreasoning inflation such as that lately witnessed in sundry markets, particularly Yankees, trouble is pretty certain to ensue. There was great difficulty in preventing open default in connection with the account just settled, one bigish firm of jobbers having to be bolstered up beside some of the smaller fry, and when distress once begins one never knows where it will end. Fortnightly loans were, of course, appreciably dearer than on the last occasion, as although some borrowers were able to satisfy their wants at 4½ per cent., others were compelled to pay 4½ per cent., and even more, the Bank rate having gone up 1 per cent. in the interval. For the first two or three days of the week prices were tolerably steady, apparently due to the fact that the Bank of England secured a little of the gold offering in the open market, and also to a story that the Bank of France had agreed to allow £1,000,000 to be taken for Egypt. Business, however, was almost at a standstill and when pay-day came round with its attendant difficulties the tendency became decidedly weak, Yankees especially going flat. Consols began with an improvement of about 5s., and although all subsequent movements were downward final figures were much as before. Annuities faintly recovered, but most other British funds gave way, including Irish Land stock, War Loan, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per Cent., and India Sterling issues, the last on talk of a new issue in connection with the purchase of the Bombay Baroda Railway system. Bank of Ireland stock lost as much as 4 and Bank of England stock and the Greek Guaranteed Loan fell 1. London County issues were slightly better in the Home County and Corporation division, but Birmingham, Leeds, and Stockton 3 per Cent. went back, and moderate selling caused a considerable number of Colonial Inscribed stocks to fall ½ to 1½. Money in this section cost 4 to 5 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	88½	88½
91½	87½	Do. Account (Nov. 2)	88½	88½
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	87½	87
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100	100
95½	89	Irish Land (2½) ..	90½	90½
101½	96½	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	97½	98
99½	98	Do. Account (Nov. 2)	98	99
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98½	98½
308	297	Bk. of England Stock. (6 p.c.) ..	297½	296½
109	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	103½	104
99½	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1948 ..	96½	95½
85½	80½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock. red. 1926 ..	81	80½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66	66

Business was painfully slow in the Foreign bond market, and the small irregular movements possessed little or no significance. Japanese bonds were somewhat depressed by Count Okuma's statement emphasising the heavy amount of war debt which the country has piled up, but steadied again before the end. It now appears tolerably certain that the next Japanese loan will be negotiated by the Paris house of

Rothschild. The terms of issue do not seem to have been fixed yet, but a good deal of progress has been made with the arrangements, and the proceeds will be used, it is understood, to effect the conversion of the internal 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds and other short term obligations. The Russian loan, which is to be a 4 per cent. issue at 90, will probably be offered towards the end of the current month. Prices for existing bonds were somewhat depressed at the prospect, but other continental things, save Greeks, which were a little heavy, held their ground. In the South American group Argentines shaded off on the strike news from Buenos Ayres, but recovered and ended steady along with Brazilians and Chilians. Provincial Cédulas went up sharply, losing a good deal of the rise, however, before the end, and Peruvians were pretty good throughout. Nothing striking happened amongst Central Americans, but Venezuela and Honduras ended dull. Continuation rates were stiffer all round, 4 to 6 per cent. on all leading South Americans, Peruvian debentures, and Japanese, and 5 to 7 per cent. on Central American things and Peruvian ordinary and preference. Uruguays were again scarce, but amongst continental issues 3 to 5 per cent. was paid on Portuguese, 4 to 5 per cent. on Spanish, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on Turkish Unified, while Russians were continued "even." Making-up prices showed a nearly all-round decline, but in a good many instances the fall was due to the deduction of dividend. Particularly was this so in the Argentine group, which revealed a pretty general shrinkage of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3, the only notable exception being the Provincial Cédulas up $4\frac{1}{2}$. Brazilians were down $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$, Chilian 1895 fell 2, Chinese 1896 $2\frac{1}{2}$, German 3 per Cent. $1\frac{1}{2}$, Japanese 6 per Cents. each $3\frac{1}{2}$, Russian 4 per Cent. $1\frac{1}{2}$, San Paulo 5 per Cent. 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$, Spanish $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Turkish 1891 and Uruguay 5 per Cent. 2.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
101	94	99	99	99
106	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
97	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	96	96
98	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	98	98
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	98	98
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	56	56
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	46
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	43	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
107	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	105	105
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	53
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	53
44	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	—	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	97
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	70	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
82	76	82	82	82
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	100	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
92	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	72	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
91	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	95
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	50	50
		Venezuelan, 1881..	50	50

The Home Railway market has perhaps been rather less under the influence of dearer money fears than the other sections of the Stock Exchange. For one thing, the Board of Trade returns for September were again very satisfactory, and for another the weekly

traffic figures continue to indicate that business is steadily improving throughout the country. In addition, therefore, to the stream of dividend money seeking investment as usual after a quarter-day there have been signs of a moderate revival of speculative activity for the new account, and prices tended upwards. Although less sensitive to conditions in the money market, the degree of strength exhibited was at best moderate, and when the Bank return on Thursday brought the outlook for a 5 per cent. rate more prominently to the front, quotations gave way more or less all down the list under the lead of North-Eastern and North-Western. Thanks, however, to the advances earlier in the week the nett losses compared with a week ago were rarely important, while such things as South-Eastern issues, Chatham, Great Eastern, and Great Western actually finished higher.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
145	133	137	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	137	138
165	152½	157	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157	157
131½	116½	123	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	123	123½
120	111	113½	Caledonian Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	114	113½
83½	77½	77½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	77½
38½	33½	37½	Do. Def. (6 p.c.) ..	37	37½
94½	88½	92	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	92
86½	77	84½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84	84½
17½	15½	16½	Chatham Ordinary ..	16½	16½
47½	37½	41½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	41	41
65	51	64	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	65	65
35½	28½	34½	Great Central Pref. ..	35½	35½
28½	15½	17½	Do. Def. ..	17½	17½
93½	86½	83½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	82½	83½
108½	98½	100½	Gr. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	100½	101
42½	33½	38½	Do. Def. (1) ..	38½	38½
145½	135½	138½	Great Western (5½ p.g.) ..	138½	139
56½	52	—	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	53½ ^{xd}	52½
49½	41	46½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	46	46½
112½	104	105	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	105	105
89	89	89½	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	89	89
42½	34½	34	Metropolitan District ..	34½	34
71	65½	67	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	67½	67
70	62½	67	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	66½	67
83½	76½	77½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	77½
49½	43½	45	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	45	44½
144½	134	141½	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	141	140½
160½	147	155½	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	156	156
94½	84½	92½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	93	94
134	122½	130½	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	131	132
58½	48½	52½	Do. Def. ..	57½	58½
171	156	159½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	159½	158½
111½	105	106½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	106
60½	52½	55	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	55½	55½

Much the same story can be told regarding the account, as throughout the whole of a somewhat dull and unsatisfactory fortnight stocks remained wonderfully steady, and the impetus given just at the end by the Board of Trade figures for September and by the investment of dividend money helped to counteract the influence of dearer money and fears of a 5 per cent. Bank rate which prevailed for a time. Gains and losses, therefore, were almost equally divided in number in the making-up list, although fully half of the improvements consisted of fractions only, while the declines were more serious. The largest advances, too, were in such things as Furness and North Staffordshire, which rose 3 each, and Central London deferred, which put on 5, carrying the ordinary and preferred up 1. North-Eastern advanced $\frac{1}{4}$, South-Eastern preferred and deferred 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, Chatham preferences 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, Great Central preferred $\frac{1}{2}$, and Great Eastern $\frac{1}{8}$. Caledonian deferred was also $\frac{1}{8}$ better, but the ordinary and preferred fell 2 each, and North British preferred and deferred lost $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$. Midland preferred and Lancs and Yorks declined 1 each, Great Western and North-Western $\frac{1}{2}$, South-Western issues were from 1 to 2 lower, and Brighton ordinary and deferred dropped 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$. Metropolitan ordinary and Surplus Lands stocks went back $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 1, and District was $\frac{1}{4}$ down. The higher charges exacted for money by bankers made contangos stiffer than last time at from 5 to 8 per cent., the rates being heaviest upon North-Western, South-Western deferred, and Great Eastern.

Money has been tight in Wall Street most of the week, and bulls have been deterred from any active manipulation by fears that the drain of currency into the interior would prevent any return to ease for a considerable time to come. The Bank statement on Saturday showed a larger decrease in the cash reserve

than had been expected, and altogether Wall Street seemed out of heart. Spasmodic attempts were made to bring about a rally, and it was freely reported that the Morgan group were doing all they could to keep loan rates down, and they so far succeeded that the market brought itself to believe that the period of stringency was drawing to a close. Mr. Shaw, the Secretary of the Treasury, was said to be willing to come to the relief of the money market by increasing the deposits of internal revenue funds with the banks after the fashion of 1902, and quotations began to move up in the old familiar style. The advance, however, did not make much headway before it was checked by the warnings given at the American Bankers' Convention, especially by the vice-president of the National City Bank. Our market, consequently, was dull at the opening on Thursday, and became still heavier when it was rumoured that one jobber was in difficulties, and that several other firms were making desperate efforts to avoid default. Wabash issues were sold on the defeat of Mr. Ramsey in the struggle for control of the line, and practically everything in the list went down. Another stock to recede was Great Northern (U.S.A.) preferred—a stock not much dealt in on this side—which dropped on the issue of \$25,000,000 of preferred stock at par to existing stockholders to the extent of 20 per cent. of their holdings, the "rights" being valued at \$36 to \$38. In view of the above-mentioned tightness of money in Wall

per cent., and frequently touched as much as 6½ per cent.

The "bull" account in Canadian Pacific shares both here and in Montreal is believed to be enormous, and a good deal of realisation took place in both markets before the settlement, with the result that several dollars were knocked off the price in one day. Manipulation with an eye to the making-up price followed, and a further demonstration carried the quotation up to 178½, but the appearance of strength thus artificially created had no solid foundation and the market quickly crumbled again under the pressure of forced liquidation. Grand Trunk stocks were also inclined to be heavy at first, and although there was something of a rally on the traffic return, which gave great satisfaction, as the whole of the increase of £10,000 was in the earnings of the main line, the final prices still showed more or less severe losses. Notwithstanding the selling mentioned above, the account open for the rise in Canadian Pacific shares is still large and continuation charges were again heavy at from 5 to 6 per cent., but on Grand Trunk stocks rates were comparatively light at about 5 per cent. The heavy realisation of last week in Canadian Pacific shares was followed by a rally, as noted above, and the making-up price was consequently no more than 1½ down, while Grand Trunk stocks were steady, the only changes being losses of ½ in the second preference and 1 in the 5 per cent. debenture stock.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	92	90½
108½	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	108½	108
120½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	117½	115½
102	97½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	101	100
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	58½	57½
193½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	186	184½
93½	27½	Denver Shares ..	36	34½
38	85½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	92	90½
54½	37½	Erie Shares ..	50½	50
87½	77½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	84	83
80½	58½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	75	74½
186½	156	Illinois Central (6) ..	186	184½
161½	146½	Louisville & Nashville (5) ..	158	155½
36½	24½	Missouri and Texas ..	34½	34
169½	140½	New York Central (5) ..	155	153½
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	87½	87
96½	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	95	95
65½	41½	Ontario Shares ..	56	55
76½	62½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	73½	73
63½	40½	Reading Shares ..	63	62½
48½	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	49	49
49	43½	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	51	51
74	59½	Southern Pacific ..	71½	70½
39½	28½	Southern ..	37½	36½
104½	97½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103½	102½
142½	116½	Union Pacific (4) ..	136½	135½
102½	99½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99½
24½	18½	Wabash ..	23½	22
49½	37½	Do. Pref. ..	44	43
86½	69½	Do. Income Debs. ..	78	75
182½	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	178	175½
109	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	107
112	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110	110
26½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	25½	25
104½	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	104	104
115½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
107	97	Do. and Pref. (5) ..	106½	106½
62½	44½	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	61½	60½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	216½	211½
321	144½	Do. Def. (15) ..	310	300
127½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	123	126
131	113½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	128	128
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	83½	84
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	144	143
133½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	132	131
139	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	136	139
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
110½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110
114½	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	111	111
107½	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	105	105
170½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	167½	167
109	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108	107
140	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	139	140
92	79	Central Uruguay (3) ..	89	91
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	108	108
95½	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	94½	93
76½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	74½	73½
32½	28	Costa Rica (1) ..	28	24
7	5½	Cuban Central ..	7	7½
12½	10½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	11½	11½
107½	104½	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	106	106
95	72	East Argentine (4½) ..	94	94
7½	6½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6½	6½
84½	50½	Leopoldina (3) ..	78	80½
97½	86½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	95	94
110½	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	110	110
108	104½	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	105
20½	19½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	24	24
121½	103½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	116½	118
57	36½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	47½	47½
17	10½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	59	58
19½	16½	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	16½	16
208½	178	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	19
198	122	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	204	206
		United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	198½	198

Street it is not surprising to find that the majority of movements in the most active counters during the fortnight have been adverse, and it says much for the skill of the financial cliques there that not only have the declines been kept within very moderate figures, but some of the leading favourites are actually up on the account. Union Pacific ordinary and Baltimore ordinary, for instance, were lifted 1½ each, Southern Pacific common put on 1½, and New York Central rose 2, while Ontario, Norfolk common, Pennsylvania, and Union Pacific preference all gained ½. Baltimore preference, on the other hand, went back 1½, Erie issues dropped ¾ to 1, Wabash common and B debentures were 1½ and 1½ down, Milwaukee, Missouri, Norfolk preference, and Northern Pacific common all fell 1, and Southern preference lost 2½. The "bull" account open in New York is said to be now very much lighter but a large proportion of the load has been transferred to this side, and the amount of stock carried over here is enormous, so that money rates ruled from 5½ to 6

Reports of strikes in Buenos Ayres and of the proclamation of martial law had a depressing effect on Argentine Railway stocks, but later advices were more encouraging, and with another batch of fine traffic returns to act as a stimulant vigorous support was promptly forthcoming. Argentine Great Western and Buenos Ayres and Pacific were the principal favourites owing to the revival of the talk of an amalgamation of the two companies, and there was also a recrudescence of the speculative activity in Cordova and North-Western debentures. The price of these was carried up to 44 but did not remain long at that level as the opportunity to snatch a profit was too good to be missed. Uruguay issues, too, were decidedly strong, and amongst Brazilian issues San Paulo and Leopoldina showed fairly substantial improvements. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock was also harder, but Antofagasta issues were sold to a moderate extent. The best prices were not maintained to the end as the depressed mood which came over markets on Thursday afternoon proved too strong for this section to resist. Mexican preference stocks were about

the only securities to escape, and these, after being dull most of the week on sales caused by a poor traffic return, took a decided turn for the better on the declaration of a dividend on the first preference at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, or ½ per cent. more than for the corresponding period of last year. Most Argentine Railway issues suffered a set-back during the past account, Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and preference stocks losing as much as 3½ and 4, Great Southern ordinary and preference dropping 2½ and 2, and Cordoba Central debenture stocks 2½ and 1½, while Great Western stocks were from 1 to 1½ lower. Cordoba and Rosario preference stock, however, was exceptionally strong and 7½ higher, East Argentine rose 3½, Entre Rios ordinary 3, Buenos Ayres Western 2½, and Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary and Cordoba and Rosario income debenture 1½. Central Uruguay was 2½ down, but Midland ordinary stock and debentures gained 2 and 4½, and Uruguay Northern preference and debenture stocks improved 2 and 4. Antofagasta recovered the 5 lost during the previous account, United Railways of the Havana ordinary advanced 9, Paraguay Central debenture stock was 4½ higher, and Colombian National debentures, Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds and San Paulo ordinary stock put on from 1½ to 2½. The preference stocks of the old Mexican Company put on 2½ and 2½, and the ordinary was ½ harder, but Interceanic preference debenture stock fell ½ and 3, and Mexican Southern ordi-

nary relapsed 1. Money here as elsewhere was fully ½ per cent. dearer at 5½-6½ per cent.

Dealing never became active in the Miscellaneous markets and prices displayed a good deal of irregularity. Hudson's Bays started weak on fears that the carry-over charge would be heavy, but recovered sharply when the rate proved to be quite light. Pekins also went first up and then down, closing pretty good, and other Chinese things like Shansis and Yangtse Valleys followed suit. Breweries were quieter and nothing very striking happened with the exception of another sensational rise in Bieckert's ordinary, but Catering things were steady as a rule. Aerated Breads fell as low as 6 and sprang up again to 6½, closing slightly below this figure. Sweetmeats were better on the increase in the receipts for September, and Meat shares hardened when they moved. Textiles were good, particularly Coats, and another all round improvement took place in the Iron and Steel group. Nitrates were heavy, also Linotype issues, there being no definite news regarding the amalgamation with an American concern. Gas Light stock was bought for investment, going over par, London Docks deferred kept steady, and in the Telegraph division Anglo-American deferred finished hard, and Eastern ordinary put on £1. Russian Oil shares were a little dull, Cape Electric Tramways fell sharply on the proposal referred to elsewhere to raise money on debentures, and Price's Candle shares rose to 38, while Brunner Mond's lost part of the recent rise. The decline during the fortnight meant a considerable shrinkage in the account open in Hudson's Bay shares, and the carry-over rate was no more than 4 per cent., against 8 and even 10 per cent. on the previous occasion. In other directions continuation charges were about normal, say 5 to 7 per cent. as a general thing, but on Pekins 7 to 9 per cent. had to be paid, and on Shansis 8 to 10 per cent. Making-up prices showed gains of 1½ in Associated Cement debentures, ¾ in Charing Cross Electric, 1½ in City of London, and 7½ in County of London and Brush. Lyons were up about ½, Allsopp ordinary and preference 1½ and 1, Bieckert's Brewery ordinary 6, Watney Combe preferred 1, Anglo-American Telegraph preferred 1, and Commercial Union Assurance 1½. On the other hand Aerated Breads lost 1½, Associated Cement preference ¾, Hope Brothers ordinary 1½ and the preference ¾, several Nitrate shares ½ to 1½, Hudson's Bays 3½, Pekin Syndicate 1 and the deferred 2, Peruvian bonds 1½, Yangtse Valley 1½ and the deferred 3½, Allsopp 4 per cent. debenture 4½ and the 4 per cent. 2, Watney Combe preference and debentures 4 and 2, and Anglo-American Telegraph deferred ¾.

The account has been completed this afternoon without visible hitch, and all markets have firmed up, closing quite cheerful. In things like Hudson's Bays and Canadian Pacifics there have been rebounds upwards of from 2 to 4 points. This probably means that the depression throughout the settlement was caused by forced liquidations, but it is an artificial matter all through—skilful applications of credit gas. Every other section of the market closed better, even Consols, although there were reports of serious difficulties in that market, and it must be hungry and much impoverished.

We hear that the new Russian loan to be issued in Paris at the end of this month or the beginning of November will be limited to £24,000,000, and that it is to be a 4 per cent. stock offered at 90. A small slice of the loan will be taken charge of by Messrs. Baring Brothers in London, it is said, the Rothschilds, to their honour, having as usual declined to touch the enterprise. It is denied that the Indian Government has decided to pay off the stockholders of the Bombay and Baroda Company in 3 per cent. stock, as was alleged yesterday; denied also that "two firms of big jobbers" were in difficulties.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	15	22	Allsopp Ordinary	23	22
71	40	—	City of London Ord. .. .	66½	66½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	560	560
27½	21½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40) .. .	23½	22½
28½	18½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	23	23
3½	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3½	3½
68½	48	60	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	60½	60½
35	15	25	Do. Def. Ord. Stock .. .	25	25
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	101	101
78½	56½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½) .. .	66	65
64½	57½	6½	Aerated Bread (30) .. .	64	64
7½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5) .. .	64	64
6½	5½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	63	64
13½	11½	26½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) .. .	12	12
3½	2½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	24	24
7½	5	—	Brunner Mond (35) .. .	62	62
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	11	11
5½	4½	11½	Calico Printers Ordinary (24) ..	5½	5½
502½	483½	500	Coats Ordinary (20) .. .	500	500
3½	3	—	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) .. .	3½	3½
17½	16½	16½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	17	17
17½	16½	23½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	17	17
13½	10½	7	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	7	7
14½	13½	—	Henley's Telegraph (15) .. .	12½	12½
11½	10½	4	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	11½	11½
11½	10½	26½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	108	108
11½	10½	107½	Do. Debenture (4½) .. .	108	108
6½	5½	23½	Lipton Ordinary (7) .. .	16	16
11½	10½	6½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) .. .	6	6
11½	10½	25½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	11½	11½
7½	6½	—	Russian Petroleum (5) .. .	7	7
15	13½	—	Savoy Hotel (5) .. .	15	15
15	13½	—	Sweetmeat Automatic .. .	15	15
15	13½	—	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15	15
15	13½	—	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	15	15
15	13½	—	Do. Pref. Stock (6) .. .	15	15
105	102½	103½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	104	104
69	49½	76	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	76	76
5	3½	50	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	49½	50
108½	99½	106½	Do. Debentures (6) .. .	106½	106½
98	88	—	National Discount (10) .. .	94	94
118	108	—	Union Discount (11) .. .	11½	11½
13	10½	7½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	7	7
104½	95½	12½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11½	12½
134½	126½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48)	99½	100½
3½	3½	3½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	133	132
59	34	34	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	34	34
18½	13½	14½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	14	14
12	11	—	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10)	11½	11½
12	11	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	11½	11½
12	11	—	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	12	12
39½	26½	39½	United States Steel Ordinary (3)	39½	38½
109½	93½	108½	Do. Preference (7) .. .	108	106½
2½	2½	2½	Vickers Ordinary (12½) .. .	2½	2½
14½	11½	—	Cunard Steam .. .	12½	13
234½	214½	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	234½	234½
37	28½	—	Royal Mail .. .	35½	35½
97½	84½	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) .. .	9	9
109½	101½	109½	Anglo-American Telegraph— Pref. Ord. (2½) .. .	109	109½
17½	10	16½	Do. Def. Ord. .. .	16½	16½
147½	134½	144½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	145½	144½
147½	134½	14	Eastern Extension (7) .. .	14	14
113½	100	107½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	108	108
14½	13½	14½	Western Telegraph (7) .. .	14½	14½
106	88	98	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	94	94
93½	76	88	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	87½	87½
129	110	—	London General Omnibus (8)	124½	124½
10½	8	—	London United Trans Pref. (5)	10	10

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

We have experienced another dreary week in the Kaffir Circus and prices have again fallen all round. Nothing can induce the investor to come forward, as the bosses themselves have to confess. Selling is still heavy from all quarters, the French being as eager to get rid of their stuff as holders are in the United Kingdom. Now and then the "shop" makes an effort to arrest the decline, but the moment the price of any share recovers sellers rush forward, and quotations speedily relapse. The output figures for the month of September show an improvement, if we look at the daily record, but progress or no progress, it makes not the slightest difference to the public, who sell as readily as ever.

Rhodesians have been weak in sympathy with Kaffirs, though insiders are still making efforts to keep up the price of Bankets.

In the West Australian section Kalgurli and South Kalgurli have received most attention and have moved higher. Other shares also have improved slightly. Oroya-Brownhills have been adversely affected by the figures of ore reserves, which we give in a separate note. These have naturally created much disappointment. There is now a tendency, however, to recover from the early fall.

Esperanzas and El Oros in the American group have again received considerable support, and many reports are in circulation respecting high profits earned by the former company during September. But the directors in notifying the quarterly dividend of 6d. per share, with a bonus of 4s., do not allude to the month's earnings.

Egyptians and West Africans have been mostly idle and unchanged.

The declaration of the Rio Tinto dividend had little or no effect upon the price of the shares, a gain of $\frac{1}{8}$ only being recorded. Other coppers are dull. Broken Hill descriptions have again been active, whilst Indians are steady.

Tuesday was carry-over day in the mining markets. In some cases in the Kaffir Circus rates were a little stiffer than at the previous settlement. Gold Fields were continued at $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., Rand Mines, Modderfonteins, and Randfontein Estates at $5\frac{1}{2}$ — $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., whilst the general charge was 6—8 per cent. against 5—7 per cent. Both De Beers and Jagers were carried over at 3—4 per cent. Rhodesians were also arranged on a 6—8 per cent. basis, though Bankets were continued at 7—8 per cent. In the West African and Egyptian sections the rate was again 6—8 per cent., whilst most West Australian shares were done at 7—8 per cent. against 6—8 per cent. last time. Exceptions were Great Fingalls at 5—7 per cent., Golden Horse-shoes at 3—5 per cent., and Lake Views 7—9 per cent. Of the Americans Esperanzas and El Oros were carried over at 7—9 per cent. and Le Rois, Camp Birds, and Strattons at 6—8 per cent.

During the run of the account prices in the Kaffir and Rhodesian sections fell heavily and holders in numerous instances had to face serious losses. Central Minings dropped $1\frac{1}{4}$, Crown Deep $1\frac{1}{8}$, Geldenhuis Deep 1, Rose Deep $\frac{3}{8}$, Rand Mines $\frac{1}{2}$, and Crown Reef and Wemmer $\frac{3}{4}$ each. Other relapses were $\frac{1}{2}$ in East Rand Proprietary, Consolidated Gold Fields, Modderfontein, Ferreira, Welgedacht, New Heriot, Knights', Village Main Reef, and Premier deferred, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Apex and Jumpers Deep, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Angelo, City and Suburban, Robinson Deep, and Roodepoort United, and $\frac{1}{8}$ in Gold Trust, Geldenhuis Estate, Henry Nourse, Rand Mines Deep, Witwatersrand Deep, Steyn Estate, Simmer and Jack West, and French Rand. Falls of $\frac{1}{4}$ and less were numerous, far too many to record here. The only rise to speak of was 15-32 in Bankets, but we need not say how this was brought about. Changes were, as usual, irregular in the Westralian section, rises of $\frac{1}{2}$ in Kalgurli and $\frac{1}{4}$ each in Ivanhoe and South Kalgurli being offset by losses of 6s. in Oroya-Brownhill, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Great Fingall, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Associated and $\frac{1}{2}$ in Boulder Deep. Amongst West Africans were falls of $\frac{1}{8}$ in Akrokerri, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Amalgamated, 2s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. in Ashanti Sansu, and 2s. in Ashanti Goldfields. In other directions Esperanzas gained $1\frac{1}{2}$, El Oros 6s. 6d., Spassky's $\frac{3}{8}$, and Broken Hill Proprietary $\frac{1}{8}$. Of the copper group Rio Tintos made up $1\frac{1}{2}$ higher, Cape Copper $\frac{3}{8}$, and Anaconda $\frac{1}{8}$.

TRANSVAAL GOLD RETURNS.—Though in the aggregate the Transvaal gold yield for September shows a bigish decline, some real progress was made, the daily average being higher than that for August, which was one day longer than September. From the mines on the Witwatersrand the output amounted to 399,536 ozs. of fine gold, and from those in the outside districts to 16,951 ozs., making a total of 416,487 ozs., valued at £1,769,124 against 428,581 ozs. of a value of £1,820,496, showing decreases of 12,094 ozs., and £51,372 respectively. The daily average for September was 13,882 ozs. against 13,825 ozs. the month before. There was again a big shrinkage in the native labour supply, this time of 3,195, reducing the total at work at the end of the month to 85,634. In the meantime, however, there has been a steady influx of Chinkees. At the end of September there were 44,491 coolies working against 44,562 on August 31.

BUFFELSDOORN ESTATE AND GOLD.—In submitting the report and accounts for the year ending February 28 at the annual meeting in Johannesburg last month, the chairman of this Barnato company shed a tear or two. Pitiable, however, as his mental sufferings may have been, they are insignificant in com-

parison with the misfortunes of the shareholders, who have never received a dividend, and who, to this day, cannot see a prospect of one. Since the company was formed in 1889 they have lost hundreds of thousands of pounds, and are certain of losing many tens of thousands more. Three times has it been reconstructed—in 1893, 1895, and 1899—and a fourth reconstruction is awaiting it, if it is to get rid of heavy debts and deficits. Hence the regret of the chairman "that we are not able to give you a more brilliant report about your property for the past year. When we last met I went very fully into the position and prospects of your company, and to-day I cannot say things have altered much for the better." He intimated that "financial arrangements will have to be made so that we are not hampered with debt on restarting, and this it is quite impossible to accomplish in the present temper of investors." So the Barnatos confess that they can get no money out of investors, a similar confession being made in the more recent report of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment. As far as investors are concerned, it has been mere waste of money and effort to force up prices as the bosses did a few weeks ago; it is only the hopeless fool who regarded such a movement as genuine. The only result of it was to give an opportunity to the wise to sell and to lessen the resources of the magnates wherewith to support the market. This particular company, however, has been getting some gold, for in September of last year it started its new slimes plant for the treatment of accumulated slimes. The gold won realised £8,185, whilst £3,147 was received from the estates and the farm. Expenditure, including £3,186 written off claims abandoned, amounted to £25,363, with the result that the debit balance has grown from £29,418 to £43,450. No provision has been made for depreciation, otherwise the loss would have been considerably heavier. As the company has no cash resources it continues to be financed by the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, the debt to which amounted at the end of February to £45,374, at 8 per cent. Other liabilities make up the total indebtedness to £46,880. It must be very comforting, however, to have sympathetic directors, even though the sympathy may not be entirely disinterested. "Shareholders have been very patient," said the sentimental chairman, "and in their best interests the soundest advice I can offer them is to be passive, or, perhaps, I should say they would be wise to exercise still more patience. Our difficulties in the past have been very great—some of them I am sorry to say of our own making. The mistakes and difficulties of the past can be remedied, given certain conditions. These conditions are not yet all with us, but only time can supply what is wanting. Rest assured our anxiety is as great as yours, and nothing will be left undone as far as lies in our power to put us on a safe and prosperous way." How satisfying are lollypops to the starving!

SHEBA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The gold won in the twelve months to June 30 realised £72,445, with £2,922 from by-products. From interest and discount the company received £728, stocks on hand are valued at £1,706, transfer fees gave £187, and conversion fees £81, making a gross income of £78,069. As the expenditure absorbed £93,152, a loss of £15,083 is taken to the balance-sheet. Though liabilities look heavy at £59,394, they are more than covered by the cash in hand of £61,564, in addition to which there is gold in transit of a value of £17,068. The general manager, whilst regretting that the year was not as prosperous as he would have liked, says the outlook is brighter now than it was at the commencement of the career of the new company.

OROYA-BROWNHILL COMPANY.—The directors have issued a statement of the estimated ore reserves at the end of June as follows:—

	Tons, 2,000 lbs.	Fine Gold. Ozs.	Average per Ton. Dwts.
High grade ore.....	77,058	270,686	70·2
Low grade ore.....	115,150	87,131	15·1
Total	192,208	357,817	37·2

The general managers in their report say: "It is unnecessary to further emphasise the difficulty in estimating the tonnage and value of the reserves of ore in the main ore pipe. During the half-year a considerable amount of special surveying and check sampling has been done and this work has verified the assay values reported from time to time. A larger intrusion of mullock than is usual in the ore pipe was encountered in stoping on the western side of the slope just south of the No. 5 level Oroya North block. This intrusion is of low-grade and impossible of separation from the richer portions of the chute. It will accordingly be extracted with the rest of the ore." Working costs, apart from development charges, averaged 26s. 5.4d. per ton. During the six months 35,722 tons of ore were developed and the quantity treated was 52,442 tons. The total yield was 76,745 ozs. of fine gold, valued at £325,463, or an average of 29.27 dwts. per ton. Working expenses amounted to £70,980; mine development took £18,637; and machinery, plant, &c., £3,217, a total of £92,854. The directors state that the expenditure on construction has practically ceased, and little, if any, further outlay on this account is anticipated. It may be stated that the above

estimates of ore reserves show a reduction upon those made at the end of 1902, especially in the value.

COMPANHIA DE MOÇAMBIQUE.—Prosperity did not attend upon this company during the year 1904, although it succeeded in a way in making ends meet. Expenditure in Europe fell from £22,816 to £20,866. At the same time there was an increase in the revenue, but as the accounts were credited in 1903 with £25,000 from premiums, and with only £1,539 from a similar source in 1904, the expenses, £20,866, exceeded the receipts, £11,275, by £9,591. In Africa the income was lower than in 1903, but as a greater proportionate reduction is shown in the expenditure, there is a small surplus. The receipts in the territory amounted to £130,413 against an expenditure of £125,047; in addition the accounts are charged with £4,523 for depreciation and credited with £15,169 "compensation for the premium on gold carried to expenses account in 1899." Thus a profit of £6,421 is shown on the European and South African working. The principal decreases were £9,729 in Customs, £8,642 in contingent receipts, £2,374 in port dues, £1,763 from mines, £1,488 from the registration tax, £1,269 from native labour for private persons, £910 from stamp duties, £894 from licences, £797 from fines, £550 from exchange, £1,094 from sundry sources, and £287 from concessions and ground rents, whilst the principal increases were £2,823 in land taxes, £1,702 in the hut tax, £780 in the commercial tax, £686 in the rubber tax, £497 in the poll tax, £247 in the post office, and £1,253 in various cultivations. The above figures show that business was not in a flourishing condition in the company's territory. As regards depreciation, the sum written off compares with the much larger amount of £21,547 in 1903, which partly accounts for the reduction in the expenditure from £151,242 to £125,047. Had the profit and loss account not been credited with over £15,000 debited to that account in 1899 for estimated difference of exchange, a large deficiency would have been shown. Five per cent. of the surplus of £6,421 is carried to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £10,523, and the balance of £6,100 is to be carried to the "special" reserve fund, raising it to £9,641. Liquid assets appreciably exceed the current liabilities, but progress is very slow towards dividends. The capital was increased during the year by the issue of 47,715 shares, of which 4,771 fully paid were handed to the Portuguese Government in terms of the Charter.

RIO TINTO COMPANY.—In announcing an interim dividend on the deferred shares at the rate of 40s. against 32s. 6d., which was better than many anticipated, the directors of the Rio Tinto company confirm the report that they have decided to issue 50,000 additional ordinary shares to enable them to redeem the outstanding mortgage bonds. These amount to £2,989,740, and a meeting is called for the 19th inst. They omit to state the price at which the shares will be offered, but we believe it will be £63 per share nett, that is to say, £63 ex and £65 cum the interim dividend now declared. If so, the present market price will make them very tempting to shareholders, as it will give a good bonus. The sum realised would therefore be sufficient to redeem the entire debt, and meet all expenses of issue. Such a stroke in "high" finance is quite brilliant, but shareholders will have to take care and provide their own sinking fund. Prices will not always soar. Little additional information is given in the circular, described as an interim report. Deliveries of pyrites in the United Kingdom and the Continent have so far exceeded last year's figures; the copper contents of the pyrites have been higher, the consumption of non-cupreous sulphur ore has been largely in excess of the previous year, but the quantity of refined copper produced and sold from Cwmavon will be less. Though the ore mined during the first half has been of better quality, the year's output of copper would have been larger but for the continuance of the drought. Better prices have, however, been obtained.

BETHEL DIAMOND MINES.—A report, unaccompanied by accounts, is issued by the directors. It informs us that the company was registered in July, 1904, with a capital of £150,000 in £1 shares to acquire the farm Bethel in the district of Ladybrand, Orange River Colony. Extracts are given from reports of experts, but these do not enable one to form any idea of the ultimate value of the property, which seems a most speculative undertaking. The directors are now considering an offer made by a firm of prospectors "to find and open up a payable mine." They have also made an arrangement with a firm of traders in Basutoland for farming the land, which in time, they think, ought to pay all expenses of diamond prospecting. So this company is not likely to flood the market with diamonds within a period that need cause us or Sir Julius Wernher, Bart., and diamond merchants any concern.

NEW VAAL RIVER DIAMOND AND EXPLORATION COMPANY.—During the financial year ending June 30 royalty on diamonds brought in £6,242, claim licences £1,454, interest and commission £288, and rents, grazing licences, and sundry revenue £1,917, making a total income of £9,902 compared with £9,482 in the preceding year, so no improvement is shown in the financial results. After deducting all expenses and depreciation there was a small profit of £846, which raises the credit balance to £5,901. Current liabilities are very moderate, and the company has a fair show of liquid assets.

SOUTH AFRICAN REAL ESTATE TRUST.—This company earned a gross revenue of £14,398 in the twelve months to the end of June, and as the expenditure was only £1,448 the accounts show a nett profit of £12,950. A dividend is recommended at the rate of 7½ per cent., and the trifle of £521 is left to carry forward. Cash amounts to £18,494 and is greatly in excess of the current liabilities.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY.—In our issue of August 19 last we gave the results of the working during the half-year to May 31, these having been cabled very fully from Melbourne. There is no need, therefore, to repeat what has already been published now that the report and accounts have reached this side. Gross profits amounted to £170,149, and after deducting £22,478 for depreciation the nett profit was £147,671. Two dividends of 1s. 6d. per share each were distributed, requiring £144,000. The total output of silver was 2,705,929 fine ozs. against 2,564,342 ozs. in the previous half-year, the price realised being 2s. 5 17-64d. per oz., an advance of 49-64d. per oz. Lead produced was 34,747 tons compared with 35,552 tons, the price realised returning an average of 12s. 4d. per ton more than in the preceding six months, viz., £11 6s. 4d. against £10 14s. Financially, the company's position leaves nothing to be desired, and prospects are now considered to be more promising than they have been for a long time past, though the company is at present benefiting from the ruling high prices of silver and lead.

CAUCASUS COPPER COMPANY.—This company was registered in 1900 with a capital of £500,000 in £1 shares, to acquire some copper properties in Russia, and up to date it has succeeded in piling up a nice little debit. In the report and accounts for the year ending May 31 (O.S.) sales of refined copper realised £20,195, and transfer fees brought in a few additional shillings. But as expenditure in Russia and London, depreciation, &c., amounted to £23,266, there is a further loss of £3,070 to add to the previous deficiency of £25,860, raising the total to £28,930. In the balance-sheet a sum of £27,909, representing various outlays in London, is capitalised, increasing the outlay, with that of previous years, to £51,161, whilst development expenses in Russia now total £107,007. Current liabilities consist of a loan of £188,421, interest accrued £4,502, bills payable £141, and sundry creditors £5,239. On the advice of the engineers the directors intend to erect a plant capable of treating 1,000 tons of ore per day, and are issuing £500,000 6 per cent. loan certificates. With such a plant it is estimated that copper can be produced at a price that will give a profit of £35 per ton, and it is declared there are 3,600,000 tons in sight of an average of 3.1 per cent. copper. Time must show whether the directors are acting prudently or not.

BURBANK'S MAIN LODGE (1904).—Proceeds of gold won in the financial year to June 30 amounted to £10,952, incidental receipts gave £39 and transfer fees £3. On actual working account there was a profit of £1,373, converted into a debit of £675, after deducting administration outgo and sums written off preliminary expenses and development account. Against £4,404 owing to sundry creditors, the company has only £306 in cash, with some gold worth £1,288. Professor Nicholas speaks hopefully of the prospects of the mine.

TOMBOY GOLD MINES COMPANY.—In the year ending June 30 102,953 tons of ore were milled, from which bullion to the value of \$737,938 was produced, at a cost of \$530,278, resulting in a profit of \$207,660, plus receipts from other sources, \$17,903. Converted, the nett profit amounted to £37,306, which, with £22,741 brought forward, makes £60,047. Two dividends of 1s. per share each were paid, absorbing £30,000, leaving £30,047. Of this £10,000 has been allocated to the writing down of capital expenditure, and the balance of £20,047 is carried forward. The profit compares with £755 in the previous year, when a prolonged strike interfered with working and increased expenses. These labour troubles are now over, and the general manager writes that the situation is now probably more peaceful than it has been for many years. So the future looks more hopeful. Last year's tonnage was a record for the company.

BRILLIANT BLOCK GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year ending July 19 the output amounted to 3,414 tons of quartz, yielding 1,921 ozs. of gold worth £7,140. This included a couple of small crushings from tributaries. A blank came into the stopes over No. 14 level, quite unexpectedly, and reduced the quantity of stone available, upsetting the calculations of the board. In addition 4,983 tons were crushed for the public, making a total of 8,397 tons. By the cyanide works 10,770 tons of residues were treated, from which 5,058 ozs. of bullion were obtained, realising £7,572. The directors express their regret that the failure of the stopes over No. 14 level, combined with the lessened quantity of the public stone coming forward has prevented the payment of a dividend for the half-year. But they say the newly-opened No. 16 level looks fairly well, and should turn out a good quantity of stone in the current six months.

LE ROI No. 2.—A circular from the board informs shareholders that an arrangement has been come to between them and the directors of the Le Roi Company by which permission has been obtained, subject to detailed arrangement at the mines, to explore the property of the No. 2 Company from the deep levels of the Le Roi, which should economise both time and money. Shipments to the smelter have now been resumed on the customary scale. Early in the year a new stope was opened up on the 500 ft. level which gave good values, though the quantity in sight was not great. "It is satisfactory to state," the circular adds, "that lately a continuation of this ore body has been proved by the diamond drill in a westerly direction on the same level carrying high values." An interim dividend of 1s. per share has been declared.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOLD RETURNS.—The New South Wales gold yield for September amounted to 30,266 ozs., valued at £113,731, compared with 21,289 ozs., of a value of £81,285 in September last year. For the past nine months the output totals 229,879 ozs., worth £804,043, against 231,776 ozs., valued at £840,117 in the corresponding period of last year.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

The affairs of this well known road have provided food for much careful thought during the past few years. It is not so very long ago that the financial position of the undertaking caused grave misgiving amongst the bondholders owing to the extravagant, we might almost say reckless, methods of the management, and steps were taken to safeguard the interests of proprietors on this side. This action, unfortunately, did not have a good result, and the reorganisation of which it was intended to be the precursor may now never take place—at least, not on the lines originally intended, as the controlling interests apparently found themselves powerful enough to resist all efforts at reform, and it is with great regret that we find from the latest annual report further evidence of the absence of foresight which characterises the administration. In Mexican currency the gross income for the twelve months ended June 30 was \$26,097,699 or only \$5,497 more than in the previous year, but we may recall that during the latter period the company earned an additional \$75,000 from the carriage of construction freight, so that actually the increase is that much larger. The smallness of the improvement is attributed to the effect on business of the change in the monetary system of the country, and it is certainly interesting to note that whereas international freight gave an additional \$427,000, local traffic in goods went back to the extent of \$486,000. From all sources the freight business yielded \$133,872 less, and there were small decreases under telegraph and miscellaneous, but passengers and express services showed fair gains. The most striking feature of the year's working, however, was the big saving in working expenditure, which went down no less than \$2,020,666 to \$17,599,176, of which no more than \$284,049 was due to the average lower rate of exchange, that is the rise in the sterling value of the dollar, used in converting into Mexican currency expenditures made in the United States and Europe. The remainder, we are told, was largely brought about by the economies which the condition of the road permitted, and it is somewhat striking that while the tons of freight carried one mile decreased a little less than 1 per cent., the freight train mileage fell off over 12½ per cent. This accounts for at least one-third of the decreased expenditure and proprietors will read the figures with no small satisfaction as some set-off to other incidents of the year's operations not so gratifying. Under maintenance of way the saving was \$323,346, maintenance of equipment was smaller by \$907,360, transportation expenditure fell \$566,353, and general expenses \$176,794. The result is an improvement in net earnings of \$2,116,193 at \$8,498,523, or in United States currency of \$1,231,327 at \$4,118,173. Ratio of expenditure to total revenue was brought down just over 8 per cent. to 67.44 per cent., a much more reasonable figure. To the net income are added other receipts of \$140,675, making \$4,258,848, which would meet interest, rentals, and other fixed charges for the year, and still leave something to the good, but unfortunately this is not all. We gather that when in July of last year the company made an issue of \$10,000,000 6 per cent. notes an option was given to certain bankers on \$16,000,000 consolidated mortgage bonds. Now apparently this further money was not required, and the directors found themselves under the necessity of cancelling the option. To do so cost the nice round sum of \$800,000, and as it is considered wise to place \$270,510 to betterments and improvements, a further sum of \$750,000 has been withdrawn from the subsidy trust fund, and there is still a deficit to be carried forward of \$210,710. On June 30 last the subsidy trust fund, after the withdrawal of \$750,000, stood at \$3,981,398, a depletion in two years of no less than \$4,000,000, showing the great strain lately thrown upon the company's resources, and it is obvious that even at the same rate as last year further raids on the fund will presently land the company into no end of difficulties. We hope, however, to find income account for the present year more nearly balance because the exceptional charge of \$800,000 will not recur, and great benefit should be derived both as to expenditure and revenue from the Mexican currency "reform," which came into operation in May of the current year. For the first two months of the fiscal year, ending June 30, there is an increase in net earnings of nearly \$100,000, and improvement has only to go on at the same rate for the company to pay its way from ordinary sources without recourse to special funds. Since the exchange was fixed the rates in gold at which silver dollars have been sold have only varied between 49.55 cents, and 49.46 cents, and there can be no question of the advantages of such stability provided it can be legitimately maintained. Without doubt Mexico is a country of vast resources, and if confidence in the sterling value of the dollar stimulates the employment of capital the future may be contemplated without serious misgiving. The currency reform has apparently opened the way for the establishment of many industrial undertakings which should prove of considerable benefit in providing traffic. The chief cause for anxiety so far as the Mexican Central is concerned is the fact that early in 1907 \$20,000,000 of notes and bonds mature, and as yet no provision seems to have been made for their redemption. May be by that time the financial position will be sufficiently improved to render easy the renewal of these securities, or in the alternative the issue of fresh ones to pay them off, but the directors will have to give stronger evidence

than any yet forthcoming that their handling of the company's affairs can be regarded with confidence.

WESTERN RAILWAY OF HAVANA, LIMITED.

The year to June 30 last seems to have been one of considerable prosperity for the island of Cuba, and the effect on the business of this undertaking was very marked. Compared with the preceding twelve months, the gross receipts expanded by £49,145 to £210,936, against which the rise in working expenses was no more than £16,065 at £105,918, leaving the net revenue larger by £33,080 to £105,018. Ratio of working expenditure was thus brought down from 55.54 per cent. to 50.21 per cent., notwithstanding considerable outlay on various improvements to the property such as the renewing in steel of several timber bridges, new stations, ballasting, fencing, &c., all borne by revenue. There was an increase in the mileage of 15 to 125, owing to the further extension of the main line from San Luis to San Juan, which was completed and opened to traffic in October, 1904, and it is good to hear that the results obtained in the short time that the extension from Pinar del Rio has been open to traffic have more than realised anticipations. Under these circumstances, it is perhaps inevitable that further addition to the line should be contemplated, and the report tells us that surveys and estimates have been made for an extension from San Juan to Guane, a distance of about 24 miles. The line will run through an important tobacco district, which should bring the company a considerable additional traffic, and the directors therefore propose to proceed as soon as possible with the construction. That, of course, means further capital, and power is sought for the creation of another 10,000 shares of £10 each. A similar number were sanctioned during the period under review, a fact which seems to have been forgotten by those who rushed the shares up so rapidly a few months back. It must be remembered, too, that although capital expenditure during the past year was only £38,935, there is a debit to capital account of £60,810, which a large part of one of the issues will be required to put straight. All classes of traffic contributed to the improved revenue, particularly sugar, sugar cane, and tobacco, the crops having proved exceptionally abundant. In tobacco the improvement was over 49 per cent. in quantity and more than 64 per cent. in receipts, and although the sugar traffic does not make quite such a brilliant display, the advance of 25½ per cent. was a good one. Fruit and vegetables, building materials, guano, palm leaves for thatching, general goods, luggage, and parcels and cattle, also did exceptionally well, and the decline in tobacco seedlings was due only to changes in the sites chosen for seed beds and not, as may be gathered from the figures already mentioned, to any diminution of the amount of tobacco under cultivation. All expenditure items increased without exception, the principal advances taking place under permanent way and works, locomotive outlay, and traffic expenses, due, of course, to the heavier business handled. To the net revenue is added £2,531 brought forward and £79 for transfer fees, making £107,628, from which the deductions so far made total £54,221, including £6,930 for special renewals, £5,048 for taxes, debenture interest £20,700, and interim dividend £21,000. Balance still left is £53,407, and besides increasing the final dividend from 3 per cent. to 4, making the entire payment for the year 7 per cent., or 1 per cent. more, the directors add £20,000 to reserve, and carry forward £5,407. In some quarters a 2 per cent. addition to the dividend was expected, but the directors do well to pay some attention to financial stability, because the reserve before the addition was only £2,000, apart from the renewal and casualty fund of £22,018, and capital outlay is growing. Prospects happily are still favourable, we are told, the conditions ruling in the districts served by the line being excellent, and there is every indication of a continued growth in the volume of business available for the line.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

The number of passengers carried during the twelve months ended June 30 increased by no less than 1,482,965 to 10,352,451, while the number of lights in the electric light and power department was 23,601 higher at 136,512. Gross receipts from the railway were consequently \$67,265 up and the lighting department produced \$24,422 more, making an increase of \$91,687 at \$573,487 at the cost of an increase of \$47,156 to \$573,487 in working expenses and renewals, making the ratio of outgoings to income 1.37 per cent. less at 63.50 per cent., and leaving the net revenue better by \$44,531 at \$329,527. Converted into sterling, the gross revenue came to £186,364, and with miscellaneous income gave £186,833 compared with £167,284. Operating expenses rose by £6,705 to £101,855, renewals took £3,193 more at £16,565, and with £1,398 from interest on loans and £63 from registration fees the amount available was £69,874. Administration expenses were somewhat heavier, bonus to employees naturally took more at £3,611, and after setting aside £1,725 to capital amortisation fund, writing £1,862 off preliminary expenses and meeting debenture interest the disposable balance, including £2,222 from the previous year, amounted to £46,513 or an increase of £8,304. Dividends on the preference and preferred ordinary stocks having been paid, the deferred ordinary again receives 6 per cent., another £1,651 is written off preliminary expenses, extinguishing this item, and £4,461 is put to reserve against £2,000 written off and £7,105 added to reserve last time. The dividend payments, however, require so much more on this occasion that the amount carried forward is reduced to £1,767. Capital expenditure continues on a very large scale, and in addition to £8,646 charged to renewals fund £107,446 was spent under this head, so that the outlay, less £10,310 received for realty sold,

comes to £906,470. Investments, including £222,063 in the Vancouver Power Company and £25,000 in Gas Investment Company's shares, come to £247,177, a large proportion of which has really been spent on capital account, so that the total outgoings in this item come to £1,153,647, against which reserves of all kinds stand at £71,120 or little more than 6 per cent. Sundry creditors amount to £49,661, against which £178,558 is due from sundry debtors, but of this £112,021 has been advanced to the Vancouver Power Company and £51,757 to the Gas Investment Company. Cash, however, is decidedly better at £48,843, and the company altogether appears to be doing well. We are glad to see that with the increasing business the directors recognise that their customers have a claim to share in the benefits arising from the cheapening of the cost of production, and have not only voluntarily reduced the charges for electric light but are following out the same policy with regard to the Vancouver Gas Company, which was taken over a year or so ago.

BANK OF TARAPACA AND ARGENTINA, LIMITED.

This South American bank seems to be gradually consolidating its position, and while the directors set aside to reserves more than they distribute to shareholders there cannot be much cause for complaint. In the twelve months ended June 30 the gross profit was £226,019 and £10,332 was brought forward, making £236,351, from which charges at head office and branches took £95,000, income-tax, £4,155, and rebate on bills, &c., not due £15,527. Net balance, therefore, was £121,608 and the directors use £45,000 in paying the usual dividend of 6 per cent. A sum of £50,000 is then transferred to reserve fund, staff pension and guarantee fund receives £3,000 and £5,000 goes in reduction of premises account, the carry forward being £18,008, an improvement of £7,276. Reserve will now be £300,000 against the paid-up capital of £750,000, and the position, take it altogether, seems pretty good. Current, deposit and other accounts reach £3,561,150 and £2,544,753 is owing on bills payable, capital and reserve and balance of profit and loss, &c., making up a balance-sheet total of £7,220,538. Cash in hand and at bankers is given along with the money at call, the whole reaching £701,388, and while this is rather an unsatisfactory way of setting out the cash holdings no doubt the money in hand is sufficient for the kind of business conducted by the bank. Cash at short notice reaches a further amount of £189,118, and investments at valuation—meaning, we suppose, current market figures—are entered at £444,532. Advances on securities, &c., amount to £3,087,869 and bills receivable to £2,709,155. Bank premises, office furniture, &c., after the allocation from profits will be valued at £83,476.

D. AND W. MURRAY, LIMITED.

According to the chairman of this company, the depression which two years ago affected all the producing industries in Australia has now passed away completely, and trade and commerce have resumed their normal activity. As the result of this improved state of affairs the net profits earned during the twelve months ended July showed a further recovery of £6,777 at £45,622, and with £3,354 brought in gave £48,976 available for distribution. The directors utilise this to put another £15,000 to reserve, although they are careful to point out that they are under no obligation to augment this fund, and having done this they restore the dividend on the ordinary shares to the old figure of 10 per cent., and carry forward £3,976. This addition brings the accumulations up to £115,000, which may be regarded as a set-off to the heavy item of £133,107 for goodwill. Extensions of premises seem to be still considered necessary, and the brewery property adjoining the Adelaide warehouse purchased in the end of last year has been built upon at a cost of an increase of £33,880 to £240,822 in the freehold properties owned, on which there are mortgages for £72,000. Cash and trade creditors have risen by £3,140 to £214,503, and in addition £7,877 is due on bills payable, but against this sundry debtors come to £188,193 or £8,490 more, cash is £6,813 up at £39,535, and bills receivable, although £1,397 lower, still amount to £112,916. Stocks have been reduced by £21,985 to £309,409, while goods in transit are only £8,963 higher at £149,181, a welcome change, and the directors say that the stocks are reported to be clean and well assorted. The outlook for the coming season seems promising, and the company is looking forward to enjoying one of the most favourable seasons experienced in recent years.

EADIE MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

Further substantial progress was made during the twelve months ended August 31, when the profits on trading account rose by £17,915 to £62,378, and with larger receipts from dividends and transfer fees the total income was £18,015 higher at £62,525. Of this £11,893 or £2,515 more was written off for repairs and depreciation, and after providing for bad and doubtful debts, directors' fees, professional charges and income-tax the net profits were £47,133 compared with £30,685 and about £14,700 in the two preceding years. With £17,181 or £3,650 more brought forward the amount available was £20,098 higher at £64,314, of which preference dividend takes only £844, so that in addition to a dividend at the same rate of 10 per cent. the ordinary shares receive a bonus of 10 per cent. against 2½ per cent. a year ago and £15,000 or £5,000 more is placed to reserve, leaving £22,565 to be carried forward. This addition brings the reserve up to £40,000, but it is practically all in the business as goodwill remains at the old figure of £67,071. Capital expenditure is proceeding at a rapid pace and during the year £10,454 was spent under this head, bringing the total up to £70,873, against which the depreciation allowance was £3,456

or barely 5 per cent. The mortgage on the freehold cottages, however, has been reduced by £5,000 to £9,051. Liabilities to sundry creditors are £6,439 up at £13,017, but on the other hand sundry debtors are £3,897 higher at £16,083 and cash and bills come to £24,106 more at the substantial figure of £55,274, while stocks are only £3,671 lower at £31,201.

ECCO WORKS, LIMITED.

This is another of the Eadie group, which was known as the Albert Eadie Chain Company until a year ago, when the name was changed owing to the company launching out into other classes of business. Trade was not quite so good with it as with its companion during the year ended August 31, and gross profits, including £205 or £57 more from royalties, &c., fell off by £1,247 to £9,101, and after writing off £2,012 for repairs and depreciation and providing for administration charges the nett balance was £1,190 down at £6,392. The amount brought forward, however, was considerably larger at £3,657, giving an available total of £10,049 against £7,624, so the directors are able to repeat the dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares and to set aside £3,000 towards a reserve fund, leaving £3,083 for the new account. This provision for a reserve was much needed, as goodwill, patent rights, &c., are valued at £42,000, and the company has recently bought the British rights in the Armstrong Typewriter patent for £6,000, on which £3,000 has been paid. Outlay on plant, &c., in the twelve months was £3,767, bringing the total up to £22,056, but the directors have rather more liberal ideas with regard to depreciation and have written off £2,012 or nearly 10 per cent. Trading accounts just about balance, £3,079 being due to sundry creditors against £3,108 to come in, but cash and bills are fairly ample at £5,706.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The tendency has been firmer in the London cargo market, as although shipments continue on a considerable scale, they are mostly on Continental account, only a comparatively small proportion being destined for the United Kingdom. The Argentine strikes were also helpful in maintaining rates, and if the demand showed signs of broadening out, quotations might advance sharply. American markets were also strong, the monthly Government crop report giving no encouragement to the "bears," who appear to be getting rather nervous at the upward trend of prices. Crops are not coming forward with the usual freedom owing to congestion on the railways, and as there is a good export demand "shorts" are disposed to cover with some freedom. Even Bradstreet's figures did not help them, notwithstanding that the quantity in sight east of the Rockies is put at 35,443,000 bushels against 28,894,000 bushels last week and 33,828,000 a year ago. Dornbusch estimates the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 1,260,000 qrs., compared with 1,390,000 qrs. last week, and to the Continent 2,160,000 qrs. against 2,255,000 qrs.

WOOL.—Sellers hold firmly to the higher prices for wool established at the auctions, and are to some extent helped by the greater activity in the manufacturing branches. Dealings, however, are greatly restricted by the differences of opinion as to the course of the market in the near future, holders believing that the larger supplies coming forward will not do more than meet the demands caused by expanding trade, while buyers look for a substantial reduction in quotations. Business, therefore, is as much as possible confined to the lowest-priced qualities for immediate needs, and there is not much disposition to place forward orders. Stocks of yarn are down to very small proportions, and spinners are not only doing a larger business, but have obtained higher rates. Manufacturers for the home trade are fairly busy with their winter season's goods, and both Australia and Canada are reported to be buying more freely, but South African inquiries are still much below expectations.

LINEN.—The Irish branches of this trade continue to exhibit a good deal of strength as stocks are small and manufacturers are well supplied with forward orders. A little hesitation was shown by buyers in some quarters owing to an impression that the price of flax is likely to be reduced, but while this may happen in the case of the commoner qualities good flax is expected by those who should know to be scarce and dear. Brown power loom bleaching cloths have been in still greater demand, makers of hand-loom goods are also finding a ready sale for their output, and cloth for dyeing purposes is likewise more sought after, but low hollands and union goods have been quieter. While Irish manufacturers are busy, however, a very different state of affairs prevails in Barnsley, where some of the factories are only employed for about half their time, and one has just closed doors altogether. This depression is apparently due to the inquiry for medium and better class goods having shrunk to very small proportion as the cheaper qualities continue to sell fairly well. Dundee, on the other hand, reports that business in the finer classes is improving, but orders for heavier fabrics show a falling off.

COTTON (from our Manchester Correspondent).—The market for cotton piece goods during the week under review has presented few fresh features of moment. India buyers have been discouraged by the absence of business on Luckee Day in Calcutta, which was observed last Sunday. The boycott in Bengal is accentuated this week by the determination of the native dealers to do no business at present, even on Luckee Day, when in former days a considerable turnover took place. On Thursday afternoon, however, there were signs in Manchester of a

little more inquiry in Calcutta. Bombay remains quiet. For China there has been distinctly more business doing in shirtings and T-cloths. The nearer markets of the Continent have bought small lots only in goods of a miscellaneous character. Cloth prices keep steady. Manufacturers are not pressing for business, though they have done next to nothing for three months. Our shipments of piece goods during the past nine months were on a very large scale indeed, notably to China and India, as well as Japan and Turkey. Home trade American yarns were much easier last Tuesday, but since then a steadier tone has prevailed. Lancashire sellers are not selling production, and there is some pressure to sell cop twist. Shipping bundles have been rather active for India in the finer counts, and there has been an extensive business done for Japan in gassed yarns and doubled 42's. Bolton yarns made from Egyptian cotton have remained steady, with a continued healthy demand in the better qualities. Latest advices concerning the American cotton crop are considered favourable in Manchester, and the estimate of the yield is not far off 12 millions of bales. This, of course, remains to be seen. The Egyptian crop is also doing well, and a larger yield is looked forward to than in the past season.

More favourable crop accounts, and the large movement of cotton this week have favoured Mr. Price and his colleagues in America, and whereas last season he was a "bull," he has now turned "bear," with an estimate for this year's supply of 13½ million bales. Last season, as Sir Jacob Behrens and Sons point out, his estimate was much below the actual yield, yet his influence continues to dominate the market, and was the direct cause of a loss amounting to nearly ¼d. in the Liverpool market, though fears of an early frost brought about a recovery. Egyptian cotton continues dull, and is pressed for sale at unchanged rates. Closing quotations are:—Oct.-Nov., 5.24d.; Nov.-Dec., 5.28d.; Dec.-Jan., 5.32d.; Jan.-Feb., 5.35d.; Feb.-March, 5.37d.; March-April, 5.40d.; April-May, 5.42d.; May-June, 5.44d.; June-July, 5.46d.; July-August, 5.47d.

COAL.—There is little change to note in the condition of the coal trade. Manufacturing and house coals are steady. The outlook, however, is certainly looking brighter and more encouraging to producers. The revival in the iron and steel industries is helping business in all directions. At Cardiff the latest quotations are:—Best steam, 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d.; best seconds, 12s. to 12s. 3d.; seconds, 11s. 6d. to 11s. 9d.

COPPER.—A fair demand was experienced during the first day or so, prompted by the smallness of supplies, firm advices from abroad and encouraging trade prospects, but prices were moved with difficulty as sellers seemed disposed to meet the inquiry. Later the tendency became easier owing to the absence of speculation and smaller covering purchases, but quotations firmed up once more before the end, final figures being £71 17s. 6d. per ton for spot and £70 10s. for future delivery.

TIN.—This market was weak at the start on a report that the Banka production has now sufficiently recovered to obviate the reduction in sales as officially arranged by the Dutch Government, and although the statement was received with a good deal of reserve values broke sharply, the loss on Monday being no less than £3. There was some reluctance, however, on the part of Eastern traders to follow the downward movement, and a recovery set in helped by moderate buying for all positions. Before the close, therefore, a large part of the initial loss had been recovered, but quotations are still down on the week at £147 10s. per ton for cash, and 10s. less for delivery two months forward.

IRON AND STEEL.—The iron and steel market continues buoyant and strong. Prospects are still very hopeful, and prices in all directions are advancing. But instead of checking the demand the rise seems to stimulate it, and there is no doubt that the latter is very pressing. Most satisfactory reports are given in respect to the shipbuilding industry, and the activity here is responsible in a great measure for the strength of the iron and steel market. A very cheerful feeling was in evidence at the quarterly meeting held this week of the Midland iron and steel trades. Marked-bar houses, after a protracted consultation, decided to postpone the question of an advance until the end of the month, as 10s. alteration on the list involves a rise of fall of 1s. per ton in coal. In Glasgow, owing to Scotch hematite being held for 73s. per ton against 61s. at the beginning of the year, Scotch steelmakers have practically closed their books, and are refusing to accept orders on the present basis. Steel manufacturers have advanced merchant sheets 7s. 6d. per ton and rail sheets 15s. per ton.

TEA.—A further marked increase in the competition of Indian teas occurred this week, and in spite of the larger quantity of 42,973 packages brought forward, quotations for useful medium grades were again higher. Prices for better qualities were also well maintained, and the average came to 8.17d. per lb., compared with 8.16d. last week, and 7.11d. a year ago. Ceylon teas showed a decided improvement in quality, and the market quickly responded by lifting prices all round, with the result that the average realised came to 7.71d., against 7.56d. and 7.26d.

SUGAR.—The market has been but slightly affected by the weather reports. Prices rose 1½d., but then went back to below last week's level. Whilst in Eastern Europe the rivers are very low, in the centre and west many fields are under water, and the roads are impassable for carts bringing in the roots. At present the weather shows signs of clearing, but the genial autumn temperature needed for improving the quality is lacking, and extravagant hopes may not be realised. The trade in refined keeps good, and, as Mr. Czarnikow points out, the Board of

Trade returns show that bonded stocks of foreign in this country are all but exhausted, English refined being much reduced. The Hamburg stock is acknowledged to be over-estimated, and will be shortly corrected, but the German stock has been raised to 150,000 tons. In New York the market is still quiet, and transactions have been confined to sugar arrived, and apparently forced for sale, for some reason or other, at about ruling quotations. Nothing has been done in cargoes to arrive, buyers' and sellers' views as to value being far apart. Landings in the three ports for the week were 61,000 tons, whilst meltings are given as 46,000 tons, increasing stocks to 229,000 tons.

CONSULAR TRADE NOTES.

The Society Islands do not bulk largely in the trade of the world, and last year it was smaller than ever, the total falling off by £71,720 to £267,911. A diminished output of copra, the continued decline in the value of Tahiti vanilla, and above all the serious fall in prices for shell combined to bring about this result, and the last was seemingly the most important. Tahiti black-edged shells up to 1903 brought £200 to £220 per ton for first qualities and £160 and £110 respectively for second and third grades, and the average export during the ten years to that date was about 400 tons. In January, 1903, a revolving storm of unprecedented violence drowned some 550 natives, including about 150 divers at work, and the exaggerated reports of the catastrophe and of damage to the shell beds induced holders to raise prices to such an extent that button makers turned their attention from shell to metal and other buttons. So far, however, from there being a scarcity of shell the output rose to 622 tons in 1903 and 660 tons in 1904, owing to the authorities throwing open most of the best lagoons in the Paumotu Islands and sanctioning the employment of diving machines. The fall in price has rendered the production unremunerative, and although all diving operations were suspended for several months so as to give the market time to recover its normal condition, Tahiti traders in the meantime find themselves financially embarrassed. Up to July 5 last this depression had become more pronounced, prices for shell and vanilla having fallen still further, and that for copra being also lower. Imports consequently are down by about one-third compared with the first half of 1904, and business is stagnant without much prospect of an early improvement.

The outlook for cotton-growing in the Argentine Chaco appears to be highly promising, and according to an agricultural expert whose opinion is quoted by Mr. Consul Ross, is likely to make the owners of the best fields wealthy in a few years. At present the Anglo-Argentine Cotton Company has five American gins at work turning out five to six tons of cleaned cotton per day, which is all that the short daylight will permit. This cotton was bought from the growers for 13 cents per kilo. delivered at the factory, and was last year drawn from an area variously estimated at 6,200 to 14,800 acres; but the company has bought three leagues of land at Vedia, north of Resistencia, where it will either grow the cotton itself or get colonists to do so on shares. In the latter case the company will provide fenced land, tools, seed, cattle for ploughing and maintenance till the crop is picked on condition that one-third of the crop is sold to it at market prices and that it has the first call on the remainder. Actual cultivation has shown that the best land gives an average crop of 3,500 kilos. of seed cotton to the acre and will in good years give 4,500 kilos, while second-class land will give from 2,500 to 3,500 kilos, and probably one-fourth of the arable land comes under the first class. The cost of seed and tillage up to the time of picking is about 21s. per acre, and it is estimated that at 13 cents per kilo the profit would work out at about £7 per acre, and as the farmer could grow other crops in rotation with cotton which would meet all his outlay and interest on the money invested, this £7 may be looked upon as clear gain. According to the expert above-mentioned, the lands of the Chaco consist of forest, swamp and arable promiscuously intermingled, and the arable land often has a soil unsurpassed for cotton. It is easily tilled, making the cost of production relatively low, and with expert pickers the cost of harvesting would also be reduced considerably, so that on first-class lands a selling price of 5 to 6 cents would leave a fair margin and on second-class 8 or 9 cents would give a good result. The principal difficulties to contend with are labour, transport and caterpillars, and of these the first would seem to be easily overcome as the supply of Indian labour seems ample. The second would also disappear if growers or mill-owners combined to acquire the necessary tugs and lighters for the transport from one of the river ports to an ocean port. As for the third, entomologists have not yet decided whether the pest is actually the cotton caterpillar or not, but it can be combated in the same way. Before cotton-planting is possible on a large scale, however, steam ginning mills would seem necessary, but Mr. Ross is convinced that there is plenty of scope for such, and appends to his report an estimate showing a net profit on three tons of cotton seed of £6 after deducting 25 per cent. for cost of ginning and depreciation.

Our Consul-General at Naples states that a project is on foot for the extension of the cultivation of cotton in Italy on a large scale. During the American Civil War a great deal was grown in Italy, and the cultivation continued until 1871, when about 198,000 acres were covered with it. The fall in American prices, however, and the advance in wine caused by the scarcity in France, turned the attention of the peasants to vines and other fruits, and the area under cotton has now

shrunk to about 10,000 acres. In the meantime the number of cotton mills has increased very rapidly until some £6,400,000 worth of American cotton is imported annually from the United States. Mr. Neville-Rolfe says that it is an undoubted fact that large tracts in South Italy, as well as in Sicily and the Island of Sardinia, could produce cotton plentifully and of good quality, and as the crop is one which enriches the soil, the project has received influential support.

MINING RETURNS.

- Abbontiakoon Block.—Crushed 4,004 tons of 2,240 lbs.; charged in vats, 3,800 tons; under treatment, 2,000 tons; bullion produced, 1,562 ozs.
- Abosso Gold.—3,216 tons, 2,475 ozs.; 2,366 tons of tailings; cyanide, 586 ozs.; total, 3,061 ozs.
- Alaska Mexican.—Mill crushed 20,700 tons ore, value \$30,428; saved 395 tons sulphurets, value \$28 159.
- Alaska United.—Crushed 19,880 tons, value \$27,729; saved 390 tons sulphurets, value \$13,045.
- Angelo.—Milled 12,654 tons, 4,214 ozs.; 8,802 tons of sands, 2,802 ozs.; 2,230 tons of slimes, 355 ozs.; total output, 7,371 ozs.
- Anterior (Matabele) Gold.—Crushed 1,060 tons, 684 ozs. 8 dwts.; cyanide 644 tons, 123 ozs. 10 dwts.
- Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary.—425 ozs., value £1,700.
- Associated Gold.—Milled 3,955 tons; treated 1,634 tons of slimes; yield, £13,779.
- Ayrshire Gold.—2,110 ozs. from 9,550 tons crushed; 1,181 ozs. from 6,336 tons cyanided.
- Bibiani Goldfields.—Crushed 2,761 tons, 1,545 ozs.; 2,705 tons tailings, value £2,673.
- Bulawayo and General Exploration.—Crushed 687 tons for 252 ozs. gold.
- Burbanks Birthday.—Crushed 2,185 tons, 599 ozs.; cyanided 1,410 tons, 42 ozs.; sands, £177.
- Burbanks Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 625 tons, 552 ozs.; 660 tons by cyanide for 76 ozs.
- Burma Ruby.—145,000 loads washed, producing rubies value Rs.1,29,000. Royalties, Rs.12,000.
- Cape Copper.—Ookiep: 1,325 tons of 15 per cent. equal to 198 tons fine copper. Nababeep: 4,420 tons of 4.6 per cent. equal to 203 tons fine copper.
- Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal 16,000 tons, sales 14,000 tons, consumption 1,250 tons.
- Clitters United.—Ore 1,794 tons; minerals sold and on hand value £1,700.
- Consolidated Main Reef.—Crushed 16,983 tons, 6,501 ozs.
- Copiao.—Production, 750 tons copper ores, averaging 13 per cent.
- Crown Deep.—Crushed 24,270 tons, 6,372 ozs.; 18,000 tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide, 4,844 ozs.; 6,507 tons of slimes, 571 ozs.; total, 11,787 ozs.
- Crown Reef.—Crushed 18,287 tons, 7,015 ozs.; from sands and concentrates, 2,660 ozs.; from slimes (current and accumulated), 1,129 ozs.; from dump, 852 ozs.; total, 11,656 ozs.
- Driefontein Consolidated.—Milled 18,966 tons, 3,841 ozs; sands 14,240 tons, 3,139 ozs.; slimes 5,078 tons, 583 ozs.; total output, 7,563 ozs.
- Duke United.—630 fathoms yielded 373 ozs.
- Durban Roodepoort.—Milled 11,550 tons, 4,029 ozs.; tailings 7,670 tons, 1,204 ozs.
- Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Crushed 9,300 tons, 2,731 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 6,460 tons, 1,426 ozs.; slimes 3,073 tons, 217 ozs.; total 4,374 ozs.
- East Gwanda.—Crushed 5,365 tons, 2,033 ozs.; concentrates 140 tons, 304 ozs.; Geelong cyanide 181 ozs.; Geelong Mine tributed 650 ozs.; Eagle-Vulture tailings 143 ozs.; total 3,311 ozs.
- Ferreira Deep.—19,800 tons crushed, 7,178 ozs.; 14,400 tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide, 4,022 ozs.; 5,862 tons of slimes, 676 ozs.; total yield, 11,876 ozs.
- Ferreira Gold.—Crushed 19,500 tons, 8,102 ozs.; 1,120 tons concentrates, 584 ozs.; 12,600 tons sand, 2,639 ozs.; 6,222 tons slimes, 880 ozs.; from dump, 195 ozs.; total 12,400 ozs.
- Geldenhuis Deep.—Crushed 22,110 tons, 5,184 ozs.; 15,610 tons of sand and concentrates by cyanide, 3,199 ozs.; 7,018 tons of slimes, 646 ozs.; total 9,659 ozs.
- Glen Deep.—Crushed 14,700 tons, 3,384 ozs.; 9,045 tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide, 2,010 ozs.; 4,843 tons of slimes, 388 ozs.; total, 5,782 ozs.
- Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 6,141 tons of ore, 3,377 ozs. bullion; tailings, average assay value per ton, 3.32 dwts. fine gold; 3,400 tons cyanide, 512 ozs.; total 3,890 ozs.
- Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,140 tons, 609 ozs.; 1,500 tons cyanide, 611 ozs.; 640 tons slimes, 132 ozs.; old slimes, 56 ozs.; total 1,428 ozs.
- Golden Horse Shoe.—Ore treated 18,774 (2,240 lbs. per ton), 13,071 ozs.
- Great Boulder Perseverance.—Treated 13,499 tons for 7,962 ozs. gold and 1,191 ozs. silver. Tailings and slimes: treated 10,388 tons for 1,415 ozs. gold and 1,290 ozs. silver; total, 9,377 ozs. gold, 2,481 ozs. silver.
- Great Boulder Proprietary.—11,215 tons for 12,946 ozs.; tailings (old), 2,222 tons for 335 ozs.; total, 13,281 ozs.
- Henry Nourse.—11,560 tons, 3,866 ozs.; cyanide, 8,027 tons, 1,665 ozs.; slimes, 3,527 tons, 319 ozs.; total, 5,850 ozs.
- Himan Concessions.—Crushed 501 tons, 289 ozs.
- Hudsons' Consolidated.—115 tons of ore produced £862.
- Ivanhoe Gold.—Crushed 16,560 tons, 3,032 ozs.; sands 7,580 tons, 2,019 ozs.; slimes 7,860 tons, 3,286 ozs.; concentrates 1,120 tons, 2,052 ozs.; totals, 10,479 ozs.
- Jumpers Deep.—Crushed 16,024 tons, 3,189 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 10,720 tons, 1,798 ozs.; slimes 4,839 tons, 318 ozs.; total, 5,305 ozs.
- Killarney Hibernia.—Crushed 4,400 tons, 1,433 ozs.
- Lancaster Gold.—Crushed 12,543 tons, 3,014 ozs.; cyanide 9,475 tons, 1,508 ozs.; total, 4,522 ozs.
- Lancaster West Gold.—Crushed 6,402 tons, 1,572 ozs.; cyanide 4,998 tons, 791 ozs.; total output, 2,363 ozs.
- Langlaagte Deep.—Crushed 19,519 tons, 3,936 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 15,018 tons, 2,433 ozs.; slimes, 4,669 tons, 365 ozs.; total, 6,734 ozs.
- Le Roi.—Shipments, 8,150 tons (to Northport Smelter, 6,965 tons, to Trail Smelting Works 1,185 tons), containing 3,079 ozs. gold, 3,050 ozs. silver, and 172,850 lbs. copper.
- May Consolidated.—Crushed 13,650 tons, 3,799 ozs.; cyanide, 9,575 tons, 1,917 ozs.; slimes, 3,965 tons, 318 ozs.; total 6,034 ozs.
- Meyer and Charlton.—Crushed 10,924 tons, 2,864 ozs.; 1,472 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,336 ozs.
- Middleburg Steam Coal.—Sales of coal, 6,636 tons.
- Mills' Day Dawn United.—Crushed 926 tons, value £2,200.
- Mitchell's Creek.—Crushed 700 tons, 290 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons, £810.
- Montana.—Drumlummon: Treated 10,942 tons tailings and fines, producing cyanide precipitates represented by 770 ozs. gold 10,400 ozs. silver.
- Morven (Rhodesia).—Crushed 1,357 tons, 848 ozs.
- Mount Zeehan (Tasmania) Silver-Lead.—840 tons silver-lead ore, containing 350 tons lead and 60,000 ozs. silver.
- Mungana (Chillagoe).—1,652 tons of ore containing 504 tons copper, 17,277 ozs. silver, and 208 tons lead have been shipped to the Chillagoe Company's smelting works.
- New Comet.—Milled 14,443 tons, 3,474 ozs.; sands 10,565 tons, 2,751 ozs. Total output, 6,225 ozs.
- New Kleinfontein.—Milled 26,929 tons, 6,405 ozs.; sands 19,741 tons, 2,871 ozs. Total output, 9,276 ozs.
- New Modderfontein.—Crushed 9,323 tons, 3,617 ozs.
- New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 2,041 tons; value, £6,295.
- North Broken Hill.—1,400 tons treated, producing 240 tons concentrates, containing 163 tons 14 cwt. lead and 4,680 ozs. silver.
- North White Feather Gold.—Crushed 1,860 tons, 1,124 ozs.; cyanide 1,794 tons, 106 ozs.; total output, 1,230 ozs.
- Nourse Deep.—Crushed 14,610 tons, 4,144 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 10,396 tons, 2,173 ozs.; slimes 4,158 tons, 401 ozs.; total, 6,718 ozs.
- Oroville-Dredging.—Clean-up, \$14,000.
- Princess Estate.—Crushed 6,448 tons, 2,078 ozs.; cyanide 4,605 tons, 816 ozs.; total, 2,894 ozs.
- Queensland.—Ore treated, 1,074 tons; production, 205 tons of matte, containing 115 tons fine copper; value £11,000.
- Raub Malay Peninsula.—Crushed 5,850 tons, 700 ozs.
- Robinson Gold.—Crushed 28,000 tons, 11,970 ozs.; from tailings, 4,378 ozs.; from own concentrates, 557 ozs.; from slimes, 1,467 ozs.; total, 18,372 ozs.
- Rose of Sharon and Shamrock.—150 tons for 136 ozs.
- Rose Deep.—Crushed 25,415 tons, 5,084 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 18,400 tons, 3,209 ozs.; slimes, 7,223 tons, 633 ozs.; total, 8,926 ozs.
- Roodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,413 tons, 2,353 ozs.; cyanide, 5,018 tons, 892 ozs.; total output, 3,245 ozs.
- Roodepoort United.—Crushed 9,100 tons, 2,891 ozs.; cyanide, 1,111 ozs.; total, 4,002 ozs.
- Salisbury.—Crushed 5,150 tons, 1,640 ozs.
- Selukwe.—Crushed 5,721 tons, 1,654 ozs.; cyanide, 3,984 tons, 580 ozs.
- South Kalgurli.—Crushed 6,887 short tons, 3,408 ozs.
- Sulphide Corp.—2,579 tons milled, producing 576 tons leady concentrates, 1,847 tons of middlings and 3,538 tons of tailings treated, producing respectively 772 and 1,410 tons of zinc concentrates, 1,751 tons leady concentrates, 221 tons residues, and 2,404 tons purchased ores smelted, yielding 1,434 tons of lead, containing 86,040 ozs. silver and 4,803 ozs. gold.
- Surprise.—Crushed 2,890 tons, 1,088 ozs.; cyanide 3,289 tons, 532 ozs.
- Theta.—Crushed 1,595 tons, 574 ozs.; cyanide, 928 tons, 153 ozs.
- Tomboy Gold.—Crushed 8,900 tons, value \$54,500; concentrates shipped 331 tons, value \$24,000.
- Treasury Gold.—Crushed 6,960 tons, 2,798 ozs.
- Tyee Copper.—Smelted, Tyee ore, 1,919 tons; customs ore, 294 tons—2,213 tons; matte produced, 271 tons.
- Um Rus Gold of Egypt.—Crushed 610 tons, 444 ozs.; 488 tons tailings stored, of an average assay value of 3 dwts. per ton.
- Van Ryn.—Crushed 21,880 tons, 6,030 ozs.; cyanide, 14,400 tons tailings, 2,279 ozs.
- Victoria Proprietary (1903).—Crushed 435 tons, 400 ozs.
- Village Deep.—Crushed 16,300 tons, 3,793 ozs.; sands and concentrates 11,250 tons, 1,953 ozs.; slimes 3,951 tons, 407 ozs.; total, 6,153 ozs.
- Village Main Reef.—Crushed 24,000 tons, 6,189 ozs.; cyanide 17,970 tons of sands and concentrates, 2,797 ozs.; slimes 6,220 tons, 400 ozs.; total, 9,386 ozs.
- Vivien Gold.—Milled 1,342 tons, 426 ozs.; tailings 900, 118 ozs.; current slimes 442 tons, 111 ozs.; accumulated slimes, 83 tons, 21 ozs.
- Westralia Mount Morgans.—Crushed 4,770 tons, 757 ozs.; cyanided 2,454 tons, 815 ozs.; slimes 1,405 tons, 225 ozs.; guests 100 ozs.
- Willoughby's Consolidated.—North Bonsor: Crushed 967 tons,

195 ozs.; cyanide, 1,443 tons, 689 ozs. Bonsor: Crushed 1,839 tons, 381 ozs.; cyanide, 797 tons, 336 ozs. Queens: Crushed 2,080 tons, 426 ozs.

Witbank Colliery.—Output, 26,250 tons.

Witwatersrand.—Treated 26,000 tons, 8,550 ozs.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Crushed 23,070 tons, 6,550 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 23,069 tons, 2,697 ozs.; total, 9,247 ozs.

Worcester.—Output, 1,036 ozs.

Zeehan-Montana.—285 tons of silver-lead ore, containing 170 tons lead and 23,000 ozs. silver.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

MINES.

Balaghat Gold.—Interim of 1s. per share, on both preference and ordinary shares, payable Nov. 3.

Esperanza.—Interim of 6d. per share, and an additional interim of 4s. per share, for the quarter ending Oct. 31, payable Nov. 14.

Great Boulder Perseverance Gold.—Second interim for 1905 of 6d. per share, payable 27th inst.

Hainault Gold.—1s. per share.

Ivanhoe Gold.—Interim of 5s. per share.

Mysore Gold.—Interim of 4s. 6d. per share, payable Nov. 10.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alliance Investment.—Interim at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the preferred stock for the half-year ending 15th instant.

Bankers' Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the preferred stock and 3 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock for the half-year ending Oct. 31.

British and Australasian Trust and Loan.—Interim of 1s. 3d. per share (being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum) for the half-year ended June 30.

Broken Hill Syndicate.—Interim of £1 17s. 6d. per share on the "A" shares of £1 each, and £1 17s. 6d. per share on the "B" shares of 1s. each.

Ceylon Tea Plantations.—Interim of 7 per cent., payable Oct. 30.

Imperial Continental Gas.—5 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30.

Indo-European Telegraph.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Nov. 1.

Industrial and General Trust.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the unified stock for the half-year to Sept. 30, payable Nov. 1.

Lipton.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the past half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

New Dimbula.—Final of 15 per cent. and 1 per cent. bonus, making 21 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

Northern Assurance.—Interim of £1 per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent. on account of 1905.

Second Scottish Investment Trust.—On the deferred stock at the rate of 5 per cent. for the year ended Oct. 1.

Sunnygama (Ceylon) Tea Estates.—Interim of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable Oct. 16.

Union-Castle Mail Steamship.—Interim of 4s. per share for the half-year ended June 30, payable on Nov. 3.

Wilson and Clyde Coal.—After providing £18,490 for depreciation and further of 8s. 6d. per share on the original shares, adding £18,490 for depreciation.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16.

British Columbia Electric Railway.—Liverpool Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17.

Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway.—River Plate House, 11.30 a.m.

Consolidated Mines Selection.—Winchester House, noon.

Tomboy Gold.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18.

Bank of Tarapaca and Argentina.—97 and 98, Bishopsgate Street, 2 p.m.

Buenos Ayres Western Railway.—River Plate House, noon.

Ecco Works.—Birmingham, 11.30 a.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19.

Glasgow and South-Western Railway.—Glasgow, noon.

Rio Tinto.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Sierra Buttes Gold Mining.—57, Gracechurch Street, noon.

Western Railway of Havana.—River Plate House, 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20.

Demarara Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Enfield Cycle.—Birmingham, noon

Really Mr. Henry Norman contrives to make the *World's Work* very readable. There is an article in this month's number upon the question of eating meat which almost persuades us to become vegetarian. It might do that altogether had we not tried the experiment more than once ere now and broken down under it. The articles on "The Education of an Artist" also continue to fascinate us, and we have even read with much interest the description of how the West Australian Government at a cost of nearly £3,000,000 brought an abundant supply of fresh water to Coolgardie. We hope the water will be useful to irrigate the barren soil, for mining there is not what it once promised to be, and does not at all justify the expenditure.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and October 7, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Oct. 7, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Oct. 8, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	—	6,352,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	17,305,000	18,551,000
Excise	30,200,000	14,727,000	15,344,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	6,839,000	5,928,000
Stamps	8,000,000	4,016,000	3,516,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	530,000
Property and Income Tax	31,000,000	5,640,000	5,951,000
Post Office	16,500,000	6,830,000	7,630,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,230,000	2,100,000
Crown Lands	470,000	190,000	190,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	678,309	608,433
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	706,016	733,960
*Revenue	142,454,000	59,561,325	61,082,393
Total, including balance		66,991,603	65,346,235
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		300,000	250,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	670,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		400,000	869,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		760,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	300,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		8,955,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	500,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	5,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..		—	18,000,000
Total		77,746,603	98,960,225
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	59,561,325	61,082,393
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	69,739	77,021
Excise	5,291,000	1,636,851	1,619,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,172,839	2,119,242
Total	9,756,000	3,879,429	3,815,936
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	63,440,754	64,898,329

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Oct. 7, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payment from April 1, 1904, to Oct. 8, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	28,000,000	16,721,385	17,174,795
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	872,856	871,109
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	52,376,061	57,688,570
Expenditure	142,084,000	70,625,268	76,389,401
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		240,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		90,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		450,000	300,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		1,663,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	1,700,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		105,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		230,571	20,000
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	4,150,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	6,100,000
		74,326,839	97,999,901
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	2,747,827	1,108,247	—
Bank of Ireland	671,937	752,077	—
Total		3,419,764	1,860,324
		77,746,603	98,960,225

Treasury, October 10, 1905.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended October 7, \$4,509.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 8, \$18,014, increase \$4,143; aggregate from January 1, \$635,263, increase \$143,682.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 2, Rs. 78,724, increase Rs. 20,282; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 5,70,091, increase Rs. 80,645.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 7, \$100,200, increase \$19,400; total from July 1, \$1,231,700, increase \$251,600.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 9, Rs. 24,385, increase Rs. 1,644; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,54,196, increase Rs. 15,184.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 16, £782, increase £145.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 1st week of October, \$14,625, decrease \$243; aggregate from January 1, \$619,545, decrease \$4,203.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 9, Rs. 10,615, increase Rs. 1,994; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,17,305, increase Rs. 11,592.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended September 30 amounted to \$61,930.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending October 7, £1,217, increase £11; aggregate from July 1, £16,439, decrease £363.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending October 7, £758, decrease £89; aggregate from July 1, £14,137, decrease £1,483.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for July, £4,218, decrease £427.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending October 7, £406, decrease £13; aggregate from July 1, £4,408, decrease £683.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 6, £1,400, increase £482; aggregate from July 1, £19,698, increase £7,011.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 8, £14, increase £2; aggregate from July 1, £438, increase £16.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 6, £4,803, decrease £377; aggregate from July 1, £73,819, decrease £1,610.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending October 6, £28,666, increase £4,249; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,080,382, increase £103,595; 442 miles, against 421½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 7, £1,218, increase £78; aggregate from July 2, £16,209, increase £738.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 8, £122, decrease £3; aggregate from July 1, £2,457, decrease £64.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 6, £115, decrease £15; aggregate from July 1, £2,044, increase £31.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 6, £4,811, decrease £100; aggregate from July 1, £75,792, decrease £575.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 7, £4,936, increase £382; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £196,311, increase £15,313.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 6, £243, decrease £19; aggregate from July 1, £3,844, decrease £240.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 5, £494.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 7, £392, decrease £89; aggregate from October 1, £392, decrease £149.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 30, £14,558, increase £917; aggregate from April 1, £398,210, increase £60,656. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 7, £23,041, decrease £319; aggregate from July 2, £336,923, decrease £5,542.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 7, £7,804, increase £193; aggregate from July 1, £112,300, increase £1,179.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 6, £207, increase £3; aggregate from July 1, £2,849, increase £139.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 7, £14,585, increase £925; aggregate from January 1, £529,912, increase £33,581.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of September, £10,584, increase £438.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to August 31, \$187,399, increase \$47,613. Net earnings from July 1 to August 31, \$84,550, increase \$30,461.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending October 8, £3,841, increase £485; aggregate from January 1, £138,447, increase £6,757.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, \$42,345, decrease \$3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 7, Rs. 49,620, increase Rs. 9,099; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 6,08,588, increase Rs. 93,759.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of September, £2,767, increase £147. Total to August 31, £34,608, increase £6,213.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of August, \$422,051, increase \$32,854; aggregate from January 1, \$3,028,626, increase \$194,399. Net traffic receipts, \$246,512, increase \$35,913; aggregate from January 1, \$1,626,507, increase \$136,430.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Oct. 8	£ 1,864	— 237	14	29,644	— 908	
Cambrian	" 8	6,564	— 125	14	118,744	— 6,355	
Central London ..	" 7	6,776	+ 26	14	81,911	— 1,859	
City and South London ..	" 8	2,733	— 35	14	33,126	— 573	
Furness	" 8	10,032	+ 1,491	14	156,360	+ 9,941	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 8	75,395	+ 4,221	14	1,030,123	+ 56,782	
Great Eastern ..	" 8	111,600	+ 2,500	14	1,662,400	— 32,100	
Great Northern and City ..	" 7	1,598	+ 331	14	20,413	+ 5,318	
Great Northern ..	" 7	118,100	+ 2,887	14	1,712,788	— 5,573	
Great Western ..	" 3	239,300	+ 9,500	14	3,642,500	+ 15,100	
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 8	10,679	+ 951	14	136,847	— 2,357	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 8	109,270	+ 3,489	14	1,721,792	+ 38,076	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 7	62,794	+ 1,393	14	1,046,616	— 3,709	
London & North Western ..	" 8	282,000	+ 2,000	14	4,286,000	+ 51,000	
London & South Western ..	" 8	90,200	— 500	14	1,472,000	+ 4,700	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 8	8,916	+ 41	14	169,736	+ 1,610	
Metropolitan	" 8	17,610	— 89	14	238,544	+ 133	
Metropolitan District ..	" 8	7,397	+ 326	14	91,671	— 2,710	
Midland	" 7	232,531	+ 5,692	14	3,261,324	+ 68,612	
North Eastern	" 7	186,067	+ 4,317	14	2,719,679	+ 10,804	
North London	" 8	9,609	— 272	14	121,753	— 4,182	
North Staffordshire ..	" 8	18,872	+ 1,046	14	248,899	+ 1,925	
Rhymney	" 8	5,579	— 136	14	779,520	— 121	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 7	109,389	+ 4,274	14	1,539,144	+ 18,758	
Taff Vale	" 8	18,150	+ 329	14	253,167	— 4,048	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Oct. 8	87,035	+ 1,569	10	910,413	— 4,314	
Glasgow & South-Western	" 7	33,089	+ 29	10	402,428	— 2,041	
Great North of Scotland ..	" 7	9,857	+ 34	10	108,746	— 1,709	
Highland	" 8	11,875	+ 1,369	10	133,311	+ 239	
North British	" 8	91,460	— 1,599	10	991,349	— 12,391	

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Oct. 6	2,763	+ 239	14	51,680	+ 1,137	
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 6	1,802	— 71	14	27,692	+ 420	
Great Northern	" 6	19,954	+ 485	14	301,413	— 2,929	
Midland Great Western ..	" 6	14,640	+ 219	14	165,131	— 6,883	

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Oct. 10.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Oct. 10.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
51	Angelo	57 1/2	58 3/4	3 3/4	May Consolidated	3 3/4	3 3/4
51	Anglo-French Ex.	33 3/4	34 1/4	4 1/4	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/4	4 1/4
51	Apex	6 1/2	6 3/4	8 1/4	Moederfontein	8 1/4	8 1/4
51	Aurora West	7 1/2	7 3/4	2 1/4	Do. B.	2 1/4	2 1/4
1	Bantjes	1 1/2	1 3/4	2 1/2	New Coch	2 1/2	2 1/2
1	Barnato Consolidated ..	1 1/2	1 3/4	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
1	Block B.	1 1/2	1 3/4	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
2	City and Suburban, £4	5 1/2	5 3/4	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
2	Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 3/4	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	Cons. Goldfields	6 1/2	6 3/4	1 1/2	Porces-Randfontein ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	Do. Pref.	23 1/2	23 3/4	8 1/4	Rand Mines (New)	8 1/4	8 1/4
13 3/4	Crown Reef	13 1/2	13 3/4	2 1/2	Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
13 3/4	Driefontein	13 1/2	13 3/4	2 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
4	Durban Roodepoort	4 1/4	4 1/2	1 1/4	Do. Randfontein	1 1/4	1 1/4
7 1/4	East Rand	7 1/2	7 3/4	2 1/4	Roodepoort United	2 1/4	2 1/4
19	East Rand Extension ..	19 1/2	19 3/4	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
19	Ferreira	19 1/2	19 3/4	1 1/2	Sheba (New)	1 1/2	1 1/2
14 1/4	French Rand	14 1/2	14 3/4	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/4	Geoid	5 1/2	5 3/4	5 1/4	S.A. Gold Trust	5 1/4	5 1/4
4 1/4	Goldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	4 3/4	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	Glencarn	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	Harmony Proprietary ..	11 1/2	11 3/4	3 1/4	Treasury	3 1/4	3 1/4
1	Henderson's Transvaal	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 1/2	Rand Ryn	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	Henry Nourse	7 1/2	7 3/4	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	Heriot	4 1/2	4 3/4	1 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	Johannesburg Con. In.	2 1/2	2 3/4	6 1/4	Welgedacht	6 1/4	6 1/4
1	Jubilee	2 1/2	2 3/4	5 1/4	Wemmer	5 1/4	5 1/4
1	Jumpers	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 1/2	West Rand Consols ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	Kleinfontein	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Knight's	4 1/2	4 3/4	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2
1	Lancaster	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 1/2			
3	Langlaagte Estate	3 1/2	3 3/4	3 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/4	Angelo Deep	1 1/4	1 1/4	4 1/4	Nourse Deep	4 1/4	4 1/4
1 1/4	Bouanza	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/4	1 1/4
1 1/4	Cinderella Deep	1 1/4	1 1/4	2 1/4	Rand Victoria	2 1/4	2 1/4
13 1/2	Crown Deep	13 1/2	13 1/2	5 1/4	Robinson Deep (new) ..	5 1/4	5 1/4
1 1/4	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	Roodepoort Cn. Deep ..	1 1/4	1 1/4
8 1/4	Deep	8 1/4	8 1/4	5 1/4	Rose Deep	5 1/4	5 1/4
1 1/4	Goldenhuis Deep	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	South Rose Deep	1 1/4	1 1/4
1 1/4	Knight's Deep	1 1/4	1 1/4	4 1/4	Village Main Reef	4 1/4	4 1/4
1 1/4	Nigel Deep	1 1/4	1 1/4	3 1/4	Witwatersrand Deep ..	3 1/4	3 1/4

RHODESIANS.

1 1/4	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/4	1 1/4	2 1/4	Northern Copper	2 1/4	2 1/4
2 1/4	Chartered B. S. A.	2 1/4	2 1/4	6 1/4	Rhodesia, Ltd.	6 1/4	6 1/4
16 1/4	Charter Trust	16 1/4	16 1/4	3 1/4	Do. Exploration	3 1/4	3 1/4
1 1/4	Agency	1 1/4	1 1/4	2 1/4	Rice Hamilton	2 1/4	2 1/4
2 1/4	Globe and Phoenix	2 1/4	2 1/4	6 1/4	Selukwe	6 1/4	6 1/4
2 1/4	Lomagunda Develop-	2 1/4	2 1/4	1 1/4	Tanganyika	1 1/4	1 1/4
1 1/4	ment	1 1/4	1 1/4	9 1/4	Wankie Coal	9 1/4	9 1/4
1 1/4	Mashonaland Agency ..	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	Willoughby	1 1/4	1 1/4
1 1/4	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	Zambesia Exploring ..	1 1/4	1 1/4

DIAMONDS.

17 1/4	De Beers Deferred	17 1/4	17 1/4	2 1/4	Koffyfontein	2 1/4	2 1/4
17 1/4	Do. Preferred	17 1/4	17 1/4	2 1/4	Lace Diamonds	2 1/4	2 1/4
4 1/4	Eland's Drift Diamond	4 1/4	4 1/4	1 1/4	Orange Free State	1 1/4	1 1/4
1 1/4	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	Diamond	1 1/4	1 1/4
7 1/4	Jagersfontein Deferred	7 1/4	7 1/4	14 1/4	Premier Diamond Def.	14 1/4	14 1/4
4 1/4	Do. Preferred	4 1/4	4 1/4	9 1/4	Do. do. Pref.	9 1/4	9 1/4
1 1/4	Kamfersdam	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4			

WEST AFRICAN.

13 1/4	Abbottiakoon	13 1/4	13 1/4	6 1/4	Gold Coast Agency, new	6 1/4	6 1/4
1 1/4	Abosso	1 1/4	1 1/4	2 1/4	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/4	2 1/4
1 1/4	Akinassi (New)	1 1/4	1 1/4	3 1/4	Gold Coast (Wassau)	3 1/4	3 1/4
1 1/4	Ankobra	1 1/4	1 1/4	3 1/4	Deep	3 1/4	3 1/4
4 1/4	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	4 1/4	4 1/4	1 1/4	Goldfields East'n Akim	1 1/4	1 1/4
8 1/4	Do. Goldfields	8 1/4	8 1/4	8 1/4	Human Concessions	8 1/4	8 1/4
2 1/4	Ashanti Sansu	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	Obuassu Syndicate	2 1/4	2 1/4
1 1/4	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/4	1 1/4	6 1/4	Prester	6 1/4	6 1/4
1 1/4	British Gold Coast	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	Seckondi and Tarkwa ..	1 1/4	1 1/4
13 1/4	Broommassie	13 1/4	13 1/4	1 1/4	Taquaah and Abosso	1 1/4	1 1/4
3 1/4	Ebuenta (Wassau)	3 1/4	3 1/4	1 1/4	Wassau	1 1/4	1 1/4
9 1/4	Fanti Consolidated	9 1/4	9 1/4	3 1/4	W. A. Gold Trust	3 1/4	3 1/4

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/4	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/4	1 1/4	9 1/4	Ida H.	9 1/4	9 1/4
1 1/4	Associated	1 1/4	1 1/4	8 1/4	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp. ..	8 1/4	8 1/4
1 1/4	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/4	1 1/4	8 1/4	Ivanhoe South	8 1/4	8 1/4
3 1/4	Bellevue Proprietary ..	3 1/4	3 1/4	8 1/4	Kalgurli	8 1/4	8 1/4
5 1/4	Boulder Deep Levels ..	5 1/4	5 1/4	1 1/4	Lake View Cons.	1 1/4	1 1/4
11 1/4	Brownhill Extended ..	11 1/4	11 1/4	1 1/4	Lancefield	1 1/4	1 1/4
2 1/4	Chaffers	2 1/4	2 1/4	11 1/4	London & W.A. Explor-	11 1/4	11 1/4
6 1/4	Cosmopol'n Pr'ty	6 1/4	6 1/4	1 1/4	ation	1 1/4	1 1/4
7 1/4	Golden Horseshoe, New	7 1/4	7 1/4	4 1/4	Mount Boppy	4 1/4	4 1/4
2 1/4	Golden Links	2 1/4	2 1/4	3 1/4	North Kalgurli	3 1/4	3 1/4
1 1/4	Golden Pole	1 1/4	1 1/4	2 1/4	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/4	2 1/4
23 1/4	Great Boulder, 2/-	23 1/4	23 1/4	3 1/4	Peak Hill	3 1/4	3 1/4
15 1/4	Do. Perseverance	15 1/4	15 1/4	1 1/4	South Kalgurli	1 1/4	1 1/4
6 1/4	Great Pingall	6 1/4	6 1/4	2 1/4	Sons of Gwalia	2 1/4	2 1/4
1 1/4	Hainault	1 1/4	1 1/4	4 1/4	W.A. Goldfields	4 1/4	4 1/4
3 1/4	Hampton Plains	3 1/4	3 1/4	1 1/4	Westr la Mt. Morgans ..	1 1/4	1 1/4
1 1/4	Hannan's Star	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	White Fe'thr M'n Rf.	1 1/4	1 1/4

MISCELLANEOUS.

6 1/4	Anaconda, 25 dols.	6 1/4	6 1/4	3 1/4	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/4	3 1/4
30 1/4	Balaghat, full paid	30 1/4	30 1/4	27 1/4	Mount Lyell	27 1/4	27 1/4
10 1/4	Brilliant and St. George	10 1/4	10 1/4	3 1/4	M't. Morgan	3 1/4	3 1/4
53 1/4	Broken Hill, Prop.	53 1/4	53 1/4	6 1/4	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/4	6 1/4
1 1/4	Camp Bird	1 1/4	1 1/4	3 1/4	Mysore Goldfields, 15/-	3 1/4	3 1/4
32 1/4	Cape Copper, £2	32 1/4	32 1/4	10 1/4	Do. West, 19/-	10 1/4	10 1/4
1 1/4	Champion Reef, 10s.	1 1/4	1 1/4	11 1/4	Do. Wynaad, 19/-	11 1/4	11 1/4
1 1/4	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/4	1 1/4	4 1/4	Namaqua, £2	4 1/4	4 1/4
1 1/4	Coropando, £2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	Nile Valley	1 1/4	1 1/4
3 1/4	Comorandell 19/6 pd.	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	N'ndydroog, 10/- shares	3 1/4	3 1/4
6 1/4	Esperanza	6 1/4	6 1/4	19 1/4	Ooegum	19 1/4	19 1/4
1 1/4	Exploration	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	Do Pref.	1 1/4	1 1/4
17 1/4	Frontino and Bolivia ..	17 1/4	17 1/4	6 1/4	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/4	6 1/4
1 1/4	Le Roi	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	St. John del Rey	1 1/4	1 1/4
1 1/4	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/4	1 1/4	6 1/4	Tharsis	6 1/4	6 1/4
1 1/4	Libiola, £5	1 1/4	1 1/4	6 1/4	Waihi	6 1/4	6 1/4
4 1/4	Linares, £3	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	Ymir	4 1/4	4 1/4

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	
Alcoy and Gandia	Oct. 9	Ps. 15,000	+ Ps. 6,000	**	Ps. 561,100	+ P. 2,900
Antofagasta (Chill) and Bolivia	Aug. *	\$ 60,000	+ \$ 117,000	**	\$ 7,458,000	+ \$ 168,000
Argentine Gt. Western	Oct. 6	13,547	+ 3,549		178,494	+ 30,059
Algebras (Gibraltar) ..	Sept. 30	Ps. 44,281	- Ps. 706		Ps. 429,993	- Ps. 63,731
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	Oct. 7	25,605	+ 7,564		359,049	+ 98,920
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 7	70,792	+ 712	**	3,090,115	+ 108,622
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 8	57,907	+ 4,858		864,209	+ 170,617
Do. Western	" 8	39,596	+ 5,371		401,754	+ 77,240
Do. Ensenada	" 8	295	unchang'd		4,059	+ 205
C. Uruguay of Mte. Vid.	" 7	8,204	+ 962		95,729	+ 9,390
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 7	1,787	+ 266		17,224	+ 1,323
Do. Northern Ex.	" 7	1,800	+ 110		13,917	+ 4,674
Do. Western Ex.	" 7	1,030	+ 234		13,391	+ 400
Cordoba Central ..	" 8	2,880	+ 485	**	119,935	+ 4,995
Do. Northern Ex.	" 8	7,335	+ 335	**	260,855	+ 12,620
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 8	2,705	+ 580	**	75,175	+ 4,305
Cordoba and Rosario	" 8	2,050	+ 2,070		63,625	+ 5,010
Costa Rica ..	" 7	3,182	+ 566		51,664	+ 1,725
Cuban Central ..	" 7	4,650	+ 1,337	**	67,167	+ 13,227
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 7	8,696	+ 4,032	**	303,601	+ 128,212
Entre Rios ..	" 7	2,814	+ 486		42,178	+ 11,489
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 7	\$ 105,000	+ \$ 350		\$ 1,569,700	+ \$ 77,110
Leopoldina ..	" 7	34,990	+ 15,344	**	807,474	+ 216,097
Mexican ..	Aug. *	\$ 570,500	+ \$ 79,680	**	\$ 1,088,000	+ \$ 148,460
Mexican ..	Oct. 7	\$ 108,500	+ \$ 12,500	**	\$ 1,655,500	+ \$ 101,300
Do. Southern	" 7	\$ 21,605	+ \$ 789	**	\$ 941,295	+ \$ 31,256
Do. Central ..	Aug. *	\$ 2,294,684	+ \$ 204,789	**	\$ 4,443,924	+ \$ 377,220
Do. Do.	Aug. *	\$ 738,876	+ \$ 123,902	**	\$ 1,351,431	+ \$ 220,835
Manila ..	Oct. 7	\$ 30,881	+ \$ 6,783	**	\$ 1,408,417	+ \$ 274,136
Nitrato ..	Aug. 30†	21,677	+ 1,664	**	390,169	+ 81,356
Ottoman ..	Oct. 7	12,084	+ 637		799,260	+ 16,065
Peruvian Corporation ..	Sept. *	\$ 624,400	+ \$ 87,800	**	\$ 1,831,925	+ \$ 292,325
San Paulo ..	Oct. 7	43,201	+ 6,800		565,020	+ 54,046
Salvador ..	" 7	\$ 10,500	+ \$ 500	**	\$ 178,028	+ \$ 12,884
United of Havana ..	" 7	8,668	+ 2,141		118,439	+ 19,960
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 7	1,001	+ 112	**	45,055	+ 5,637
Western of Havana ..	" 7	4,145	- 25		65,852	+ 4,390

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The Investors' Review.

Concerning Debt and Sinking Funds.

No country in the world has behaved with such careless extravagance in dealing with its public debt as the United Kingdom. Most of the debt has throughout been issued in a form which makes it practically irredeemable, a permanent burden upon the community. In this respect we imitate France, but France has assets to set against a considerable portion of its debt, and we have none, except the Suez Canal shares, which are paraded every year in a return setting forth the particulars of the National Debt at the market price of the day. The shares could not be sold at that price, and, therefore, ought not to be taken into account in any such fashion. Apart from this and some few other items, such as the £1,444,444 contributed towards the cost of that great enterprise the Pacific Cable, there is nothing whatever to set against our prodigious load of nearly £800,000,000, most of which stands in a form which renders its complete extinction well nigh impossible. For a number of years efforts have been made to reduce the debt by means of terminable annuities, and the only justification for that clumsy method of paying off the nation's obligations is to be found in the fact that the debt cannot be bought in or wiped out in any direct way. It is a perpetual debt. No notice can be given to holders of any particular portion of the mass of consolidated debt that they will be reimbursed their capital at a given date. The stock is in one lump, perfectly incapable of segregation, and the only mode of reduction open to successive Governments is that adopted in the creation of terminable annuities. A slice of the stock, held by a public body and representing Post Office Savings Bank accumulations or funds held in Chancery, is taken over and exchanged for a terminable annuity calculated to replace the capital within a given number of years by purchases of stock in the open market. This method involves an enormous waste when the credit of the nation is high and the debt left without additions. Before the South African war began we were buying back stock to replace the chunks cancelled by terminable annuities at 10 per cent. premium and upwards, stock perhaps originally issued to the investors at an average price well below 90, at 10 to 15 per cent. discount. How much the nation has lost by this most costly method of redeeming debt has never been disclosed, but it will have to be one of these days, and when we get a new House of Commons it is to be hoped that it will endeavour to investigate and set in the clear light of day the actual position of the various schemes of debt redemption.

All we can do at present is to illustrate by a few figures the practical futility of this method of lightening the burdens of the community, burdens represented by an annual charge for debt interest and redemption ranging between £20,368,517, the low water mark of 1901, and £28,866,939, the apparent high water mark of 1905. In the 70 years ended March 31 last the debt interest and redemption have cost the taxpayers of this country nearly one thousand seven hundred and twenty million pounds sterling. No one could describe or con-

ceive the crushing nature of this mortgage upon the industry of the country, its permanent influence in spreading poverty among the mere masses. It is the fashion of publicists of all parties to treat the burden of public debt as something at the worst inevitable, or as a trivial thing to be disregarded in any attempt to arrive at a just estimate of the nation's inherent financial strength, of no consequence to the ordinary wage-earner. No wonder, therefore, that debt is contracted with a light heart, that borrowing is resorted to on the slenderest pretexts, or that public works, as they are called, often of an utterly useless description, are executed on the most lavish scale with borrowed money. Yet had the proceeds of taxation absorbed in 70 years by the national debt been left in the people's hands, the money would have been enough to provide us with all our railways free of capital cost almost twice over and to destroy pauperism in the land.

In all these 70 years we have been paying debt off. There have always been terminable annuities in operation or life annuities, and yet the debt does not appreciably diminish. At the present time the amount of money absorbed by these terminable annuities is £6,525,000, mostly capital redeemed, but no less than £3,008,538 of these annuities fall in next year, a fact which politicians of all shades ought to note with a view to, if possible, prevent the wasting of this wind-fall on further extravagances instigated and perpetrated by the spending departments. That money ought to be saved for the pockets of the taxpayer, made a basis upon which to reduce public burdens, inasmuch as the system of terminable annuities, always defective and liable to frequent interruptions, is both costly, and, as things are, futile. Its futility is proved by a mere recital of the totals of the National Debt. At the beginning of January, 1836, the total of that debt was £843,792,836, and at the end of March last it was £796,736,491, a decrease of a mere £49,322,000 in 70 years. But in the course of these 70 years the nation has found an aggregate of about £270,000,000 by way of redemption of the capital of the debt, and one naturally asks where has the money gone? The difference between this stupendous effort at cancelling debt and the slight actual decrease is more than £220,000,000—all vanished. It has not all gone in the excessive prices paid for stock cancelled, nor has any large portion of it thus disappeared; the consequences of voluntary or compulsory thrift in redeeming debt have been obliterated by a succession of wars. Debt has been increased, notably by the Crimean and South African wars, in the interval between 1836 and 1905, in later years also by the fatal extravagance of the War Office and the Admiralty, and by a feverish expenditure of public money in all directions. Thus by the operation of terminable annuities the debt of this country on March 31, 1854, was brought down to £802,021,655. Then came the Crimean war, by which it was run up in 1857 to £836,811,622. From that date there was again a gradual reduction, as the cost of suppressing the Indian Mutiny was laid upon the populations of that Peninsula, so that by 1875 the total was down to £767,268,559. Then began the era of modern extravagance, the extravagance of the Tory party, which has had a well-nigh uninterrupted control of our finances through the succeeding years. In spite, however, of that extravagance, the broad foundation for debt redemption laid by the Liberal party in previous years secured a steady and automatic, if costly, reduction in the amount of that debt. Extravagance checked this reduction at times, but on the whole it proceeded with reasonable steadiness until on March 31, 1899, the total was down to £635,393,734. Then came the South African war, which proved costly enough to wipe out practically the whole of the economies effected since 1869.

Is it possible to find a better way to reduce debt than that established by the terminable annuity system? We are doubtful. Certainly no change of a radical description can take place before 1923, which is the date assigned for the redemption of the

existing consolidated $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock, amounting in round figures to £590,000,000. If the nation and its Governments return to methods of economy, and by cutting down expenditure manage to save money every year, it can only employ such savings, whatever their amount, in buying stock in the open market after the floating debt has been dealt with and redeemed. At the present time that floating debt amounts to about £72,000,000—at least, it was that figure on April 1 last, but it is being continually added to, so that the actual figure at the present moment may be difficult to state. If, however, economy is practised and the Exchequer bonds paid off, not by issuing new ones, or if the £30,000,000 war loan known as Khaki stock is redeemed out of accumulated savings when it falls due for payment in 1910, and if the present monstrous total of the Treasury bill issues is also reduced to small proportions or wiped out altogether, the Government can do nothing more to reduce public burdens except by purchasing Consols or Local Loans stock in the open market, nothing until 1923, or in the case of Local Loans stock 1912. At present, however, the floating debt is being neglected, so that a system of fancy finance may be practised with a sham sinking fund. The terminable annuities are necessarily devoted to the replacement of stock cancelled when they were created, but the Government is not satisfied with that and devotes every penny it can scrape, whatever surpluses the Budget can be made to exhibit, thanks to short term borrowings for public works and other devices, to the purchase of Consols in the open market, the object being to try and raise the price. Last year the total purchases, terminable annuity and other, amounted to £5,557,668, and nearly £2,000,000 of that was money deliberately employed and unnecessarily for the maintenance of prices on the Stock Exchange. It would have been better to redeem Treasury Bills with that money. How then can we expect future governments to abandon this wasteful policy—a policy which means the creation of new debt faster than the old is cancelled and the cancelment of old debt at a price probably unnecessarily high—that is to say, at a loss to the taxpayer? The vicious system is almost certain to be pursued in future years unless the nation becomes more enlightened and recognises, to begin with, that no debt can be genuinely paid off except out of real surpluses, and next that whatever surpluses accrue should be employed first of all in wiping out floating debts of every description. People talk of sinking funds as if they were automatic, working totally without reference to the actual position of the nation, and in doing so carry us back to the fantastic sinking fund in operation after the close of the struggle with the first Napoleon. There can be no redemption of debt which does not come from money saved. Therefore we dislike and have always distrusted the terminable annuity method of reducing the public burdens, although recognising that, owing to the form in which the bulk of the debt borne by the country has been created, no other system of cancelment is at present open to the Government, none except the reduction of the floating debt and the abstention from fresh borrowings. What sense is there in the fashion of creating new debt when there is a surplus of revenue available for such spendings as the debt redemption may be applied to? Last year, while about £5,600,000 of public money was sunk in repurchases of Consols, stock cancelled by terminable annuities and to use up the surplus of income over expenditure, no less than £5,000,000 of new terminable annuities were brought into existence besides £6,000,000 of Exchequer bonds. And against this the unfunded debt was last year reduced only by £2,000,000. Surely it would have been better to use as much as was necessary out of the £7,600,000 altogether devoted to debt reduction in avoidance of fresh debt creation; but we are so hide-bound, so completely creatures of routine, that this straightforward method of dealing with the nation's money never entered the heads of those who rule it.

More about American Life Office Methods.

Some of the most important witnesses required by the commission of the New York State Senate to throw light upon the dark ways of American life insurance business are said to have fled the country. Enough, however, remain, or have already been handled, to afford instruction and entertainment to all who care therefor, and we continue to extract from the evidence as reported such items of interest as may be valuable to people on this side. One of the most suggestive episodes in the whole story so far unfolded was Mr. John A. McCall's exhibition of God-thanking virtue when challenged to justify a contribution of about £10,000 made to the Republican campaign funds when that party was busy defeating Bryant. Mr. Bryant himself makes the sarcastic remark, in reference to this display of partisan zeal, that Mr. McCall's opinion of free silver is "probably founded upon the opinion of some financier and not upon any actual knowledge of the subject," and adds that the pious man's "understanding of '16 to 1' seems to be that the directors get \$16 to \$1 given to the policyholders." This is severe and a little wide of the mark. The really interesting point in Mr. McCall's "thank God" attitude is its revelation of his perfect obliviousness to the duties and responsibilities of a trustee. Here is a man in supreme control of a business and professing to work honestly and diligently for the benefit of widows and orphans, to jealously guard their interests, and profitably invest for their behoof all moneys committed by them to his custody, chucking about tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars of this trust money on his own responsibility without consulting anybody. So complete is the moral perversion that the misappropriator never imagined he was doing wrong. He was asked whether he had any conference with the officers of his company about these campaign contributions. "Never," he said. The same utter disregard of the most rudimentary principles of business morality was displayed by him in his dealings with "Judge" Andrew Hamilton, but we have already alluded to that and need not further elaborate the point. Lifting up his hand he said, "I made that payment to defeat a free silver heresy, and I thank God that I did it." There is a perverted pietism in this attitude which fascinates us. Men capable of misunderstanding their position to such a degree are clearly unfitted for any position of trust whatsoever, but they have grown into this non-moral attitude by unconscious evolution, and nothing short of a convulsion such as is now in progress can bring about any improvement. The minds of these men can never now be instructed to know right from wrong.

Next to Mr. McCall's pious misappropriation of other people's money and rabidly diligent furtherings of Republican principles, as they are called, with policyholders' funds, the most instructive facts recently rehearsed before the committee related the earnings of the McCurdy clan, now masters of the Mutual. It really has done remarkably well by life insurance business, especially the son of President McCurdy, whose commissions have already been set forth, though father and son-in-law can neither have much to complain of. We should like, however, this time to direct attention to the rate of commission paid upon the business done for this "Mutual" co-partnership, because it shows how eager the officials of all these American companies are to write what they call "new business." It is the new that pays, and the more the old can be given the go-by the greater the prosperity of the spoilers. In 1888 the rate of commission paid was from 45 to 65 per cent. on the first year's premiums, 65 per cent. commission being paid on the deferred dividend policies running for long terms. This was not enough, however, and it was testified by Colonel Raymond, of Little and Raymond, special metropolitan agents to the Mutual, that when President McCurdy's son-in-law, Louis A. Thebaud, came

into the firm as partner in 1893 with a one-quarter interest in the net profits, a proportion raised to three-quarters in 1903, the commissions paid on new business were raised for the Raymond agency, so that on 20 year distribution policies 80 per cent. of the first year's premium went to these gentlemen, 10 per cent. of the second year's, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of each of the succeeding six years' payments. On ten year period deferred dividend policies the company allowed 55 per cent. of the first year's premium, and in other years the same rate as for the 20 year policies. Single premium policies were never popular, and now only constitute about 1 per cent. of the entire business done. In 1894 these liberal rates of commission were revised so that the first year's premium only was docked to the limit of 65 per cent., but for the second year 25 per cent. commission was paid, or one-fourth of the premium, on the third year 10 per cent., with $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the succeeding five years. But even this was not enough, as the agency of Little and Raymond had to pay away to sub-agents a good deal of the money, so in 1896 the first premium commission was raised to 80 per cent., and in the end of 1903 still another agreement was made in terms of which the head office took over the control of the sub-agents formerly controlled by Little and Raymond, in which firm Mr. Thebaud, President McCurdy's son-in-law, was now a dominant partner. By way of compensation the firm was now to be allowed to draw for expenses up to an amount equivalent to 96 per cent. of the first year's premiums. Furthermore, the head office of the Mutual Company guaranteed the firm \$17,000,000 of insurance for the year 1904. As a matter of fact, Colonel Raymond said the new business written during that year exceeded \$17,000,000, but "under the contract had it been only \$10,000,000 the Mutual would have had to pay commission on the basis of \$17,000,000 to the firm." Such is the care of a father for his children.

All this, indeed, is highly interesting and instructive, and may be supplemented by the information that the firm was henceforth to receive its renewal commissions in monthly payments. "The previous ten renewals of 10 per cent. each were cut down to six renewals of 6 per cent. each," but care was taken to protect the family from any loss in this direction by guaranteeing a minimum commission on new business, and altogether the McCurdy family seems to have got nearly \$4,000,000 out of the business since 1886, there or thereabouts, more probably rather than less.

Of all the important witnesses that have so far appeared before the commissioners, Mr. Jacob H. Schiff seems to us to come out of the ordeal with most credit. His evidence was extremely frank and instructive as far as we can judge, and the only serious mistake this senior partner in the firm of Kuhn, Loeb and Company made was to become a director of an insurance company on any terms. His own hands seem to have been clean throughout, and although necessarily in his business he had to join syndicates and manage subscriptions for syndicates, he emphatically declared that he had never sold to the New York Life Company any bonds or done anything whatever in his position of director to abuse his trust. Good news that, and some of his opinions as to the morality of the business methods were highly instructive. He agreed, for instance, with Mr. Hughes, the examining counsel, that directors were often of very little practical use, that one man companies were the reverse of admirable, and made it clear, as the *New York Herald* phrases it, that in many important matters the members of committees of finance were mere ciphers. It was all, so far as the New York Life was concerned, Hyde, or Hyde and Alexander. In the course of his evidence Mr. Schiff produced a memorandum relating to a great number of syndicates managed by Kuhn, Loeb and Company during the past ten years and showed who had underwritten the stock to be issued and what profits had been received. Many of these transactions may have been, and probably were in substance, legi-

intimate enough, but not in the manner of their execution. Trust companies, the Equitable Life, and other corporations, took shares in these syndicates, but through them all run the transactions of J. W. Alexander, George H. Squire, and James H. Hyde. So far did the dominance of Hyde go that a document was issued by him, dated February 17, 1902, intimating that from that date forth all participations of the Equitable Life Assurance Society in underwriting syndicates, &c., should be made in the name of "James H. Hyde and associates." "The syndicate includes and represents the Equitable Life Assurance Company of the United States, the Metropolitan Trust Company, the Western National Bank, the National Banking Company, the American Deposit and Loan Company, the Commercial Trust Company of Philadelphia, the Franklin National Bank of Philadelphia, and such personalty as I and my associates may designate." That document was signed by James H. Hyde, vice-president of the Equitable Life Assurance Company of the United States. Most of the syndicates appear to have realised profits, but no light was thrown by Mr. Schiff, and probably none could be thrown, on the destination of these profits. Did they go into the pockets of the syndicate, or were certain small doles handed over to the insurance company and the subsidiary trusts and banks roped in with it, and all under the control of "James H. Hyde and associates"? If the companies, and especially the life company, got any of the profits, was this money afterwards treated by the officials as their own to be distributed in higher salaries, commissions, political bribes for corrupt purposes, and the like? That also is a question which it is impossible to answer from the evidence so far laid before the commission. Mr. Schiff was perfectly ignorant, for instance, of the campaign fund contribution—"never heard of it except," he said, "after the last election I was informed by Mr. Bliss that Mr. Hyde had made a contribution to the Republican campaign fund, but it was not stated whether it was on his own account or for account of the society. So far as I know it was not for account of the society." Well may Mr. Schiff say that his principle of business is to believe every man honest until he finds out to the contrary. We fear the evidence given by other witnesses tends to destroy all confidence in honesty in this kind of business. That Mr. James Hyde should give money of his own to a campaign fund of any sort when he had millions of the insurance company to draw upon is not easy to believe, and we do not believe it. You have but to watch how the "Judge" Hamilton drawings and payments, the corruption funds, were carried into the accounts to become suspicious of everything and everybody connected with these enterprising Yankee money consumers.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE "TIMES" BOOK CLUB ONCE MORE.

Something very like a revolt has, as we expected, occurred amongst retail booksellers against the action of sundry publishers in granting special terms to this new candidate for popular favour. We read in the *Morning Leader* the other day that a representative deputation of these booksellers had waited upon the publishers and told them that the granting of special terms to the *Times* must be stopped, and there is superficially a good deal of justification for this attitude of uncompromising opposition. After having read through the *Times* Book Club catalogue of books it vends and lends, however, we have come to the conclusion that it is unnecessary for the book trade to be very profoundly alarmed. As now conducted the Book Club cannot last long. Its new catalogue is alone enough to bring it into contempt and bury it speedily in oblivion. We regret all the more that it should be

so, because, as was stated in these columns the other week, the club was promising to work a revolution not only in the method of lending, but in that of vending books. All that was wanted was plain dealing throughout and an absolutely reckless expenditure of money. Had the club really succeeded by these means we should have seen a change in the custom of putting out books at excessive prices which, if they sell to a sufficient extent, are almost immediately reissued at a lower price, frequently in handy editions amended and improved to a degree which renders the first and expensive issue nearly worthless. When expensive and other books fail—as the great majority do—they, after a time, pass into what may be called the publishers' "knackers' yard" or remainder list. That is to say the unsold stock is disposed of at low figures to some bookseller who makes this kind of trade his special business, and by him distributed to the trade at what profit he can secure. To our amazement and disgust the new catalogue of the *Times* Book Club is stuffed with this kind of book, with "remainders," bought often for next to nothing, and in this respect is one of the most impudent productions we ever set eyes on. Had the books been offered in the catalogue at equivalent remainder prices it might have been right enough and nobody could have said anything, but they are all, as far as we tested them, put in at the full price, less threepence in the shilling discount, or something of that kind, when not "nett." Dead and done for novels by the hundred, and ephemeral books, the production of special occasions which to our knowledge have been "knackered" years ago, here figure at full prices alongside new publications, and that without the slightest indication of their differing quality or character. That is not the way to treat the British public. The sale of a stale edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" was a sufficiently bold Yankee enterprise, but this kind of thing is tenfold worse, and if the booksellers and librarians will now only have patience, we feel sure they will not have long to wait for the end of an enterprise thus misguided. We regret to have to say now that it does not deserve to succeed. It began well, and in our experience there has yet been no particular delay or difficulty in getting a read of the new books as issued. The distribution has also been generous and on the whole punctual, but when a volume of more than a thousand pages, made up in great part of rubbish, or of bygone books that have had their day, or failed to have it, is put before the subscribers of the *Times* as a straightforward sale or lend catalogue of modern books, and when these books are offered to buyers at perfectly shameless prices, it is time to protest. We have in our own possession several "remainder" books, acquired at less than one-half, sometimes less than one-fourth, the prices at which they are marked in this catalogue. This peculiar kind of smartness may do in the United States but it is not going to do here.

EAST RAND MINING ESTATES.

This company has not yet succeeded in making ends meet, and at the present rate of progress it cannot hope to do so for some time to come. In their report for the financial year to the end of June the directors announce the promising news that the borehole put down near the northern boundary of the farm Dagga-fontein has struck the Main Reef at a depth of 5,540 feet, where the ore body was 36.3 inches in width. A survey of this borehole has been made, which shows that the hole has deviated considerably in a northerly direction into the Grootvlei farm, the actual distance of the reef from the surface of Grootvlei being 4,880 feet. The result of this borehole fully confirms Dr. Hatch's conviction that the Main Reef underlies the whole extent of this farm at a workable depth. As no decision has yet been come to regarding the new gold law of the Transvaal no steps have been taken in connection with the proclamation of the farms and securing of the mynpachts or mining rights which the owners are entitled to claim. A second borehole has

been put down by the Modderfontein Proprietary Mines on the Modderfontein farm and Dr. Hatch anticipates that the reef will be struck at a depth not exceeding 1,800 feet. The same expert expresses his conviction that the Main Reef (known locally as the Nigel reef) will be found to underlie the Vlakfontein farm. Accordingly arrangements are being made to start boring operations here. On the other hand, options originally acquired by the company over portions of farms on the eastern extension of the Rand have now been abandoned, the boring operations carried out in the neighbourhood during the past few years having proved to the satisfaction of the directors that the extension of the Main Reef will not be found in this direction. The cost of the options, £6,760, has been written off the past year's accounts, which is mainly responsible for the expenditure exceeding the income by £7,247. Interest yielded £1,623 in the twelve months, farm revenue brought in £1,485 nett, transfer fees, £216, with about £153 from other sources, so the total sum received was £3,476, whilst the outgoings amounted to £10,723. This increases the deficit in the balance-sheet to £8,602. Current liabilities are only £58, though there is uncalled capital to the tune of £68,072. On the other side there is a loan of £46,300 at call with Messrs. Lewis and Marks, together with cash, £1,374, debtors, £1,121, and shares, £150,181.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: MAY CONSOLIDATED.

The May Consolidated is one of the oldest outcrop mines on the Rand, but it is rapidly nearing the end of its career. Though it has been a consistent, it has not been a big dividend payer, and those who have bought at fat premiums are not likely to make much out of their investment. The following table sets out the record of distributions up to the end of 1904:—

Date.	Divid'nd	Capital.	Amount.		
	Per Cent	£	£	s.	d.
April, 1895	10	265,000	26,500	0	0
September, 1895	10	275,000	27,500	0	0
January, 1896	10	..	..	..	..
January, 1897	10	..	..	..	..
December, 1898	15	..	41,250	0	0
June, 1899	30	288,750	86,625	0	0
December, 1901	15	..	43,312	10	0
June, 1902	15	..	..	..	..
December, 1902	15	..	..	..	..
June, 1903	15	..	..	..	..
December, 1903	17½	..	50,531	5	0
June, 1904	15	..	43,312	10	0
December, 1904	20	..	57,750	0	0
Total	107½	..	561,718	15	0

It will be seen that the highest dividend was paid last year, at the rate of 35 per cent. per annum, a figure that does not promise to be exceeded. A singular characteristic of the company's mine is that the reefs have become thicker and richer at depth than they were in the upper levels; further, that the Main Reef body, which in the early days was considered of little or no value, and scarcely more than payable, has in recent years been reported to be nearly as good as the North reef, which was the richer reef years ago. The company was originally formed in 1887, and in 1894 was reconstructed. Under the scheme the capital was reduced from £450,000 to £275,000 by giving nine shares for every twenty, representing a big loss to the shareholders at that date. In the following year the first dividend was paid, at the rate of 20 per cent., this being made possible by the lopping off of redundant capital. In the same year the price of the share reached 4½, and did not go below 2½. The company has a battery of 100 stamps, but the entire mill did not come into operation until October of last year. Though the extraction per ton of ore, 8.91 dwts., was slightly lower than that for 1903, the management appreciably reduced the working costs. It was ex-

plained that the falling off in value was due to the milling of a larger quantity of the Main Reef, but it is upon this body that the company must largely rely for its future profits. These last year were distributed up to the hilt in giving the shareholders 35 per cent., a record amount, for a balance of only £3,508 was carried forward. It is principally for this reason that we do not look for much higher distributions in the future. Working expenses, too, have now been cut down to such a figure that there is little scope for further economy. But even if dividends are doubled the shares should not be bought at their present prices, despite the recent fall. At 50 per cent. per annum for the rest of the mine's life they would not be remunerative. For a mine of this erratic character it is impossible to say what the life will be. Some authorities put it at four years only, based on the milling of 180,000 tons of ore per annum. Should 170,000 tons be hereafter crushed the mine may last six years. But we will give it a life of seven years, and calculate the yield as high as 14 per cent., so that no one can blame us for conservatism. This would return £98 only out of £100 invested, meaning a minimum loss of £2. As about £12 12s. 6d. would have to be invested annually at 3 per cent. compound interest to redeem the principal, the nett yield would be less than 1½ per cent. per annum, with all risks to be faced. On last year's distribution the loss would, of course, be much greater. Since 1899 the highest and lowest quotations have been:—1899, 6½—3½; 1900, 5½—3½; 1901, 5—3½; 1902, 5½—4½; 1903, 4½—3½; 1904, 4½—3½; 1905, 4½—3½.

THE BOMBAY AND BARODA RAILWAY PURCHASE.

The rumour mentioned by us a fortnight ago to the effect that the Simla Government had decided to give India 3 per cent. stock in part payment for this railway property was then denied, but it turns out to be true all the same. Wednesday's newspapers contained the intimation that the price has been settled and that part payment will be made in 3 per cent. India stock at a discount of 4 per cent. or £96 per £100. The price at which the existing capital stock of the line has been settled is £154 15s. 5d. per cent., and this works out approximately at £11,685,580, the par value of the stock being £7,550,300. To liquidate the obligation thus worked out the company is to be continued with a new capital of £2,000,000, taken at par and guaranteed 3 per cent. interest with a further share in the nett earnings not yet settled. Why these leasehold railway companies continue to exist at all we never could find out, except that it enables boards of directors to continue to enjoy fees and prevents any disturbance or scattering of the existing staffs. After all, what does it matter to the people of India? They have no voice in their affairs, and the more money that can be got out of them the better for their masters. What we most lament, however, in this instance, is that 3 per cent. permanent stock of the Simla Government should be substituted for the annuities hitherto utilised for the redemption of these railways. Through the annuity system, bad though it is in many ways, there was at least the hope that some day the burden of the Indian people would be less. At the end of the annuity term the charges of the capital represented would disappear and the burden be lifted off, so far as the Indian people were concerned. Not so with Government stock. It is there a dead weight for ever, or as long as the present masters of India continue to shape its destinies. The purchase price now settled upon represents a premium of about 55 per cent. on the par value of the capital exclusive of the bonus of 4 per cent., which may or may not prove to be wrapped up in the price of the stock, and the terms are surely extremely liberal. They work out approximately at £26 9s. 9d. in new capital and £133 12s. 6d. in new India 3 per cent. stock, to be given for £100 of Bombay and Baroda stock. Add in the debt of about £3,000,000, made up

of a variety of small issues of debentures which will presently have to be consolidated, and this line will be found to be capitalised at upwards of £15,000,000. Whatever this may be for the proprietors—and certainly it seems an excellent bargain from their point of view—it cannot be described as thrifty finance so far as the people of India are concerned.

Let it not be supposed for a moment that we are blaming the directors for their action. Their first duty was to the stockholders, the people who employ them, and to themselves, and they fought hard and persistently, to such good purpose, indeed, that the bargain made is immeasurably better than that concluded by any of the companies already bought out. And the precedent once laid down will, we suppose, be followed in the case of other purchases to be consummated in the near future until the burden of India's debt promises to grow greater than it can bear, more speedily than ever. Not that the annuity method of providing the purchase price is an ideal one. As we have frequently remarked, there is going to be no end of trouble when the sinking funds in connection with the "B" annuities come to be dealt with, and the loss to the stockholders from the low price at which annuities are always quoted in the market is a very real one. So if proper provision were made for the redemption of the securities now to be created, purchase by means of stock issues might after all be the best in the long run. Full details of the deal are not yet available, and when they are we shall hope, although hardly expect, to find that some provision has been made for the ultimate redemption of the new debt. It will be an agreeable surprise. The British maxim in finance most honoured under all circumstances is: "Let us feather our own nests, come of the next generation what may."

INDIAN PAPER MONEY.

No wonder India flourishes, what with silver bought cheap and sold dear and the steady increase in the Imperial paper money. The two forces together are driving out the gold, as frequent shipments of sovereigns from Bombay demonstrate, but in the meantime everybody is comfortable. The Head Commissioner of the India paper currency says in his report for the past financial year ended on March 31 last that the circulation of paper money has risen by upwards of $4\frac{1}{2}$ lacs of rupees in two years' time, or say £3,000,000, taking the rupee at the conventional fifteen pence. The largest relative increase has been in the five rupee notes, but it is the ten rupee note which is most popular, no less than 7,084,000 notes of that denomination being in active circulation. Including the amount of paper money held in the Government Treasuries and by the Presidency banks at their head offices, the total value of the paper money created and in existence at the end of March last was about Rs. 39,17,60,000. Two years before it was Rs. 35,72,36,000, but the stock of gold in the currency reserve and Treasuries increased during the past year only by about £33,000 to a total of £10,950,000. Of the 7.8 million pounds in gold imported, 5.6 millions were again sent out of the country by the Government, and only 2.2 millions absorbed in the hoards of the people. It is something, however, to find gold absorbed at all, and a proof that in spite of the mismanagement, extravagance, and doctrinaire finance with which India is afflicted, the country possesses wonderful vitality and no small recuperative power. This is, however, to a large extent because of the steady inflow of new capital from the United Kingdom. It may be added that the balance of the gold reserve fund held in England was £8,376,631 at the end of March last, invested in Government stocks and Treasury bills of the nominal value of £8,930,039. This also seems to us strange finance, but there it is. As long as we hide from our eyes the risks run it is bound to be all right, for is not the secret of prosperity "Don't pay; owe"? The currency reserve invested has been increased during the year from about Rs. 10,21,00,000 to Rs.

12,00,00,000, and it earned Rs. 34,70,000 in interest during the year, which was credited as profit on the notes in circulation. The number of counterfeit coins seized and cut during the year steadily increases, no less than 56,385 coins having been detected during the past fiscal year. The wonder is that India is not smothered in false currency.

A MISCELLANEOUS TRUST.

PLEASE NOTE.—To prevent misconception about these trusts we have to state that they are never drawn up to further private or personal interests. When this Review was started in 1892, we gave a pledge that it would never be used to "work the market" in any sense, and that pledge has been faithfully kept; therefore neither the conductors nor any brokers or speculators in the City have any interest in the stocks named in our "model trusts" the stocks in which are selected week by week wholly on their intrinsic qualities as far as known, and we publish the selections solely as a guide to serious investors in using their own judgment, not as a means of working off upon the public stocks bought and held for the rise.

Prices of good securities have now been carried up to such high levels that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find shares yielding an adequate return, but the undernoted list may be considered a very fair one. On an investment of about £800 the average rate per cent. earned works out at £5 18s. 6d. per cent., a figure which, as we have frequently insisted, indicates that a certain amount of risk is involved. Stewarts and Lloyds is a company, the product of various amalgamations in the iron and steel trade, which does a very big business, and the last balance-sheet showed it to be in a strong position, with plenty of readily realisable assets, while the present revival in the industry should help it materially. Joseph Travers and Sons are the well-known wholesale grocers of Cannon Street, a company noted for the shrewdness of its management, and one which has been on the whole successful. The Richmond Gas Stove and Meter Company has built up a connection with the large gas companies for its cooking stoves and other products, and although its "investments" may include rather too large a proportion of shares in the undertakings with which it deals, its position is good. John Oakey and Sons' knife powder is a necessity to all careful housewives, and the vendors were not greedy when the business was turned into a limited liability company, so that it is in no way burdened with a lot of dead weight in the shape of paper assets.

	Nominal Amount.	Price.	Dividend.
	£	£	£ s. d.
10 Stewarts and Lloyds Ordinary....	200	197½	10 0 0
100 Joseph Travers and Sons Ordinary	100	150	10 0 0
20 Richmond Gas Stove Ordinary....	100	193¾	12 10 0
10 John Oakey and Sons Ordinary ..	100	260	15 0 0
	500	801¼	47 10 0

LINOTYPE AND MACHINERY, LIMITED.

We think some slight improvement can be detected in the position of this victim of unscrupulous finance, as revealed in the report and accounts for the 12 months ended June 30 last. The piteous appeal made to the shareholders in December last to come to the rescue and prevent a complete collapse by subscribing for an issue of "A" debenture stock seems to have borne good fruit, although proprietors' hearts might well have been hardened by reflecting on the directorial record of mismanagement and incapacity, to use the mildest terms possible, and really substantial progress has been made in relieving the business of some of its most pressing liabilities. Issued share capital remains at the old figure of £1,950,007, and so does the "B" debenture stock, £750,000, but the "A" debenture stock just mentioned has been increased by £194,317 to £535,826, making the total debenture issue £1,285,826 compared with £1,091,509. Included in the amount subscribed, as we may call it, is the £50,000 which the shareholders of

the old Linotype and Machinery Trust Companies have apparently been induced to take in lieu of the cash payment to that amount to which they were entitled under the terms of amalgamation, so that this item disappears from the debit side of the balance-sheet. Then ordinary loans have been reduced by the big sum of £161,450 to £87,930, only £63,795 or £59,170 less is owing on open accounts and bills payable, and although the creditors' item this time includes balance of debenture interest and guaranteed dividends unpaid, the total floating liabilities have been pulled down from £422,345 to £186,524, a decline of £235,821. This has been partly accomplished from the surplus income and partly by the substitution of fixed debts in the shape of "A" debenture stock as stated, and the indebtedness is now at a figure which the directors consider the undertaking well able to carry, especially bearing in mind the fact that income aggregating £517,191 is still receivable from customers by fixed instalments. The size of this item—it is a trifle up on the year—is partly responsible for the mess in which the company found itself. In the old days when trade was flourishing, and the financial position was not so conspicuously weak, bankers were willing to help the company out of this difficulty of long credits by generous loans, but when the crash came they became more discreet, and the directors had to seek the money elsewhere. We note that the actual sum owing by debtors is £570,078, and that £52,887 has been provided "for bad and doubtful debts, and to write down accruing investments to present value," which is none too encouraging. The cash balance is a trifle better at £45,143. Shares and debentures in kindred and other companies have gone up £21,623 to £356,936, including £27,935 of the company's own debenture stock, and we should like to know the precise value of this huge asset and whether it brings in any revenue, because there is no mention of such in the profit and loss account. Preference and ordinary shares of the company to the amount of £66,110, taken at par, also appear on the credit side of the balance-sheet, but they are in the hands of the liquidator for the completion of the amalgamation, and do not, by the heavy market discount on the shares, imply a further loss to the company, but only to the unfortunate proprietors who will presently, we suppose, secure them. Is there any reason why they have not yet been dealt with? About £5,600 seems to have been allowed as depreciation on the freehold land, works, cottages, &c., plant, machinery, and tools bringing them down to £338,416, and we are glad to note a modest reduction of £39,604 in the stock of linotype and other machines in hand or let on royalty, spare parts and materials at cost £386,457.

This is an item which has been the source of no end of trouble in the past because, as we believe, the directors formerly credited the whole of the income received from royalties to revenue account without considering for a moment that the machines were all the time wearing out, and would sooner or later be fit only for the scrap heap, with the result that the asset gradually became inflated enormously beyond its true worth. We hope folly of that kind exists only in memory now, and shall be glad of assurance on the point. Twelve months back there was a reserve for future expenses of issue, of capital presumably, amounting to £33,197, but this and £1,808 beyond has disappeared during the year in the issue of and discount on debenture stock, so that the balance-sheet now contains a debit of the smaller sum. All this said, there is only one further item in the accounts to mention, and that is the patents and goodwill. They have been increased during the year by about £1,000, and now stand at the staggering figure of £1,833,793, or only £116,214 less than the combined ordinary and preference capital, meaning that the holders thereof have nothing better to represent the enormous sums sunk in the enterprise than a mass of paper assets. It is for this reason, largely, that we can never advise those not already involved to interest themselves in the company, because it is plain that the business can never stand on a solid footing until this item has been severely written down. To deal with it properly—and it will have to be dealt with in some

fashion or other—would mean no dividends of any kind for a great number of years, but the preference dividends are cumulative, and if they are not paid and the money devoted to clearing up the finances, it is only a case of improvement in one direction and piling up the agony in another. Thus the directors are between two fires. What is to be done? We do not know, and must leave the solution of the tangle to those who made it. After deducting £4,987 more at £33,264 for reserves and depreciation, the gross profit is returned at £176,517 or an increase of £1,703 compared with the preceding 12 months, but dividends, interest, rent, &c., were smaller and the entire revenue comes to £182,293, compared with £181,554. Administration charges were pulled down by £2,586 to £28,929 leaving the net balance up by £3,325 at £153,368. Debenture and loan interest takes £72,292, premiums and interest on sinking fund policies £9,464, and dividends payable under guarantee to the Printing Machinery Company £9,414, leaving £62,192. Add £54,271 brought forward and the undistributed surplus is £116,463, but the directors will make no attempt to deal with the arrears of preference dividends "until the floating loans and liabilities of the company are still further reduced, and a reasonable cash reserve established." So far good, but as we have already said the directors' concern for financial stability should not stop here, but should extend to the immense over-burden of promoter's asset, because in no other way can the future be contemplated with equanimity. Two or three weeks ago prices of the shares and debenture stocks were given a small lift in response to rumours that an amalgamation was contemplated with an American enterprise, but the directors make no mention of the matter in their report. Is there any truth in the story?

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF INDIA.

Not much is to be learned about the internal condition of India from the elaborate tables relating to the foreign commerce of that dependency recently published, yet the figures have a certain interest were it only because they show how prone Indian prosperity is to bad recoils. Thus, in the five years ended March 31, 1904, the latest date to which these tables bring the figures down, the imports of merchandise show only intermittent progress, but there has been steady expansion in the imports of Government stores. In the year ended March 31, 1900, private merchandise imported was valued at £47,141,000, taking the rupee at the conventional 15 to the £. In 1901-2 this figure rose to £54,346,000, but dipped again in the succeeding year to £52,525,000, only to rise again in the final year of the five to £56,549,000. In the same period the imports of Government stores rose steadily from £3,062,000 in the first year of the five to £5,179,000 in the last. Exports likewise show fluctuation, the famine year of 1900-1 showing a dip of rather more than £1,000,000 to £69,440,000. In the succeeding years, however, the rise has been rapid, until in 1903-4 the total was £99,756,000. All these figures relate to merchandise alone, but it must never be forgotten that the returns are complicated by the operations of the Government, not only in stores but in bullion, and when treasure is added in the aggregate value of the imports shows an almost uninterrupted upward movement, which is even more distinctly emphasised in the aggregates of the exports. Leaving out Government stores imported, the increase in the value of the imports on the five years was £11,525,000 comparing 1899-1900 with 1903-4, but in the exports the increase was the comfortable looking figure of £29,300,000. In the aggregate, including treasure and exports of Government stores, the trade of India out and in amounted in the latest year to date to £199,786,000. Whether these figures include the land frontier trade or not we cannot be sure from the form in which the tables are given. Throughout the classification is indicated in a most slovenly fashion which may be the fault of the printer.

We infer, however, that the aggregates just stated do include the frontier trade, since a comparison is

given showing the progress of the excess of exports over imports. It was quite splendid in 1903-4, amounting to almost £24,962,000, as against £13,841,000 in 1899-1900, and only £10,983,000 in the following year. At its highest, however, this excess value of exports over imports is not nearly sufficient to cover the home charges for interest, pensions, salaries, stores, and such like every year required by the Indian Government and the European controllers of the administration and business of that dependency. Hence our contention that the finances of India rest upon an unsecured and precarious foundation. Were it not for the continual additions to the debt of India raised here it would not only be impossible to maintain the artificial exchange now ruling, but to meet in any way the full measure of the charges payable in London. These are disguised to a large extent by the method in which the Simla Government renders its accounts, and also by the fact that drawings upon the Indian treasuries from London are systematically reduced by the London borrowings. Including profits drawn by English companies from India, freights paid to British shipping for the carriage of Indian goods, and private remittances of all descriptions, we do not think the annual demands of England upon India can now be put at much less than £35,000,000 per annum. It was about £30,000,000 a good many years ago, and every year sees that total grow.

A good deal of the import trade of India exists to supply the British members of her administration, and the wants of the Government as well as of the general European and Eurasian populations embraced in the Peninsula. Where the undiluted native is a consumer, as in the case of cotton piece goods, the trade does not appear to be particularly progressive, certainly has not been so in the last five years whose figures are before us, for the highest total in that period was for 1901-2, when cotton piece goods to the value of £19,434,000 were imported, as against £18,310,000 in 1903-4. No other commodity of foreign manufacture, including in that word British productions, attains to anything like this magnitude in the trade totals. The aggregate import of metals is no doubt large, but only amounted to £6,197,000 worth in the latest year named, and the imports of cutlery were valued in the same year at only £1,468,000. Altogether the value of metals and the manufactures thereof amounted to £10,919,000 in that year, and it was the highest of any year in the five, but much of this importation was unquestionably for European consumption.

Even more significant are the statistics relating to the exports of articles of Indian produce and manufacture. There the largest single class of native productions in 1903-4 was raw cotton, which jumped up to an export value of £16,251,000. The quantity, however, did not go up so fast, the expansion being much more a matter of price than bulk. In fact the increase in the value was more than double the increase in the quantity—fully 65 per cent., as against little more than 31 per cent. Altogether the value of Indian raw and unmanufactured materials exported came in 1903-4 to £41,783,000, and the highest total in any of the preceding four years was that for 1901-2, £35,893,000. Next to cotton comes rice, in the latest figures available, and the exports of rice have been steadily progressive all the five years through, even in the year of famine. Not so the exports of wheat, which in the famine year were valued at little more than £20,000 against a value of £7,393,000 for 1903-4. Opium is another and for the present a better standby, to England's shame, the exports of that dangerous drug have ranged in value from £5,469,000 in 1899-1900 to £6,980,000 in 1903-4. Tea is also an important commodity in the Indian export list, but its value was less in the three last years of the quinquennium under review than in the two first, the highest figure being £6,367,000 in 1900-1, the famine year, and the lowest £4,908,000 in 1902-3. The total for 1903-4 showed again some expansion, but it cannot be said that any Indian product, except rice, is in a stable position,

occupying a sure place in the markets of the world, and able to hold that place. For all that the trade of India looms large and is expanding, an increasing proportion of it, moreover, is carried on with foreign countries. In 1903-4, for instance, the aggregate value of the Peninsula's exports to the United Kingdom and British possessions together was £46,633,000 against £53,123,000 sent to other countries, European, Asian, African, and American. India's trade with the United States of North America ranged between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000 in the five years embraced in the return, and a large direct business is also done with France, Germany, Belgium, Austro-Hungary, Italy, and Holland. These facts were not within the purview of the Birmingham tariffites when they commenced their crusade for the "unity of the Empire" under a cast-iron tariff, but we are glad to note such a movement in Indian trade because it increases the hope of great progress to come—if only India were delivered from the curse of militarism and given some voice in the management of her own affairs.

LAKE VIEW CONSOLS.

Readers are aware that just recently this company has decided to take a substantial interest in a Broken Hill property, called the Broken Hill South Blocks, and we have commented somewhat severely upon the haste with which the transaction was rushed through. We hinted, too, that this purchase probably gave some clue to the opinions of the directorate upon the value and prospects of the Lake View mine itself. In fact, for a long time past it has been officially admitted that its future is very uncertain, therefore very precarious, and this view is supported by the contents of the directorial report for the year ending June 30. The mine will last some time longer, but it is evidently rapidly nearing its end, and it will not be long before shareholders will, in all likelihood, receive their last dividend from it. There can be no objection, therefore, to the purchase of an interest in another property of promise, but there is very serious objection to the manner in which the shareholders were treated. The new property was suddenly offered to them as a kind of pig in a poke, and they were ordered to buy it with a pistol held at their heads. In some respects the report before us is a satisfactory document; in other respects discouraging, particularly with regard to prospects. During the year 110,326 tons of ore were mined and treated for a return of £187,938, at an average yield of only 7.98 dwts. per ton, or 34s. 0.8d., and in addition 10,270 tons of old tailings were re-treated for a revenue of £5,560. Total expenditure on working account was £139,425; on development £27,184, and on ordinary construction and equipment £1,415, showing a gross profit of £28,749, equal to 5s. 2.62d. per ton. After adding income from interest, rebates on purchases, transfer fees, &c., and deducting other items of outlay, the above profit is cut down to £25,146 nett, to which £4,669 from the previous year has to be added. A dividend of one shilling per share will take £17,500, the general manager's remuneration £175, and the West Australian dividend duty £875, leaving £11,265 to be carried forward. Loans, bullion, and cash assets total £114,691 against £2,370 owing to sundry creditors, so the finances are strong enough. It is pointed out by the auditors that since the incorporation of the company the sum of £670,804 has been spent on buildings, plant, and mine development, of which £654,691 represents the amount provided out of revenue. Working costs have again been appreciably reduced from 28s. 4d. per ton to 24s. 8d., and a further substantial saving has been made in the past three months. These are the only satisfactory points. Ore reserves again show a falling off in quantity and grade. At the end of the year they stood at 87,001 tons of an average value of 8.5 dwts., a decline of 1.3 dwts. per ton. Since the close of the financial year a sum of £5,000 has been advanced to the Siberian Gold Dredging Company on a first mortgage in consideration of 50,000 fully paid shares, whilst the

directors have taken an interest of £5,000 in the Inca Gold Development Corporation of Peru, the inducement being an option to take up a section of 30 miles of the Inambari River for dredging. It is to be hoped the company will not spread its interests too widely.

THE WEEKLY STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS.

Bankers and business people in the United States are much exercised over the "faking" of this return, to use an expressive vulgarism. There can be no doubt whatever that the Associated Banks do often cook their weekly balance-sheets so as to disguise the ravages made upon their reserves by the withdrawal of currency. How they do it, however, does not seem to be very well understood. We cannot profess to comprehend the trick as described. The accusation made against the banks is that in order to disguise their weakness they transfer large amounts of their loans to trust companies, those dangerous credit fabricators which are a law unto themselves and under no obligation whatever to make any regular exhibit of their position. Probably this is so, but it cannot be the whole story. We find, for example, that between August 5th and last week the cash reserve of the Associated Banks fell off nearly £9,000,000, at the same time that their nett deposits decreased by upwards of £34,000,000 and their loans and discounts by more than £23,000,000; and we can understand the reduction in this last item by a transfer of the liabilities to the trusts. There, however, is no necessary relation, it seems to us, between this transfer and the reduction in the nett deposits. If the trusts take over the loans they must issue some form of money against the stocks pawned with them, else the transfer would be valueless to holders of the securities. And surely these advances must go into the balance-sheets of the banks as deposits, &c., unless the trusts themselves conduct the necessary banking business.

Even so, however, some trace of their credit distilling operations ought to appear in the bank balance-sheets. Supposing a similar operation were to take place here and that we had a number of companies who conducted a mortgage business and did contangoing, as we call it, on a gigantic scale unconnected with the banks; imagine, further, that pressure upon our banks compelled them to transfer a large portion of their Stock Exchange business to these outside institutions; they would get their loans reduced in this manner, but the concerns that took the pawned stuff over would have to give money, the currency of the market, banking credit, in exchange, else the transfer would be perfectly valueless. If they did this the money or credit they released or put against the securities deposited must come into the market, be paid to the banks, and find its way into their balance-sheets, swelling out their deposits. This is what puzzles us, then, about the cooking of the returns of the New York Associated Banks. Where does the money resulting from the transfer of securities from the banks to the trusts go? Is it dispersed throughout the Republic, taken away from the New York market altogether? There is no proof or probability that it is so, and because of the impossibility of seeing all round this alleged trickery with the aid of the trusts, we lean to the opinion that the transfer of loans and discounts is made to European markets. Were this the operation, the decrease in the nett deposits would in great measure correspond with the decline in the loans and advances, and the extent of our Stock Exchange commitments in Yankee securities of all descriptions is such as to lead us to seek the explanation of the mystery in this direction. The trusts, indeed, could do very little by themselves, for they have next to no money, all their means being involved in Stock Exchange operations, invested in syndicates, pools, underwritings, and what not. If they withdrew their deposits with the banks in order to take up loans the banks were calling in, the effect on the Money market would be inappreciable, because those to whom they lent their deposits would have to

use them to repay the banks. It would be otherwise if the loans were transferred to London, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, or Berlin, or to all these markets in a body. Then both advances and deposits would be reduced, and this, we think, is what has taken place. There are other accusations hurled against the honesty of the New York banks—dodging the facts by means of averages and so on—but we cannot now pursue the subject further.

FRENCH THRIFT.

A French banker of great ability and experience has written to pitch into us for our pessimistic views about the financial position in Paris. He is quite right, but yet belabours us to some extent from a misapprehension of what we meant. In speaking of the difficulties which seem to us to hover over the French credit market at the present time we were not thinking at all of the marvellous saving capacity of the French people, but of the, probably transitory, complications produced by the existing condition of Russian finance and the severe and as yet unliquidated losses rising out of the collapses in the sugar trade. Who, for instance, bears the loss of the Cronier defalcations? That the French people will surmount their losses we have no doubt at all, but we are not so sure that some of the finance companies and banks can escape without losses which might prove unbearable. Our correspondent computes, and his estimate is, we think, an extremely moderate one, that in mere savings alone the French people accumulate quite £100,000,000 per annum, the product of previous investments. That is to say, they gather this in exclusive of their current profits in trade and other earnings. Their previous investments, in other words, roll up at this rate year by year. It must be something like this, else France could not have withstood the many blows levelled against her during the past generation; could not have surmounted the appalling demands made upon her resources by the victorious Prussians. All this we know and recognise. We hope, therefore, our correspondent will not run away with the idea that we doubt the capacity of the French people to withstand the effects of great and sudden losses. They may flinch, but they will not succumb. We only hope their wonderful thrift may enable their finance houses and banks, some of which have done a pretty reckless trade for a good many years past, to escape the worst consequences of their imprudence. It was of them and their position we were thinking. How much have the French lost in the Kaffir market, and how much more are they likely to lose? Split up among the many the individual loss may not ruin the small investor, nor perhaps seriously cripple him, but it must for some time curtail the accumulative capacities of many among those who save, and if the finance houses are over-weighted with the rubbish, how are they to recuperate?

THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND REFORM.

So far, the conflict between the proprietors of the Stock Exchange and the membership at large has ended in a drawn battle, it having been agreed at the meeting held on Tuesday last in the sitting-room of the Stock Exchange that a conference between the committee and the managers should take place with a view to put an end to the dispute. We gave some account of this dispute last week, and sincerely trust that some *modus vivendi* may be hit upon, for the soreness now existing cannot be allowed to endure without risk of injuring the efficiency of the market in many directions. On the whole, our sympathies are with the general body of members. It is not equitable that their affairs should in ultimate resort be at the mercy of a small body of proprietors represented by a group of managers, excellent and honourable men all, gentlemen, too, in the best sense of the word though they be, and that the whole of the great revenues of the Stock Exchange should be completely outside the control of the membership at large. Certainly the new system of voting proposed by the managers does not seem to be

equitable. As matters now stand 1,066 holders of from one to nine shares can cast 1,238 votes, while holders of 10 shares and upwards numbering 376 can cast 1,128 votes. But under the scheme proposed by the managers, although the holders of from one to nine shares would have their votes increased to 2,442, the voting power of the 376 holders of 10 shares and upwards would find their voting capacity raised to 7,163 votes. That cannot be right. At present the large proprietors are in a slight minority, whereas under the new scheme they would have a permanent majority it would be impossible for the general body of members to surmount. Apparently the managers are anxious to prevent the influx of what may be called the democracy into the government of the market, but they will have to give way lest worse befall.

UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC RAILWAYS COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED.

The issue of the annual report of this gigantic enterprise made up to June 30 last provides the occasion for one or two interesting and suggestive reflections. It is the profit-sharing notes that we have in mind. These, it may be recalled, were issued to the public in June, 1903, the first emission being for £5,000,000, now increased to £7,000,000, half on New York and half on London. The proceeds were required for the construction and equipment of three tube railways—the Baker Street and Waterloo, the Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton, and the Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead—and for the electrification of the Metropolitan District Railway. Some of the money has also, we believe, been used in securing a controlling interest in the London United Tramways. At any rate the company or those connected with it possess such controlling interest that it amounts to the same thing in the long run. The notes issued are secured by a trust deed in favour of the London and Westminster Bank, the bankers receiving the proceeds and handing them out against the deposit of certain securities taken at an arbitrary valuation for the purposes of the deed. These securities consist primarily of the share capitals of the three tube railways mentioned, together with certain other assets, the whole being considered worth £10,000,000, with a deposit value of 70 per cent. of that sum. Now the redemption of the notes is fixed for June 1, 1908, and it is as this date approaches that one begins to wonder what will then happen. It is clearly in the minds of the directors that before redemption time comes round all the works and construction undertaken will be finished, and that the shares of the new tube companies will have become a marketable commodity, as not only the profit which it is assumed might accrue to the holders of the profit-sharing notes, but the provision of the actual money for their redemption depends upon the successful placing of the above-mentioned shares with the investing public. Do you begin to follow? Suppose when the time arrives it is not possible to place these shares with the investor, will the holder of the profit-sharing notes be compelled to take them in lieu of cash? And suppose that the railways do not pay—the tubes so far built have been anything but brilliant successes—is there not a possibility that instead of cash the noteholder may receive only a lot of paper, perhaps worth nothing near its face value? These are interesting and suggestive reflections, and proprietors had better ponder deeply over them. Because they provided solid cash, are they going to get cash back? The possibilities of profit we leave out of account altogether, because nothing is payable unless the tube shares sell above 95 per cent. of their face value, and that we should consider a very unlikely contingency.

We have not the space to record in detail the work accomplished on the various undertakings during the past year, but satisfactory progress seems to have been made, and by November 1 next the last steam train will have run over the District system. The new car shops at Mill Hill Park, which have been equipped with the most modern and up-to-date appliances, are in full

use, and it is expected that a large saving in expenditure will result. We hope so, because the change to electricity has not brought brilliant traffics to the District yet, and few seem to realise that the gross take must increase by something like £200,000 a year, or £4,000 a week, before a dividend on District ordinary is possible. Can that figure be reached? It is hard to say, but we have our doubts. The power house at Chelsea is apparently now finished, and as regards the tube railways, it is hoped that the Baker Street and Waterloo will be opened for public traffic in March next, the Great Northern, Brompton, and Piccadilly before the end of 1906, and the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead in the early part of 1907. As regards the London United Tramways, whose finances are being handled in a fashion we much dislike, it appears that good progress is being made by the contractors in the construction of the tramways in Kingston, Surbiton, the Maldens, and between Brentford and Hanwell. These lines are expected to be completed during the present year, and will link up important centres of population, and connect with the company's main system of electric tramways in Middlesex and the London Central area.

It now only remains to deal with the figures of the balance-sheet, and these, we need hardly say, are very impressive. Ordinary share capital issued is the same, £2,500,000, and so are the profit-sharing notes, £7,000,000, but during the year the company has issued on its own account £700,000 4½ per cent. debenture stock on the security of the power house, and received an additional amount of £1,947,053, bringing the total to £2,583,379, in respect of construction contracts, the proceeds, we imagine, of the debenture issues of the Charing Cross and Great Northern, Piccadilly Railways made in March last. Liability in respect of Parliamentary deposits has been increased by £142,383 to £345,477, but about £54,000 less at £522,548 is due to sundry creditors. Against all this we find that a further 3¼ million sterling or thereabouts has been spent on railway construction, bringing the total to £8,257,591, and an additional £392,144 on the power house at Chelsea, making £1,218,697 up to June 30. Parliamentary deposits, too, have increased from £277,256 to £504,065, and it has been necessary to draw heavily on the cash balances formerly reaching just on £2,000,000. Of this huge sum £674,699 has been put into fixed investments, and £147,136 remains at short call or on hand, so that a lot over a million sterling has been laid out over and above the heavy sums received. Investments in stocks and shares at cost, no details given, are a little bigger at £2,530,120, and the total of the balance-sheet is £13,651,354, compared with £10,915,971, figures which set one thinking.

Passing Events.

It is stated on the "best authority," so says Reuter's Santiago correspondent, that the Nitrate Combination will be renewed for a further period, "thus maintaining the high price and the consequent prosperity of the industry." No one doubted for a moment that the negotiations would result in a further agreement, and the new compact will run for the same period as the last, five years. The nitrate production for the current year has been fixed at 39 million quintals, and with every prospect that the consumption will be great there should be no difficulty in maintaining quotations.

The officials of the Russian Government, consisting of two commissioners appointed by the Ministry of Finance, and the representatives of the Baku oil companies, have formed vastly different estimates of the amount of damage done to the oilfields during the recent riots. There is practical agreement regarding the percentage of derricks destroyed, the Government figures, indeed, being slightly the larger at 60, but the authorities put the money loss incurred at only 19,776,000 roubles compared with the company's esti-

mate of 26,700,000, besides an additional amount of 13,300,000 which will be required to reinstate the plant owing to the big rise in the cost of materials. The companies' committee says that the Government assessment of losses confines itself solely to those sustained above ground, leaving out of account the considerable destruction done beneath the surface in the shape of stopping up the pipes of the wells with foreign bodies, half-burnt wreckage, &c., to cover which some 7,000,000 roubles must be added. Thus the producers put their total losses at just about double the Government figures, and we incline to the view that the companies are nearer the mark. But if they can induce the authorities to pay the sum admitted within a reasonable period they will perhaps do well to submit and be thankful, because money promises to be hard to squeeze from the Russian Government for many a long day.

The Consolidated Electrical Company has never been a conspicuously successful enterprise, no more so than the Consolidated Telephone Construction and Manufacturing Company, which it was formed to take over, and shareholders have just been informed that part of the business is to be shorn off, but many essential details regarding the operation are at present held back. Negotiations seem to have been going on for some time for the sale of the works at Canonbury and the manufacturing business carried on there, and these have now been brought to a successful issue, the Consolidated Supply Company, Limited, having been created to take them over as from March 31 last. This concern will have a capital of £50,000 in equal amounts of ordinary and preference £1 shares, and the purchase price of the mentioned works will be satisfied partly in cash and partly by the allotment of 15,000 of the preference shares, besides a further sum in cash sufficient to defray the administration expenses since March 31. It is, of course, usual when deals like this are in contemplation to mention the purchase price, but the directors of this concern are above such petty considerations as that. The price, we are told, for the premises and business "has been agreed at the amount representing the same in the last balance-sheet," and it is only by turning back to the report of the annual meeting, when the subject was mentioned, that we can arrive at the figure, £19,700. Certain voting rights have been agreed to in order to safeguard the interests of the Electrical Company, and any advances which it may make to the Supply Company will be secured by first charge debentures. Moreover, in order that shareholders may have an opportunity of interesting themselves directly in the new venture, the directors have secured them the right to subscribe for 5,000 of the preference shares, but whether they will appreciate the directorial thoughtfulness is rather doubtful. It is, however, only fair to state that a few days after the details of this scheme were sent to the shareholders the directors announced the payment of the whole of the preference dividend arrears, "in consequence of the great improvement recently effected in the financial position."

The directors of Jones and Higgins, the well-known Peckham drapery and furnishing business, are asking the shareholders to agree to sundry important alterations in the articles of association. Hitherto it has been necessary to put a fixed proportion of the profits aside each year, the articles having been made particularly stringent when the company was formed, owing to the fact that a large part of the property consisted of leaseholds; but the directors now wish to use their own discretion in the matter, being influenced by the circumstance that the whole of the property is freehold, while the reserve, apart from the premium on the debenture stock, reaches £58,000, or almost one-half the share capital. Another alteration will have the effect of giving the directors and managers one-third of each year's profits after the payment of a 7 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, concerning which the shareholders will no doubt be given full particulars, and if these are forthcoming, and seem adequate, there

is no obvious reason why the proposals in their entirety should not be agreed to, because the directors have always conducted the company's affairs with such prudence and foresight that we cannot imagine them now doing anything inimical to its interests.

The *Pall Mall Gazette*, which has all along been very well informed on the subject, now tells us that the Colonial Office refuses to listen to the protests of the West Indian Colonies, and has definitely declined to reconsider the question of the mail contract. Thus the islands, for the welfare of which we have always pretended to be so solicitous, are left without the slightest guarantee for a prompt and efficient mail service, because although the Royal Mail Company, which has been so shabbily treated over the matter, continues to maintain fortnightly communication, this can hardly be expected to go on unless the amount of business offering is sufficient to warrant the employment of the company's best boats, as the mails at ordinary poundage rates cannot possibly pay alone. Apparently the only hope for the Colonies lies in a change of Government, and of that unfortunately there is no immediate prospect.

The final dividend of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the nine months ended September 30, just announced by the South Durham Steel and Iron, deserves special mention, because of the company's connection with the Cargo Fleet Iron, another Christopher Furness enterprise. It may be recalled that some little time ago, when things were going very badly with the South Durham and preference dividends were heavily in arrear, shareholders in that concern were offered an exchange into Cargo Fleet shares at par, at the rate of 12s. 6d. for the preference and 8s. for the ordinary shares. For reasons fully explained at the time we advised proprietors not to entertain any such proposal, but to stick to their holdings and hope for the best. Those who did so, unhappily a very small proportion, now have the satisfaction of seeing their preference shares quoted at par and the ordinary at about 26s., and as Cargo Fleet shares are worth only about 22s., the gain to the lucky few is enormous. In addition to paying the ordinary dividend above mentioned, the South Durham caught up 6 per cent. of preference arrears, and with the marked revival now noticeable in the iron and steel trades, the company ought to have a prosperous time ahead, notwithstanding its enormous over-capitalisation.

The *Financial News* says the following scheme of Kaffir reform has been sent to it:—(1) Let us have all yearly and half-yearly meetings held in London, and have the offices in the same place. (2) Let us get rid of some of the present chairmen and all guinea-pig directors. (3) Do not let the iniquitous practice continue of allowing chairmen to become chairmen of several companies and directors of from 12 to 16, as this means neglect of certain companies for the benefit of others, and is not honest. (4) Let us get rid of all figure-heads, have the accounts overhauled, and so reduce the expenditure. This is Utopian, and as impracticable as asking the mine bosses to cut their own throats, or to be honest men. But it helps to show how the public are becoming more alive to the iniquities of the hypocrites they once dreamt were their only benefactors. They would not listen to those who in the past criticised and denounced the dishonesty of these avaricious cosmopolites. Time and experience, however, have opened the eyes of the blindest. Should the above ambitious scheme ever be realised it will be a sure sign of the advent of the millenium, when boss and investor will share and share alike.

According to market rumour the negotiations which have been proceeding for some time past for the sale of certain claims belonging to the Banket Company have now been concluded, the title of the new company to be the Rhodesia Banket Extensions, Limited. We may be sure there has never been any quarrelling over such negotiations, and that all has been most amicably planned out for the exploitation of the public. It is impossible to conceive of any differences arising

in the promotion of a scheme for fleecing "mugs," nor that they would be "concluded" the moment it seemed likely the fools would come in. These vague reports are circulated presumably as a means of ascertaining how "the land lies." Will a prospectus be published, we wonder? Or will the shares be introduced in the market in the same fashion as were those of the Banket Company? The publication of a prospectus, complete in all details, would amaze us. But why is even a prospectus needed to warn the public? Is not Dr. Garthwaite's report a sufficient warning, to say nothing of the persistent peddling-out of Bankets by Mr. Abe Bailey and other promoters and vendors? The wise and cautious man needs no other evidence than this of the danger of the "banket" share-laying.

The Board of Trade have issued the figures relating to the oversea commerce of foreign nations up to the end of July, so far as all countries are concerned, and up to the end of August for Belgium, France, and the United States. In all instances these statistics bear testimony to the revival of business, and if we look at the figures for the eight months alone we find the United States imports up by nearly £21,000,000 and the exports £23,000,000 larger than they were for the first eight months of 1904. In like manner French imports have risen by nearly £4,000,000, while the exports have risen by about £7,000,000, in the same time that our imports have expanded by nearly £5,000,000 and our exports by almost £6,000,000. It is the like for the shorter period with the trade of Italy, Egypt, Japan, and Canada, although in most of these instances the expansion has been small. Belgium, however, goes ahead with great energy, and in imports especially shows a largely increased business for the current year, whether we take the seven or the eight months. In Spain, however, the trade has been poor, at least the export trade, although the imports of that country have risen by nearly £3,500,000. The exports of Austro-Hungary have also fallen off, not only compared with last year, but compared with two years ago, but in every instance imports were better, and upon the Birmingham theory of the balance of trade that ought to mean steady progress towards ruin for the countries thus afflicted.

How are we to believe in the financial health of the Russian Empire when we find its Government struggling with famine? A mixed commission was recently appointed under the presidency of Mr. Vatatsi, of the Ministry of the Interior, to investigate the best means of affording assistance to the famine-stricken provinces of the empire, and as a result of its deliberations it now advises the Government to grant a lump sum of 25,000,000 roubles (upwards of £2,500,000) to the provinces of Saratoff, Samara, Riazan, Tula, Orloff, and Penza, the money to be expended in providing the suffering populations with the means of support during the winter and with seed for the autumn and spring sowing. It is to be feared that the sum asked for is not half enough, but how is the smooth rotundity of the Imperial Budget to be maintained in spite of gaps like this taken out of it? There was no mention of grants to avert death from starvation in the nicely-adjusted paragraphs and tabular statements of the Finance Minister.

We are sorry to see that the connection of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son with the London and North-Western Railway Company's bookstalls is to cease on December 31. Apparently the new contractors, Messrs. Wyman and Co., Limited, are to take over the business of newspaper supply on the Great Western Company's lines likewise, the companies, or at any rate the North-Western Company, retaining the advertising part of the business, hitherto in Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son's hands, to be administered by themselves. Doubtless the public will gain by this small revolution, at least, we hope it may, and Messrs. Wyman promise greater rapidity of distribution and privileges of various kinds, which should conduce to the increased consumption of printed matter of all kinds with which bookstalls have made us familiar. But Messrs. Smith are not going to give up the fight.

They will open shops in many of the towns hitherto supplied from their bookstalls, and for some time a healthy, if far from profitable, rivalry may be set up, between the old contractors and the new. This also may benefit the public, and we do not at all blame the railway companies for endeavouring to do the best they could for their stockholders with the valuable privileges their boards have it in their power to lease. Messrs. Smith and Son naturally dwell with pride on the fact that they have served the public through the bookstalls of the North-Western Railway for more than 50 years, and seem to have the thought that this should have given them a perpetual lease of these bookstalls, but if the board of the company thought otherwise it was quite within its rights, and there is nothing more to be said. Apparently the new contractors have met the demands of the company in a way Messrs. Smith and Son were not prepared to do. That firm, indeed, came to the conclusion that the business now done at their stalls did not warrant them in submitting to be squeezed any further, and they, too, were quite right. But the public will take some time to get familiar with the new order of things.

Several items of interest are worth extracting from this week's issue of the *Times' Financial and Commercial Supplement*, one of the best things that journal now gives the public. We learn, for instance, that an Indo-China loan for £3,200,000 in $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. bonds is to be issued on the 21st inst. in Paris at 90 per cent., the bonds to be free of income-tax in France and its colonies. Also we learn that the National Bank of Mexico is about to increase its capital by issuing 60,000 new shares of \$100 each to be offered at 85¢, or \$340, at the rate of two new shares for nine old ones with a right to the holders of founders' shares to one new share for two founders' shares.

More interesting still are the particulars with reference to Argentine finance contained in the letter from Buenos Ayres, dated September 15. From this we gather that a loan of £7,936,500, or \$40,000,000 gold, or \$90,000,000 paper is to be issued, partly for the reduction of provincial paper money in circulation, partly to find the means for executing public works in the country, including the completion of the Colon Theatre and the repurchase of the private boxes therein, which were sold by the original concessionnaire to enable him to raise money to build the theatre. The loan is to be a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. one with $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. sinking fund, and may be issued either at home or abroad. We may be quite sure it will find its way here. The security is to be a charge on the land-tax and licence duties which the municipality receives from the National Government. The gold loan of 1888 is not included in the conversion project.

Mention is also made of the wide speculation in the cédulas of the Provincial Hypothecary Bank. A year ago these were sold at 15, and at the date of the writing they were quoted at 43, although the Government has not given the slightest indication of any intention to pay more than the 17 per cent. agreed to in the Bemberg arrangement. The rise, however, is founded on the discovery that the port lands of La Plata were charged with loans from the Hypothecary Bank, the capital and arrears of interest, &c., of which now amount to \$40,000,000 paper. It is added that the amount of cédulas in circulation is now about \$160,000,000, so that if the claim against the bank for this La Plata debt can be made good, the composition paid by the insolvent institution ought to be about 50 per cent.

Thanks to a round £1,200,000 paid over by the Post Office, last week's Exchequer receipts amounted to £2,976,000, but the total expenditure was £3,080,000, so that the bank balances were further reduced by £104,000. Customs yielded £754,000, Excise £688,000, but income tax only £77,000. There is no trace in the figures of any help obtained from the bank to pay the dividends.

A correspondent writes to suggest that the articles on American life insurance methods, and especially last week's one, should be reprinted and issued under the title of "Fire Out the Ghouls." This looks a little excessive, and yet the moral obliquity attending the conduct of these alien businesses baffles description.

We should be quite ready to reprint the articles if there were sufficient demand for them, but shall not speculate in reprints. The same correspondent suggests the question whether people in this country, even if they could call in their money at once, would trust American banks in the same manner they have been trusting American life offices. Probably they would if the same kind of bait were put forward. The multitude will trust anybody, the greatest thief on earth for choice above all honest men, if said thief will only plausibly advertise and proclaim his desire and capacity to make said multitude's fortune.

At the instance of the London manager of the Canada Life Assurance Co., Limited, we have again gone carefully through its balance-sheets for the past six years and compared the results with those of earlier dates. The consequence, we regret to say, has been not only to confirm but to deepen the unfavourable impression previously entertained by us, and expressed in the article published in *THE INVESTORS' REVIEW* on the 30th ult., now out of print. The company appears to be in the position where extravagant expenditure and irresponsible "one-man-power" management are contributing to land it in difficulties such as now surround the three notorious Yankee institutions. Already outspoken criticism upon the despotic position of Senator Cox and the relations of the insurance company to some of that gentleman's other corporations has made itself heard in the Dominion, going to lengths, judging from the sample we have seen, much beyond what we have thought necessary. Political partisanship has doubtless intensified the criticisms of the *Toronto World*, but there is a solid basis for these criticisms, as policy-holders and honorary directors appear likely to find out at no distant date unless reforms are speedily and strenuously effected.

Lamentable indeed is the condition of the travelling Londoner as analysed by the engineers to the Royal Commission on London Street Traffic. Loss of time, loss of money, wear and tear of nerves—these are what the great majority of those who have to go backwards and forwards in pursuit of their daily avocations have to suffer, and there is really no remedy. It might be that after many years the cost of building broad thoroughfares, north and south, east and west, to render London habitable in comfort—a civilised city—would be recouped, directly or indirectly, to the ratepayers, but, meanwhile, where is this money to be found, and how are the citizens to meet the charges its finding would lay upon them? Taxes and rates devour them now; a little more and the metropolis will become unendurable. It would take £50,000,000 to raise London to what it should be in the matter of thoroughfares and street facilities for locomotion, and the money could not now be raised, thanks to the economic consequences of that most disastrous South Africa war, except on terms cruel to those called upon to pay for it.

The chairman of the Rio Tinto Company has confirmed our statement of the price at which the new shares are to be offered, with this difference. Although, said he, they will probably be offered at £65 cum dividend, this will mean a nett price of £61 if the final dividend is equal to the interim one recently declared. But, surely, if the shares are to be paid up now there will be a loss of interest until the final dividend is paid? If so, the price will not be £61 nett. Should the payments be deferred, that will, of course, be another matter. A confirmatory meeting to make the resolutions just passed absolute is to be held on the 3rd prox., and immediately afterwards, "unless the financial atmosphere has become stormy," the directors will issue the new shares in the proportion of one for seven. In meantime, it must be admitted, there is time and scope for financial storms, as the chairman seems to fear.

Yesterday's *Pall Mall Gazette* contains a very fair example of that befogging of the public mind against which its contributor sneers and girds so assiduously,

devoting his insolence to the opponents of Chinese labour here. He professes to review the Chinese question in South Africa as it presents itself to one on the spot, and argues obviously from the mine bosses' point of view, that extraneous labour was necessary and that the Chinaman's place could not be filled were he immediately repatriated. This is not the question. What people in this country resent much more than the actual presence of the Chinese is the fraudulent nature of the contract under which the men are brought on to the Rand, and the brutality of their treatment when there. We are quite willing to admit that if the hard-working Chinaman had been allowed to come freely to this new field for labour and to make his bargain on the spot with the masters of the mines he might have done, probably would have done, excellent and profitable work. As it is he is a slave subject to the lash, defrauded of his pay in a variety of ways, and driven to become a pariah. This is why we declare the experiment to have been not only a failure but a dangerous failure, and until the conditions surrounding the Chinese are wholly altered, we must continue to denounce the men who perpetrated the outrage of bringing them to the Transvaal under an inhuman contract. The writer says that a large percentage of the more serious crimes in Natal are directly traceable to imported Indians. We doubt that statement. What is the proportion of Indians to whites in that colony?

Shareholders of the magnificent chemical business of Brunner, Mond, and Co. have just received from their directors a nice little surprise packet. In announcing an interim dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 35 per cent. per annum as compared with 30 per cent. a year ago, the board intimates its intention of calling up the remaining 10s. per share on the partly paid shares, and applying a portion of the reserve fund in providing a special dividend of 33½ per cent., which can be taken either in ordinary shares at par or in cash. In other words, holders of the partly paid shares will get a large part of the money now called up refunded to them, or they can, like the fully paid holders, have one new share for every three held.

Critical Index To New Investments.

ANGLO-MALAY RUBBER CO., LIMITED.

Seldom nowadays do we find a business offered to the public on such reasonable terms as those contained in the prospectus of this company, and it is little wonder, therefore, that although the lists were open for one day only the amount was largely over-subscribed. Some half-dozen rubber estates in the Federated Malay States, with an area of 6,331 acres, of which 1,713 acres are under cultivation, have been bought by the vendor for £50,000 in cash and £31,000 in shares, and are transferred to the company for £51,000 in cash and £46,500 in shares. Apparently, therefore, the vendor makes a profit of £16,500, chiefly in shares, but out of this he pays £1,000 in shares as middlemen's commission in respect of two of the estates, and also meets all the preliminary expenses down to the time when the company is entitled to commence business, which are estimated at £5,000. The total capital is £150,000 in £1 shares, but 10,000 are held in reserve, and the present issue will provide £42,500 for working capital. It is stated that there are 205,979 trees already planted, of which 120,900 are three years old or under, and the directors estimate that with a price of 5s. per lb. for Straits biscuit rubber, or 1s. 3d. per lb. less than the present market value, the dividends earned during 1906, 1907, and 1908 will average 10 per cent. per annum. We hope this forecast may not be mistaken optimism.

ISSUES BY TENDER.

CALCUTTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO.—Shareholders are offered an issue of 20,000 new shares of £5 each at the price of £6 10s.

EARBY & THORNTON GAS AND LIGHTING CO.—Tenders are invited for 500 "B" shares of £10 each at a minimum price of par. Tenders must be sent in by November 1, accompanied by a deposit of £1 per share, and the balance must be paid on November 8, from which date interest will accrue.

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED **£5,500,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 33, St. Andrew Square.

London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over **£1,000,000.**

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

NON-CONTENTIOUS POLICY CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Since we last wrote the position of the Money market appears to have slightly improved. For one thing, the Bank has been buying gold and the competition for the supply from abroad has not been so pronounced, in fact, a stray parcel of Australian gold in the market this morning, amounting to between £120,000 and £130,000, was bought by the Bank at 77s. 9½d. per oz., a fall of about ½d. since Monday. Then the Bank to-day, for the first time since the present straitened condition of affairs arose, discounted full three months bills. Hitherto it has refused bills running beyond this year. Should it continue to buy gold and to discount in this way we may struggle through without an advance in the rate to 5 per cent. But it will take market guides all their time. The India Council is now getting 4 per cent. on advances for a month.

Still this is what the market hopes for. An effective 4 per cent. rate is certainly better than a flabby 5 per cent. one, and we may be sure a further advance will be postponed as long as possible. But a discount rate hard up to the Bank figure means steady dearness in short money rates, and is this probable? We think so. For several days past joint-stock banks have been getting 3½ per cent. for seven-day money, and call loans have sometimes risen above 4 per cent., although also falling to 3 per cent. and even less. To-day, as an example, the County Council let out some of the money it had just received for its new six months' bills, and that sent call rates down in the afternoon to 2½ and 3 per cent., but weekly money in the morning was 4 per cent., and one bank asked 4½ per cent. The market was scrambling up the means to pay off the Bank.

People are now waiting to see the effect of the Treasury bill payments on Monday. The Exchequer will then absorb £2,500,000 of market capital, and the question is how is the necessary banking credit to be found. Probably, some say, by a release of the balances recently absorbed by the Bank. Its weekly return indicates, as far as we can guess, considerable Bank borrowings against pawned Government stock, its Government securities being down £1,856,000. Should this money be released between now and Monday, the market may be able to pay for the new Treasury bills without much inconvenience. The market's debt to the Bank also went up last week by £1,295,000, but some portion of this was paid back to-day over and above the money raised afresh on bills discounted. After all the future of the market depends still upon the gold movements, not on borrowings and cross-borrowings or any cookings of that sort. Paris was asking for the metal to-day, but the exchange was still high enough to prevent French bankers from offering an effectively higher price than the Bank of England. To-night, however, the exchange comes weak, and as the French have been steadily selling securities of all descriptions on this market during the past fortnight in preparation for the new Russian and Japanese loans, especially the Russian loan, it is probable enough that the Paris cheque may again be low enough next week to enable the French banks to outbid the Bank of England if they like. One tale to-night was that the Bank had refused to give the high price it paid on Monday for the additional supply, but we do not know whether this is true or not. What is certain is that a 5 per cent. Bank rate cannot be averted long if the export of gold revives and persists. A tale was current this afternoon to the effect that 1,000,000 sovereigns are going out to Egypt to-morrow. It is probably an exaggeration, but gold is wanted by that and other markets, and will be taken from us at every opportunity.

The Treasury, as will be seen by the memorandum over the Treasury bills table, had to pay smartly for its money on Wednesday, and many more millions will be needed by it between now and December 31.

SILVER.

The inquiry for bars has been on a very limited scale, but the market remained strong throughout the week owing to the smallness of the supplies coming forward. After dropping to 28½d. per oz. for cash and 28d. for future delivery on Saturday, prices promptly rebounded to 28½d. and 28½d. on "bear" covering, and have since further advanced to 28¾d. and 28¾d. Applications for the Rs. 1,00,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 7,37,50,000 in bills and Rs. 2,73,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Tenders were accepted for Rs. 61,60,000 in bills and Rs. 38,40,000 in transfers, applicants at rs. 4 1-32d. and rs. 4 1-16d. per rupee receiving about 8 per cent. Next week the amount to be offered is raised to Rs. 1,20,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, October 18, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued ..	48,815,890	Government Debt ..	11,015,700
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	30,365,890
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£48,815,890		£48,815,890

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	16,657,729
Reserve ..	3,173,099	Other Securities ..	29,546,324
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	19,875,545
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,797,075
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	9,481,031		
Other Deposits ..	40,561,971		
Seven Day and other Bills	107,572		
	£67,876,673		£67,876,673

Dated October 19, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier,

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1905.	Oct. 7, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1905.	Oct. 15, 1904.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 45,541,208	£ 45,574,000	£ 45,542,833	£ 48,248,500
Silver reserve ..	12,063,416	12,120,958	12,238,416	12,089,666
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	2,021,666	2,083,416	2,036,041	1,859,708
Note circulation ..	72,281,000	72,588,250	73,833,125	71,375,833
Bills discounted ..	21,205,833	21,298,541	21,950,541	17,501,666

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1905.	Oct. 7, 1905.	Sept. 31, 1905.	Oct. 15, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£ 39,367,950	£ 37,758,750	£ 36,610,750	£ 41,983,450
Bills discounted ..	55,758,650	61,092,100	67,160,850	44,313,300
Advances on stocks ..	4,013,850	3,546,450	8,955,600	3,894,900
Note circulation ..	72,512,550	76,818,150	84,132,300	69,795,750
Public deposits ..	25,882,800	26,213,650	27,818,750	24,988,100

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1905	Oct. 7, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1905	Oct. 15, 1904
Gold ..	£ 14,961,193	£ 14,956,367	£ 14,949,107	£ 14,817,486
Silver ..	22,389,067	22,381,274	22,674,077	20,043,626
Foreign Bills ..	2,474,855	2,469,162	2,556,228	1,625,184
Discount and Short Bills	45,819,276	45,632,337	45,288,654	39,120,528
Treasury Account ..	20,824,416	20,822,953	20,864,516	22,026,484
Notes in circulation ..	63,319,009	63,316,241	62,462,433	65,885,849
Current Account deposits	21,733,062	21,543,432	21,908,636	25,097,727
Dividends Interests ..	2,987,885	3,181,941	3,752,495	2,778,809
Government Securities	5,123,508	5,091,626	5,578,663	4,871,808

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 19, 1905.	Oct. 12, 1905.	Oct. 5, 1905.	Oct. 20, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£ 116,787,040	£ 116,949,960	£ 117,596,280	£ 104,434,960
Silver in hand ..	43,814,200	43,702,440	43,936,600	44,025,880
Bills discounted ..	30,137,320	26,242,360	25,730,040	25,556,520
Advances ..	19,220,280	19,090,280	19,716,320	20,391,160
Note circulation ..	181,268,840	180,578,520	181,931,280	172,613,160
Public deposits ..	10,594,160	9,391,560	8,333,040	8,573,200
Private deposits ..	23,411,440	21,322,040	23,730,480	20,056,040

Proportion between bullion and circulation 88½ per cent. against 89 per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 20, 1905.	Sept. 10, 1905.	Aug. 31, 1905.	Sept. 20, 1904.
Reserve ..	£ 28,045,560	£ 28,002,680	£ 28,002,160	£ 25,465,960
State notes and small change ..	511,600	479,120	458,840	510,120
Discount and loans ..	11,709,760	11,221,240	11,980,960	10,256,640
Public stock and State loans ..	8,408,000	8,411,800	7,824,200	8,387,400
Credits ..	6,728,800	6,602,840	6,778,400	6,964,560
Note Circulation ..	37,995,200	37,774,640	38,370,000	34,690,120
Current account ..	2,982,680	3,228,840	3,977,560	3,714,400
Deposits ..	3,939,640	3,782,680	2,944,720	3,728,320

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 23/Oct. 6, 1905.	Sept. 17/4, 1905.	Aug. 23, Sept. 5, 1905.	Sept. 23/Oct. 6, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 89,811,583	£ 91,341,331	£ 91,022,530	£ 83,816,598
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	4,324,000	5,250,606	5,399,687	7,231,920
Advances and bills discounted ..	37,970,029	38,277,243	36,109,394	39,236,632
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	7,362,360	7,867,652	7,457,711	6,558,864
Notes in circulation ..	110,413,244	103,804,076	103,671,680	80,513,735
Deposits and current account ..	55,006,300	45,670,593	44,510,230	41,879,693
Treasury account ..	7,323,744	94,827,815	14,343,356	25,992,566

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-38
Three months	3½-4
Four months	3½-4
Six months	3½-4
Three months fine inland bills	3½-38
Four months	4½-49
Six months	4½-49

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent

Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits	4½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½-4
" for call loans	3½-4

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

It is better not to say much about the Stock markets this week. We have no wish to contribute further than necessary to the gloom which naturally fills the minds of all speculators for the rise in contemplating the present condition of markets. All we venture to insist upon is that in spite of the continual abuse to which we are subjected—a choice specimen of which is printed in another column—the course of markets runs exactly as we have predicted. Is it necessary to repeat that we have had no interest in depressing prices, that we are perfectly impartial spectators, and that, moreover, we should be only too delighted were it possible to predict a change for the better? We cannot do that, and do not see how the markets are to improve in a durable manner until the incalculable mass of dishonest and inflated speculation with which not only our Stock Exchange, but all stock exchanges, are now clogged up, has been cleared away.

Look at the behaviour of markets between accounts. Always after the settlement has been got over without the predicted failures, prices are lifted up a little, and an air of cheerfulness is disseminated, and all the "bulls" talk of the coming good time. By the middle of the interval between pay days this kind of hectic glow begins to fade away, and as contango day approaches the markets slide down again. Why should prices rise and fall in this manner? Because markets are hollow; because the only unchanging reality about the speculative position is the anxiety of holders to escape. Dear money is now pressing upon the exhausted gambler, and when he has to pay 6 per cent. for contangoing his venture in Yankee or Canadian Railroad securities, and to continue paying 7 to 8 and 10 per cent. on his little mining speculation, with the prospect of higher rates still, his hopes naturally ebb away towards the close of each account.

Beyond this we are satisfied from the aspect of markets that there is a hidden rottenness to come to the surface. Why do we hear every account of this big firm and the other group of gamblers having to be assisted, or that they have failed? These rumours never arise in good times, and are never without foundation in bad. That being so we must continue our disagreeable croaking without regard to the unhappy crowds who have got themselves into their present position by their own folly and their contemptuous disregard of honest advice. You do not find the reputable, upright stockbroker going about the City moaning over the dearth of business, the calamitous state of the account, or anything of that kind. He has kept his clients as far as in him lay out of the trouble, just as we have endeavoured to keep all who cared to listen to us, but the multitude prefers the tipster of the bucket shop, and it is going to pay memorably for its choice.

The Week's Stock Markets.

There is still no business to speak of in the Stock Exchange, cannot be while the monetary outlook is so full of uncertainty, and in the circumstances it is not perhaps surprising that markets get spasms of weakness which instantly create fears that something terrible is about to happen. More than once during the past week stocks were thrown over in a fashion that boded no good, and although nothing of a definite character transpired, the air was full of rumours of impending catastrophe. Naturally enough, the inflated Yankee market was to the front in the selling, which emanated from New York as usual, and it would not be wonderful if a spill over took place in that section before long. In other directions there were occasional feeble attempts to rally things a little, encouragement being given by the fact that the Bank of England was taking steps to replenish its attenuated stocks of gold by purchases in the open market, and when it was found that another week at least would elapse with the Bank rate at 4 per cent. dealers were inclined to

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.—The National Bank of Egypt announces that allotment letters of the new issue of ordinary shares can be exchanged for scrip on and after the 20th inst. at the office of the London Agency, 4 and 5, King William Street, E.C.

The Union Bank of Australia has opened a branch at Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

contemplate the immediate future with less gloomy feelings. But another fortnightly settlement is upon us, Tuesday, next being contango day in the mining sections, bringing with it heavy charges for bankers' loans, and while money is in the neighbourhood of $4\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 per cent. the tendency must be to lighten "bull" commitments. Do not forget either the disturbance likely to be created by the pending Russian and Japanese loans. After a very slow business Consols finished a trifle better, but other active British Funds, when they moved, went down. Losses, however, were only fractional, and extended to Irish Land stock, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per Cent., and India $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Bank of England stock lost 1, but there was a nominal rise of 7 in the stock of the Bank of Ireland. In the Home County and Corporation division Metropolitan Consolidated, Water Board, and L.C.C. issues all showed a declining tendency, as also West Ham 3 per Cent., but Newfoundland and New South Wales issues alone displayed weakness in the Colonial Inscribed list.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money) ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Nov. 2) ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	87	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100	100
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Local Loans (3) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	98	98
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Do. Account (Nov. 2) ..	99	98
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
308	297	Bk. of England Stk. (5 p.c.) ..	295 $\frac{1}{2}$	295 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	India $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stk. red. 1931 ..	104	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948 ..	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stk. red. 1926 ..	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66	65 $\frac{1}{2}$

Apart from some rather wild fluctuation in Buenos Ayres Provincial Cédulas nothing of the slightest interest developed in the Foreign Bond market, which was idle and dull like the rest. Japanese loans were depressed by the pending conversion issue, said now to be for no less than £65,000,000 nominal in 4 per cent. stock to be issued at 90, £30,000,000 to be offered in France, and £35,000,000 here, but nothing was allowed to go back far. A slight relapse in Russian issues can also be set down to the coming fresh issue, and the dulness was shared by most Continental things such as Spanish, Italian, Hungarian, and Turkish, although the last subsequently showed some sign of recovery. South American issues were hardly mentioned all the week, except Peruvian, which were firm at one time, but Central Americans gave way all round, the drop being severe near the end. Argentine Cédulas went decidedly weak on rumours that the visit of the Finance Minister to this country had been abandoned, and that two members of the Buenos Ayres committee had resigned. There was also some discussion as to the actual value of these Cédulas, from which it seems clear that at the current premium on gold the par value is not above 44.

The best that can be said of Home Railway stocks this week is that they have been on the whole fairly steady considering how much markets were under the influence of fears of a 5 per cent. Bank rate. Scotch stocks were "tipped" as a good thing to buy on the somewhat improbable story that Russia intended to place orders for new warships with Clyde shipbuilders, and both Caledonian and North British issues closed substantially higher. Lancashire and Yorkshire also met with a fair amount of support, but the greatest interest was shown in Furness, which again advanced several pounds on a report that negotiations for the purchase of the line by the Midland had been resumed. When on Wednesday the feeling became general that there would be no rise in the Bank rate this week, business seemed to wake up a little, but the improvement made very little headway before it was checked by the sudden flood of selling which set in in the Yankee market and elsewhere, accompanied by wild rumours of the illness and death of various prominent financiers in America. Another attempt was made to push prices

up after the decision of the Bank directors not to raise their rate was made known, but it met with very moderate success, and the only other prominent movement to note was an improvement in District, brought about by the report of the Underground Electric Railways Company.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102	102
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101	101
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101	101
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99	99
106	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104	104
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101	101
97	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	96	96
98	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	98	98
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	94	94
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	94	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
98	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98	98
107	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103	103
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	56	56
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	46	46
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External ..	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106	106
107	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	103	103
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c. ..	88	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	Greek, 1884 ..	53	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
44	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. Funding ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	53
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1884 ..	97	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. New ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102	102
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104	104
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70	70
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	Servian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	100	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
92	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	72
99	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. ..	95	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	50	49 $\frac{1}{2}$

Business in Yankee Railroad shares has been sluggish as the public persistently keeps away and professionals are too uneasy regarding the future to venture on much speculation. Manipulation was apparent

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	138	138
165	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157	157
131 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	123 $\frac{1}{2}$
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	37	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	92
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
17 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	41	41
51	64	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	65	68
35 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	101	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1) ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
145 $\frac{1}{2}$	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	139	139
56 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
112 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	105	106
100	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	89	89
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	34	35
71	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	67	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
70	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	67	69
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	134	North-Eastern (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	141
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	147	North-Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	156	156
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	94	94
134	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	132	132
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	158 $\frac{1}{2}$	157 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106	106
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	55

in one or two counters, but it was so obviously with a view to unloading in other directions that it had little effect, and even the industrious circulation of reports that a dividend on Southern Pacific might be looked for at an early date failed to stimulate interest. Prices,

therefore, just dragged along, a large proportion of the improvements recorded each morning being wiped out by sales in the afternoon. This see-saw continued until Wednesday, when the market suddenly became flurried and all kinds of rumours were sent flying about. Morgan and Rockefeller were said to be ill or dead; firms in London, New York, or Chicago, according to fancy, were reported to be in difficulties; and finally it was asserted that bankers and others were frightened by the magnitude of the "bull" account carried on this market, and intended to refuse facilities at the next settlement. The result of all these tales was a burst of selling, which knocked a dollar or so off prices in all directions, and although Wall Street made an attempt to bring about a rally, it was only partially successful, and was quickly followed by renewed selling.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4)	90½	90
108½	102	Do. Pref. (5)	108	97
120½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	115½	114½
102	97½	Do. Pref. (4)	100	99
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1)	57½	57½
193½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	184½	184
38	27½	Denver Shares	34	34
93½	85½	Do. Pref. (5)	90½	89½
54½	38½	Erie Shares	50	48½
87½	77½	Do. Pref. (4)	83	83½
80½	58½	Do. and Pref.	74½	74
187½	156	Illinois Central (7)	184½	183½
161½	140½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	155½	155
36½	24½	Missouri and Texas	34½	33½
160½	140½	New York Central (5)	153½	153½
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	87½	87½
96½	94	Do. Pref. (4)	95	95
65½	41½	Ontario Shares	55	54½
70½	67½	Pennsylvania (6)	73½	73½
64½	40½	Reading Shares	62½	62½
49½	46	Do. and Pref. (4)	49	49
51½	43½	Do. and Pref. (2)	51	51
74	59½	Southern Pacific	70½	69½
39½	28½	Southern	36½	36
104½	97½	Do. Pref. (5)	102½	101½
142½	116½	Union Pacific (4)	135½	134½
102½	98½	Do. Pref. (4)	99½	100
24½	18½	Wabash	22	22
49½	37½	Do. Pref.	43	43
86½	69½	Do. Income Debs.	75	75
182½	133	Canadian Pacific (6)	175½	175½
109	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	107	107
112	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	110	110
26½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	25	24½
104½	99	Do. Guar. (4)	104	102½
115½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	115	112½
107	97	Do. and Pref. (5)	106½	104½
62½	40½	Do. 3rd Pref.	60½	59½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	108	108

Fluctuations in Canadian Pacific shares from day to day have been both wide and wild, and the price, after jumping to over 178, fell back as rapidly as it went up until it was once more in the neighbourhood of 175½. The traffic increase of \$274,000 provided a fresh lever

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10)	211½	215½
321	144½	Do. Def. (15)	300	305
130	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	126	128
131	113½	Do. Pref. (5)	128	128
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Pref.	84	83½
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	143	142½
133½	127	Do. Pref. (5)	131	131
140½	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	139	139
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
110½	99½	Do. do. and Pref. (5) ..	110	109
115	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	111	110½
107½	98½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	105	104½
170½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	166	165
109½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	106
140½	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	140	140
93	79	Central Uruguay (3)	91	90
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	108	108
95½	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	93	92
76½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	73½	72½
33½	28½	Costa Rica (1)	24	24
78	53	Cuban Central	74	68
12½	10½	Do. Pref. (5½)	112	112
107½	104½	Do. Deb. (4½)	106	105
95½	72	East Argentine (4)	94	94
74	61½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	62	62
84½	50½	Leopoldina (3)	80½	80
97½	86½	Do. Deb. (4)	94	94½
110½	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	110	110
108	104½	Do. "B" (6)	105	105
29½	19½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	24	24
121½	103½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	118	117½
57	36½	Do. and Pref.	47½	46½
69½	48½	Mexican Southern (2½)	58	57
17	10½	Nitrato Ord. (5½)	16	15½
198	164	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	19½
208½	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	206	206
210	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	198	210

for hoisting the price and it was moving upwards in fine fashion when Wall Street collapsed and dragged these shares back with its favourites until the final figure was slightly below last week's. Grand Trunk stocks went up and down in sympathy, but the movements were less pronounced, and at the close the only changes were fractional losses in the ordinary and third preference. Amongst Indian Railways Bombay and Baroda improved sharply on the publication of the terms of purchase of the line by the Government, and Madras stocks were also higher on the assumption that when the line comes to be bought up the price will also be paid in 3 per cent. stock instead of by annuities.

Prices of Argentine Railway stocks began to dwindle almost from the outset, and although the declines recorded from day to day were comparatively small, the aggregate loss on the week in most of the favourites reached anything up to a couple of pounds. Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred stocks resisted the pressure most successfully for a time with the result that they finished only fractionally down, while Argentine Great Western ordinary and preferred showed the largest declines. Cordova and North-Western debentures were again the object of attention

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	Allsopp Ordinary	22	20
71	40	City of London Ord.	66½	66½
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	550
27½	21½	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	22½	23
27½	13½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	25	25
68½	48	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	60½	60½
35	15	Wayne, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	25	25
105	99	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	101	101
78½	56½	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	65	65
6½	6	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	6½	6½
6½	6	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6½
6½	6	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
6½	6	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	6½	6½
26½	17½	Bradford Dymers Ord. (7)	17½	17½
26½	21	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	26	26
11½	9½	Brunner Mond (35)	11	11
11½	9½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11	11
502½	483½	Calico Printers Ordinary (24½) ..	500	500
502½	483½	Coats Ordinary (20)	500	500
502½	483½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	500	500
169	169	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll) ..	169	169
17½	17½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	17½	17½
7	7	Golden Hotels Ordinary (3)	7	7
13½	10½	Henley's Telegraph (15)	12½	12½
4½	3½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	3½	3½
18	12	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	18	18
111	106	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
105	102½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	105	105
89	49½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	68	68
106½	99½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	106½	106½
106½	99½	Russian Petroleum (5)	106½	106½
106½	99½	Savoy Hotel (5)	7	7
106½	99½	Sweetmeat Automatic	15	15
106½	99½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	15	15
106½	99½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	106½	106½
106½	99½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	106½	106½
106½	99½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	104	104
106½	99½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	76½	76½
106½	99½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (12) ..	508	51
106½	99½	Do. Debentures (6)	106½	106½
106½	99½	National Discount (10)	92	92
106½	99½	Union Discount (11)	117	117
106½	99½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	77	77
106½	99½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	127	13
106½	99½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48) ..	100½	100½
106½	99½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	132	130
106½	99½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15)	34	34
106½	99½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	34	34
106½	99½	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	17	17
106½	99½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	17	17
106½	99½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	12	12
106½	99½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	38½	38½
106½	99½	Do. Preference (7)	106½	107
106½	99½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	23	23
106½	99½	Cunard Steam	13	13
106½	99½	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	234½	234½
106½	99½	Royal Mail	359	418
106½	99½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship ..	9	9
106½	99½	Ordinary (5)	9	9
106½	99½	Anglo-American Telegraph ..	109½	108
106½	99½	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	109½	108
106½	99½	Do. Def. Ord.	109½	108
106½	99½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	144½	143½
106½	99½	Eastern Extension (7)	14	14
106½	99½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	108	107½
106½	99½	Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
106½	99½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	94	94
106½	99½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	84	84
106½	99½	London General Omnibus (8) ..	124½	123½
106½	99½	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	10	10

on the part of speculators owing to their being persistently "tipped" in several quarters, and the price touched 44. Brazilian things were heavy, San Paulo issues in particular dropping from 1 to 3. Anto-

fagasta stocks, however, came into prominence once more, and although they fell back with other things on Wednesday the loss was more than made good the following day, and the ordinary and deferred were from 4 to 5 up. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock was likewise in high favour and was dealt in as high as 210s, but Mexican Railway stocks were flat towards the end on a decrease of \$10,200 in the weekly traffic statement.

In the Miscellaneous markets the principal incident has been the steady demand at a big advance in prices of Brunner Mond shares, owing to the proposal, referred to elsewhere to capitalise part of the reserve fund and distribute it to the ordinary shareholders. In other directions prices displayed a good deal of irregularity. Hudson's Bays have been particularly weak, but recovered again, and Pekin Syndicate and other Chinese Land things were also heavy, but Argentine Land shares kept steady. Iron and Steel issues continue in active request, and Nitrates were once more disposed to advance. Catering shares usually held their ground, although the tendency was dull. Breweries were somewhat uncertain without important change, except that Bieckerts put on another 3, while James Nelsons ended rather better. There was little or nothing doing amongst Textile securities, Russian oil shares faintly hardened, and Associated Cements kept steady. Except for Anglo-American issues, which lost a fraction or so, Telegraph things were disposed to harden, and in the Tramways and Omnibus division B.E.T. ordinary finished somewhat firmer. One or two shipping shares went up, including Cunards and Royal Mails. South Metropolitan Gas ordinary stock was sold, and lost a couple of pounds, and London Docks deferred was easier for choice. Linotypes fell slightly on the report, which, although showing some improvement, gives no indication of the immediate resumption of dividends. Business was meagre throughout.

Stock markets are getting braced up for the settlement which really begins on Monday for Mines, Tuesday being the regulation contango day in that department. Kaffir shares, for instance, were all hoisted today by a 10,000 share option deal in Gold Fields. Half this number were bought against the option and lifted the price, causing every other Kaffir share to perk up. A very heavy account, however, will have to be settled in them, and unless good contango rates prevail the French sellers will pour over the shares they have parted with and ask for their money. Various reports are again current about the Russian and Japanese loans in Paris, but there is nothing really authentic. Contango rates generally will be stiff next week.

Another Rand Amalgamation.

A fortnight ago we briefly intimated that an amalgamation scheme was being hatched between a deep level mine and a couple of outcrops. Two or three additional particulars are now published. In the first place the Nourse Deep, a subsidiary of the Rand Mines, Limited, and a member of the Wernher-Beit group, is to absorb the well-known successful dividend payer, the Henry Nourse Gold Mining Company, for 225,000 fully paid shares. The title of the combined concern is to be the Nourse Mines, Limited, whilst the number of directors is to be increased from five to seven. It looks as if the bargain will be one-sided, that the shareholders in the Nourse Deep will gain at the expense of those in the Henry Nourse. For this company has paid large dividends and promised to maintain them for the remainder of the mine's life, about twelve years. We dealt fully with this company in our issue of July 8, and should the amalgamation be carried through the computations we then made will be entirely upset. For the Nourse Deep has yet to show what it can do in the way of dividend earning. It managed to distribute 10 per cent. in 1899, and no second dividend has been paid, although, since the

war, it has been crushing for three years and a-half. One thing in its favour is that it will probably have a long life, between 40 and 50 years, say, with a battery of 100 stamps. Thus shareholders in the Henry Nourse, if they have to sacrifice dividends, will have a longer run for their money. There is a great difference, too, in the respective capitals of the two companies. That of the outcrop company is only £125,000, and that of the deep level, £450,000, which will, therefore, be raised to £675,000. This will necessarily involve an appreciable reduction in the Henry Nourse distributions, and it is doubtful if the longer life will be sufficient compensation. But why the need for amalgamation? Why cannot each company continue to lead a separate existence? Is a great failure by one of them feared? If so, which one? Or is it a new kind of dodge, recently becoming fashionable, to get more money out of the public? For new shares are to be created and issued. The Nourse Deep is, simultaneously, to sell to another outcrop company, the New Heriot, about 34 claims on the eastern part of its property, for the following considerations:—(a) About 45,000 fully paid shares of the New Heriot; (b) the right to subscribe for the *pro rata* proportion of an issue of 35,000 new shares by the New Heriot at £3 15s. per share; (c) and the transfer of about 1½ claims from the New Heriot to the Nourse Deep. A circular issued by the New Heriot states that this company is to issue 85,000 new shares, which will increase the nominal capital to £200,000. No reasons are given why the directors are issuing 35,000 fresh shares at a handsome premium beyond the 45,000 to be paid for the claims acquired. It is stated, however, that full particulars of the entire scheme are embodied in a circular, copies of which are on their way from the head office of the Nourse Deep in Johannesburg, to be issued to European shareholders as soon as received. This will enable a better opinion to be formed of the projected confection.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS.

. *Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.*

In the Kaffir Circus prices have continued to fall heavily and helplessly. From no direction whatever has come the least support. Not even the great controlling houses are buying—they are as hard-up as individuals—and nothing can stop the selling. The Cape has been liquidating on an increasing scale, whilst Frenchmen have been getting rid of their stuff with like eagerness. This sums up the sorry story of another dismal week, and those who have been holding on in the hope of getting out profitably must be regretting their folly. Punters still cry that it is the monetary position that is responsible for it all, but they know this to be untrue. If investors had any affection for Kaffirs they would buy at prices which are now lower than they have been for many a day. But they will not buy, for they know that neither dear nor cheap credit can affect the merits of shares based upon dividends. Following speedily upon their intimation that they can pay no dividend, the directors of the Wemmer have now announced the temporary closing down of the mill through shortness of water. The new amalgamation scheme, with which we deal elsewhere, has naturally made an unfavourable impression, for it is not calculated to revive confidence amongst investors. East Rand Extensions have been weak on the cable announcing that the reef recently struck in the shaft is poor.

The Rhodesian section has been as flat as the Kaffir. For the month of September a "record" output is announced, but the public disregard it. They know there is nothing in it to encourage them to buy the shares of insolvent Rhodesian companies, for what difference can a few more ounces make spread over dozens of mines? Rumour says the Banket Company is shortly to float a subsidiary, and it is probably true, for the company is likely to make considerably greater profits out of promoting than out of mining. There may be "pockets" of gold in the banket formation, but there are vaster quantities of the precious metal in the "pockets" of the investing classes, if they can only be induced to empty them into the palms of promoters. But, happily, it is impossible to induce them to do anything of the kind, though, for all that, we may witness a try-on.

Nor need we linger over the distressed conditions of the West African, Egyptian, and West Australian markets, for here also prices have been moving against holders. The annual report of the Lake View Consols has been issued, but though it records such satisfactory incidents as decreases in working costs, profits

are steadily falling, owing to the low-grade quality of the ore. As recently as 1899 the shares of this company went as high as 28½, and have gradually fallen since to their present figures. This means that many buyers of the shares have lost heavily, for dividends in the meanwhile have dropped from 50s. per share to 1s., with a suspension of a couple of years. The outlook for the company is now dark and uncertain.

In the Miscellaneous group *Esperanzas* have weakened on the disappointing profits for September, and *El Oros* have been weaker. Broken Hill issues of all sorts have continued to attract attention as the result mainly of the strength of the silver and lead market, though there has been evidence of considerable profit-taking here. *Rio Tintos* have improved a little on the spurt in the price of copper.

EL ORO MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY.—In the twelve months to June 30 bullion was recovered to the value of £322,030 and railway receipts amounted to £57,148, making a total of £379,178. On this the net profit was £122,810, increased to £124,531 with the addition of the sum brought in. Of this £86,619 is written off property account, less £4,881 spent on the Mexico mine, and after paying income-tax £32,057 is carried forward. No dividend is paid, whilst, it will be recalled, the distribution for the previous year was greatly reduced. This is because the directors are devoting profits to the construction of the new mill, from which the company should greatly benefit in the future in better treatment and reduced costs. The total outlay on construction and equipment in two years has been over £201,000 and the account is now closed. The amount of ore blocked out and ready for extraction at the close of the financial year was 672,850 tons, an increase of 111,777 tons on the estimate of the preceding year. Development work has opened out more promising prospects. The directors attach great importance to the prospective value of the veins exposed in the Somera claim, but to carry out development work on the scale necessary would, they say, involve an outlay in excess of any sum they could appropriate from profits. So they promise to submit a proposal "to deal with this property on terms which will offer to the shareholders the full benefits of all profits derived from its future operation." Sundry credit balances total as much as £79,934, but this is just covered by cash, bullion in transit, and debtors.

CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY.—There is nothing of moment and little that is interesting in the report of this enterprise covering the year to the end of February. The gross profit—we are not told how it has been earned—is returned at £204,398, which compares with £113,376; interest gave £3,336 against £4,240, whilst £2,168 is a new item representing discount on debentures purchased and cancelled, the entire revenue amounting to £210,088 contrasted with £117,760. So the net profit is more than doubled at £111,959 after placing an extra £20,000 at £40,000 to the reserve for depreciation. The debenture issue has been reduced by the sum of £58,040, £10,000 having been drawn for redemption and others to the amount of £48,040, having been purchased and cancelled, so the debt now stands at £431,960. A balance dividend of 5 per cent. is proposed, which will make 10 per cent. for the year against 5 per cent., and the forward credit will be raised from £6,672 to £13,355. Three steamers, we are told, were sold at satisfactory prices, and a new steamer was built and launched last June at a cost of approximately £40,000. The port of Ching Wan Tao has been thrown open to the reception of shipping throughout the year. Extensive buildings have been erected at the port on behalf of the Transvaal Labour Importation Agency and for the Imperial Maritime Customs. This embraces all the information given in the report, brief enough in all conscience.

CHIMES WEST.—During the year ending May 31 no work was done on this company's property owing to its scanty finances, and the directors intimate that they are not yet in a position to bring forward a scheme for the liquidation of the liabilities and the provision of further capital. In order to pay off part of the large debt owing to the Anglo-French Exploration the directors sold 24,491 shares in the Kleinfontein Deep, which realised £27,552. This sale gave a profit of £10,676 and rent brought in £87, so they were able to reduce the debit balance from £100,242 to £75,798 after deduction of all expenditure and depreciation. The loan to the Anglo-French Exploration, with accrued interest, amounted to £19,658, and a further sum of £1,419 was owing to other creditors. But will not shareholders cheerfully subscribe any amount of money when Sir George Farrar, Mr. Abe Bailey, and the other directors ask for it in a smiling way later on?

GREAT FINGALL CONSOLIDATED.—The directors of this company announce that they have decided, after consultation with their managers, to reduce the average grade of the ore going through the mills. At the present time this is about 17 dwts. per ton, giving extraction value of 15½ dwts. per ton. It is now decided to reduce the grade to about 15½ dwts., with an extraction value of about 14 dwts. This will reduce the gross value of the monthly output from about £58,000 to about £53,500, which, after deducting all expenses, including taxes, should yield a nett profit sufficient to give dividends of 7s. per quarter. This will be equal to 28s. per 10s. share per annum, and will compare with 28s. 6d. paid in 1904 and 17s. in 1903, though recently the directors have paid 8s. quarterly. On the present market price of the share the yield is over 20 per cent. It is officially pointed out that the policy of the directors in the past has been to mill about 2 dwts. below the average grade of the reserves. On July 1 last this average grade was 18.69 dwts., the reserves at that date standing at 657,000 tons. It is argued that the reduction in the grade of the ore going through the mill

to 14 dwts. will automatically increase the value per ton of the above reserves. "The net result of the policy pursued in the past six months," say the directors, "has been that 36,000 tons of ore have been added to the reserves in addition to the quantity passed through the mills during that period. The life of the mine is thus being lengthened, as larger bodies of low-grade ore can be treated than when the average grade was higher." This decision is the result, presumably, of the recommendations made by Mr. Rolker in his recent report on the mine, who, however, spoke of dividends of only 5s. per quarter. The important question for shareholders to consider is, how long can dividends of 28s. per share be maintained? Much will depend upon fresh discoveries, whilst the directors meanwhile draw attention to the fact that the value of the ore encountered in the winze 100 ft. below the 12th level is of greater assay value than in the level itself; also that vigorous development working is being carried on.

LE ROI MINING COMPANY.—The directors have issued a reply to Mr. McMillan's circular of the 3rd inst., from which it looks as if they are determined to push on with the amalgamation scheme. There is little or nothing in the communication that is of any importance beyond the quotation of an opinion of Mr. Mackenzie, who says: "There is not the slightest doubt but that the amalgamation will be a good business move for your company, if you receive your just proportion of the new consolidated company." So the new managers, Messrs. Bradley and Mackenzie, are to arrange the proportion. These gentlemen are entitled to their opinions, but Mr. McMillan is also entitled to his, and it is an unpardonable proceeding to eject him from the board because he sticks to it. This is the principal fault we find with the directors, who have so far failed to justify their high-handed action. "The real question," they now say, "for the shareholders to consider is whether they will accept the amalgamation to be proposed to them in a report which will be issued before the meeting, and which will make them acquainted with all the facts of the case." Quite so. But why dismiss Mr. McMillan before any such opportunity has been given to the shareholders? "The directors merely ask the shareholders to suspend their decision until they receive the report on the whole question, which will be most carefully prepared, and will enable them to form their own judgment and vote in accordance with their own conclusions." Nothing could be fairer. Why, then, have the directors prejudged Mr. McMillan and ousted him from his responsible positions? Why not have awaited the judgment of the shareholders on this also? Should the shareholders reject the scheme the directors will indeed look foolish. And they have not acted in a manner to inspire the confidence of the shareholders in their disinterestedness.

NILE VALLEY COMPANY.—Deeming it advisable to obtain a special report from the company's engineers on the progress of operations at the mines, the directors of the Nile Valley Company despatched Mr. Currie to Egypt in August last. They have now received a report from this expert, but shareholders will not rejoice over it, for it does not justify the encomiums passed upon the property by interested parties. Mr. Currie points out that the peculiar character of the ore bodies makes it exceedingly difficult to arrive at their proper value. "As you are aware," he adds, "the 'vein' or 'fissure' in which the ore occurs has been proved to be continuous along a length of 1,240 ft. and down to a depth of 200 ft. Throughout this entire length and depth gold has been found to occur, for the most part in comparatively small quantities, but at irregular intervals in patches of unusual richness, varying in size from a few pounds up to many tons. It is in the occurrence of these phenomenally rich patches that the prospective value of the mine lies, but sufficient knowledge of the natural conditions which have produced them has not yet been obtained to render any estimate of their probable frequency, size and value possible." He estimates a total of 10,650 tons developed of an average value of 10 dwts. per ton over widths varying from 21 to 46 inches. This he believes will pay to crush, and help materially towards the cost of locating other richer ore bodies. He gives no hint of its helping towards the payment of dividends. In conclusion, he holds out the following indefinite hopes:—"It will be impossible for some time yet so to arrange matters as to maintain a constant average yield from the mill, and irregular returns must be expected, but every effort will be made to secure steady production and rapid development." In a circular issued by them the directors intimate that the accounts for the year to July 31 are now being made up, and will be published at the earliest possible date. With regard to the reserve shares, which Mr. J. B. Robinson spurned and which were subsequently offered to the shareholders, it is stated vaguely that a satisfactory arrangement has been made "and a number of the shares placed sufficient for present requirements."

MOUNT LYELL BLOCKS MINING COMPANY.—In submitting their report and accounts for the half-year's working to June 30, the directors assure the shareholders that the outlook at the mine is more favourable than it has been for some time. Recent developments have been satisfactory, especially the opening up of the ore body in the main drive, increasing the tonnage of ore considerably. Extraction has also improved from 57 per cent. to 63.1 per cent., and is likely to improve further. From January 1 to March 25 18,695 tons were treated, yielding nearly 188 tons of fine copper, whilst in the second quarter 15,290 tons were dealt with, producing a little over 181 tons, making a total of 33,985 tons milled for 369 tons of copper. On working account a small profit of £651 is shown, the directors remarking that this would have been greater had the accounts not been debited with a heavy loss caused by a subsidence in the workings. After charging Melbourne administration expenses, cost of Lon-

don office, rates, taxes, interest, insurance, &c., the above profit is converted into a loss of £312, which raises the deficiency in the balance-sheet to £5,377. Cash is low at £393, but this, together with the sum owing by debtors, is sufficient to cover the liabilities. The directors intimate that they hope no further calls will be necessary.

COBAR GOLD MINES.—The directors have been in no great hurry to issue their report and accounts for the year ending September, 1904, hence they are twelve months old. In that period 74,286 tons of ore were raised, 70,740 tons milled and 76,928 tons of sands and slimes treated, the total yield from all sources being 30,227 ozs., realising £104,496. Gross revenue was increased to £105,756 with £1,201 from interest and £60 from transfer fees. After allowing for all items of expenditure the nett profit is £34,212, to be added to the previous credit of £26,536, making £60,748 carried forward. It is explained that the chairman left for Australia in August, 1904, but was four months later in visiting the property than was anticipated, which has caused the delay in holding the annual meeting. A report from him, dated May, 1905, accompanies the ordinary report of the directors. As the oxidised ore is becoming exhausted the directors are searching for a process wherewith to treat the sulphide ore. They say they intend as soon as possible to engage an expert to examine and report upon the mine and the best method of treating the ore. Thus shareholders are evidently not to look for dividends yet awhile. The company has cash appreciably exceeding its credit balance and other liquid assets amply cover the moderate liabilities.

SWAZIELAND CORPORATION.—There is nothing particularly good and pleasing in the report of this company covering the financial year to the end of June. The directors appear to rejoice that the first important step in the establishment of a settled Government, in the issue of the Administration proclamation of October, 1904, has been taken; that civil and criminal courts have been established; the registration of deeds office has been reopened; the special commission has made headway in dealing with the claims of concession-holders; the general land survey is in active progress and the allotment of land to the natives is receiving attention at the hands of a commission. This is all very well, but they are not incidents that will enrich the corporation's properties, and dividends to the shareholders must depend upon the successful working of these. They are still exploring the Forbes' Mineral Concession, which was transferred to the corporation for £35,000, making it look as if the vendors were only too glad to get rid of it. No profit and loss account is issued yet. London expenses came to £3,743, Paris expenditure to £105, and South African outgoings absorbed £2,256; total £6,104, against £3,004 received from interest, dividends, rent, royalties, agencies, commission, transfer fees, &c. This raises the excess expenditure in the balance-sheet to £24,491. Liabilities stand at £3,500, and the company has £9,654 in cash, and debtors owe £1,713.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Although the traffic on this system does not develop at quite such a sensational rate as on some of the neighbouring Argentine lines the company continues to enjoy a pretty full measure of prosperity, and during the twelve months ended June 30 increased its gross revenue by £39,797 to £618,570. At the same time the expenditure rose by the considerable sum of £34,739 to £390,841, sending up the proportion of outgo to income by 1.65 per cent. to 63.18 per cent., but, as the directors observe, the figures for the past twelve months, similarly to those for the preceding year, include charges for necessary renewals now in progress. Flourishing times should always be taken advantage of for improving the physical condition of the road. Passenger traffic showed an increase of 91,596 in numbers, bringing in additional receipts of £15,286, and the gross traffic advanced by 50,572 tons, meaning an extra revenue of £31,802, nearly all articles contributing. Principal gains were in firewood, &c., building, fencing, and railway materials, casks, staves, hoops, baskets, boxes, &c., provisions, wines and spirits, general merchandise, grain, seeds and hay, and hardwood posts for vineyards. Against these there were sharp declines in spirits, liquors, &c., miscellaneous articles and construction material, the last of little consequence, we should imagine, as it is probably carried at cost. Parcels and excess luggage gave an increase of £1,229, but mileage dues, telegrams, &c., showed the severe falling off of £8,220 or 35.20 per cent. Balance of nett revenue is better by £5,058 at £227,728, and with the addition of interest on investments, gain on exchange and interest the total credit is £239,818. Debenture interest takes £135,022, interim dividends £37,500 and interest on new shares £3,938, leaving £63,357, which is raised to £81,757 by the sum of £18,400 brought forward. The directors therefore propose final distributions of 3½ per cent. on the preference and ordinary stocks, making 6 per cent. for the year, the same as before, carrying forward £20,507. Increasing business naturally brings with it the necessity for greater facilities, and, as the directors themselves put it, "the rapid development in the producing powers of the Republic has entailed on all the railway companies the necessity for a large increase in motive power and rolling-stock." They have, conse-

quently, placed considerable orders for locomotives, carriages, and wagons, and when all are running it is hoped that the calls of traffic will be fully responded to, as the carrying capacity will be about doubled. Heavy capital expenditure has, of course, been involved, and will be in the future, on this work and extensions, and besides receiving in December last the final instalment on the 25,000 shares of £10 each issued in the early part of 1904, the board took authority in May last to increase the capital by £1,250,000. Such sum, together with £250,000 at the time unissued, placed at the disposal of the directors £1,500,000, and of this they offered *pro rata* to the preferred and ordinary stockholders £875,000 in £10 shares at par, the greater part of which was taken up, the balance being sold on the market for the benefit of the company. During the period under review the capital outlay was £178,505, and as the credit at June 30 was £225,074 no further appeal for funds should be necessary for some time. When opportunity offers we shall hope to see some additions made to the reserve funds, but as it stands now the financial position looks pretty sound.

CENTRAL URUGUAY RAILWAY COMPANY OF MONTE VIDEO, LIMITED.

Although the revolution in Uruguay continued to have an adverse influence on trade and commerce during the first three months of this company's financial year ended on June 30, the conclusion of hostilities was the signal for a marked revival in business of all kinds from which the railway felt immediate benefit. On the main line the gross earnings came to £414,228 or £49,414 more than in the previous twelve months at the cost of an increase in expenditure of £19,287, leaving the nett receipts better by £30,127 at £223,572. Ratio between expenditure and income worked out 0.94 per cent. lower at 46.03 per cent. The directors regard as particularly gratifying the increase in the earnings of the Eastern, Northern and Western Extensions, none of which are included in the mentioned figures, and so far as the Western Extension, which forms a direct obligation of the parent company, is concerned the hope is expressed that the working company will soon be relieved from any financial strain in respect of the capital issued for its construction. We gather from the accounts that the parent was last year "down" in respect to this extension by some £14,500. The net earnings of the North-Eastern leased line have also been satisfactory, showing an increase of £7,590, with the result that for the first time since this section has been worked by the company no claim has been made on the Government under its guarantee. Passenger traffic increased 39,160 in numbers and £9,249 in money, telegraph revenue improved £500, luggage and parcels £3,963 and sundries £865, a total gain in coaching receipts of £14,576. Then goods traffic went up 90,939 tons, bringing in an extra £39,438, practically all classes of merchandise contributing to bring about this result. Wool and sheep skins, sundry grains and limestone alone showed decreases of any note, and on the other hand there were substantial gains under wheat and maize, general goods, building materials, posts, wire, flour, and hides and skins. With the termination of the revolution there was an enormous falling off in the transport of horses for war purposes, the number going down 80,422, and there was also a decline in cattle, but sheep went up 102,353 and pigs 2,494. The revenue from live stock traffic showed a falling off of £4,601. Working expenditure included a good deal of repair work occasioned by the damage done by the revolutionists and important renewals of both permanent way and rolling stock were effected from the special funds now being accumulated for this purpose. Two labour strikes occurred during the year, which the board promptly attributes to the professional agitators, who have, it is said, been very active in disseminating discord among the working classes of Monte Video. Happily everything is working smoothly enough now, and it seems that the President of Uruguay has undertaken to at once introduce legislation for the mutual protection of capital and labour. This, we hope, will have the effect of preventing a recurrence of these troubles, so hurtful to business of all kinds, but we are by no means sure that the conflicts between capital and labour are solely the work of the so-called paid agitator. Do the directors always recognise that the employees are entitled to share the benefits of prosperous times? To nett balance of £223,571, already mentioned, must be added sum brought in £12,858, year's interest on Government bonds £3,689, interest on 6 per cent. debenture stock of the Western Extension Railway £33,992 and profit on remittances, &c.; £13,781, making £287,892 in all. From that have already been deducted interim ordinary dividend of 2 per cent. £40,000, interest on debentures and debenture stocks, including the Western Extension debentures, £110,891, North-Eastern Railway rent £56,000, balance of Western Extension guarantee £8,547 and income-tax £2,321, a total of £217,850. Credit still left is £70,042, from which a final distribution of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary stock is proposed, making 4½ per cent. for the year or 2½ per cent. more, with £2,000 to pension fund and an advance to £18,042 in the carry forward. The Government is a debtor to the amount of £99,809 for services rendered in transporting troops, munitions of war, &c., and while the directors regret the delay in settling the account the debt is good enough, because a Bill is now before Congress authorising the issue of \$8,000,000 of new bonds to be applied in liquidating obligations incurred during the civil war, pending which the Government has delivered to the company negotiable securities representing £85,000 on account.

CENTRAL URUGUAY EASTERN AND NORTHERN EXTENSIONS.

These companies, allied to and worked by the Central Uruguay Railway Company, issue separate statements. During the year

to June 30 the gross earnings on the Eastern amounted to £102,922 or an improvement of £18,456 against an increase in working expenses of £6,655 at £48,888, leaving the net profit at £54,034 an advance of £11,801. Ratio between expenditure and income was down 2.50 per cent. to 47.50 per cent. Coaching traffic, which includes passengers, telegraph, luggage and parcels, showed an increase of £6,123, and goods handled rose 20,460 tons, producing additional revenue of £15,012, but thanks to the decline in the transport of horses 10,943 fewer animals were carried, meaning a loss in income of £2,679. With £558 brought forward the sum for disposal is £54,592, which provides debenture interest, two dividends aggregating 4 per cent. on the share capital, being an increase of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., income-tax and sundry interest, leaving £2,040 to be carried to next account. On the Northern Extension the increase in gross revenue was £15,839 at £66,702, and as the expenditure was larger by £7,701 at £38,219 the net profit comes out £8,138 to the good at £28,483. Add Government guarantee £43,572 and £6,195 from previous account and the sum for division is £78,250, from which debenture interest, interim dividend of 4s. per share, income-tax and interest altogether absorb £53,292, leaving £24,959. So the directors are able to pay a final dividend of 4s. 6d. per share, making $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for the year, an advance of 1 per cent., carrying forward, however, the considerably reduced sum of £2,459. With this undertaking the increase in coaching receipts was £1,542, goods revenue rose £14,307 with an advance in the tonnage of 29,931, and the receipts from animals were only down £10, although the numbers carried fell off by 8,165, due as on the main line and Eastern Extension to the smaller transport of horses.

LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY.

This company's revenue during the twelve months ended June 30 reached \$38,517,070 or \$1,573,278 more than in the previous year, but the average number of miles in operation was 3,826 compared with 3,618, so that the earnings per mile were \$154 less. Operating expenses were up \$1,348,472 to \$26,490,020, excluding taxes, a drop of \$25 per mile, leaving the net earnings at \$12,027,049 or an improvement of \$224,805. That means a net decrease per mile of \$128, while the ratio of expenditure to total earnings goes up from 68.05 per cent. to 68.77 per cent. Net revenue is increased to \$13,654,540 by rents, dividends on investments and interest, and just about 50 per cent. of this sum or \$6,827,501 is absorbed by interest on bonded debt, rents and taxes, sinking funds and other fixed charges. Surplus therefore is \$6,827,039, and after increasing the dividend by 1 to 6 per cent. there is a balance transferred to profit and loss account of \$3,227,039. Net balance of other credits and debits, however, was slightly adverse, so that the profit and loss account is ultimately increased from \$11,684,424 at June 30, 1904, to \$14,899,106 an advance of \$3,214,682, the whole being absorbed in the business. Expenditures for equipment and for improvements and additions to the property during the year were \$2,562,314, all charged to operating expenses, and it would not matter if the outlay in this direction were twice as much, because a terribly small proportion of the track is laid with rails of what we should consider safety weight. For example, only $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles are laid with rails of 85 lbs. to the yard and only 917 miles with 80-lb. rails, while 941 miles do not go beyond $58\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. and 211 miles or more are even less than that. Such a condition of affairs would not be tolerated for a moment in this country, nor is there any necessity for it, because we have all the steel markets of the world at our disposal, not being cursed by trusts and monopolists, and could lay a first-class track for less money probably than a second or even third-rate one could be put down for in America. Poor tracks usually mean bad accidents, and the American people frequently suffer with their lives for their protective tariffs. In April last the company executed a mortgage securing an issue of \$50,000,000 4 per cent. bonds, to be known as the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company of Atlanta, Knoxville and Cincinnati Division bonds. This mortgage covers a large amount of property at Cincinnati, Knoxville and Atlanta, the line of railroad constructed and to be constructed from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Atlanta, Georgia, with sundry branches, subject to prior liens already existing on certain portions, and under it the company has received \$14,543,000 as reimbursement for the expenditures on the acquisition and construction of this property. Other bond issues brought the total nominal increase in the bonded debt for the year to \$19,858,000 making it \$167,186,500, but nearly all the additions were deposited in the company's treasury or in trusts as collateral, so that the extra amount in the hands of the public was only \$998,000 at a total of \$114,440,500.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY.

During the year ended June 30 last this big system earned a gross revenue of \$49,508,650, at a cost, exclusive of taxes, of \$33,084,258, leaving a net income of \$16,424,392. Deducting taxes, which came to \$2,027,448, and the balance is brought down to \$14,396,944, but on the other hand there was miscellaneous income of \$2,761,507, raising the total excess to \$17,158,451. Compared with the preceding twelve months the average mileage operated was larger by 33 and the gross receipts increased \$2,677,514, with an advance of \$291,006 only in the total expenditure and \$85,017 in taxes. Miscellaneous income was also higher in the aggregate, so that of its gross gain the company saves the considerable sum of \$2,346,448. Fixed charges, however, bounded up \$1,077,034 to \$7,023,109 leaving \$10,135,342, which is raised to \$11,361,109 by the surplus brought forward. Just about half this sum is used to provide a dividend of 7 per cent. on the common stock, being 1 per cent. more, and while only \$1,683,886 is set aside for betterments, compared with

\$2,579,239 in 1903-4 and \$4,881,253 in the year before that, the directors provide \$1,255,396 to fill up the gap caused by the sale of bonds at a discount and add \$500,000 to the insurance fund. Thus the aggregate allocations reach \$3,439,281, and leave a surplus to be carried forward of \$1,269,027, an improvement of \$43,260. We are told that the policy of improving the standards of maintenance has been strictly adhered to, and note that the average weight of rail in the main track has further increased from 72.78 lbs. to the yard to 73.50 lbs. These are figures which compare favourably enough with some other Yankee roads, but they are still a good way behind the high standard adopted by the best English trunk lines. The average tractive capacity of locomotives on level track is 126 tons greater at 3,860 tons, the capacity of revenue freight cars has advanced from 33.77 to 34.21 tons, and the passenger train equipment has been improved by the purchase of 15 new cars, including the eight steel cars referred to in the last report as being under construction. The equipment has also been increased by the purchase of 72 locomotives and 2,518 freight cars and one rail unloading machine bought or built in the company's shops. All this naturally means heavy outlays of money, and it seems that during the period now under review \$4,400,822 altogether was spent on betterments, \$1,683,886 being provided from income, as already noted, and \$2,716,936 charged to capital. A further sum of \$3,168,871 was involved in the purchase of the Peoria, Decatur and Mattoon Railroad, which seems to have been formerly represented in the balance-sheet under the title of "Advances on account of other railroads," now substituted by the issue of \$2,500,000 Purchased Line bonds already reserved for that purpose. Altogether the bond sales for the year reached the tidy sum of \$15,687,000, which yielded \$14,304,142, the difference or discount being debited to the year's earnings, as already mentioned. Part of this capital is probably required in connection with the Indianapolis Southern Railway, a new undertaking, which the directors seem to have suddenly discovered was being constructed parallel with part of the company's track, and which they therefore set about to purchase. The line is described as a valuable one, and will cost \$4,511,800 to build, of which \$2,772,882 had been expended up to June 30 last. A rather serious fire during the year cost the company \$87,250 for freight cars destroyed, which has been charged to the insurance fund, but numerous claims presented for losses on account of goods in freight cars or on wharves have not yet been settled. Prompt settlement, however, of all claims will be made for which the company is responsible, and in view of this and the large additions to equipment and other insurable property a special addition of \$500,000 has been made to the insurance fund raising it to \$2,152,919.

SAN PAULO (BRAZILIAN) RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the half-year to June 30 this well-managed and successful undertaking encountered good traffics and a greatly improved exchange, and therefore makes an excellent display. At an exchange of nearly 15d. against just over 12d. for the corresponding period the gross earnings came to £490,697 or an increase of more than £110,000, to which the coaching traffic contributed £117,008, parcels, horses, carriages, &c., £2,853, telegraph £537, and merchandise almost £100,000. Miscellaneous income showed a slight decline, because on the present occasion there is no credit on account of difference in exchange on assets in Brazil compared with £6,448 in the corresponding period. The increase in the number of passengers carried was 19,290 and in the goods handled 14,792 tons. Along with the big advance in revenue came a larger proportionate rise in expenditure, which amounted to £316,951 compared with £226,553. Outlay on maintenance of way went up £12,972, tractive power rose £21,791, carriage and wagon repairs £29,438, traffic expenses £21,489 and general charges £3,556—very important advances all, which create the impression that, like their Argentine neighbours, the directors are taking advantage of prevailing good times to indulge in lavish outlays on the line. That great future benefit will be derived from this policy admits of no doubt at all, although, in giving praise, we must not overlook the fact that in the first half of 1904 the expenditure was reduced by £41,110 in consequence of a shrinkage in receipts of £77,920. After providing administration expenses in England and interest on balance of shares, each showing some reduction, the net revenue is £163,369 or an advance of £20,959. Sum brought forward was £154,849 compared with £122,732, a difference of £32,117, making the total available £318,218, from which the directors pay the debenture interest and preference dividend and a dividend and bonus aggregating 6 per cent. on the ordinary stock, absorbing £251,875 or £88,506 more than the earnings. As, however, we have before pointed out, the opening half of the year is the lean one and in the second part the traffic is enormously larger. From July to the middle of the present month the receipts have amounted to over £500,000 or about £65,000 more than in the corresponding period, and as the coffee crop is expected to yield an extra million bags at 7,500,000, or 450,000 tons compared with 390,000, the current six months should wind up brilliantly and easily redress the balance. The sum now carried forward is £66,344 against £13,267. The financial position, we need scarcely again remark, is thoroughly sound, as although the debit on capital account comes to £129,168, reserve reaches the big sum of £574,482, besides the income-tax reserve of £41,875, and there is an enormous excess of liquid assets over liabilities.

BOLIVAR RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This Venezuelan company did not find the year to June 30 a very satisfactory one, owing to the partial failure of the coffee

crop, but for all that the preference shareholders are about to enjoy their first dividend, thanks to the money received under the Anglo-Venezuelan award. Gross revenue from the railway and steamer was only £41,005 compared with £74,030 in the previous year, when business was probably stimulated, somewhat artificially, by the breakdown of the revolution. Less than £1,000 could be saved in expenses, which absorbed £31,765, leaving the nett revenue down by £32,124 at £9,240. Interest on deposits, transfer fees, &c., reached £1,238 and £22,784 came in under the "coercion" award, meaning a disposable balance of £33,262, but even this is £8,732 less than the sum available a year ago. At that time, however, there was a debit balance to be made good of £33,201 against only £7,598 now, so that after providing this together with debenture interest, loss on exchange, &c., the directors are able to pay 3 per cent. on the preference shares besides placing £1,000 to depreciation reserve and carrying forward £222. Happily there seems a prospect that preference dividends, now begun, will be continued, as there is still £20,322 to come in from the Venezuelan Government and latest reports speak of the probability of an improvement in the general railway business for the current year. A nett balance, after providing prior charges, of less than £15,000 would provide the full 5 per cent. on the preference shares, and the possibility of such a payment in the near future does not seem altogether hopeless, because all revenue deficiencies have now been provided.

DEMERARA RAILWAY COMPANY.

Matters do not improve with this company and the arrears of preference dividend continue to accumulate, but nothing has been done to solve the problem of putting its affairs in order, and the committee of preference and ordinary shareholders appointed a year ago are still waiting developments. On the Demerara Railway itself gross receipts for the half-year ended June 30 fell off by £1,696 to £12,964, and as against this the saving in working expenses was only £779 at £6,790 the nett income was £917 down at £6,174. Revenue on the Berbice Railway was £90 larger at £3,181 and expenses took £749 less at £5,421, but the loss although £839 under that of the first half of 1904 was still heavy at £2,240, and on the West Coast line an increase of £46 to £2,702 in receipts was accompanied by heavier expenses, so that there was a loss of £337 compared with £184. Adding £714 brought in and £6,250 of Government subsidy and deducting debenture interest the amount available came to £9,161 or £5,656 less, but nothing is deducted on this occasion for new locomotives compared with £5,656 charged a year ago, and as the dividend on the extension preference shares is met by the Government subsidy the directors had £2,911 at their disposal, out of which they propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the 7 per cent. preference stock and carry forward £611. This leaves the arrears on the preference stock at £29,325, and it is evident that the longer the task of putting the company on a sound footing is shirked the more difficult it will become.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANK.

We do not quite like the figures of this old Scotch bank, as exhibited in its balance-sheet for the year ended September 30 last. This looks incongruous seeing that the directors propose to make the dividend for the year up to 10½ per cent., as against 10 per cent. paid in the preceding year. Still the fact remains that we cannot discover any substantial source of additional profit beyond a startling expansion in the note circulation. A year ago that circulation amounted to about £278,000, and at the date of the balance-sheet just issued it had risen to £482,000. At the same time cash, including balances with other banks, &c., went up about £96,000; in other words, the cash or cash balances rose about 18 per cent. at the same time that the note circulation expanded more than 73 per cent. The only other increase is in deposit and current account balances, but that item, at £4,071,000, is only about £62,000 larger than a year back. On the other hand, we find investments down another £421,000 to £1,811,000, leaving out the odd hundreds. Compared with two years ago, indeed, this is a decrease of £556,000, and we wonder where the money has gone, for the bills discounted, advances, &c., have also fallen off during the past year by £171,000 to a total of £2,568,000. Did the Bank make exceptional profits by the sale of its securities? If not, where has its additional revenue been drawn from? Perhaps the chairman will expound the facts at the approaching shareholders' meeting. Meantime, it may be mentioned that in addition to paying the larger dividend, £15,000 is carried to reserve, raising it to £207,500, against a paid up capital of £400,000, and £1,000 is written off bank premises, standing in the books at £173,000. The balance carried forward is also slightly raised to £2,719, against £1,404 brought in. Profits, it should be stated, are brought out, leaving the balances brought forward out of account, at £60,208, an increase of £7,600 on those for the preceding year.

HOTEL CECIL, LIMITED.

Once again the annual report of this calamitous venture is issued to bring disappointment and misery to its shareholders, victims, nearly all, of Jabez Balfour's evil-doing, for are not the whole of the ordinary shares still being nursed by the United Realisation Company, which has tried, with ill success, to save a little from the wreck? This part of the capital will, we fear, never again receive a dividend, certainly not if financial stability is given a thought, and the preference holders would probably consider themselves more than fortunate if they came by their full return. In the year to August 31 last the business done amounted to £201,138 or £18,525 more than in the previous twelve months, and rents went up £1,648 to £10,699,

making a total revenue of £211,837 compared with £191,664. That seems a very fair improvement, but we dare not forget that the previous year's accounts showed a shrinkage in business of £43,759, so that the hotel is still doing a lot worse than it did in 1902-3. Not so very encouraging after all. Moreover, in order to produce the modest advance now shown it was necessary to spend a lot of money on advertising, meaning that the working expenses shot up £8,717 to £72,773, and there were also increases in rates, taxes, insurance, and licences, £9,248 and general repairs and renewals £10,332. Therefore, although the wines, spirits, and provisions consumed cost about £3,721 more at £79,740, only £7,258 was saved out of the gross gain, the nett profit being £39,744 against £32,486. Transfer fees and interest were less at £198, making £39,942 in all, an advance of £6,967, and after providing debenture interest £24,000, directors' fees, and other small charges, the sum remaining is £14,457, compared with £6,624. So much that is harsh has to be said when dealing with the position that praise must be given where due, and we therefore hasten to make prominent the fact that the directors' remuneration this time is only £696, a decline against the previous year of £1,251. Nett profit above mentioned is sufficient to provide a dividend of 2¾ per cent. on the 5½ per cent. preference shares, and this the directors propose to pay, increasing the carry-forward from £8,246 to £8,983. The rate is the same as that paid last year, but probably enough nothing at all would then have been forthcoming except that the dividend took the form of an interim payment, and the money was paid away before the directors discovered how disastrously the year would turn out. The dividend not being earned, the carry-forward was heavily drawn upon in order to make good the deficiency, the result being that only £8,246 was brought into the present accounts, as compared with £14,487 into last. Twelve months' preference dividend is now in arrear, and year after year goes by without the slightest attempt being made to provide for depreciation. Quite true, that £10,332 was spent on repairs and renewals, but is there no permanent wastage in freehold land, buildings, machinery, plant, furniture, fittings, &c., standing at the staggering figure of £1,497,679? There were actually additions during the year to the amount of £6,928, and the only sum written off was £51 on account of sales of plant. Surely a grave outlook, because the reserve is terribly slender at £30,411, a sum of £1,000 having been expended from it during the year upon the exterior of the building and re-decoration of the main entrance hall. Sundry creditors are not very oppressive at £28,807, which is just as well, because debtors are no more than £11,230. Stocks come to £43,126, and cash is £39,916.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

We think shareholders of this undertaking will derive some comfort from a perusal of the interim report just issued. In it the directors naturally have a good deal to say regarding the West Indian postal subsidy, which came to an end on June 30 last, but with most of the information we are already familiar. It was known, for example, that the company had resumed its call at New York, and also that since the end of July all the colonies, with the exception of Jamaica, have been dependent for the receipt and delivery of their mails with regularity on the company continuing its fortnightly service. This is now being carried on with some modifications which effect an economy in working, but, in the interests of the company, it may be necessary to make further alterations pending an arrangement for the performance of this important service on a fair poundage basis or by payment of a subsidy. There can be no doubt at all that the present scale of remuneration for the carriage of the mails by the company's West Indian passenger steamers, being equal only to that paid to cargo steamers, is altogether inadequate for the services rendered. The new twin screw mail steamer *Aragon* left Southampton on her maiden voyage in July last, and satisfactory progress is being made in the construction of two more vessels of even greater capacity. When these are finished the capacity of the fleet will reach 129,658 tons.

A. AND F. PEARS, LIMITED.

The directors report that the trade of the company is in a satisfactory and advancing condition, but the progress made during the twelve months ended June 30 was not anything like so good as in the previous year. Gross revenue, including £4,088 from interest, was £1,800 up at £167,578, but to earn this additional income cost £5,250 more at £109,192, and after writing off £4,678 or £246 less for depreciation and leasehold redemption, the nett profits were £3,203 smaller at £53,708. To this was added £1,107 from the previous account, and debenture interest and preference dividend having been paid, the usual £5,000 is put to reserve and the ordinary shares again receive 10 per cent., but this leaves a balance of £1,815 only, so nothing can be paid on the deferred shares against the 2½ per cent. of a year ago. A sum of £554 for the old lease in Great Russell Street, expired, has been written off the capital account, and with £152 spent this item now stands at £602,067, against which there are reserves of various kinds amounting to £142,112. Of these reserves, £123,916 is represented by investments taken at cost, but the depreciation on the securities is still heavy at £10,859, and we fear a large proportion of this will ultimately have to be written off as loss. Trading accounts are well in favour of the company, as against liabilities to sundry creditors of £23,000, sundry debtors come to £42,007, and in addition to £11,699 held in bills receivable the company has £45,106 or £8,486 more than a year ago in cash.

RICHARDSONS, WESTGARTH, AND CO., LIMITED.

A modest recovery in the profits for the twelve months ended August 25 calls forth from the directors their usual parrot-like

utterance to the effect that in view of the dull state of the engineering trade during the past year the results are highly satisfactory. Considering that the new turbine works and new brass foundry at Hartlepool, new iron foundry at Middlesbrough, and the boiler shop extension at Sunderland have been completed, and have in all probability contributed towards the revenue earned, an improvement of less than £1,000 seems little enough to grow enthusiastic over, but we know from past experience that very little pleases the gentlemen in control of this undertaking. After spending £18,384 or £163 more on maintenance and repairs of buildings and machinery, the nett profits were £870 up at £75,373, but the balance brought forward was £747 smaller at £16,635 and the amount available came to only £123 more at £92,008. Directors' fees absorbed £2,500, and debenture interest and preference dividend having been met the ordinary shares again get 6 per cent., after which another £15,000 is transferred to depreciation account, and by reducing the sum carried forward to £6,758 the directors are able to put a much needed £10,000 to reserve. Capital expenditure for the year was £24,735, raising the total of this item to £784,601, on which the depreciation allowance to date is £67,500, or little more than 8½ per cent., apart from the reserve of £30,000. Work in progress, stock in trade, loose plant, tools, &c., the last named being taken at book values, have on this occasion been merged into one item instead of being stated separately as hitherto, so that it is impossible to say how the reduction of £1,205 shown is arrived at. Liabilities to sundry creditors are £1,864 less at £67,203, against which cash has been reduced by £8,653 to £101,264, but sundry debtors have risen £7,041 to £160,442.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The London cargo market continues exceedingly quiet, but sellers have no difficulty in maintaining rates, and the few transactions put through are at prices fully equal to those current last week. Northern markets are just as inactive, although there also the tendency is firm, and trade in America is far from brisk. In New York, however, quotations were disposed to slacken off at the start owing to the disappointing European cables, heavy world's weekly shipments, good Argentine advices, and reports of favourable weather for the crop just sown. Sellers, however, were not disposed to operate at all freely at the lower values, and a gradual improvement set in under the influence of bear covering and an unfavourable reading of the weather chart for the young crop. Some foreign orders helped the rise and with reports of a good demand from the milling interests the initial loss was soon wiped out and an improvement established, notwithstanding Bradstreet's estimate of the quantity in sight east of the Rockies at 39,385,000 bushels against 35,443,000 last week and 29,985,000 a year ago. Dornbusch puts the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the U.K. at 1,260,000 qrs compared with the same figure a week ago, and to the Continent 2,010,000 against 2,160,000.

WOOL.—A considerable difference of opinion still exists between buyers and sellers as to the probable course of the market after the turn of the year, when a large increase in supplies is expected. Holders take the view that the expansion in the consumption will more than neutralise this increase, and are therefore in no hurry to sell, while consumers on the other hand will not do more than buy for immediate needs. Manufacturers, however, are extremely busy, as the cold weather has created a demand from the home trade for winter goods for early delivery, and a very trifling reduction in prices for wool would probably result in a large business being put through. Export houses have plenty of orders on hand, principally for Canada and Australasia, while the United States is also buying more freely, and trade with South Africa is perhaps a shade better.

LINEN.—The easier conditions in the flax markets proved to be very transitory, and spinners are now more disposed than ever to hold out for full prices for their yarns, but business continues quiet, and there is no appreciable change to report. In manufactured goods, too, the story of the past few weeks may be repeated. The demand is sufficient to absorb all the available supplies, and although there is still an absence of speculation the opinion is gaining ground that no slackening of quotations may be looked for in the near future, and a further increase in the inquiry is confidently predicted. Advices from abroad all point to a considerable expansion in business, and the outlook for several months to come appears to be decidedly bright. The United States is buying much more freely, and South American requirements are also increasing steadily, while Canadian and New Zealand trade shows signs of improvement, and shipments to the other colonies are well maintained. Home trade is not so brisk, but here also there are indications of expanding inquiries, especially in damask yarns. The jute season has opened well, and although offerings this week were fairly large, the demand has been good, and prices have risen in a substantial fashion.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Raw American cotton is dearer to-day owing to manipulation in the States yesterday. The Giles estimate of 10,300,000 bales seems to have sent prices higher in New York and New Orleans. Liverpool was dearer to the extent of 13 points, bringing the official quotation to 5.40d. Lancashire users are purchasing a little more freely. There has been some buying done in futures during the last fortnight, operators being of the opinion that prices would not come much lower. Egyptian cotton has been quiet and generally unchanged. Latest advices from Alexandria are to the effect that the plant is doing moderately well, except in the Delta. East India crop advices are very favourable to a large

output. In cotton piece goods there has been very little business done in large lines, though numerous transactions in small lots have taken place. Most sellers are well engaged, and are not pressing for business. The Bengal boycott continues to be the subject of grave discussion. No buying seems to be going on for Calcutta, but Bombay and Karachi have sent some fair offers. China shippers are operating moderately where early delivery can be assured. The smaller markets show no particular change. Lancashire manufacturers have plenty of work to go on with, and are not seeking orders. The feature of interest is the home trade revival for home trade goods. Extensive orders have been given out to makers for delivery early next year.

Cops made from American cotton for home consumption have been sold in small lots, but the margin has been poor. Dearer cotton means a lessened margin owing to the supply of yarn being larger than the requirements of the looms. Quotations for futures close:—October-November, 5.44d.; November-December, 5.45d.; December-January, 5.49d.; January-February, 5.52d.; February-March, 5.54d.; March-April, 5.57d.; April-May, 5.59d.; May-June, 5.60d.; June-July, 5.61d.; July-August, 5.62d.

Shipping yarns have been active up to a few days ago, but buyers appear to have satisfied their wants for the time being.

Bolton yarns remain steady, and a healthy inquiry has been experienced throughout.

In New York quotations have continued to fluctuate considerably, the market being very easily swayed by one influence and then another. Mr. Price's statement that this season's crop would not fall far short of 12,000,000 bales caused heavy liquidation, and prices fell sharply, only to recover soon afterwards on the Giles estimate of 10,300,000 bales. The advance has been supported by fears of an early frost, and the holding back of cotton by farmers, and as Sir Jacob Behrens and Sons point out, quotations are now much where they were a week ago. There is nothing new to report in Egyptian cotton.

COAL.—The coal trade is not anything like so brisk as the iron and steel trades, sellers being more anxious to operate than buyers. Too much coal is offering, and in some branches prices have dropped. In Scotland, however, there is more evidence of improvement, a larger export and home demand tending to harden prices. More business has been done for the Mediterranean ports, and there is a better demand from the East Coast for the Continent. In Wales the market has just been steady. At Cardiff quotations rule:—Best steam, 12s 6d. to 12s. 9d.; best seconds, 12s. to 12s. 3d.; seconds, 11s. 6d. to 11s. 9d. At Swansea steam coal remains at 12s. to 12s. 6d.

COPPER.—A fairly steady demand was experienced during the early days of the week, the trade demand being moderately active with signs of an improved inquiry on Continental account now that the German electrical strike has been settled. For a time, therefore, prices were firmly held, but later on the metal was rather freely offered, and quotations gave way to a small extent. They broke further on Lawson's latest advertisement, and although steadying again before the end closed dull at £72 2s. 6d. for cash and £70 5s. for three months forward.

TIN.—In response to higher Eastern cables this market opened firm, and soon developed a strong upward tendency. Inquiries on American account were reported on a considerable scale, and with low estimates of shipments for the current month, some putting the figures at no more than 3,500 tons, prices advanced sharply. The rise was followed by a slight setback, and the market finished quiet at £148 15s. for spot and £148 for future delivery.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business continues lively in the iron and steel trades; in fact, the revival is so pronounced that many hold the view that it is going ahead too rapidly and cannot last, especially as it is dependent in a large measure upon the boom in the shipbuilding industry. Prices for pig-iron are advancing at a rate which surprises everyone. Buyers are still very keen, and sellers secure advances so easily that they naturally take full advantage of the opportunity offered them. Confidence is growing. Perhaps the most rapid movement has been in East Coast hematite pig-iron. Whilst Cleveland No. 3 has advanced 8s. 6d. per ton, mixed numbers of East Coast hematite have risen 17s., and the probability is that consumers will have to pay higher prices still, though the latter are the best that have been ruling for four years.

TEA.—The quantity of Indian tea brought forward was again rather larger at 44,446 packages, but the improvement of the past few weeks was maintained. Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton state that a good demand was experienced for all grades, common kinds being distinctly firm, and medium and good liquoring descriptions slightly harder. The average price obtained, however, was only 8.02d., against 8.17d. a week ago, and 7.06d. in 1904. A further improvement in flavour and quality was shown in Ceylon teas, and the offerings met with good general competition, with the result that the average realised was again rather higher at 7.75d., compared with 7.71d. last week and 7.25d. last year. Exports to the United Kingdom for the first half of October amounted to 10,000,000 lbs. from India and 4,250,000 lbs. from Ceylon, against 11,530,000 lbs. and 3,200,000 lbs. respectively in 1904.

SUGAR.—The estimates of Messrs. Licht did not materially affect the market, but a pressure to resell beetroot sugar originally destined for shipment to the United States caused a rather sharp decline. This made the trade the more disinclined to operate beyond their immediate requirements. With the prospect of considerably increased supplies, says Mr. Czarnikow, the Continental fabricants, especially those in France and Belgium, have also shown more desire to realise, notwithstanding that the weather reports in the early part of the week left much to be

desired. During the past day or two, however, an improvement in this respect seems to have set in. He also points out that in the meantime the low level of values favourably affects the world's consumption, and sooner or later an improved demand must make itself felt. Indeed, in home-refined sugar the business done during the past few months has been of a profitable character, and the outlook is hopeful. New York continues apathetic, the only transactions being a few parcels of Cuban centrifugals at late rates. Landings for the week in the three ports were 39,500 tons and meltings 40,000 tons, leaving stocks at 229,000 tons.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Cuban Central.—4s. per share on the ordinary shares.
Kilsyth and Bonnybridge.—For the half-year at the rate of £1 17s. 6d. per cent. per annum, carrying forward £118.
South Indian.—Out of surplus profits of 45s. per cent., which, with guaranteed interest, will make a distribution of £3 15s. for the half-year, or at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, payable January.

MINES.

Alaska Mexican.—30 cents per share.
Alaska Treadwell.—\$1 per share.
Nundydroog.—Interim of 1s. 2d. per share on the old shares and fully-paid new shares, 9½d. per share on new shares on which 6s. 8d. per share had been paid on account of capital on or before May 3, 1905, and 4½d. per share on new shares on which 3s. 4d. per share had been paid on account of capital on or before May 3, 1905, payable Nov. 17. This makes 2s. 4d. per share on the fully-paid shares for the first eight months of the current year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Aerated Bread.—Balance for the year ended Sept. 30 of 3s. 6d. per share, in addition to the interim of 3s. paid in April.
Borax Consolidated.—Interim of 5s. per ordinary share in respect of the quarter ended June 30, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Brunner, Mond.—On the ordinary shares for the past half-year at the rate of 35 per cent. per annum. It is proposed to call up the remaining 10s. upon the half-paid ordinary shares. Special meetings are to be summoned to amend the articles of association, and the directors will propose to apply a portion of the reserve fund to paying a special dividend of 33½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable in cash or in £1 ordinary shares at par.

Callender's Cable and Construction Company.—Interim on the ordinary shares on Nov. 1 of 5s. per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

City of Dublin Steam Packet.—At the rate of 2 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Aug. 31.

D. Hill Carter and Co.—Interim at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Aug. 19.

Edinburgh Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. on the deferred for the half-year ended Sept. 15.

Hannans Land.—Third interim for 1905 of 2½ per cent. payable Nov. 14.

Holbrooks.—Interim of 6 per cent. for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

J. B. Brooks.—2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 5 per cent. for the past year, placing £5,000 to reserve.

London and Lancashire Fire Insurance.—Interim of 6s. per share.

London Nitrate.—Final for the year ended June 30 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 6s. 7d. per share, making 10s. 7d. for the year, placing £23,466 to reserve.

Metallic Seamless Tube.—5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £1,010.

Montevideo Gas.—Interim, payable Nov. 18, of 6s. per share for the half-year ended June 30.

Moss Isaacs.—For the year ended Sept. 8, of 6½ per cent.

Oriental Telephone and Electric.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Oxford Canal Navigation.—At the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

Pacific Steam Navigation.—Interim on account of the present year of 10s. per share.

Second Scottish Investment Trust.—5 per cent. on the deferred stock, carrying forward £2,371.

South Durham Steel and Iron.—A second and final of 1s. per share for the nine months ended Sept. 30.

Western Telegraph.—Final of 3s. per share, making a total of 6 per cent. for the year ended June 30, and also bonus of 2s. per share, placing £60,000 to reserve and £5,000 to maintenance ships fund.

MINING RETURNS.

Brilliant Block.—Crushed 650 tons, 324 ozs.; value of cyanide, £860.

Brilliant Central.—Crushed 2,410 tons, 1,386 ozs.; value of cyanide, £265.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—3,153 tons of ore treated, producing 530 tons of concentrates.

Broken Hill Proprietary, Block 10.—12,240 tons of ore, producing 1,801 tons concentrates.

Camp Bird.—Mill crushed 5,992 tons of ore (dry weight), 9,293 ozs., and 315 tons of concentrates. Amounts received from sales of product—bullion, including cyanide bullion, \$170,007; concentrates, 387 tons, \$37,229.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal 17,500 tons, sales 12,500 tons, consumption 1,325 tons.

Cobar Gold.—Mill 1,214 tons, 140 ozs.; tailings 930 tons, 316 ozs.; slimes 700 tons, 772 ozs.; total 1,228 ozs.

El Oro.—Crushed 19,208 tons, producing \$185,720; from old cyanide plant, \$2,279.

Esperanza.—Crushed 13,427 tons; shipped to smelter 5,763 tons, value \$149,484; value of concentrates, \$37,240; value of ore shipped to smelter, \$429,449; total \$616,173.

Inverness Coal.—16,384 tons.

Komata Reefs Gold.—Crushed 1,300 tons, £3,550.

Lachlan.—Crushed 740 tons. Result £1,330.

Mount Lyell.—Treated 30,427 tons; in addition 1,531 tons of purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes. The converters produced 659 tons of blister copper, containing:—Copper, 650 tons; silver, 53,225 ozs.; gold, 1,968 ozs.

Mount Roudny Gold.—Crushed 3,300 tons, 300 ozs.; concentrates 129 tons, 315 ozs.; tailings 2,013 tons, 40 ozs.; total, 654 ozs.

New Heriot.—Crushed 8,960 tons, 3,612 ozs.

New Hillgrove Proprietary.—Crushed 880 tons, including 100 tons of screenings, 1,410 ozs.; concentrates 5.5 tons, 22 ozs.; cyanide 216 tons, 30 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—Treated 1,750 tons, producing 310 tons concentrates containing 214 tons 10 cwt. of lead and 5,580 ozs. of silver.

Ouro Preto.—Crushed 6,951 tons, 1,908 ozs.

Palmarejo and Mexican Goldfields.—Crushed 4,080 tons, treated 3,300 tons, producing \$17,460 gold, \$41,000 silver.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £7,750; yield per ton, .63 of an oz. Troy.

Stratton's Independence.—Net profit, £4,824, from 2,811 tons shipping ore.

Tanganyika Concessions.—Ruwe Mine: output, August, 430 ozs.

Ymir.—Crushed 1,580 tons, 305 ozs.; value, \$3,137; 115 tons of concentrates, shipped, value \$3,500; cyanide treated, 1,140 tons of tailings, value \$1,130; sundry revenue, \$266; total, \$8,033.

Answers to Correspondents.

Delta.—If you can sell without loss, we think you had better do so, as we regard the company's prospects as quite speculative.

Plow.—There is no necessity to sell, as the new installation you mention is not likely to have any prejudicial effect.

S. A. G.—(a) We do not care much about the second company you name, and as you do not want to increase the number of offices, you would do better to go to the first. (b) We should be inclined to leave things as they stand unless you need the money. The return on your investment is so good that you could not hope to do better with the money if you sold.

Tay.—This undertaking will probably share in the improved conditions of trade which seem to have come about, and the shares may have a small rise, but it is not wise to become too heavily involved in any particular enterprise.

W. P.—We share your aversion to the "much amalgamated" companies, and also to those of Yankee origin, but so far as we can see, this new venture seems straightforward enough, and the bond interest ought to be quite secure. You would not be taking much risk in making the exchange, and might do well for a time.

"Nomen."—(1) We are still of the same opinion as regards this Bill, but we do not think there is the slightest possibility of its being passed. (2) The shares may go higher if it is true that the company has come to an amicable arrangement with its chief rival, and you need be in no hurry to sell.

A. M. R.—No trustworthy organisation exists, we regret to say, for the purpose you indicate, and it is difficult to see how one is to come into being while the victims refuse to help each other. We are quite ready to help, but can do nothing unaided.

Letter to the Editors.

DEAR SIRS,—Some few weeks back you strongly advised all your readers to clear out of their Kaffir shares. I wrote you at that time, as it meant a serious loss on my holding. I did not take your advice, and at to-day's prices I have a good profit on my shares, in some cases as much as 20s. per share.

As a prophet you are not worth a damn! and your paper would be more interesting if you would cease your continual "girling." Your writing is one long lamentation.

You would be far happier dead.

Yours,

THOS. WALKER.

237, George Street, Glasgow,
September 12, 1905.

[The above effusion appears at a belated date, but we kept it back, hoping that the writer would inform us how far his plutonic inspiration had helped him in securing his profits. He has not done so, but we hope for the best, and, anyhow, his familiarity with the other world and conditions of existence there is fully as instructive as his gambling perspicacity.—Eds.]

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of the British Columbia Electric Railway Co., Limited, was held on Monday, at the Liverpool Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. R. M. Horne-Payne (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. B. H. Binder) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—I think it is always a difficult matter for a chairman to address the shareholders at the annual meeting if there is not some particular policy or resolution before the meeting which requires to be explained and advocated, and I think it is especially difficult when the company is prosperous. I find that I have really nothing to say to you which will be of interest, and I should only be wasting your time if I detained you. Our company has emerged from the struggles and difficulties inherent to formation and early growth into a strong and well-established undertaking, and we have become like the typical alderman—sleek, fat, stodgy and uninteresting. There is so little element of speculation in the enterprise that our reports must be one year much like another. Our accounts are very full, and in the form which you have become accustomed to, and there occurs to me nothing to explain; but I shall be only too pleased to answer any number of questions. The matters of principal interest to you during the year have been the complete reorganisation of our administrative arrangements; the completion of the Vancouver power plant; the opening of the electrified railway to Steveson; the agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway, which you sanctioned at our last meeting; the acquisition, making and opening of a new pleasure park at Victoria, and the signature of a contract with the Corporation of North Vancouver to extend our operations to that young city. The growth of our undertaking rendered the re-arrangement of the administrative department absolutely necessary. The work falling on your directors in London had become intolerably heavy, and made it desirable that we should have the constant advice and assistance of Mr. Buntzen, so long our general manager; and at the same time it became apparent that one man could no longer attempt all the duties hitherto discharged by the general manager. We therefore arranged for Mr. Buntzen to take a seat on our board as managing director, appointing Mr. Sperling, for so many years our chief superintendent, as successor, and Mr. Francis Hope, formerly our London secretary, to help him as assistant manager; and we formed a local advisory committee, being so fortunate as to obtain the services of Mr. Barnard and Mr. Tatlow, senior Member of Parliament for Vancouver City.

The Vancouver power instalment has been completed, and was opened by our venerable and universally respected Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Henri Joly de Lothiniere, to whom our profound thanks are due. The gigantic work was carried out without hitch from the date it started. Every calculation of our engineers proved completely accurate, and—marvel of marvels—the work was finished ahead of time, and, allowing for the largely increased output provided for, within the original estimates. The electrification of the railroad to Steveson was accomplished by our staff in record time, and the line was actually opened for traffic on July 4. It is yet too soon to say definitely what the results of this or of the Power Company installation are going to be to the profits of the company. We are still going through a period of experiment, and the monthly traffics tell you as much as we know ourselves; but I think it fair to anticipate that as a result of the agreement with Canadian Pacific there will be a nice little revenue to divide with that company annually. If there are no questions, I will move formally the first resolution:—"That the annual statement of accounts and balance-sheet, and the reports of the directors and auditors thereon, be received and adopted."

Mr. E. L. Evan-Thomas seconded the resolution, which was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The payment of the dividends announced in the report was then agreed to, and the retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, votes of thanks to the directors, officials and staff closed the proceedings.

TOMBOY GOLD MINES.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Tomboy Gold Mines Co., Limited, was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., under the presidency of Lord Arthur Butler (the chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. T. Dundas Pillans) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report to the shareholders,

The Chairman, having dealt in detail with the items of the accounts, said: With regard to the results of the year's operations, it is gratifying to note that the returns for several months past have shown a steady increase, the profits having risen progressively from \$12,572 in March last to \$29,042 in June, while since the close of our financial year the same steady improvement has been continued, the profits for September having risen to \$37,000. The percentage of the yield has risen from \$7.01 per ton in March to \$8.82 per ton in September, and the percentage of profit from \$1.52 to \$4.16, while the costs have shown a satisfactory reduction, having been brought down in the same period from \$5.49 per ton to \$4.66 per ton. When it is remembered that all the expenses at the mine—those incurred in development

as well as the ordinary working expenses—are met out of revenue, this low rate of costs reflects the greatest credit upon the management. In reviewing the past twelve months another satisfactory feature presents itself in the resumption of amicable relations between capital and labour in the Telluride district. When I last had the pleasure of addressing you I stated that the strike would not make any difference in the policy of kindness and consideration which has always been pursued by the board towards the company's employees. Both Mr. John Herron and the present general manager have been thoroughly appreciative of this policy, and have consistently carried it out. Acting on this principle during the past year, the general manager has established an eight-hour day for all mill employees, and a hospital service has been inaugurated at the mine, which Mr. Herron states has proved of incalculable value to those whom it was intended to benefit. I have no doubt that these tangible proofs of goodwill have materially promoted the re-establishment of friendly relations between employers and employed, and have brought about that peaceful and satisfactory condition of affairs which Mr. Herron is now able to report. With regard to the company's mining property, nothing has been added to it during the past year, and the energies of the staff have been almost entirely directed to the opening up of the lower levels in the Argentine section and the upper levels of the Red Cloud. Mr. Herron states that the general result of these developments has been to confirm and make available for extraction the ore bodies whose existence was suggested, and in a general way outlined, by the development of the previous year. In conclusion, I think we are justified in regarding the past year with considerable satisfaction. We have once more entered a period of industrial concord, which we have every reason to hope and expect will not be easily disturbed. Our relations with our employees, thanks to the considerate and tactful policy of our general manager, are again established on an excellent footing. We have seen our monthly profits steadily expanding, and have been able to maintain regularly the dividend payments which were resumed last year, while our financial position is so thoroughly sound that I think we may look forward ere long to increasing the rate of distribution. (Applause.) I now beg to move: "That the directors' report and the audited accounts now presented be received, and that the same be and they are hereby adopted."

The Hon. A. G. Brand, M.P., seconded the resolution, which was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Other formal business having been transacted, a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

The ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Co., Limited, was held on Friday at River Plate House, E.C., Mr. Jason Rigby, M.Inst.C.E., the deputy-chairman, presiding.

The London Manager and Secretary (Mr. H. C. Allen) read the latest telegrams received from the local committee.

The Chairman expressed regret at the absence through indisposition of Mr. F. Parish, chairman of the company, and read some notes with which that gentleman had proposed to preface his speech at that meeting, the preparation of which he had unfortunately been unable to complete. In the course of these notes Mr. Parish wrote that it had been the directors' good fortune for many years past to submit an unbroken record of substantial progress. He proceeded: "During times of prosperity such as we are enjoying at the present, we must not be carried away by too great a feeling of security. We hope you will always support the board in the policy they have hitherto pursued of holding something in reserve, and preparing for a rainy day; and we are satisfied, while doing so, that whatever adversity may occur, both we and the country have advanced to that degree that we are in a far better position to meet it than formerly. Commenting upon the note of warning which Mr. Parish had sounded, Mr. Rigby said that, in view of the splendid prosperity which three or four years of favourable weather and the consequent abundant crops had brought upon Argentina, there was some danger of forgetting that possibly less favourable seasons might come, and though they would certainly never reduce the country to so low a state as they had known in the past, business might be so diminished for a year or two that it might be difficult to find sufficient employment for the vast railway machinery which was being created to deal with the present state of affairs. Moreover, year by year it was becoming more difficult to obtain the results that used to be afforded by railway working. Expenses were rising rapidly, and, on the other hand, rates were being constantly reduced by the companies to enable the producer to compete more favourably with other countries, and thus to increase production; whilst the capital on which a dividend had to be earned was increasing by leaps and bounds owing to the heavy expenditure required to provide more commodious stations, more convenient entrances into the large cities and towns, and the facilities and even luxuries demanded by the increase of wealth in the country, and as a very large proportion of this additional capital was spent in works which were not directly profit-earning, the burden of it was thrown on the rest of the system. Expenditure on capital account during the year amounted to £645,663 1s. 9d. The allotment of new Extension shares 1910 was satisfactorily carried out, and the company's immediate requirements thereby fully provided for. They had

made some very satisfactory sales of land at Bahía Blanca, on account of the reserve fund, and had recently availed themselves of an opportunity to acquire a further 7,048,085 square metres adjoining the company's property at Ingeniero White for £56,152 14s. 4d., which had also been treated as an investment on account of reserve, so that they now owned 17,920,985 square metres of land, or, say, 4,428 acres, which stood in the balance-sheet at a nett cost of £61,637. The Southern Dock had passed from the experimental stage to practical utility. As to the future, the telegram already read depicted a state of affairs which should result in at least a continuance of the prosperity the company had enjoyed during the past year; and unless the labour troubles assumed a more acute form, or some unforeseen calamity arose, the board should be able to present at the next meeting a report as favourable as the one now submitted. (Applause.) He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. D. A. Shennan seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The proposed appropriation of profit was approved, the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and votes of thanks to the chairman, directors, officials and staff closed the meeting.

CONSOLIDATED MINES SELECTION.

An extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Francis Muir (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles W. Moore) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said that ever since the formation of the company they had been closely associated with Messrs. Dunkelsbuhler, and their interests in South Africa were, to a considerable extent, the same as those of that firm. It therefore appeared probable that a union of their forces might help to increase their influence and control over a number of properties which had a promising future. The tendency in South African mining was towards amalgamation and consolidation, towards working on an industrial basis and on a large scale, with all available improvements and appliances for reducing expenses, rather than the mere operation of single mines and the mining and milling of their contents as generally understood until a comparatively recent period. It was mainly with these objects in view that the shareholders were asked to approve the proposals now submitted. With regard to the 400,000 fully-paid shares in this company which were to form the purchase price for the assets to be taken over, there was a natural desire for some particulars. He had seen the term "blind pool" used in reference to it.

There was no ground for such an idea. The board had been wide-awake in the matter, and with their present knowledge they felt quite satisfied as to what they had done and proposed to do. The company's share interests had never been published, and it was not intended to give details of the assets to be acquired from Messrs. A. Dunkelsbuhler and Company. The shareholders must trust the board in this matter or not at all. At the same time, there was no objection to mention some of the principal items. As a result of the proposed arrangement this company's interests in the Far East Rand would be increased in such properties as the Transvaal Coal Trust, the Eastern Exploration Syndicate and the Brakpan Mine; in the East Rand itself, on the deep side, their interests in Driefontein would be considerably augmented; and in the Central Rand their interests would be increased in the South City and Booyens Estate. Besides these and other similar shares there were interests and schemes at present undeveloped, and, finally, there were various directorships and positions of authority which would come to their representative, and thereby enhance the influence of the company on the Rand. Some people were anxious to know what was to be done with the £400,000 of debentures proposed to be issued. To that he could not at the moment give an answer. The money had not been "ear-marked," but the directors felt that, with their increased responsibilities, it was necessary to have additional capital at their disposal. The debentures would be offered, in the first instance, to the shareholders, and would carry the right of being converted into fully-paid shares within three years from the date of issue. Under the agreement Messrs. A. Dunkelsbuhler and Company would be entitled to have three representatives on the board instead of one, as hitherto. The directors felt that the proposals were calculated to ensure continued success for the company. Judged by market conditions, the South African gold industry was not at present regarded favourably; yet judged by any other test the conditions were never more favourable or attractive. He concluded by moving the resolution for increasing the capital.

Mr. J. G. Hamilton, who is about to sail for South Africa to act as managing director of the company there, in seconding the resolution, remarked that South African mines were being relegated to a "back seat," but the board were of opinion that this was only a temporary state of affairs. It was true that three or four of the deep level mines were in poorer zones, but he thought that they were justified in assuming that this was only a transitory phase incidental to all mining experience. He deplored the fact that South African mining was so mixed up with politics, and predicted that time, with its ever-recurring crop of newer incidents, would relieve the industry of the political incubus, and enable it to pursue its work under more favourable conditions.

Mr. McDermott seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres Western Railway, Limited, was held on Wednesday at River Plate House, E.C., Mr. Henry Bell (chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Eustace Faithfull) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said that before dealing with the report he would, following the precedent of the late Mr. Neild, make some few remarks on the country in which the company operated, and on their own line in particular. A few months after Dr. Quintana took up his duties as President, a post which he filled most worthily, he was confronted by what was called a revolution, and dealt with it with such firmness and fairness as to command the praise of friends and opponents. That state of affairs was hardly over when the President was brought face to face with a general strike throughout the country, but the Government, seeing the danger of allowing irresponsible people to dislocate the trade and communications of the country, sent out of it a number of the anarchist leaders. Things had gone fairly smoothly till about a fortnight ago, when again a state of siege had to be declared, in consequence of another strike, which extended to their company in a small way. The general manager, Mr. Simson, however, dealt with those labour troubles in his wise way, and they were soon over. Regarding the general financial condition of the country, the Chairman read an extract from a report furnished by Mr. Guillermo White, the able legal representative of the Great Southern Railway Company in Buenos Ayres, in which that gentleman stated that the trade of the country during the half-year ended June 30 last had grown in a very satisfactory manner, both imports and exports showing increases in the gross totals. Continuing, the Chairman said that the general prosperity had been accompanied by the usual results—higher rates everywhere and a better standard of living—which had brought with them a successful demand for higher wages. Some of those demands were of such a nature that, of course, they had to be refused; but the directors had not hesitated to concede to those demands when reasonable, for they considered a well-paid and contented staff one of the fundamental elements of all successful undertakings. (Applause.) The general prosperity had also brought about other usual results—namely, a very general desire to share their trade and business, and concessions had been applied for right and left, and in some cases granted by the governing powers on conditions which were refused to the company, and in other cases on conditions which the board could not see their way to accept. To be prepared for any competition they had to do at least three things—they had to fill in their territory with the lines which were urgently required by the district; secondly, they had to see that their tariffs were moderate and equitable; and, as he had said before, they must have an adequately paid and contented staff, so that they might give good and comfortable service. The directors were putting before the shareholders proposals for their acceptance to construct two additional pieces of line, viz., from Suipacha to Bayauca, and the extension of the Meridiano Quinto line to Victoria. The works of any magnitude on which they had been engaged during the year included the completion of the new workshops at Liniers, which were proving admirably suitable for their purposes. Then they had completed the low level into Once, and were now busy enlarging that station and removing some of the hay traffic further out to less valuable ground. They had secured a considerable block of land at the Riachuelo for additional goods accommodation; they contemplated putting up a grain elevator; and they intended doubling the line from Lujan to Suipacha. The enumeration of those proposed works with the necessary rolling stock would explain why the board proposed to increase the capital by £2,000,000. The directors intended asking the shareholders to pass resolutions creating 200,000 new shares, but they did not commit themselves as to what class of shares would be issued. He then detailed the principal items for which the additional capital was required, and said that £1,785,550 was estimated to be spent on absolutely necessary work for the conduct of their business. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and the appropriation of the profits as recommended.

Mr. J. White Todd seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and formal resolutions providing for the proposed increase of the capital were unanimously adopted.

Votes of thanks to the chairman, directors, officials and staff concluded the proceedings.

A very useful publication is Messrs. H. Dawson and Co.'s "Advertisers' Year Book," price 2s. 6d., quite the handiest thing of the kind we have seen. It contains a list of all the leading newspapers and magazines, particulars of population, and advertising capabilities of the principal cities, towns, and centres in the United Kingdom, and a large amount of other information useful to business men, besides special articles on the art, method, and value of advertising. A wonderfully complete little manual.

Mr. J. Pinto-Leite has been appointed to be ex-officio director of the West of India Portuguese Guaranteed Railway in the room of Sr. Abilio Lobo.

Mr. George Pandely Sechiari has been elected a director of the Imperial Russian Cotton and Jute Factory.

An amalgamation of the banking business of Messrs. Hammond and Co., of Newmarket, has been arranged with Messrs. Barclay and Co. to take effect as from the 1st inst.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended October 17, \$4,646, decrease \$285.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 15, \$18,504, increase \$853; aggregate from January 1, \$653,768, increase \$144,536.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 16, Rs. 69,379, increase Rs. 7,153; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 7,17,965, increase Rs. 1,10,306.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 14, \$122,300, increase \$33,600; total from July 1, \$1,354,000, increase \$285,200.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 16, Rs. 25,544, increase Rs. 5,656; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,79,740, increase Rs. 20,840.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 16, £782, increase £145.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of October, \$14,495, decrease \$283; aggregate from January 1, \$634,040, decrease \$4,486.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 16, Rs. 11,839, increase Rs. 3,164; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,29,144, increase Rs. 14,756.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended September 30 amounted to \$61,930.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending October 14, £1,206, decrease £18; aggregate from July 1, £17,645 decrease £381.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending October 14, £757, decrease £47; aggregate from July 1, £14,894, decrease £1,530.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for July, £4,218, decrease £427.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending October 14, £368, increase £26; aggregate from July 1, £4,776, decrease £657.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 14, £14,231, increase £1,478; aggregate from January 1, £544,143, increase £35,059.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of September, £10,584, increase £438.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to August 31, \$187,399, increase \$47,613. Net earnings from July 1 to August 31, \$84,550, increase \$30,461.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending October 15, £3,841, increase £345; aggregate from January 1, £142,288, increase £7,278.

Buenos Ayres Grand Nacional.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £42,345, decrease £3,160; aggregate decrease from April 1, 1904, \$34,321.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 14, Rs. 35,570, decrease Rs. 7,979; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 6,44,058, increase Rs. 85,780.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of September, £2,767, increase £147. Total to August 31, £34,608, increase £6,213.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of August, \$422,051, increase \$32,854; aggregate from January 1, \$3,028,626, increase \$194,399. Net traffic receipts, \$246,512, increase \$35,913; aggregate from January 1, \$1,626,507, increase \$136,430.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr	Oct. 15	£ 1,985	— 213	15	£ 31,629	— 1,121	
Cambrian	" 15	6,036	— 155	15	124,780	— 6,510	
Central London	" 14	6,731	— 50	15	88,642	— 1,999	
City and South London	" 15	2,578	+ 42	15	35,704	— 531	
Furness	" 15	10,012	+ 1,461	15	166,372	+ 11,402	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 15	76,775	+ 6,460	15	1,106,898	+ 63,242	
Great Eastern	" 15	104,200	— 3,500	15	1,765,600	— 35,600	
Great Northern and City	" 14	1,603	+ 323	15	22,016	+ 5,641	
Great Northern	" 14	117,100	+ 4,007	15	1,829,888	+ 1,566	
Great Western	" 15	244,400	+ 11,600	15	3,587,300	+ 26,700	
Hull and Barnsley	" 15	10,405	+ 384	15	147,252	— 1,975	
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 15	104,865	+ 964	15	1,826,657	+ 39,040	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 14	57,721	+ 598	15	1,104,337	+ 3,111	
London & North Western	" 15	289,000	+ 10,000	15	4,575,000	+ 61,000	
London & South Western	" 15	90,600	+ 2,700	15	1,562,600	+ 7,400	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 15	8,868	+ 25	15	1,8,604	+ 1,635	
Metropolitan	" 15	17,643	+ 52	15	256,187	+ 185	
Metropolitan District	" 15	7,567	+ 538	15	99,238	+ 2,172	
Midland	" 14	230,760	+ 8,894	15	3,492,084	+ 77,506	
North Eastern	" 14	171,732	— 3,620	15	2,891,411	+ 7,184	
North London	" 15	9,427	— 76	15	131,180	+ 4,258	
North Staffordshire	" 15	17,233	+ 596	15	266,132	+ 2,521	
Rhymney	" 15	5,786	+ 159	15	85,306	+ 38	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 14	89,740	+ 2,143	15	1,628,884	+ 20,901	
Taff Vale	" 15	19,378	+ 217	15	272,545	— 3,867	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Oct. 15	89,668	+ 2,894	11	1,000,081	— 1,420	
Glasgow & South-Western	" 14	33,210	+ 42	11	435,638	— 1,999	
Great North of Scotland	" 14	9,492	+ 24	11	118,238	— 1,685	
Highland	" 15	10,351	+ 21	11	143,662	+ 260	
North British	" 15	94,248	+ 1,265	11	1,085,597	— 11,126	

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Oct. 13	2,890	+ 448	15	54,570	+ 1,585	
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 13	1,681	+ 2	15	29,373	+ 422	
Great Northern	" 13	19,933	+ 281	15	321,346	— 2,648	
Midland Great Western	" 13	11,149	— 364	15	176,280	— 7,377	

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 13, £1,363, increase £476; aggregate from July 1, £21,061, increase £7,487.

Blessington and Poulaphuca.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 15, £12, increase £1; aggregate from July 1, £450, increase £17.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 13, £5,025, increase £208; aggregate from July 1, £78,844, decrease £1,402.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending October 13, £28,078, increase £4,173; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,108,461, increase £107,767; 4354 miles, against 4134.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 14, £1,086, increase £43; aggregate from July 2, £17,295, increase £781.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 15, £129, increase £10; aggregate from July 1, £2,586, decrease £54.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 13, £124, decrease £8; aggregate from July 1, £2,168, increase £23.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 13, £5,010, increase £62; aggregate from July 1, £80,802, decrease £529.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 14, £4,890, increase £418; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £201,201, increase £15,731.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 13, £234, decrease £16; aggregate from July 1, £4,078, decrease £256.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 12, £474.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 14, £358, decrease £76; aggregate from October 1, £750, decrease £225.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 7, £14,624, increase £1,576; aggregate from April 1, £412,834, increase £62,232. Miles 514 against 468.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 14, £22,638, decrease £783; aggregate from July 2, £359,561, decrease £6,325.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 14, £7,716, increase £135; aggregate from July 1, £120,016, increase £1,317.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 13, £205, increase £13; aggregate from July 1, £3,054, increase £152.

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The Investors' Review.

The Money Market.

No question occupies the minds of business men so fully at the present time as the prospects of the Money Market. We are daily asked whether or not we think the Bank rate will have to go to 5 per cent. this year, and it is impossible to give other than a qualified answer. So much depends upon events outside the London market or the United Kingdom. While this is true, it is also obvious enough that conditions in our market are the reverse of encouraging to cheap money. We have a depleted Bank reserve as inadequate protection against formidable demands upon banking credit from many quarters. Not least amongst these demands are those arising from the increased volume of mercantile and manufacturing business now being transacted. This requires a larger amount of bankers' money to enable it to be carried on, and at the same time bankers, poorer though most of them may be compared with former years, are pulled upon from other quarters so that we are in danger of not having enough credit to go round one of these days. Our Government, moreover, continues to have the worst possible influence upon the market. Look what happened on Monday when £2,500,000 of new credit had to be found for Treasury uses, it having been compelled to sell that amount of three months' Treasury bills. Thanks to the adroit management of the Bank of England, and the complaisance of other banks, the supply of credit proved enough to enable the buyers of these bills to pay for them, and also to repay some amounts due to the Bank itself on short term advances, but the effort left the market bare, and drove it to the Bank on succeeding days. Any day it might itself be severely strained through Exchequer impecuniosity alone.

In all probability, through these and other influences, we shall see a sharp tussle for the available supply of credit in the market at recurring intervals for the remainder of this year, and an unsafe proportion of the means of some of our banks is unquestionably locked up in directions which will prevent them from converting much more of their resources into the liquid form now so urgently required by the Money Market. For many years past their commitments upon the Stock Exchange have been growing larger. In the long period of slack trade and loan raising for war purposes they were driven to seek their profits in Stock Exchange loans, particularly in new issues, to an extent and in forms they not so many years ago would have carefully avoided. We even found one bank—Lloyds—the other week openly putting out upon the market for sale a security it itself had bought outright, using its offices precisely in the manner of the French banks for the purpose of selling this security retail to the small investor. This is all right if the banks succeed in effecting a sale, although business of the kind undoubtedly bears hardly upon the old-fashioned channels of investment, kills the trade of the small stockbroker, and it emphasises the change which has come over the habits of our banks. Not only has this kind of business got a strong footing in the banking system of the United Kingdom, but participations in loan issues, in capital creations of all descriptions have become not only common but the usual practice. The consequence has been that our

banks, through these lendings and through direct advances to underwriters of loans and to numberless operators upon the Stock Exchange, have committed an increasing proportion of their deposits to the practically irrevocable control of the market. All our banks are in the habit of treating their "money lent on call and short notice" as if it could be drawn in at once when required; but the bulk of such money is usually just as fixed as direct investments in Consols or other good marketable securities. Only to a limited extent, that is to say, could capital of this kind be withdrawn from the market. Any attempt on the part of two or three banks simultaneously to sweep in their call and short notice money would bring us to the verge of panic. And if this be true of the floating capital which the banks regard as within reach of the hand, how much more is it true of the fixed advances from account to account, advances whose aggregate we estimate cannot at the present time be less than £150,000,000, and might very well exceed twice that amount if the whole banks of the United Kingdom are reckoned in. Were a real strain to come upon the banks they could not get in a million of this money without seriously upsetting the market. The only course open to them when driven to contract their fixed advances is to force their customers to go to the Bank of England and induce it to create more and more banking credit, so that the banks may get control of balances not otherwise to be obtained anywhere or at any price.

Suppose a bank wanted £1,000,000 extra, outside its usual routine necessities, all of a sudden; do you think it could sell £1,000,000 of Consols any morning, or that a customer with a loan from it on the stock could do so? No, nor a tenth of that amount, except at prices which would paralyse the whole Stock Exchange. The Consol market itself, in fact, is one of the weakest spots in the City, because it has been struggling with adversity for the past five or six years. A slow process of exhaustion has been going on there. Month by month, and year by year, the market dealers have been paying more for the money they required in their business than they received back in interest upon the stock, and at the same time they have been suffering more or less acutely and continually from the dwindling prices. Upon a market thus impoverished, it would be absolutely impossible for any holder of £1,000,000 of Consols to realise that amount of stock right away, and get the money for it. There is only one way by which banks could increase their floating or liquid resource—the way of the pawn shop. Their customers must be driven to the Bank of England, and as the end of the year draws near we expect to find "other securities" in the weekly Bank return mounting higher and higher, because market necessities are driving all credit jobbers to it in order to raise the wind. But beyond a certain ill-defined yet definite enough limit the Bank dare not go on creating market money on securities pawned. If the operation promotes exports of gold it must draw in rather than expand credit.

Much more might be said about the present state of our market, and the limits of its staying power; but let us now look abroad and see whether things are any better there. They are certainly not better in New York, where organised speculation by groups, cliques, and pools has forced prices for all kinds of speculative securities good and bad—principally bad—up to heights as much beyond their intrinsic values as Kaffir shares were here in May, 1902. By ingenious tricks in credit manipulation the people who have created this hollow state of markets have so far been able to avoid any collapse, but it is impossible to reckon upon a continuance of this immunity, because the exhaustion of credit goes on in America just as here—as in our Consol market, to take the same illustration. The price of loanable capital such as the banks contrive to manufacture in the Union has been ruling comparatively high for weeks back, and every day brings some groups of operators nearer exhaustion point through the added cost which dearer money involves them in if

their market position is to be held intact. So completely hollow is the market that nothing is more often said in telegraphic reports from Wall Street than that, "trading is purely" or "almost purely professional;" that "the public is still holding aloof," and so on. When a market gets into that condition there is only one effective remedy, an explosion and a return of quotations to sane levels. If, however, New York breaks into an eruption, as preliminary to collapse, our market must immediately suffer because one of the means employed by the financiers of the United States to enable them to sustain their burden has been the transfer of as much as they could place of their overloaded "bull" account to the London market. We are carrying, as contango rates this week again demonstrate, an incalculable mass of American Railroad and other securities. Our banking resources are consequently involved in the Wall Street speculation to an extent we have long held to be dangerous. Let us suppose—and the supposition is in no way extravagant—that some group of operators in New York carrying a huge "bull" account comes to grief, carrying a bank or two of prominence down with it; what would follow? Efforts would be made to raise further money here, and would fail. Then the middlemen here, by whose instrumentality large pawnings of Yankee securities on our market have been completed, would have their own resources drained away, and any morning we might find one or other of them unable to meet the day's engagements. This is quite within the bounds of probability, and no extravagant supposition, and it does not surprise us to hear that some of our banks have been endeavouring to restrict their commitments in Yankee railroad and industrial securities. Look across the water to the east, and do we find the position any better? Not a whit. The over-charged German markets are labouring to cope with the difficulties created by dear money just as we are, and in Berlin the discussion runs upon whether the Imperial Bank rate will have to go up to 6 per cent., and whether that will be enough, or whether it may be possible by skilful steering to get through this year with the 5 per cent. rate. German stock markets are full of overvalued securities, just as that of New York is, just as our own market is, and were credit to break down in Germany owing to the tremendous strain put upon it, we should immediately find the Germans coming here for our gold, pawning, selling everything they could lay hand on, in order to secure it with the hope of preventing a complete solution of continuity in the even course of German banking and finance. Paris looks much stronger than Berlin in this respect, but even Paris has its difficulties, its unacknowledged losses to wrestle with, its dangerous commitments in Russian finance to carry, and its compulsory participation in the further loan raisings of the Russian Empire to provide for. The French people, as has often been pointed out by us, are thrifty beyond all other peoples, thrifty to meanness in many instances, but even French thrift might not be able to cope with the difficulties arising through the overloaded state of the speculative account, the sometimes hopeless locks-up of the great French banks in fixed capital commitments of all descriptions, at the same time that further moneys to the extent within the next year or two of perhaps several hundred millions sterling are required to bolster Russian credit, and set the Empire staggering along again in a path called prosperity. Even if nothing approaching what is called a panic should occur on the Paris Bourse through the foundering of one or other of the great French banks, enough pressure may be put upon them and upon the Bourse to compel them to secure imports of gold upon a large scale. Paris is continually in our bullion market at the present moment as a buyer, and very little additional strain might drive it to the Bank of England, which has not got a single sovereign really to spare just now. which, on the contrary, would be immeasurably better if it had another £10,000,000 of the metal in hand. Smaller or more distant markets need not be reviewed.

They count for little in the wild whirlpool of international finance. Yet even some of these might set the ball rolling if anything untoward happened in them, and it is by no means improbable that something may happen, for we do not regard any Continental Money market as in an impregnable position. This brief survey, which is the reverse of alarmist in view of the facts, ought to warn us that there are many dangers lying ahead in the near future to the skilfully built up and carefully interlinked credit structure upon which the world's financial forces are sustained and kept smoothly moving. An accident, as it might look, at any point might precipitate trouble all the world over—is certain to do so should a sharp adjustment of market prices in the direction of honesty occur. In reality it would be no accident were a formidable bankruptcy to unfold itself on any of the great money markets. Such an event would only be the natural outcome of the daring finance which has been so long in fashion, daring and unprincipled. One day a collapse must occur, but we might perhaps, by cutting down our commitments in the meanwhile as much as we dare, by abstaining from loading up with fresh obligations as far as we possibly can, contrive to escape the worst consequences of the downfall of values on other markets. That is the utmost we can hope for, and when dealers in credit discuss together the probabilities of a 5 per cent. Bank rate they are really handling a question of vital importance to the British Empire. A credit crisis arising anywhere, such as would now force up our Bank rate to 5 per cent., even the mere continuance of the existing general strained condition of money markets, might bring embarrassment here which it would take us years to surmount. This is the larger aspect of the world's Money markets, and one full of interest. We can only outline its bearings in an article like this, putting forward the facts and consequences just mentioned as a warning to those who are prudent, but, it may be, a little thoughtless, to narrow their commitments for the present as much as possible. The winter is bound to be an anxious one in finance everywhere, and it might easily be one of stress and storm greater than we could endure.

Anarchy in Russia.

It has come sooner than we anticipated, and Count Witte must begin to feel that if he really wished to perpetuate absolutism he made a mistake in calling an industrial population into existence. As we write, the strike amongst railway servants continues to make the organised working classes the temporary masters of the country. Probably this strike will not last long, because the men cannot have the resources with which to maintain it. Its effects, however, are not unlikely to be far-reaching and permanent. As far as the reports coming through go, some of the men's demands seem to be perfectly reasonable, others look extravagant, but extravagance is always present in times of revolution. Enthusiasts must aim for an unattainable ideal if they are to make any headway, and one consequence of the present revolt of a class of labourers whose contentment and orderly attention to their duties is vital to the civilisation and unity of the Empire will probably be a great step towards the creation of a national sentiment amongst the various races embraced therein. We have felt all along, in trying to form an estimate of the prospects of revolution in Russia, that the greatest obstacle to the success of any popular movement lay in the subdivision of the Empire into distinct nationalities, provinces lacking unity of purpose, patriotic brotherhood. The Pole and the Russ were in no way disposed to lie down together as brethren, to pull together in the same boat; and the danger was that cleavage instead of unity would be the outcome of any far-spread popular upheaval. Not only so, but if the Russian army had been intact and available, it would have remained possible for the autocracy to use the men of one race or speech

in coercing those of other races and speeches, just as the Cossack is now used all over Russia to try and prevent liberty from growing into good government. But the marvellous unanimity of Russian railway servants in acting together to assert their right to political freedom, to better treatment at the hands of the authorities, to a higher life in short, is a distinct step towards unification, and if once the Russian people are suffused with a spirit of human comradeship and brotherliness strong enough to impel them to stand side by side, sinking class and provincial differences in quest of the common good, there will be an end not only of autocracy and its bureaucratic system of tyranny, but of aggressive empire—and possibly also an end to the dominance over all of the international financier.

This financial side of the revolt, as is natural, has yet assumed no prominence in the public Press. We have been told within the last few days that a new Russian loan of about £52,000,000 was about to be launched. Great moneylenders the world over had united to secure its emission, but they will now have to hold back, for the times are untoward and the amount is large. Of the total asked for some £26,000,000 will be offered in France, nearly £18,000,000 in Germany, and £4,000,000 each in London and New York. The loan is to be a 4 per cent. one, and has been taken by the subscribing bankers, which include amongst them Jew and Gentile, at 87, but the public will only be allowed to buy the security at 90. Such is the latest version of Russia's attempt at borrowing. But what if the democracy of Russia, newly awakened to its right to live and think, should turn round and say, "We do not sanction this loan; we object to bear a burden of the kind; it is no affair of ours. Let those who made the war, and incurred the monstrous outlay, the incalculable losses of men, money, and material it has involved, pay the bill"? We shall be surprised if some such attitude is not ere long assumed by the uprisen population of Russia so long the support of the international usurer. In equity, it is as well frankly to admit, there is no Russian loan in existence which the people would not be at liberty to repudiate, unless it be some portion of those loans specially raised for the purpose of building railways and other works of genuine revenue yielding utility within the Empire, if any. And all the debt—well founded or ill—has for security only the submissive passivity of the tax-bled. The consequences of a refusal of the new democracy, claiming to come into its own, to sanction this loan would be the greatest revolution, and perhaps the most slave emancipating experience, the modern world has ever encountered, and this aspect of Russian finance is certain to come to the front during the long struggle upon which the Russian peasantry has now entered.

In many respects the initial stages of the revolt in Russia call to mind those of the French revolution. There is the same feebleness in the Government, the same resort to palliatives and smooth words such as Count Witte addressed to the deputation of railway servants who interviewed him in the middle of this week, the same cowardly attempts at repression where the means to kill are available, and the same pretension of an ardent desire for that liberty of which the ruling classes are mortally afraid. One day we find the Governor of Petersburg deluging his subordinates and the country with circulars intended to destroy such rudiments of freedom as the electoral provisions for the constitution of the new Imperial Duma may have seemed to bestow, and the next he is colloquing with the ardent and ecstatic Mr. W. T. Stead, and professing an ardent love of liberty. The Press is given freedom to report speeches on the one hand, and on the other ruthlessly suppressed when it ventures to give expression to any sentiments deemed inimical by the trembling autocracy. And on the side of the people there is the same blind reaching forth after an unattainable ideal, the same working up of enthusiastic sentiments of brotherhood and patriotic fellowship. Which side will prevail? We believe that of the people, but

the conflict is certain to be prolonged, and before the new era can arise and be established something very like chaos is likely to prevail from one end of the Empire to the other. The autocracy, moreover, has only a broken and beaten army, an army it dare not put to the proof in a conflict, on which to lean. Well may the Russian people be thankful to the Japanese, for without the victories of Japan their chance of liberty might have been too small to be worth reckoning on for another generation. As it is, autocracy appears to be entering on its death agony.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE FINANCES OF LONDON.

From many points of view the statistics laid before the London County Council by its chairman, Sir E. Cornwall, at Tuesday's meeting are calculated to excite considerable apprehension. Thanks to the inclusion of the old School Board expenditure in the budget of the County Council the annual outlay of that body has been raised to about £19,250,000. This is an expenditure, as the chairman pointed out, within £1,000,000 of that of the kingdom of Belgium, and it exceeds that of Saxony, the Argentine Republic, Norway and Sweden combined, the Netherlands and Portugal, is double that of Roumania, and more than four times that of Denmark." It is an expenditure also in which neither army nor navy estimates appear, and still the County Council is unable to cope with the many wants of the metropolis. It has done something, but comparatively little, for the housing of the poor, for the sanitation of tenements in slum areas, and, as we are daily reminded, the problem of intercommunication between the different regions of this vast metropolis has hardly been touched. It is no matter for boasting, but rather one for lamentation, that the County Council should only own less than 100 miles of tramways within the London area. There is room there for 500 miles of tramways, and still the demand would be for more. Little has been done to widen main thoroughfares, and North and South London are likely to remain unlinked by electric tramways for years. The Council, the chairman said, is about to take the initial steps towards providing a County Hall on the south side of the river, and we cannot help feeling a sentimental regret that the scheme for a building thrown across the river upon arches has been abandoned, for had that been centrally placed and the roadway below made broad enough, the bridge and edifice might have provided not only a home for the Council joining north and south London together, but a thoroughfare over which at least four lines of tramways might have been laid, leaving ample room for ordinary traffic.

One of the most appalling tasks the Council has to grapple with is popular education. At present, as Sir Edwin Cornwall pointed out, the cost of education in the County Council schools is £4 1s. 3½d. per head. This is much less than the cost in New York, but the efficiency is in many respects also lower, and both France and Germany educate their young at a much smaller figure than we Londoners are able to do. One cause of the high cost in London is undoubtedly the weight of debt which has been laid upon London citizens in providing schools. The School Board debt taken over by the Council amounted to £11,547,000, and it is growing every year, while the owners of the land in London do not directly, as owners, contribute one farthing to the enormous cost entailed. On the contrary, they make large sums of money by the sale of sites at prices often outrageous. This matter of London's debt is indeed of most ominous import to the citizens. Its total is now £44,620,000, and every few months add to the figure. Since the Council came into existence in 1889 the debt has risen by £27,000,000,

and of this only £5,622,000 is debt incurred for remunerative purposes, debt, therefore, which involves no charge upon the rates. The remainder, now nearly £40,000,000, if we include the recent issue of six months' County Council bills, is dead weight, and must remain dead weight for many a year to come, for the demands of London for improvements of all descriptions are clamorous and constantly expanding. Most of these demands, moreover, represent imperative necessities if London is to maintain its place as a great centre of civilisation. It is all very well for reactionaries to cry out against County Council expenditure, and to fasten upon small mistakes as if they illustrated a spirit of wastefulness and corruption within the body. These very people are amongst the most insistent beggars for amenities and improvements likely to benefit themselves. A corrupt Council! It is one of the cleanest and most public spirited bodies not only in the kingdom, but in the world.

Is there no possibility of obtaining relief, some help in bearing this burden of debt? We think so, have thought so for many years. In the heart of the metropolis lies the City of London, with its old and rotten Corporation, surrounded by wealthy livery companies, companies whose total income is probably by this time something near £1,500,000 per annum from property to which they have only a use-and-wont right. Were there any healthy public spirit to be found within these ancient companies they would long ago have shed off their rotting and moral-rot-producing wealth by bestowing it upon the people of London at large, the people who create it, to be used for public purposes, for the maintenance of educational institutions, for the relief of the ratepayer from dead-weight debt, in all ways calculated to be useful for the general good. Little or nothing has been done in this direction by any of these fictive companies, but one of these days the imperative necessities of London as a whole will compel citizens to direct their attention to this storehouse whence relief of their burdens may be legitimately drawn without confiscation of any equitable right or injury to the stomach of a single living biped.

THE "TIMES" BOOK CLUB CATALOGUE.

From a note in another column we gather that the remarks made by us last week are capable of misapprehension. It was in no sense our intention to censure the ordinary bookseller for selling stock copies of "remaindered" books at the usual price. A bookseller cannot be expected to know when a publisher thinks it advisable to throw out the copies on hand of any book which he may consider dead, nor has his customer any right to expect him to sell cheap what he bought at full trade price. Had the managers of the Times Book Club merely followed the usual rule we should never have uttered a word of protest, but what they have done is something wholly different. In a book professing to be a modern, up-to-date catalogue of works to lend and for sale they have included an uncouth multitude of old, dead books, many of which have long disappeared not only from the warehouses of the publishers, but from the shelves of the retail bookseller. It is a catalogue of "wasted" books more than anything else, and the unworthy spirit in which it has been compiled and put forth is illustrated by the fact that none of the "wasted" or "remaindered" books are offered at reduced prices; so far as we have examined we have not found one. "Our price," as the phrase used is, is always the full price; that is to say, a nett book is offered at the original published price, and a book not thus marked at the usual discount price obtainable on a new book in any ordinary shop. We call this a disgraceful proceeding, and one that must cast suspicion upon the entire enterprise. As we are on this subject it may not be amiss to offer once again some advice to publishers and booksellers alike. Their business is being damaged by the action of the American gentlemen who now control the business side of the Times—to its

permanent injury, as we venture to think, whatever the temporary success of their dashing raid may be. All publishers are suffering from the *Times* raiders by being beaten down in their prices and by the obligations they are asked to accept as to advertising. Booksellers and librarians are likewise suffering, and as their businesses were none too profitable before, this unscrupulous attack upon them, great though the indignation it excites may be, cannot be met by wrath alone. The trade has our sympathy, and that prompts us to ask, can nothing be done to meet this attack? We think something can, and venture to repeat that the true policy to pursue is to cheapen books at the outset. In turning over the other day the letters to "Ivy" (the second Mrs. Dugald Stewart) from the first Earl of Dudley, we came repeatedly upon complaints of his lordship about the dearth of books. Take one as an illustration: "I have not read the 'Lady of the Lake'" he says; "two guineas is too much for six cantos, and I shall, therefore, wait patiently for the octavo." The bookselling world has travelled far from the days when one small poem could be offered to a limited public in a first edition at the price of two guineas, but it has not gone nearly far enough. Neither publishers nor booksellers have hitherto realised the mighty change which has taken place in this country since 1870. The number of the reading public has been enlarged by many millions, but the habit of reading has not led to the habit of buying in anything like a corresponding degree. Why is this? We think it is to no small extent because most books are originally published at prices much beyond the pockets of the average reader. The publishers have catered for the lending library to a much greater degree than for the private book buyer. Hence the disorganisation of the trade, the prevalence of the discount system, and the declining state of bookselling as an avocation. Some recognition of the new conditions under which we live is traceable in the cheap reissues of popular novels, of books like Morley's "Life of Gladstone," and other works of tested popularity, but the dear new book is still the rule. We want to know why publishers cannot go a step further and not only reduce further the prices of the current new novel, but endeavour to give the book buyer a fair chance from the start in all walks of literature. Wise book buyers rarely purchase the first editions of books. They wait for the cheaper one, as Lord Dudley did, and because this is so, the books issued at prices far above the buying capacity of the ordinary middle-class citizen necessarily sell only to a most limited extent. Hence a market choked up with "remainders," a general depreciation in the market for such books, precarious profits to the publisher, and unlimited waste all round. We are persuaded that the publisher who will boldly meet the attack of the *Times* by reducing to the consumer the initial prices of his books will find the change to his profit. He will also by thus acting put the bookseller in a better position to fight the Yankee would-be monopolist.

CARLTON HOTEL.

We shall watch the performances of this great venture—no longer embracing the Carlton Hotel alone—during the next few years with a very lively interest, because the time is rapidly approaching when the wisdom or otherwise of the directors in sinking a huge part of the company's resources in the new Ritz Hotel, in Piccadilly, will be put to the test. The progress made with the building and decoration during the past year has been satisfactory, we are told, and the board sees no reason to alter the opinion expressed in the last annual report that the place would be completed and ready to open for the season of 1906. What this abode of luxury will have actually cost when finished it is hard to say, but the figure will be a big one, and a rare lot of money was evidently laid out during the period under review as the Building and Vendor Company, which, as shareholders are aware, is undertaking the construction, called up the whole of

its capital so that the Carlton's holding of £154,000 is now fully paid. Not having any further resources available—the reserve funds have already been sunk in the venture—it became necessary to borrow from bankers, and there is now a debt on that account to the tune of £75,000. In addition to the above-named £154,000, the company issued debenture stock to the amount of £300,000—on the security of the Carlton, let it be noted—and lent the proceeds to the Building and Vendor Company, so that allowing for £6,803 repaid, the company is interested in the new venture, according to the balance-sheet, to the extent of £447,197. But is that all? Did not the Carlton also join in guarantee of interest on a further sum of £150,000 to provide funds in the early stages of the building? Is that debt still outstanding, or has it been liquidated out of the share capital subscribed of the Building and Vendor Company, or the mentioned debenture money lent? In short, is it not time that shareholders were put in possession of all the facts regarding this gigantic and, we are bound to say, highly speculative proposition? As we just now specially pointed out, the debenture stock—although the proceeds are secured on the Ritz site and building in Piccadilly—was an issue made by the Carlton which must later on find the interest—now being paid out of capital, we suppose—if the new hotel is unable to do so. What is the total sum sunk or to be sunk in the enterprise, the amount of the mortgage debt, and who owns the remainder of the share capital? These are pertinent questions now, because if anticipations are fulfilled the hotel will be a going concern in three or four months' time, and proprietors will be anxious to know exactly where they stand, especially if they fear, as we do, that the erection of these giant high-class feeding and lodging establishments is being over done. A few inquiries at the forthcoming meeting may elicit something useful. As to the Carlton itself, business in the twelve months to August 31 was moderately good, the nett profit, after providing all charges, including provision for maintenance and renewals, reaching £56,798 or £379 more than in the previous year, when it must be remembered a shrinkage of £7,343 was shown. Add the reduced balance of £11,013 brought forward and £442 interest on sinking fund investments, and the total credit is £68,253, from which debenture and loan interest, directors' fees, &c., and interim dividends have already been provided, leaving £38,994. So after meeting the final preference dividend, the directors again bring the aggregate ordinary dividend up to 10 per cent. by a final payment of 5 per cent., allowing £2,442 for lease amortisation, adding another £15,000 to reserve, and further reducing the carry forward to £9,202. That is a very fair display, and the reserve will now be £85,000, besides the amortisation fund of £13,432, but it must not be overlooked that no real allowance seems to be made for depreciation on the lease, buildings, furniture, fittings, &c., valued in the balance-sheet at £647,311. Floating liabilities are fairly substantial at £46,915, apart, of course, from the bankers' loan of £75,000, as debtors are no higher than £47,752, and the cash, £16,663, is not much more than sufficient to meet the final dividend. Investments at cost reach only £16,663, in addition to the sinking fund securities, and clearly the new Ritz is throwing a heavy strain on the company's resources.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: MEYER AND CHARLTON.

The Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining Company is the leading member of the famous Albu group. It is also one of the oldest outcrop mines on the Rand, as well as one of the most consistent dividend payers. As it was formed in 1888, it has been in existence seventeen years, and the pity is that a mine with so fine a record cannot last much longer. Originally the capital was only £40,000, and this has been gradually increased until it reached its present figure of £100,000 in 1899, quite a modest figure in comparison with the capitals of many other companies; there is not a drop

of water in it. The company, too, has always been soundly managed, as are most of the mines in the Albu group, and we wish we could conscientiously say the same of the managements of other groups. Up to the end of 1904 the dividends aggregated 121s., or 605 per cent., the total sum distributed amongst the shareholders reaching £495,309. The company's best year was 1898, when sixty per cent. was distributed on a capital of £85,000. In 1903 also 60 per cent. was paid, but the capital then was £71,685. Last year—1904—was also a comparatively successful one. An average of 67 stamps was running out of the 80 erected, and crushed 111,233 tons of ore, yielding gold to the value of £26,128. This was equal to 40s. 7d. per ton, working costs averaged 23s. 8d. per ton, and the profit was 16s. 11d. per ton. Compared with 1903, there was an improvement of .59 dwts., or 2s. per ton, and a decrease in the costs of 1s. 8d. per ton. Even then the expenses were still very high, much higher than before the war. In 1897, 1898, and 1899 the figures were, respectively, 18s. 10d. per ton, 18s. per ton, and 18s. 3d. per ton, so there will have to be a substantial reduction if the mine is to be worked as economically as in former years. The directors, however, hope that with the improved installation, and crushing with a full mill, a reduction of 4s. per ton. will hereafter be shown in the working costs. The nett profit last year, after charging depreciation, &c., was £78,500, and a couple of dividends were paid totalling 50 per cent., and absorbing £50,000. After the steady slump prices are now comparatively low, but the shares even now seem too dear, unless the mine should last much longer than is generally expected. The life is estimated at about seven years, but, as Mr. Albu pointed out at the annual meeting, this will depend to a large extent upon the proportion of Main Reef that is payable. This will mean in future the mixing of rich and low grade ore, and it may possibly reduce profits. If we put the yield at 10½ per cent. on last year's dividends, the return on the investment of £100 at the end of the mine's life would be only £73 10s., involving a loss of £26 10s. But future distributions will probably exceed 50 per cent., for the whole of the mill will be operating, the company will get better results from improvements in the plant, and working costs may be reduced. Let us calculate, then, on dividends of 80 per cent. for seven years, and even so the investment would not be remunerative. Taking the yield at 16½ per cent., the return on £100 would be £115 10s., leaving only £15 10s. for dividends spread over seven years, or a little over 2 per cent. per annum. As about £12 12s. 6d. would have to be set aside annually for reinvestment at 3 per cent. compound interest, to repay the principal, the nett yield in that case would be less than 4 per cent. Thus even such a share as the Meyer and Charlton cannot be recommended for investment at ruling prices.

WELGEDACHT EXPLORATION COMPANY.

The directors of this highly speculative venture increased the capital during the past financial year, which closes June 30, from £95,000 to £104,500 by the creation and issue of 9,500 new shares. These were not sold at a few shillings, which seems to be their intrinsic value, but at £6 10s. At this figure they were guaranteed by some parties, the guarantors, in consideration, being given an option over a further 9,500 shares at £7 10s. up to September 30 last. As the price is now only a little over £6 we may assume that the option has not been exercised. But the whole manoeuvre proves that some months ago the directors of the company anticipated a "boom" not later than September, which would send the shares over £7 10s. in order to give the guarantors a profit. The bosses during that month tried their utmost to force a boom, but as the public gave no support to it the rise was momentary, and we have gazed upon a heavy slump since. The money is not immediately needed by the company. It can wait for it without inconvenience for months, if not years to come, but if the directors can

sell their paper to the public at £7 10s. or £8 why shouldn't they? Gambling on the Stock Exchange is not playing at marbles; it is the much more serious business of stripping one's neighbour. The only work this company has done has been to sink boreholes, and it appears that some coal seams have been met, and that the Main Reef series has been struck at a depth of 1,908 feet. Shaft sinking has not been started for the gold reefs, "as we were of opinion," say the directors, "that to equip the colliery in a proper way would take up the greater portion of our available working capital, and as you are aware, the past year has not been favourable to the raising of fresh money on good terms." If the selling of £1 shares in such a concern at £6 10s., with an option at £7 10s., is not good terms, what on earth do the directors consider good terms? Should the public continue in their present humour the directors will be fortunate if they can hereafter issue shares at par when they want cash. As, however, the company possesses nearly £128,000, the major portion of which is employed in contango loans, it has enough wherewith to commence and continue shaft sinking for another year or two, without troubling about difficulties of raising fresh capital. This would involve the sacrifice of a little revenue from lending money to speculators, but the public would gain through learning thus what the value of the property is. Do the directors fear to sink shafts? This would not surprise us, for it might be a dangerous experiment. Payable reefs might not be found. So it is better to play upon the imagination as long as possible rather than face the risk of proving the property worthless. In that case it would be impossible to rig the shares to substantial premiums as they have been rigged in recent years. If the directors intend to wait, however, till the market is favourable for raising capital, the youngest shareholders may become venerable old men first. According to the engineers, there are 15,000,000 tons of marketable coal in the property. Shafts are being sunk to get to the seams, and a plant has been ordered, so it looks as if the directors have greater faith in the coal than in the gold, though the production of the former in South Africa is outgrowing the demand. "That is so," the directors confess, but we can hope to make good profits if we economise." But are the shares worth £6 10s. on such speculative possibilities? Already heavy losses have been incurred. The company acquired a large interest in the New Rand Exploration Company, Limited, but as this concern is about to be liquidated the interest has had to be written off. "Our investment in the New South Rand, Limited, is still of the same undefined value as when we last met." This company is still engaged in drilling operations on its farms, but no reefs have yet been met with. Interest on loans and deposits brought in £4,320, rents £114, and licences and taxes £51, making a total income of £4,485. As administration expenses absorbed £3,328 and depreciation £311, the profit was only £846, and the balance-sheet now shows an accumulated credit of £2,536. On such results and on such speculative prospects as we have foreshadowed the shares would be too dear at par. The company cannot hope, under the most favourable circumstances, to earn distributable profits for years to come.

BENONI GOLD MINES.

In past years some enthusiastic opinions have been expressed in regard to the prospects of this company, of which that noble Chinese benefactor, Sir George Farrar, is chairman. Twelve months ago the directors were bemoaning that they could get no labour, black or white, so the rich ore the mine was supposed to contain had to be left below until some Chinkees arrived. Nevertheless, shareholders were asked to rejoice, for their patience would surely be rewarded by dividends that would satisfy the greediest. "It is now hoped," said the directors, a year ago, "that as the importation of Asiatic labour proceeds, labour will shortly be available to enable development in both sections of the mine

to be undertaken with the utmost vigour." At the same time the sanguine general manager wrote:—"Sufficient work has been done to satisfactorily prove the trend of the shutes, and it is now simply a question of time and labour to prove that you have a valuable proposition." To-day they are all singing to a sadder tune, for the richness of the mine has been overrated. They have their coolies, but, unfortunately, they find the ore poorer than their imaginations valued it. The experts from China were put on development work and shaft sinking in the western section of the property. The shaft was sunk 412 ft., and on the 750 ft. level the drive towards the east was extended 1,008 ft., but only 250 ft. of this showed payable values; the rest was in low-grade ore, of an unpayable quality. This proves how unreliable diamond drill boring often is in testing the value of any mining property. Here is a case in point. Good values were obtained by the drill, but development work now shows how misleading they were. Accordingly, the chairman had to confess at the annual meeting that the hopes of the directors have not been realised, "and we are reluctantly forced to the conclusion that the portion of our mine situated north of the main fault which intersects the property will not in the meantime compensate us for incurring further expenditure on the development of that section." So attention has been turned to the eastern section, where work is now being concentrated, in the hope that it will not be similarly disappointing. Meanwhile, the deficit is growing, and is likely to grow indefinitely. Being hard up for the needful to carry on development work the directors disposed of the company's holding of 35,190 Klipfontein Deep shares at 22s. 6d. These realised £39,589, and the profit and loss account is credited with the profit of £22,428 on the sale. By this means the directors are not only able to raise the wind in the sultriest weather, but to reduce simultaneously the debit balance from £45,056 to £27,934, a trifle being received from interest, rents, &c. In the past they have managed to issue shares at good premiums, and though there are still 20,000 reserve shares they did not attempt to dispose of these last year. Since 1897 depreciation has been charged to premium account, otherwise the debit would have been swollen by £57,922. Commission of £4,500 on guarantees has also been taken out of premiums, so in course of years the fund of £70,544 has gradually dwindled to £8,122. At present the company has £26,553 in cash. Looking at the situation after all these years it is impossible to feel hopeful of the future.

THE DEBT OF CHILE.

An interesting summary of the facts relating to the debt of this Republic was read by the Minister of Finance before the Chilian Congress on August 16 last, and one or two of the facts he brought out are worth repeating. The internal debt, it seems, amounts to \$103,816,000 Chilian, which at 1s. 6d. per \$1, amounts to £7,900,000 sterling. To this has to be added the foreign debt which on December 31 last stood at £16,450,000, and a loan of £1,350,000, representing the bonds to be issued for payment of the Santiago sewage works. Adding all these sums together we thus get at a total of about £25,500,000 as the amount actually owed by the Republic to its creditors, and the burden cannot be a light one for a comparatively poor population of about 3,000,000, well on to one-half of which lives in towns. The Finance Minister went on to endeavour to account for the weakness of the Chilian exchange and his reasoning is lucid enough, only we are not sure whether increases in paper money may not also have something to do with it. He said that the revenue from import duties fell off by fully \$600,000 in the first half of the present year, and that the export duties declined more than \$3,000,000 in the same period, so that altogether the decline in revenue from these two sources was upwards of \$3,700,000 in that time. To a country, most of whose debt is held abroad, this shrinkage is doubtless a serious matter; at the same time were the finances

in order and proper attention paid to the provision of reserves in good times, no inconvenience to the merchant through adverse fluctuations in the exchange should occur. At the root of the trouble lies the extravagance of the Chilian Parliament, upon which the Minister very properly animadverted. He stated that an expenditure was voted for 1905 amounting to \$148,408,000 Chilian against an estimated revenue of \$131,750,000, so that in spite of a retrenchment to the extent of \$9,665,000, there was still an excess expenditure of \$6,993,000 to be provided for over and above the expected revenue. As the revenue has been falling off it is obvious that unless the current expenditure is still further cut, and that severely worse things will happen than the decline in the exchange has thus far indicated. Chile is, we fear, rather going to the bad just at present, but we hope the memory of its past will yet save the Republic.

Passing Events.

It is satisfactory to see that the opinions we have consistently advanced in the REVIEW concerning the past working and uncertain values of Rand mines are strongly supported by the expert Special Commissioner of the *Economist*, Mr. Curle. In last week's issue he wrote:—

It is an article of faith to assume that all these (the unproved outcrops east and west, and the deeper mines of the Central Rand) are highly payable; that their ore contents are regular in value and that they are worth on the average about two million pounds per mine. If a person like myself, somewhat lacking in the gambling sense, points out that this empiric method of valuation is not justifiable, even where the Rand is concerned; that that field is full of poor patches of ore, occurring in the most unaccountable localities; that its past results have been secured by working the richest mines and by picking out the best ore in these mines; that further cash is required for bringing all these mines to the producing stage to the extent of about £28,000,000, and that it will be anything from four up to ten years before the bulk of these mines can produce any gold—he is looked on as eccentric and inconvenient.

Mr. Curle goes on to say, his observations do not prove he runs down the Witwatersrand, which is equal in value to all the other goldfields in the world. "But having this splendid asset why should we not try to get the maximum benefit therefrom? Why this insane wish to place on a sentimental and gambling basis an industry bearing the essentials of soundness? A sovereign is worth only 20s. Why should those in control of the mines represent it as being worth 25s. or 30s.? . . . To put the matter briefly, the Rand is over-valued, and no amount of sophistry can make the great majority of the properties there worth the prices they stand at." All this is good and in accord with what we have so long said. The Rand is a wonderfully rich goldfield plundered for behoof of a few cosmopolites. People think we are prejudiced against these men and refuse to see any good in them. But who can conscientiously approve of their dishonest finance and their gambling methods? Has not time justified all our criticisms? Has not time at last opened the eyes of all but the wilfully blind? Who in these days have sufficient confidence in the bosses to buy Kaffir shares in the good old demented way?

"It will be of interest to those whose main argument against the importation of Chinese was that there were natives enough to be had if we only went the right way to recruit them, to know what the cost of the experiment of introducing labour from China has been and I think when they have heard it they will agree that it is not a sum which should have been spent unnecessarily by business-like people." So argued the chairman of the Simmer and Jack Proprietary at the recent annual meeting at Johannesburg. He then estimated that on the Simmer and Jack alone £107,529 has already been spent, exclusive of subsequent cost of repatriation. This is the cost of 4,500 coolies. Would it have been any dearer to have employed whites? It is a strange method of trying to reconcile the public to the employment of Chinese to show how

dear such labour is. Before the coolie came the argument was that he would be cheap. That was how dividends were to be kept up. Now the argument is that his dearness proves his necessity. What do the bosses care so long as others have to stand the racket and they get their fees and other perquisites just the same? Business men! Do they work the industry on business, or on purely gambling principles? They have not spent these unnecessary hundreds of thousands because they are business men, but to give them greater power, to enable them to be supreme in controlling the destinies of South Africa. And such supremacy means feathering their own nests.

From the preliminary statement issued during the week, we gather that a small increase took place in the profits of the Wall Paper Manufacturers for the year ended August 31, the amount of £243,237 comparing with £241,712 in the previous 12 months. Add to that the greatly increased sum of £115,514 brought forward, and the total for disposal is £358,751; but again the directors refrain from paying more than 8 per cent. on the 10 per cent. ordinary shares, adding £50,000 or £20,000 more to reserve, and carrying forward £128,385. The 1,084,621 deferred shares of £1 each go empty away as usual, but they are all in the hands of the vendors, who are really to be congratulated on their sacrifice in the interests of financial stability, because they might easily have paid themselves something, if only a small amount.

Share and debenture stockholders of the Anglo-Portuguese Telephone Company were informed by circular during the week that the managing director has just returned from Portugal, and reports that the condition of the company's affairs generally is very satisfactory. The service now leaves nothing to be desired, the number of subscribers continues to increase, and a further large augmentation during the next 12 months is confidently anticipated. The company apparently has some connection with the Consolidated Electrical Company, regarding which we had something to say last week, an issue of £50,000 5 per cent. debenture stock having been sold to that concern in April last for £45,500. It was all paid for on the due dates, and the proceeds have been applied to the redemption of all outstanding debentures of earlier date and the discharge of the debt due to the contractors, while the balance, £10,162 has been invested temporarily in short-date Colonial Government bonds pending its requirement for the purposes of the business.

The meeting of the Cape Electric Tramways Company, called to give the directors power to issue £200,000 debenture stock, was duly held on Wednesday, and proved a much livelier affair than the board altogether liked. A section of the shareholders was in decidedly aggressive mood, and handled the board and all its works in a fashion which must have been particularly galling to the high and mighty South African crowd that rules this enterprise, chiefly for its own ends. In a spirit of delightful humour, seeing that the directors control or hold a majority of the shares, one proprietor called upon the whole lot to resign, another demanded the appointment of a committee of investigation, while a third averred that he was "sick of the whole business." The last phrase, we imagine, expresses the feelings of most of the proprietors, and those who can get clear without much loss would probably be well advised to do so. Will it be believed that the fresh money is required for the renewal of the rails and the relaying of the track over nearly the entire system, expenditure which should, of course, be entirely charged to revenue? Why could not this proposal have waited for the annual meeting due in less than a month's time? No satisfactory answer was given to that question. Are the results for the past year so bad that the success of the debenture issue would be imperilled were they known? Will the prospectus of it be rushed out? Are Wernher, Beit's so very hard up for the £54,000 they have lent the company that a four weeks' delay was impossible? The closer the whole business is examined the less pleasant it appears, and the new debenture stock is not a channel where we should put our money.

At a meeting of the company called for Tuesday next the directors of the Westminster Electric Supply Company will ask the preference shareholders to agree to a rather novel proposal. It is nothing less than a reduction of their dividend, which at present is at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. That the board evidently considers too high for a company of such wealth and strength, and to lower it now, before certain contemplated fresh issues of preference capital are made, will be the means of saving a good deal of future interest. So shareholders are invited to agree to a reduction to 4½ per cent., compensation to come in the shape of one new preference share for every nine now held, so that there will be no loss of dividend, such shares to the number of 3,138 or £15,690 being taken from the reserve. A further proposal is to increase the capital to £2,000,000, of which £250,000 in 4½ preference shares will be issued immediately. Some weakness in the market value of the existing issues followed the publication of the directors' circular setting forth this scheme, but it seems to the advantage of the ordinary shareholders that it should be carried into effect, and since the preference will not suffer, any opposition is unlikely.

A small sidelight upon the ways of American insurance offices was furnished by Mr. C. J. Smith, the Press agent of the Mutual, in his evidence before the Commission. He told it that he had received as salary \$8,000 per annum for 18 years, and that his chief business was now to counteract the injury done to the company by the publication of newspaper reports. He caused a sensation by producing clippings from a number of newspapers, paid for, he believed, at the rate of \$1 a line, but he had to admit that some newspapers refused to print these "despatches" without marking them as advertisements. Since the investigations began \$11,000 had been paid out by him for this kind of enlightenment, and he expected to pay more. We are quite sure that he is right in that anticipation, but it is not for us to cast stones at American newspapers on this ground. The same kind of thing is common enough here.

What is the matter with Mr. B. R. Wise? We gather from Lord Rosebery's delightful speech in Edinburgh last Saturday that this Australian gentleman is down in Scotland as a Chamberlainite apostle or minor prophet. "He airs," said Lord Rosebery, "what I venture to characterise as the fly-blown fallacies of protection with a sense of raciness and novelty with which we have been long unfamiliar in this country, and goes so far as to say with perfect confidence that had Mr. Cobden been alive he would have been one of the earliest and staunchest followers of Mr. Chamberlain." This is indeed a puzzle. We happen to possess a book presumably written by this Australian lawyer—for it is his name it bears—entitled "Industrial Freedom: A Study in Politics," and have hitherto regarded it as a really meritorious statement of Free Trade principles from a colonial point of view. That seems to us to have been the opinion of the Cobden Club, for the volume was issued by it in 1892. Has Mr. Wise changed his coat like his master? Nothing could be more lucid than his exposition of the fallacies of Protectionist theories, or more emphatic than the condemnation by him of the Australian economic consequences of protective tariffs, ostensibly organised for the purpose of developing native industries. He regarded such experiments as powerful engines in the impoverishment of labour and of communities as a whole. Perhaps he will be good enough to explain why he has suddenly turned round and become a perfervid advocate of the old, old heresy. Has the Australian Labour Party rejected him, or what?

A concern calling itself the Water and Gas Securities Exchange, Limited, seems anxious to get hold of something a little more tangible than either of these commodities, and has been circularising shareholders in the Aerated Bread Company. After pointing out that the price of Aerated Bread shares had fallen from £15 16s. 3d. in 1889 to £6 5s., the joint managers of the Exchange suggest that holders might like to recoup themselves for part of their loss by exchanging some of their shares for sound and progressive Water and Gas

shares and debentures, which increase in both capital and dividend value. They are, however, careful not to specify what shares and debentures they are so anxious to get rid of, and anyone accepting their offer to effect the change free of cost might find himself saddled with securities he would be forced to keep, from inability to discover a market for them.

The directors of the Le Roi Company have not carried out their promise to hold a meeting this month, and it is now too late. This is a nice way of treating the shareholders, whose confidence in them must thereby be further weakened. Meanwhile, the ominous news comes from British Columbia that they have already started to dismantle the Northport smelter. If this be true, and they are doing it in defiance of the wishes of the shareholders, to say nothing of their broken pledges, the action cannot be regarded in too serious a light. In the absence of any denial or statement from them it looks as if the report were true, and as if the directors are treating the shareholders with the utmost contempt. They have not published the terms of the proposed amalgamation, as they promised to do, and that is sufficiently discourteous to be resented. Such action and treatment are inexcusable, and if the shareholders tamely submit to such flouting they are a bloodless lot. Why not combine and elect, if possible, a fresh directorate?

News comes that the coolies at the Jumpers Deep Mine, of the Wernher-Beit group, refused to work until two of their compatriots, who had been arrested for an infringement of the mining regulations, had been released. The Government Superintendent of Chinese, acting under his recently extended powers, had 40 of the head men arrested. Twenty of these were afterwards sentenced, some to two and others to three months' hard labour. So the coolies resumed work. A strike of Chinkees is also reported from the Van Dyk Mine, of the A. Goerz group. Eighteen of the men were arrested, and the strike collapsed. But the cost of these continual disorders comes to a bigish sum in the long run, and shareholders have to defray it.

Last week's Treasury figures were good enough, since the Customs yielded £734,000 and Excise £1,168,000. Income-tax gave only £66,000 and the Post Office only £180,000, but the fashion is for the Post Office to pour in money in large sums at recurring dates. Altogether the revenue came to £2,744,000, exclusive of £885,000 representing the instalment paid up upon the April issue of Exchequer bonds. Therefore the Treasury cashed last week £3,629,000, and at the end of it, owing to the small amount paid out, the balances in the Banks of England and Ireland were increased by £1,773,000 to the serious detriment of the business community. This increase in the balances, however, cannot be of any moment as indicating the condition of the Treasury, for on Monday the market was called upon to pay up £2,500,000 on an entirely fresh issue of Treasury Bills. From this urgent raking in of money, by which the City is most cruelly pinched, and by which business men and speculators are put to great inconvenience, the only excuse is the obligation to pay off £14,000,000 of Exchequer bonds on December 7. A nice mess we may be in long ere then!

An obliging correspondent in Northern India sends us a Transvaal letter published in the Allahabad *Pioneer* of September 28 last with the remark that it is quite possible the story of outrage and crime therein detailed may not have appeared in the London Press. It has, we are glad to say, for, thanks to the *Daily Chronicle*, the *Morning Leader*, and the *Daily News*, people in this country are now beginning to learn the truth about Chinese labour on the Rand, and the feelings of the white natives towards those of that race driven to revenge themselves for the treatment they have received in indiscriminate plundering—in attacks upon the defenceless. The letter before us faithfully recounts the story of the outrage perpetrated upon Widow Sullivan and upon a poor farmer named Piet Joubert and his family, in which, notwithstanding the

heroic efforts of Mrs. Joubert, a big, powerful woman, who snatched a knife from one of the Chinese, and with an infant on one arm kept the band at bay, the poor man was wounded to the death. Every week adds to the tale of these horrible outrages, and the end will be another white revolt in South Africa unless some better Government than that of golf-handicappers and dilettante protectionists can be found.

The latest report about the new Russian loan is that the contract has not yet been signed. Germany has doubts, and financiers everywhere are prudent. We commend to their notice the remarks of Mr. David Soksice in yesterday's *Daily News*.

The Pennsylvania Railroad board has obtained power to issue about \$13,000,000 of new Car Trust certificates in payment for equipment previously authorised. It is a mere trifle to so great a corporation, and thus is the trade "boom" sustained.

The New Zealand House of Representatives has duly authorised the issue of a fresh loan of £1,000,000 "for railways and public works," but where and how is the ever-borrowing Seddon Government going to place it? And from what source will the other millions come necessary to keep the "prosperity" at full tide? The colony's debt grew last year by more than twice the amount of the public borrowing. Why, by the way, has Mr. Seddon failed this year to send us, as usual, a copy of his always entertaining budget essay?

Critical Index To New Investments.

BARRY, OSTLER, AND SHEPHERD, LIMITED.

Money has been spent pretty freely by this Kirkcaldy business of floorcloth and linoleum manufacturers, and although it has an issued share capital of £934,000 and a debenture debt of £150,000, it has been forced to borrow from its bankers. With the object of repaying these advances, the directors offer £200,000 4½ per cent. second mortgage debentures secured by a second charge on the heritable properties and fixed machinery and plant valued at £483,478; and redeemable at par at the company's option on or after February 1, 1915, on six months' notice. In the balance-sheet of January 31 the heritable property stood at £497,830, and other assets, including £80,000 lent to the Cie. Rouennaise de Linoleum, in which this company holds a controlling interest, were valued at £751,685, against which there were the first debenture stock of £150,000 and liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors of £229,501, leaving a surplus of £870,014. For the three years ended January 31, 1905, the nett profits were £50,930, £61,135, and £62,364, giving an average of £58,143, but these figures were arrived at after deducting interest on temporary loans, which are now to be replaced by debentures, so that the amount available would be about £9,000 higher. The company in the past was not over successful, and on several occasions could pay no dividend on its ordinary shares; but those times appear to be over and these debentures may be regarded as a fair speculative security.

QUIN AND AXTENS, LIMITED.

Formed to acquire as from February 20, 1905, a business of drapers, silk mercers, and house furnishers in the Brixton Road, this company has a share capital of £120,000, divided equally into 6 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 30,000 preference shares were offered for subscription. The assets taken over consist of stock valued at £15,175, leases, fixtures, &c., £37,375, goodwill £17,625, book debts £331, and cash £4,494, or a total of £75,000, of which £47,500 is payable in cash and £27,500 in ordinary shares, while the second managing director has subscribed for 22,500 ordinary shares, leaving, after deducting the seven shares taken by the signatories, 9,993 in reserve together with half the preference shares. Profits for

the three years to February 20, 1905, are certified at £9,277, £9,170, and £9,734, or an average of £9,393 per annum, but these figures were arrived at before allowing anything for depreciation or other charges, and as the articles of association stipulate for the provision of a reserve fund, while the managing directors' remuneration is fixed at £800 per annum for three years, and £1,000 thereafter, the amount available for dividend would be considerably smaller. The vendor and his friends, however, take that risk, and as the dividend on the shares offered to the public requires no more than £1,800, there would seem to be an ample enough margin. An underwriting commission of 5 per cent. has been paid on the issue which seems a needless expense as the vendor has agreed to take up any shares not applied for.

EAST SUSSEX GAS LIGHT AND WATER CO., LIMITED.

Our old friends of the Ticehurst and District Water and Gas Company are once more to the front with a new company to take over the plant of the Natural Gas Fields of England, and to supply the parish of Heathfield with gas and water, the latter commodity being obtained in bulk from the Ticehurst Company. The capital all told is only £25,000 in £5 shares, half of which are 6 per cent. preference and the remainder ordinary, and 2,000 of each class are offered for subscription together with 500 5 per cent. debentures of £10 each. For the agreements and concessions taken over the company pays £13,000 in cash, £4,000 in preference and ordinary shares, and £1,000 in debentures, and as the vendors do not venture on any definite estimate of profits they guarantee a dividend of 5 per cent. on both preference and ordinary shares for a period of eighteen months from the date of allotment. The company may do all right, but the prospectus is not very convincing, in spite of the impressiveness of the red ink paragraphs sprinkled through it, and of the statement that the shares of certain other Kent and Sussex Gas and Water companies readily change hands at substantial premiums when offered in the local markets.

SCOTTISH MOTOR ENGINEERING CO., LIMITED.

This is a little Edinburgh concern formed with a share capital of £40,000 in £1 shares, and a debenture debt of £10,000 to take over the Granton Engineering Works, and to carry on the business of manufacturers of motor-vehicles, particularly 'buses, lorries, and vans. It acquires the premises and plant for £10,000 in cash and £7,500 in shares, and now offers 20,000 shares and the £10,000 debenture stock for subscription at par. The prospectus talks vaguely of abundant evidence of a large and rapidly growing demand for motor-vehicles of all kinds, but does not venture on an estimate of outturn or profits, and merely states that the directors feel confident of handsome dividends to the shareholders. Nothing is paid for goodwill, and the price fixed for the property seems moderate enough, both points in the company's favour, and it is quite probable that these hopes may be realised.

NORTHERN SULPHITE MILLS OF CANADA, LIMITED.

This company has been formed to erect and equip mills at Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, Canada, for the manufacture of sulphite pulp. These mills, when completed, are to be leased to the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited, for 30 years at an annual rental of £7,500 and a royalty of \$2 per ton on all pulp manufactured. The share capital is \$500,000, in \$100 shares, of which half have been issued in payment for the land acquired and other matters, and the balance is held in reserve. To provide the funds necessary an issue of £100,000 6 per cent. first mortgage bonds to bearer, forming part of an authorised total of £150,000, is offered for subscription at par. The bonds are redeemable at 105 on or before May 1, 1936, and the above-mentioned rental will be sufficient,

it is estimated, to meet the interest and provide for the redemption. They are further guaranteed unconditionally by the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited, which itself has a debt of £160,000 outstanding, and is a new business, with great possibilities, doubtless, but also considerable risks.

BELLO HORIZONTE LOAN.

It is announced by the Bank of Tarapaca and Argentina that it will receive subscriptions for £112,500 in bonds to bearer of this 6 per cent. loan, principal and interest of which are unconditionally guaranteed by the State of Minas Geraes. It is part of a series of £225,000, and the price asked is 97 per cent. The bonds will be of the small denomination of £20 each, and the loan is to be redeemed within 28 years by a cumulative sinking fund, which will operate on an ascending scale. In the prospectus an exhibit of hypothetical revenues amounting to about £26,000 is set forth, whereas the charges imposed by the present issue amount to only £6,750 and on the whole loan to £13,500. It looks a better venture than many a much dearer security.

Letters to the Editors.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

SIRS,—My attention has been called to your article under this heading in your issue of September 30, in which my name is brought in to cover remarks which I have never expressed, and to make me use words which I particularly stated did not apply to this company.

The only opinion which I have given with regard to the Canada Life Assurance Company was the report I wrote in February, 1900, respecting the proposed change in the basis of valuation; but I never said what the effect would be on the dividends if the directors did not carry out my recommendations.

I did say that if the company had refrained from providing for the change (that is to say, the change required by the Dominion Government in the basis valuation from H.M. 4½ per cent. to H.M. 4 per cent. within ten years and to H.M. 3½ per cent. within the following five years) before its nett rate of interest had fallen to 4½ per cent., it would seem to be in "a parlous state"; but I went on to say that, "happily the Canada Life Assurance Company is not in such a position as that pictured above. It is still earning 4½ per cent. on its funds, and has been making its valuation on the American mortality table with 4 per cent. interest; and on that basis it possesses a large undivided surplus."

I have no reason to believe but that the company is in a perfectly sound condition.

I am, yours faithfully,

H. W. MANLY.

London, N., October 26, 1905.

THE TIMES AND "REMAINDERS."

SIRS,—Your remarks about the *Times* and "remainders" are, of course, fully justified; but perhaps I may point out that what you say applies also to practically all the booksellers in the country. Often have I seen a book which has been remaindered at, say, 5s., advertised in a second-hand catalogue at some such price as 7s. 6d. Recently, I myself paid 5s. for a book which I afterwards found had been remaindered at 2s.; and when I taxed the bookseller with extortion, his reply was, "We cannot be expected to know every book that has been remaindered." The moral is obvious—everyone should have by him a remainder list of Glaisher, of Oxford Street.

Nor do I entirely agree with your attacks on the extravagance of the New York Mutual. Surely that extravagance is condoned by one thing—the company's success.

F. DARWIN SWIFT.

A POLITE SUBSCRIBER.

DEAR SIRS,—Your excuse for the belated insertion of my letter in last week's issue is a mere quibble.

It would only have added insult to injury to have said that Bankets, Explorations and Lomagundas had a big rise at that date (September 12). No doubt you thought your readers would have forgotten about the advance in six weeks.

There is no great perspicacity required in buying when markets are low and selling at a profit (Lomagundas, 36s. 6d.—57s. 6d.).

From what you say about other correspondents, I am not alone in thinking you have mistaken your vocation.

What you want is a nice quiet job writing epitaphs and tracts, and for variation you should retire to some suburban cemetery and watch the grasshoppers making grass.

Yours, &c.,

THOS. WALKER.

P.S.—You boast that readers who follow your advice will not lose their money. You can add to this—nor make money.

237, George Street, Glasgow, October, 26, 1905.

[From the courteous tone of this note, we should infer that the writer has not yet sold.—EDS.]

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and October 21, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Oct. 21, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Oct. 22, 1904.
Balances, April 1:	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	6,354,999	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	501,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	18,793,000	20,032,000
Excise	30,200,000	16,563,000	16,993,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	7,127,000	6,243,000
Stamps	8,000,000	4,252,000	3,712,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	530,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	5,783,000	6,076,000
Post Office	16,500,000	8,210,000	7,890,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,480,000	2,320,000
Crown Lands	470,000	190,000	240,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	678,309	608,433
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	805,093	794,328
* Revenue	142,454,000	65,281,402	65,438,761
Total, including balance		72,711,680	69,702,603
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	300,000	350,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	100,000	670,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..	—	400,000	1,069,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	760,408	900,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	35,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	25,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	—	4,645,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	9,840,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..	—	—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency	—	—	5,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..	—	—	20,000,000
Total		84,351,680	110,461,593
* Revenue as above	142,454,000	65,281,402	65,438,761
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	82,027	89,761
Excise	5,291,000	2,306,851	2,439,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,395,839	2,342,242
Total	9,756,000	4,784,717	4,871,676
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	70,066,119	70,310,437

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Oct. 21, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Oct. 22, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	28,000,000	17,206,488	17,386,190
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,051,593	1,047,210
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	56,602,719	60,518,570
Expenditure	142,084,000	75,515,766	79,606,897
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	240,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	135,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	450,000	300,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..	—	1,663,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	900,000	1,700,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	23,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	105,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	25,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	230,571	20,000
Deficiency Advances repaid	—	—	5,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—	—	9,700,000
Total		79,262,337	105,367,397
Balances in Exchequer:—	1905, Oct. 21.	1904, Oct. 22.	
Bank of England	£ 4,576,406	£ 4,460,119	
Bank of Ireland	512,937	634,077	
Total		5,089,343	5,094,196
Total		84,351,680	110,461,593

Treasury, October 24, 1905.

Answers to Correspondents.

Islands.—You had better hold on in the hope of being able to clear out at a higher price should the market temporarily rally, but we fear you must be prepared to meet some loss.

L. W. J.—Looking to the unhappy history of the mine and the doubtful value of the venture it is financing, it is a great risk to put more money in it. Consequently, you had better write off your loss.

Olive.—(1) The selling price has now risen to 70, and you have such an excellent profit that it might be advisable to take it on, say, half your holding. Benefit would probably accrue to the company in the event of purchase, because the stockholders would have to be induced to sell, meaning that they would be offered something above actual value. (2) Our remarks applied to the Cedula committee, and has no relation to Government bonds. Keep the one you have.

Yarn.—We do not think so. The yield looks tempting for a safe security like this, but on a winding up the stock can be paid back at 105. That would mean a heavy loss of capital at present prices. Something above the mentioned price is expected, but that it will be forthcoming is by no means certain. This is only one question.

P. V. D.—(1) Yes, we should think this bank as likely as any to surmount a monetary crisis, its position being exceptionally strong, and the management cautious and prudent. (2) No reason why you should sell, we think, especially as by January, 1907, the interest will be restored to its proper rate of 4½ per cent.

R. I. C.—One season's success is by no means a guarantee that the prosperity has come to stay, and as an investment the price seems very high, while, from a speculative point of view, we fear the opportunity is past for securing an adequate profit.

Austral.—Neither class of share is subject to any further liability, so far as we can discover. The concern is not over strong, but the outlook for the country seems more promising now, and, under these circumstances, it might be as well to hold on for the present.

V. M.—It is impossible to say whether they will go up or not, but you might hold on a little longer in the hope that they will.

F. C. C.—You have such an excellent profit that it might be as well to sell, especially as this class of stocks appears to have reached about top prices for the present.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30.

Baldwin's.—Birmingham, 2.45 p.m.
Edison and Swan United Electric Light.—Winchester House, noon.
Midland Uruguay Railway.—7, Finsbury Pavement, 12.30 p.m.
Swift Cycle.—Coventry, noon.
United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Walker and Meimarachi.—65, London Wall, noon.
White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31.

Alliston.—10, Bread Street, noon.
Colonial Gas Association.—Suffolk House, 1 p.m.
H.H. The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
International Financial Society.—7, Crosby Square, noon.
London Corn Exchange.—Mark Lane, 12.30 p.m.
Liverpool Nitrate.—Liverpool, 3 p.m.
Otis Steel.—Winchester House, 2.45 p.m.
Richardsons Westgarth.—Hartlepool, 12.30 p.m.
Rosario Electric.—River Plate House, noon.
Weardale Lead.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Winchester House, noon.
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank.—Winchester House, noon.
Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph.—River Plate House, 3.30 p.m.
San Paulo Brazilian Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.
Sheba Gold Mining.—Winchester House, noon.
Western Telegraph.—River Plate House, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2.

British and Chinese Corporation.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
Bonnie Dundee Gold Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Idaho Exploring.—Winchester House, noon.
Mexican Railway.—River Plate House, 2.30 p.m.
Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Rochdale and Manor Brewery.—Winchester House, noon.
Realisation and Debenture Corporation of Scotland.—Edinburgh, 1 p.m.
Westminster Fire Office.—27, King Street, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3.

Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Buenos Ayres and Grand National Tramways.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Caledonia Copper.—Winchester House, noon.
Etruscan Copper Estates.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
Henry Buckland and Sons.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
North of Scotland Bank.—Aberdeen, noon.
Rio Tinto Company.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

Some progress was made in gold production during September, if we compare the daily average with that for August, but notwithstanding this prices since the announcement was made have fallen more heavily than ever. From the mines working on the Rand proper the output was 399,536 fine ozs., and from those in the outside districts 16,951 ozs., making a total of 416,487 ozs., valued at £1,769,124, against 428,581 ozs. of a value of £1,820,496, showing decreases of 12,094 ozs. and £51,372 respectively, the daily output being 13,882 ozs. against 13,825 ozs. There were less natives at work, the monthly loss being 3,195, reducing the total to 85,634. On the other hand there was

MINE.	July.			August.			September.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	12,747	7,308	14,567	11,448	6,564	11,760	12,654	7,371	..
Barrett .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bonanza	8,751	4,467	8,512	8,750	4,503	8,553	8,530	4,173	7,380
Buiteldoord Estate	2,727	1,580	1,622	3,000	503	1,555	..	608	1,618
City and Suburban	25,000	9,065	16,354	25,000	8,041	15,558	24,300	8,650	14,658
Comet, New	14,490	6,045	7,349	14,268	6,046	6,403	14,443	6,255	8,371
Cons. Langlaagte	13,300	5,121	4,393	16,484	5,602	5,167	15,053	5,592	5,667
Cons. Main Reef	16,451	6,290	8,337	16,610	6,491	8,408	16,273	5,501	8,760
Crown Deep	20,411	11,742	20,850	30,193	12,173	23,150	24,720	11,787	23,050
Crown Reef	10,564	12,504	25,256	19,349	13,346	25,269	18,287	11,656	25,481
Drifontein	2,942	10,235	19,608	20,575	8,525	13,506	18,666	7,563	9,807
Durban Roodepoort	11,390	5,204	8,820	11,580	5,250	8,755	11,550	5,233	9,180
Do, Deep	10,005	4,335	4,200	9,970	4,346	4,100	9,300	4,374	4,000
Ferreira	20,700	12,049	26,115	20,796	12,470	27,065	19,500	12,400	28,174
Do, Deep	19,800	11,001	29,650	20,268	12,358	30,300	19,800	11,876	30,050
French Rand	14,700	4,725	926	16,400	5,334	265	16,500	5,040	1,061
Geldenhuis Deep	23,050	10,455	15,000	24,310	10,185	13,350	22,110	9,659	13,400
Geldenhuis Estate	16,665	7,229	16,094	16,870	7,320	16,030	16,625	7,114	15,670
Ginsburg	5,5	3,549	5,217	8,572	3,514	5,150	8,111	3,127	5,767
Glencairn	14,910	4,102	4,992	14,980	4,231	5,006	13,395	3,566	3,302
Glen Deep	15,900	6,033	7,000	15,000	5,968	7,000	14,700	5,782	7,000
Glyn's Lydenberg	2,175	1,413	..	2,290	1,503	..	2,140	1,428	..
Goch New .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Henry Nourse	10,925	6,101	11,044	..	6,005	10,020	11,560	5,850	10,052
Heriot	9,240	3,836	4,410	9,480	3,937	4,765	8,960	3,612	4,186
Jubilee	5,967	1,757	..	5,025	1,871	..	5,460	1,938	..
Jumpers	11,100	3,829	3,000	12,240	4,418	4,860	12,200	4,531	5,158
Jumpers Deep	16,310	5,246	3,000	16,540	5,475	450	16,024	5,305	200
Knight's	28,083	9,602	11,805	28,000	9,194	7,753	26,000	8,500	5,246
Knight's Deep	22,500	6,230	7,100	22,869	5,239	7,921	18,717	7,427	7,256
Laucaster	13,100	4,345	1,085	11,650	4,332	872	12,543	4,322	1,308
Laucaster West	6,680	2,367	2,879	6,570	2,422	2,876	6,402	2,363	2,983
Langlaagte Deep	20,010	6,762	6,850	20,104	7,013	6,500	19,519	6,734	6,500
Do, Estate	26,141	8,267	..	27,060	8,475	9,000	26,480	8,335	10,400
May Consolidated	13,800	6,091	11,724	14,000	6,137	11,918	13,650	6,034	11,835
Meyer and Charlton	11,500	4,476	8,297	11,330	4,558	8,233	10,924	4,336	7,688
Modderfontein	9,632	3,566	3,424	9,788	3,519	3,264	9,323	3,017	3,784
New Kleinfontein	28,083	9,602	11,805	28,401	10,092	..	26,929	9,270	11,304
New Unified	8,907	3,324	2,632	9,025	3,155	2,317	8,547	2,848	1,796
Niekerk	916	240	..	813	200	..	..	..	..
Nigel .....	..	..	6,618	6,500	3,690	6,467	6,316	3,815	7,128
Nigel Deep	2,882	2,100	1,042	2,900	1,952	719	2,632	1,829	395
North Randfontein	15,458	5,950	..	15,029	5,951	6,200	14,423	5,970	7,700
Nourse Deep	14,870	6,922	8,600	15,050	6,774	8,550	14,610	6,718	8,700
Porges Randfontein .....	..	..	..	13,503	5,516	8,800	13,100	5,565	8,500
Primrose	17,274	7,774	15,043	17,074	7,895	15,147	16,339	7,527	14,013
Princess Estate	6,417	2,910	1,670	7,092	2,972	1,493	6,448	2,894	1,666
Rietfontein New	8,309	3,324	7,013	8,448	4,304	2,317	8,300	4,347	8,507
Robinson	27,000	19,362	46,591	29,000	19,571	47,458	28,000	8,372	47,311
Robinson Cent. Deep	19,877	8,433	22,532	14,902	9,141	23,942	11,750	8,837	24,008
Robinson Deep	23,066	15,351	34,588	29,173	15,426	37,750	28,121	14,841	32,670
Robins'n Randfontein	14,456	5,570	..	14,539	5,326	4,000	14,566	5,589	4,800
Roodepoort Central .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deep	7,628	2,321	2,810	7,793	3,305	2,996	7,413	3,245	3,054
Roodepoort United	9,500	4,052	5,246	9,440	4,335	5,823	9,100	4,002	5,409
Rose Deep	24,786	8,997	8,050	25,562	8,873	9,150	25,415	8,926	10,350
Salisbury .....	..	..	5,150	1,844	2,100	5,150	1,460	1,280	..
Sheba .....	..	2,400	..	..	755	..	..	3,100	..
Simmer East .....	..	..	12,141	2,327	..	..	13,176	3,318	..
Simmer and Jack	52,080	19,911	30,664	52,420	19,829	30,676	51,207	19,334	29,067
South Randfontein	14,649	6,076	..	14,886	5,737	5,000	14,646	5,920	6,400
Transvaal Gold	10,673	4,149	..	10,103	3,723	..	7,983	3,295	..
Treasury	5,260	2,080	2,454	5,925	2,359	3,014	6,960	2,799	4,075
Van Ryn	22,380	7,926	10,047	22,220	5,745	12,000	21,880	8,329	12,635
Village Deep	14,805	6,003	8,387	15,055	5,781	5,829	16,300	6,153	7,226
Village Main Reef	25,000	6,485	14,517	25,150	9,390	14,510	24,000	9,380	14,631
Vogelstruis Estates	5,200	2,081	..	5,420	2,108	..	5,250	2,090	..
Wemmer	8,420	3,852	3,819	8,520	4,039	4,548	7,820	5,264	4,261
W. Rand Central	2,500	538	..	2,550	1,120	..	2,575	1,121	..
Windsor	5,050	1,510	645	5,035	1,514	589	4,750	1,416	374
Wt. Deep	21,580	8,978	12,344	22,670	9,044	11,334	23,070	9,247	12,903
Wolhuter	16,700	5,845	7,007	8,900	3,863	5,921	..	..	..
Worcester .....	..	1,432	..	..	1,385	..	..	1,036	..

* Loss.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	80,785	..	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258
February	64,408	..	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811
March	84,546	..	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823
April	54,772	..	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166
May	64,249	7,488	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395
June .....	..	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317
July .....	..	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505
August .....	..	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,581
September ..	..	31,936	170,802	276,107	312,286	416,487
October .....	..	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	..
November ..	..	39,075	187,375	279,813	336,167	..
December ..	..	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	..
Total ..	348,760	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	3,625,343

Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February ....	..	..	293,786	846,480	1,226,846	1,568,508
March	1,457,684	..	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371
April .....	..	..	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340
May .....	..	..	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550
June .....	..	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734
July .....	..	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,112
August .....	..	110,260	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944
September ..	..	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496
October .....	..	135,654	725,532	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124
November ..	..	141,846	770,706	1,208,660	1,383,167	..
December ..	..	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	..
..	..	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	..
Total ..	1,457,684	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	15,399,479

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

an increase in the supply of coolies. It is explained that the cause of the lower tonnage crushed by the Crown Deep was a stoppage of the mill on account of necessary repairs to be done, whilst the short fall of the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates is the consequence of the partial destruction by fire of the tram bridge over the Blyde River. Though the following record smaller outputs their profits are larger:—Nourse Deep, Geldenhuis Deep, Crown Reef, Ferreira, French Rand and Robinson Central Deep. On the other hand with a smaller output there is a slight drop in the profit of the Durban Roodepoort Deep.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The Agent General for Western Australia has received notification that during September 52,589 ozs. of gold were entered for export, while 110,703 ozs. were received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint for coinage, giving a total of 163,297 fine ozs., against 165,832 fine ozs. for the corresponding month of 1904.

Name of Company.	July.		August.		September.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
Associated G. M. of W. A. ..	7,525	£20,858	6,776	£20,050	3,955	£13,779
Associated Northern Blocks ..	3,345	£15,697	3,417	£15,710	3,319	£15,443
Bayley's Mines .....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bellevue Proprietary	3,842	2,108	3,120	2,038	3,231	1,729
Burbank's Birthday	1,830	590	2,215	822	2,185	641
Cosmopolitan Proprietary	6,905	2,531	8,061	2,482	8,943	2,537
Golden Horseshoe	18,644	13,220	18,769	13,159	18,774	13,071
Golden Pole	1,830	2,729	1,314	1,789	1,791	2,111
Great Boulder Perseverance ..	15,065	10,121	14,918	9,149	13,499	9,377
Great Boulder Proprietary	10,871	12,478	11,223	12,632	11,215	13,281
Great Fingall	17,522	13,663	17,877	13,658	17,514	13,633
Hainault	4,541	2,023	4,449	1,935	4,412	1,921
Hannan's Reward	758	300	796	205	739	330
Hannan's Star	2,033	677	1,909	600	2,185	454
Ida H.	1,580	1,264	..	1,295	1,500	1,104
Ivanhoe	17,150	10,635	17,030	10,584	16,560	10,479
Kalgurli	7,404	5,413	8,000	5,880	8,030	5,

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended October 24, \$5,298, increase \$634.

Argentine North-Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 22, \$21,572, increase \$4,018; aggregate from January 1, \$675,341, increase \$148,554.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 16, Rs. 69,379, increase Rs. 7,153; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 7,17,965, increase Rs. 1,10,366.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 21, \$118,700, increase \$20,500; total from July 1, \$1,472,700, increase \$305,700.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 23, Rs. 21,033, decrease Rs. 2,093; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 3,00,532, increase Rs. 18,506.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 7, £597, increase £36.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of October, \$13,942, decrease \$1,696; aggregate from January 1, \$647,982, decrease \$6,082.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 23, Rs. 13,626, increase Rs. 1,188; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,41,695, increase Rs. 14,869.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended September 30 amounted to \$61,930.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending October 21, £1,258, increase £21; aggregate from July 1, £18,903, decrease £360.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending October 21, £741, decrease £17; aggregate from July 1, £15,634, decrease £1,547.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for August, £4,243, decrease £354.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending October 21, £396, increase £46; aggregate from July 1, £5,170, decrease £613.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 20, £1,380, increase £488; aggregate from July 1, £22,441, increase £7,975.

Blessington and Poulaphuca.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 22, £12, increase £1; aggregate from July 1, £461, increase £18.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 20, £4,562, decrease £275; aggregate from July 1, £83,406, decrease £1,677.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending October 20, £26,752, increase £3,114; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,135,213, increase £110,881; 433½ miles, against 413½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 21, £1,032, increase £16; aggregate from July 1, £18,327, increase £797.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 22, £112, increase £1; aggregate from July 1, £2,698, decrease £54.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 20, £92, decrease £17; aggregate from July 1, £2,260, increase £6.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 20, £4,350, decrease £369; aggregate from July 1, £85,152, decrease £846.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 21, £4,441, decrease £55; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £205,643, increase £15,676.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 20, £218, decrease £29; aggregate from July 1, £4,296, decrease £285.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 20, £402.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 21, £301, decrease £76; aggregate from October 1, £1,051, decrease £301.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 14, £14,484, increase £1,339; aggregate from April 1, £427,318, increase £63,571. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 21, £23,035, decrease £1,106; aggregate from July 2, £382,595, decrease £7,431.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 21, £7,834, decrease £87; aggregate from July 1, £127,850, increase £1,395.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 20, £197, increase £7; aggregate from July 1, £3,251, increase £158.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 21, £13,878, increase £580; aggregate from January 1, £558,021, increase £35,639.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of September, £10,584, increase £438.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to September 30, \$287,231, increase \$75,624. Net earnings from July 1 to September 30, \$131,841, increase \$52,363.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending October 22, £3,579, increase £271; aggregate from January 1, £145,867, increase £7,444.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for three months ending September 30, \$653,500; increase \$31,600.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 21, Rs. 39,916, decrease Rs. 1,141; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 6,84,074, increase Rs. 84,639.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthagenas and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of September, £2,767, increase £147. Total to August 31, £34,608, increase £6,213.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of August, \$422,051, increase \$32,854; aggregate from January 1, \$3,028,626, increase \$194,399. Net traffic receipts, \$246,512, increase \$35,913; aggregate from January 1, \$1,626,507, increase \$136,430.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	% of Weeks	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	% of Weeks
Brecon and Merthyr	Oct. 22	1,922	— 145	16	33,551	— 1,266	
Cambrian	" 22	5,509	— 125	16	130,289	— 6,635	
Central London	" 21	7,106	+ 407	16	95,748	— 1,502	
City and South London	" 22	2,909	+ 103	16	38,613	— 428	
Furness	" 22	10,020	+ 2,009	16	176,392	+ 13,411	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 22	70,699	+ 5,136	16	1,177,597	+ 69,378	
Great Eastern	" 22	109,400	+ 3,600	16	1,875,000	— 32,000	
Great Northern and City	" 21	1,662	+ 304	16	23,678	+ 5,945	
Great Northern	" 21	114,800	+ 5,656	16	1,944,688	+ 4,090	
Great Western	" 22	244,700	+ 15,800	16	4,132,000	+ 42,000	
Hull and Barnsley	" 22	10,499	+ 332	16	157,751	— 1,643	
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 22	105,939	+ 4,022	16	1,934,596	+ 43,062	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 21	56,019	+ 137	16	1,160,356	— 2,974	
London & North Western	" 22	282,000	+ 10,000	16	4,857,000	+ 21,000	
London & South Western	" 22	88,100	+ 1,800	16	1,650,700	+ 9,200	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 22	8,673	— 29	16	187,277	+ 1,606	
Metropolitan	" 22	17,732	+ 120	16	273,919	+ 305	
Metropolitan District	" 22	8,265	+ 1,267	16	107,503	— 905	
Midland	" 21	230,904	+ 11,481	16	3,722,988	+ 88,987	
North Eastern	" 21	179,202	+ 1,881	16	3,070,613	+ 9,065	
North London	" 22	9,671	— 78	16	140,851	— 4,336	
North Staffordshire	" 22	18,250	+ 632	16	284,382	+ 3,753	
Rhymney	" 22	6,143	+ 451	16	91,449	+ 489	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 21	86,445	+ 3,193	16	1,715,329	+ 24,094	
Taff Vale	" 22	18,036	+ 000	16	291,481	— 2,967	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Oct. 22	87,420	+ 2,100	12	1,087,501	+ 680	
Glasgow & South-Western	" 21	33,002	+ 593	12	468,640	— 1,406	
Great North of Scotland	" 21	8,672	+ 60	12	126,910	— 1,025	
Highland	" 22	9,703	+ 113	12	153,365	+ 373	
North British	" 22	91,082	+ 1,214	12	1,176,679	— 9,912	

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Oct. 20	2,717	+ 247	16	57,289	+ 1,832	
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 20	2,059	— 76	16	31,432	+ 348	
Great Northern	" 20	19,647	+ 207	16	340,993	— 2,441	
Midland Great Western	" 20	9,662	— 712	16	185,942	— 7,959	

The LIST OF APPLICATIONS will OPEN on TUESDAY, the 31st October, 1905, and will be CLOSED on or before FRIDAY, the 3rd November, 1905.

NORTHERN SULPHITE MILLS OF CANADA

(INCORPORATED IN ONTARIO, CANADA).

LIMITED.

Subscriptions are invited for £100,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Bonds to Bearer, forming part of a total authorised issue of £150,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Bonds in 1,500 Bonds of £100 each.

The erection and completion of the Sulphite Mills and the payment of the Principal, Premium and Interest secured by the First Mortgage Bonds of the Northern Sulphite Mills of Canada, Limited, are unconditionally guaranteed by the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited.

Interest will be paid Half-yearly on the 1st May and 1st November, and the first payment will be made on the 1st May, 1906, and will be calculated from the dates of actual payment of the respective instalments.

The Bonds are to Bearer, but may be registered at any time.

The Bonds will mature for payment at a premium of Five per cent. on 1st May, 1936, but are repayable at the same premium of Five per cent. at any time previously on Six Months' notice being given by the Company.

In the event of any distribution of the Assets on the reconstruction or amalgamation of the Company with another Company before the 1st May, 1936, the Bonds are also repayable at the same premium.

A sum will be set aside half-yearly by the Company out of its profits, which it has been calculated will be sufficient to provide for the redemption of the present issue of Bonds at or before their due date, and at the premium of Five per cent. This sum will be used in the redemption of the Bonds either by purchasing at such price under £105 as the same may be purchased in the open market or by drawings at £105. Should the remaining £50,000 Bonds of the total authorised issue or any portion thereof be issued the sums so set aside for redemption of the Bonds will be correspondingly increased.

The Bonds are offered for Subscription at par, payable as follows:

£5 per cent. on Application.			
£30	"	"	on Allotment.
£30	"	"	on the 7th December, 1905.
£35	"	"	on the 8th January, 1906.
£100			

Allottees will have the option of paying up in full on Allotment, or at any time before the date of payment of the last instalment under discount at the rate of four per cent. per annum.

Application for Bonds should be made on the Form accompanying the Prospectus, and should be sent to **PARR'S BANK, LIMITED, Bartholomew lane, London, E.C.,** or to the **CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, 60 Lombard street, London, E.C.,** or to the **UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED, George street, Edinburgh,** together with a remittance for the amount of the deposit.

The remaining £50,000 of the total authorised issue is reserved for the future purposes of the Company, and cannot be issued without the consent of the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed under Canadian Law for the purpose of erecting Mills at Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, Canada, for the manufacture of Sulphite Pulp and other products made from wood.

Freehold land has been acquired, suitable for the erection of the Mills, for storage ground, and for all the requirements of the Company. The land fronts the river and is provided with railway sidings giving direct access to the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Construction work is well advanced, and contracts for the buildings and the machinery are being placed, and the Mills are expected to be in full operation by the early part of next year.

The Mills have been planned for a daily output of sixty to seventy tons (each of 2,000 lbs.) of Sulphite Pulp, dry weight, or a total output per annum of about 18,000 to 20,000 tons. For this product there is always a good market at profitable prices in Canada and the United States. Sulphite Pulp is used in the manufacture of paper, and the great and increasing development of the Canadian and American Paper trade ensures a constant demand.

A contract has been made with the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited, for that Company to take a lease of the Mills, when completed, for a term of 30 years at an annual rental of £7,500. This rental is more than sufficient to pay 6 per cent. interest on the £100,000 Bonds now issued, and to provide for the redemption of these Bonds at £105 per cent. by 1936.

In addition to this rental the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited, have agreed to pay to this Company a royalty of two dollars per ton on all Sulphite Pulp manufactured by them at the Mills. This royalty is estimated to produce £36,000, or about £7,200 per annum. This sum will be available for administration expenses, dividend on the shares of the Company, and reserve.

The Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited, own large paper mills at Sturgeon Falls, in the erection of which and the development of their property

upwards of £300,000 have been spent. These Mills are at present producing from 50 to 60 tons of paper per day. In their manufacture Sulphite Pulp is extensively used, the present supplies of which have to be purchased in the open market and brought from a distance to Sturgeon Falls at a considerable cost. Compared with the price at present paid, the saving which, it is anticipated, will be effected by the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited, through manufacturing the Sulphite Pulp at the Mills of this Company at Sturgeon Falls, should on the quantity at present used (without taking into account any future increase), provide a sum more than sufficient to pay the annual rental of £7,500. In addition to the quantity of Sulphite Pulp required at Sturgeon Falls in the manufacture of paper there will be a large surplus for sale to outside buyers, on which substantial profits should be realised by the lessees.

The proceeds of the present issue after payment thereof of all expenses and underwriting commission will be used—First in the erection of the Mills and in the purchase of machinery and plant and for other expenses incidental to the building and equipment of these Mills, including Bond interest during construction, and secondly in the purchase of such additional machinery and plant as shall be required by, and leased to, the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited. The rental of the additional machinery and plant (whether erected on the land comprised in the lease or not) will be included in the rent payable under the lease to be granted to the Imperial Paper Mills of Canada, Limited. As all the expenses of operating the Mills and carrying on the business are undertaken by the lessees, it will not be necessary to set aside any part of this issue for the purpose of providing working capital.

The minimum subscription upon which the Directors will go to allotment is £100,000, the amount now offered for subscription. The subscription of this amount has been guaranteed at a commission.

Application will be made in due course to the London Stock Exchange for a quotation for this issue.

This advertisement is an abridgment of the full Prospectus, and Application will only be received on the terms of the full Prospectus, copies of which can be obtained from the Brokers, the Bankers, or at the London Office of the Company.

Trustees for the Bond-Holders.

JOHN ORMISTON LAWSON JOHNSTON, Esq., 15 Throgmorton avenue, London, E.C.

GEORGE NICHOLSON, Esq., 24 North John street, Liverpool.

Solicitors to the Trustees.

CHARLES RUSSELL & CO., 37 Norfolk street, Strand, London, W.C.

Directors.

ARCHIBALD BAIRD CRAIG, 8 Well street, Cripplegate, London, E.C. (Chairman).

ISAAC B. HOSFORD, Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey (late Vice-President of the Union Bag and Paper Company, of New York, and formerly of the International Paper Company of New York), Vice-Chairman.

LEIGHTON GOLDIE MCCARTHY, K.C., M.P., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

WILLIAM RICHARD LOXLEY, Sedgell, Redlands road, Reading.

JOHN CRAIG, 8 Well street, Cripplegate, London, E.C., and Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, Canada.

London, the 27th October, 190

Bankers.

Parr's Bank, Ltd., Bartholomew lane, London, E.C., and Liverpool and other Branches.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce, 60 Lombard street, London, E.C., and Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Union Bank of Scotland, Ltd., George street, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Branches.

Brokers.

LONDON.—Helbert, Wagg & Russell, South Sea House, Threadneedle street, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

LIVERPOOL.—A. M. McCulloch & Co., 9 Tithebarn street, and Stock Exchange, Liverpool.

EDINBURGH.—John Robertson & Co., 31 George street, and Stock Exchange, Edinburgh.

Solicitors to the Company.

Slaughter & May, 18 Austin Friars, London, E.C.

McCarthy, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Auditors.

George A. Touch & Co., Basilidon House, Moorgate street, London, E.C.

Edwards & Co., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Secretary and London Office.

William Tait, 62 London Wall, London, E.C.

PELICAN & BRITISH EMPIRE**LIFE OFFICE.****A.D. 1797.**

70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Total Assets exceed - £5,100,000.**GUARDIAN ASSURANCE****COMPANY, LIMITED.** Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000**TOTAL INCOME over £940,000****LARGE BONUSES.****The Investors' Review.****The Week's Money Market.****BANK RATE 4 PER CENT.** (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)*Norfolk House, Friday Evening.*

How the market managed to pay for the Treasury bills last Monday without appealing to the Bank remains a mystery. The other joint-stock banks must have reduced their balances to a dangerously fine point, for all the rest of the week the Bank of England has been lending and discounting with great vigour. Still the market remains poor, and the Bank return issued on Thursday plainly indicated why. Within the week ended on Wednesday night the debt of the market on other securities had increased by £3,534,000, and not only had the whole of this been piled up on the Exchequer balances, whose total rose within the week by £3,850,000, but the market was actually about £490,000 poorer on other deposits. It came to this, therefore, that the market has been paying up money to the Treasury on Exchequer bonds and Treasury bill account, and the Bank of England has been lending it back again to the market at 4 to 4½ per cent.

This cannot go on long without doing mischief, and we should like to know what the Chancellor of the Exchequer means by thus putting the City to the highest inconvenience at a time quite critical enough without his interference. Does he really imagine that the market is going to submit to lie out of this money, or to pay 4 to 5 or more per cent. for it, until he is graciously pleased to let it loose again in the course of his floating debt conjuring? That sort of finance cannot be admired, and only those who for mere party reasons would rejoice to see the Government bring a domestic credit crisis upon us could be pleased to look at the situation as it stands. Surely there is enough energy amongst bankers and credit users in the City to bring such forcible representations to bear upon the Exchequer officials as to compel them to release balances as fast as they accumulate. The market cannot afford that a penny should be buried, and if there is no other way by which balances gathered by fresh Government borrowing can be released then the Exchequer bonds falling due must be bought in under discount. But why are more Treasury bills required?

Naturally in such circumstances money has been dear all the week and the Stock Exchange account especially proved expensive to carry over. Seldom in the discount market could day to day loans be had under 4 per cent., and very often the rate has been 4½ per cent.,

while yesterday seven-day money, which had earlier in the week been secured at 3½ per cent., cost borrowers 4 per cent. It did so, however, because at least two joint-stock banks were engaged in manufacturing their monthly balance-sheets, which they make up on the last Thursdays of each month. To-day, therefore, although the actual Stock Exchange settlement payments caused a kind of scrimmage for an hour or two with seven-day money at 4 and call money at 4 to 4½ per cent., the afternoon was easy and balances plentiful at 3 to 3½ per cent. Other influences were at work besides the release of balance-sheet money in producing this cheapening of credit. The Bank of England itself was said to have released money taken off the market by it a fortnight ago, and the Japanese Government agents were also reported to be lenders of some of the money received on account of the German and American instalments of their last loan. Besides this, French bankers, now that the Russian loan is put back, were offering credit here. The India Council, moreover, renewed and lent liberally for about a month at 4½ per cent.

Discount lagged below 4 per cent. until yesterday, for although many bill brokers quoted that as their working figure, they did business at 3½ and 3½ per cent., particularly in long-dated paper. Yesterday, however, the rate hardened to 4 per cent., and one house boldly asked 4 to 4½ per cent., thereby sending the bills past it to the Bank of England. This firmness was maintained to-day in spite of the decline in loan rates, and one or two leading discount companies struck to 4½ per cent. as their higher rate on three and four months' remitted bills. The result was again a good business at the Bank in both loans and discount, which has only to go on trading at the present rate to have the market completely at its mercy for the rest of the year.

There is about £800,000 in gold bars coming into the bullion market next week, and it looks as if Paris would compete briskly with the Bank of England for some portion at least of this supply, the French cheque being weak and the gold wanted.

SILVER.

The demand for silver for prompt delivery has been fairly good, partly on Indian account and partly owing to bears covering their October sales. Supplies proved just about equal to the inquiry, and the price therefore continued steady at 28½d. per oz. until just at the end, when it rose ½d. Forward metal has not been in quite so much request, but it, too, was firm at 28½d. most of the time, and finished at 28½d. per oz. Applications for the Rs. 1,20,00,000 India Council drafts offered this week amounted to Rs. 6,66,85,000 in bills and Rs. 1,74,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Tenders were accepted for Rs. 85,51,000 in bills and Rs. 34,49,000 in transfers, applicants at rs. 4 1-32d. and rs. 4 1-16d. receiving about 12 per cent. Next Wednesday another Rs. 1,20,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 25, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued ..	48,610,560	Government Deb ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	30,160,560
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£48,610,560		£48,610,560

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	16,647,700
Reserve ..	3,183,812	Other Securities ..	33,090,140
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	13,331,007	Notes ..	19,722,245
Other Deposits ..	40,072,126	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,762,965
Seven Day and other Bills ..	73,442		
	£71,213,387		£71,213,387

Dated October 26, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Oct. 26.		Oct. 18, 1905.	Oct. 25, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,144,740	Rest	3,173,099	3,183,812	10,713	—
8,135,586	Pub. Deposits ..	9,481,031	13,331,007	3,849,976	—
42,008,179	Other do. ..	40,561,971	40,072,126	—	489,845
100,599	7 Day Bills ..	107,572	73,442	—	34,130
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
14,934,270	Gov. Securities	16,657,729	16,647,729	10,000	—
25,934,433	Other do. ..	29,546,384	33,080,448	—	3,534,124
27,073,401	Total Reserve ..	21,672,620	21,485,210	187,410	—
				4,058,099	4,058,099
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
27,996,825	Note Circulation	28,940,345	28,888,315	—	52,030
36,620,226	Coin and Bullion	32,162,965	31,923,525	—	239,440
53½ p.c.	Proportion ..	43½ p.c.	40½ p.c.	—	3½ p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £520,000 out.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'16½	25'15	Antwerp	short	25'24	25'24½
Brussels	chqs.	25'23½	25'23½	Italy	sight	25'12	25'11
Amsterdam	sight	12'14	12'13½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'05	110'05
Berlin	chqs.	20'45½	20'46½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	16½d.	16½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'24	20'25	Valparaiso	90 dys	15½d.	15½d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'44½	20'45	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort	short	20'44½	20'43½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna	sight	24'04½	24'04	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/11½	1/11½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'75	93'80	Shanghai	T.T.	2/8½	2/9½
New York	60 dys	4'82½	4'83½	Singapore	4 mths	2/1½	2/1½
Lisbon	sight	50½	50½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	32'17	32'33				

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£			
1,800,000	6 months	1906.	
11,200,000	—	Jan. 1	1 19 11
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 2 ?	—
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
23,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
Week ending				
July 5	335,384,000	263,021,000	72,363,000	—
" 12	225,059,000	178,221,000	46,838,000	—
" 19	259,447,000	216,266,000	43,187,000	—
" 26	183,098,000	172,859,000	11,139,000	—
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 23	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
" 30	174,559,000	160,242,000	—	15,683,000
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
" 27	187,852,000	164,860,000	22,992,000	—
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,786,000	27,856,000	—
" 18	270,692,000	226,552,000	44,140,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,683,000	15,589,000	—
	10,086,062,000	8,523,321,000	1,562,741,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.

WITHDRAWALS.

Saturday, Bills	£29,000	Saturday, Egypt	£1,020,000
Monday, Bars	£105,000		
Tuesday, Bars	£114,000		
Wednesday, Bars	£77,000		
Friday, Bars	£11,000		
Net Efflux	£684,000		
Total	£1,020,000	Total	£1,020,000

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Oct. 21.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	£
Excise	£734,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	1,108,100
Stamps	148,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	100,000
Property and Income Tax.	—
Post Office	66,000
Telegraphs	180,000
Crown Lands	250,000
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Miscellaneous	98,281
Bullion advances repaid ..	—
Uganda Railway	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—
count	—
Telegraph Acts	—
Naval Works Acts	—
Military Works Acts	—
Land Registry Acts	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—
Ways and Means	—
Deficiency	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	885,000
Transvaal and Orange River	—
Colony. Repayment of	—
Temporary Advance	—
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—
tion payments	—
Decrease in Exchequer	—
balances	—
£3,629,281	£3,629,281

* Exclusive of £781,288 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £4,784,717.

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	3 3
Berlin	5	October 3, 1905	4 4½
Hamburg	5	October 3, 1905	4½ 4½
Frankfort	5	October 3, 1905	4½ 4½
Amsterdam	2½	March, 1905	2½ 2½
Brussels	3	December 28, 1905	3 3
Vienna	3½	February 3, 1902	3½ 4½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4½ 4½
St. Petersburg	5½	February, 1904	7½ 7½
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4 4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5 5
Stockholm	5	September 22, 1905.	4½ 4½
Copenhagen	4	January, 1905	4½ 4½
Calcutta	5	September 29, 1905	—
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	—
New York call money ..	3	—	—

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 17.	Oct. 19.	Oct. 24.	Oct. 26.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do.	3 months	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'43½	25'46½	25'45	25'45
Hamburg	3 months	20'72	20'71	20'71	20'72
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'72	20'72	20'72	20'72
Paris	cheques	25'16½	25'16½	25'16½	25'16½
Do.	3 months	25'30½	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½
Marseilles	3 months	25'37½	25'38½	25'37½	25'37½
Switzerland	3 months	25'51½	25'52½	25'51½	25'51½
Austria	3 months	24'32	24'37	24'33	24'30
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'48½	25'47½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	36½	36½	36½	36½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	49½	50
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	49½	50
Copenhagen	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'40	18'41
Christiania	3 months	18'41	18'42	18'41	18'42
Stockholm	3 months	18'41	18'42	18'41	18'42

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Oct. 21, 1905	Oct. 14, 1905	Oct. 7, 1905	Oct. 22, 1904
Specie	£38,632,000	£38,390,000	£39,008,000	£48,044,000
Legal tenders	15,077,400	14,959,800	14,812,600	15,517,600
Loans and discounts ..	205,340,000	206,060,000	211,940,000	227,580,000
Circulation	10,936,200	10,831,200	10,828,400	8,598,200
Net deposits	204,780,000	205,240,000	211,860,000	239,960,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,514,400 against an excess last week of £2,039,800.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Oct. 23, 1905.	Oct. 14, 1905.	Oct. 7, 1905.	Oct. 22, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£45,541,000	£45,541,208	£45,574,000	£48,237,166
Silver reserve	12,063,416	12,063,416	12,120,958	12,061,916
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	2,002,410	2,021,666	2,083,416	1,798,166
Note circulation	72,888,916	72,281,000	72,588,250	70,547,666
Bills discounted	22,150,500	21,205,833	21,298,541	17,446,791

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 19, 1905	Oct. 12, 1905	Oct. 5, 1905	Oct. 20, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion	4,865,560	4,795,360	4,925,560	4,947,760
Other securities	23,373,600	23,104,480	23,555,520	21,608,480
Note circulation	26,841,040	27,085,800	26,754,480	25,730,080
Deposits	3,319,000	2,892,120	3,787,280	2,713,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 23, 1905	Oct. 14, 1905	Oct. 7, 1905	Oct. 22, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand	41,720,450	39,367,050	37,758,750	44,255,600
Bills discounted	51,779,800	55,758,650	61,092,100	42,149,700
Advances on stocks	5,691,500	4,013,850	3,546,450	2,666,900
Note circulation	69,410,200	72,512,550	76,818,150	67,436,700
Public deposits	26,337,050	25,882,800	26,213,650	25,681,200

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 21, 1905	Oct. 14, 1905	Oct. 7, 1905	Oct. 22, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Gold	14,968,842	14,961,193	14,956,367	14,827,500
Silver	22,428,561	22,389,067	22,381,274	20,033,980
Foreign Bills	2,477,782	2,484,855	2,469,162	1,587,002
Discount and Short Bills	45,712,036	45,819,276	45,632,337	38,944,343
Treasury Account	20,875,066	20,824,416	20,822,953	21,994,739
Notes in circulation	63,214,283	63,319,009	63,316,241	65,694,010
Current Account deposits	21,770,474	21,733,062	21,543,432	25,131,907
Dividends Interest	2,901,895	2,987,885	3,181,941	2,721,819
Government Securities	5,374,080	5,123,508	5,091,626	5,029,522

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 26, 1905	Oct. 19, 1905	Oct. 12, 1905	Oct. 27, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	116,629,240	116,787,040	116,949,960	104,553,880
Silver in hand	43,811,240	43,814,200	43,702,440	44,000,720
Bills discounted	29,243,600	30,137,320	26,242,369	29,050,080
Advances	18,979,280	19,220,280	19,090,280	19,882,280
Note circulation	179,068,440	181,268,840	180,578,520	171,668,800
Public deposits	12,995,200	10,594,160	9,391,560	10,266,440
Private deposits	22,479,560	23,411,440	21,322,040	21,604,200

Proportion between bullion and circulation 88½ per cent. against 88½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1905	Sept. 20, 1905	Sept. 10, 1905	Sept. 30, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Reserve	28,066,000	28,045,560	28,002,680	25,441,080
State notes and small change	439,320	511,600	479,120	452,200
Discount and loans	14,281,000	11,709,760	11,221,240	11,492,760
Public stock and State loans	8,407,640	8,408,000	8,411,800	8,429,120
Credits	7,026,120	6,728,800	6,602,840	6,844,440
Note Circulation	40,327,040	37,995,200	37,774,640	36,557,400
Current account	2,266,060	2,982,680	3,228,840	4,274,380
Deposits	4,629,080	3,939,640	3,782,680	3,282,600

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 1/14 1905	Sept. 23/Oct. 6 1905	Sept. 1/14 1905	Aug. 23, Sept. 5 1905
	£	£	£	£
Gold	87,991,437	89,811,583	91,341,331	91,022,530
Silver and subsidiary coin	10,658,721	4,324,000	5,250,606	5,399,687
Advances and bills discounted	38,811,365	37,970,029	38,277,243	36,109,394
Securities belonging to the Bank	7,200,687	7,562,360	7,867,652	7,457,711
Notes in circulation	109,560,764	110,413,244	103,804,076	103,671,680
Deposits and current account	45,430,750	55,006,300	45,670,593	44,510,230
Treasury account	6,493,677	7,323,744	94,827,815	14,343,356

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	4
Three months	4-4½
Four months	4-4½
Six months	4-4½
Three months fine inland bills	3½-4
Four months	4-4½
Six months	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" " short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½-4
" " for call loans	4-4½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

As we write stock markets are very flat, too flat to bear looking at closely. The causes of the weakness are to some extent on the surface, for the spread of revolution in Russia has had a depressing influence on all bourses, and Russian bonds have been falling faster than they did at any time during the war. Dear money, too, is doing its usual work. We may, how-

ever, leave this side of the subject for the present, because it is still possible that the Russian bureaucracy may for a brief season appear to get the upper hand, and there may be somebody at the Home Treasury endowed with a grain of sense. To us the most interesting section of the Stock Exchange continues to be that for Yankee securities of all descriptions. The account now closing has revealed a further increase in the weight of these securities dumped upon our market, carried by our already over-loaded banking credit, and it is surely ominous that in spite of the relief thus obtained Wall Street continues to be a prey to bad fits of shivers. There is plenty of cause, however, for its tremors, as the advance in the New York exchange on London plainly enough intimates. It has gone up so fast this week as to bring exports of gold from New York to Europe into view, and we here could feel nothing but gratitude were New York to send us £5,000,000 to £10,000,000 of the metal. It is just what we want to steady us, but where the Wall Street market would be after the bullion had gone we should not like to say.

It is not merely a shifting of the Stock Exchange speculative account to Europe, principally to London, that has increased the debt of Wall Street here and forced up the exchange, but there is beyond this the obligation on the part of Wall Street bankers to pay over to us their £10,000,000 share in the last Japanese loan. It ought to be coming along now, as the whole of the money will presently be wanted here. Should these bankers in addition take a hand in the new Russian loan when it comes out, they may find the outflow of gold too formidable to be contemplated with equanimity. And whether gold comes or not Wall Street is not in a strong position. The securities it principally deals in are not at prices which make it easy to manipulate them for a further advance, as operators here have this week been manipulating Home Railway stocks. In these stocks there was until lately no great amount of speculation for the rise open. A "bull" account did exist, but it was not formidable, and investment purchases had so reduced the supply of stock that it did not take much bidding from the new buyers to put prices up. If the fright of dear money had not overtaken the market, there was a strong probability that prices might have been raised 5 to 10, or 15 per cent. further without much difficulty. The market, however, is dominated by the actual monetary stringency, and the outlook is so sinister at the present moment as to render it the reverse of prudent for any private person to buy a security with the view of pawning it and holding it for the rise.

Enough is said about the Kaffir Circus in other parts of this issue. It is more than a weariness to the flesh, and we are heartily tired of gazing upon its miseries. It will be worse, however, before it is better, and the wonder is that some of the master players have not before now succumbed to the load they stagger along beneath.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The Home Railway market provided a brilliant exception to the general dulness in the Stock Exchange this week, and but for the brightness in that section there would have been nothing to relieve the gloom. On the opening day prices held tolerably steady as a rule, with just a small increase in the amount of business passing, but as contango day drew near the prospect of terrifying continuation charges frightened weak bulls, rather numerous in some departments just now, and under the influence of moderate selling by those desirous of lightening their commitments quotations soon began to settle down. As anticipated, money for settlement purposes was hard to come by as, although one big bank continued its loans at 4½ per cent., none of the others charged less than 4½ per cent., and where fresh accommodation was required the rate was 5 per cent. In face of charges like those it was next to impossible to bring about a rally, and when

later in the week Paris had a small fright over the disturbing events in Russia, the tendency became decidedly flat. Even Home Railways gave way a little on talk of a provincial failure and the great stringency in the money market, gradually growing more pronounced, and while present conditions prevail it seems useless to look for any revival. If prices can be kept from going down with a rush that is as much as can be expected. Consols were dull throughout, with a good deal of selling towards the end, partly in view of the monthly settlement which commences on Monday. Borrowers on stock will probably be called upon to pay little less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for loans, and with a sharp difference against them as well their position just now is far from a happy one. Other British Funds were also heavy-looking, with slight relapses in Annuities, Exchequer bonds, and India sterling loans, and the few changes in the Home County and Corporation division were all adverse. About half-a-dozen Colonial issues also gave way $\frac{1}{2}$, but the selling in them never became pronounced.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money)	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Nov. 2)	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	90	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Local Loans (3) ..	99	99
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	98	98
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	Do. Account (Nov. 2) ..	98	98
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98	98
308	297	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.) ..	295 $\frac{1}{2}$	295 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stck. red. 1931 ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1948 ..	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	66

The Foreign bond market had very little character until near the end, when it became rather dull under the lead of Russians, which were sold heavily from Paris owing to the internal troubles, each day growing worse. The new loan is said to be indefinitely postponed. Happily the weakness did not extend to other European favourites, which held quite steady, and in sharp contrast to the relapse in Russians was the pronounced strength of Japanese, moderate buying being accompanied by corresponding improvement in prices. Chinese were also a good market, but in the South American division Peruvians were sold with some freedom, and Cédulas broke sharply on the absence of news regarding the progress of the negotiations with the Government. Argentines and Brazilians showed only fractional change either way, and nothing worthy of description happened amongst Central American issues. Continuation rates were about the same as on the last occasion in this section, with a hardening tendency for some of the more speculative things. All leading South Americans were done at 4 to 6 per cent. along with Chinese, but on the Central American issues the charge rose to 6 and sometimes 7 per cent. Peruvian ordinary cost 4 to 6 per cent. to carry over, and the preferred and deferred 5 to 7 per cent., but a slightly easier rate at 3 to 5 per cent. ruled on Japanese. Amongst Europeans, Italians were borrowed on at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., as also Turkish, Spanish at 4 to 5 per cent., and Portuguese at $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while Russian, after starting at 2 to 4 per cent., eased off to "even" to 1 per cent. Making-up prices displayed some irregularity, but most of the movements were adverse, and included a pretty general loss of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 in the Argentine division with the Cédulas down $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$. Brazilians were slightly worse in places, Greeks were down $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, Guatemalans $1\frac{1}{2}$, Russian, Series I. and II., $\frac{1}{2}$, Turkish $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the Unified and Spanish $\frac{3}{4}$. On the other hand, Chinese Shanghai Nanking Railway loan went up $\frac{7}{8}$ along with Honduras, Colombian put on $\frac{1}{2}$, and San Paulo and Uruguay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. $\frac{1}{2}$. None of the movements possessed much significance.

A decidedly bullish feeling has been apparent in the Home Railway market and prices moved steadily

upwards in face of such deterrents to speculation as the stiff contangos charged at the settlement on Wednesday and the prospects of dearer money. The market, of course, has been invigorated by the continuance of excellent traffic returns and by the reports of improving trade, but its strength was chiefly due to the fact that it is no longer dependent upon professional support alone. A good demand from the public has been created by "tips" in the financial papers, and although the actual volume of buying may not have been large, the inquiry has come upon a market not over well supplied with stocks, and quotations, therefore, advanced substantially in all directions. Thursday's Bank return, however, brought home to the market the fact that money was likely to remain dear for some time to come, and the profit-taking which set in caused part of the earlier gains to disappear. The set-back never became very pronounced, except perhaps in Scotch stocks, where there was a further disturbing influence in a failure on the Glasgow Exchange, and closing prices showed gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in North-Western, North-Eastern, Great Eastern, South-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101	101
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	92	92
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101	101
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99	99
106	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104	104
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101	101
97	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	96	96
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	98	98
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	94	94
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98	98
107	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103	103
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	56	56
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	46	46
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External ..	43	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106	106
107	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c. ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Greek, 1884 ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53
44	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	42
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. Funding ..	53	53
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. New ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102	102
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70	70
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	93	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	Servian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92
103	100	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	101xd	101
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103xd	103
92	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	72	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
99	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. ..	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	95
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	50

Western ordinary and deferred, Furness, Metropolitan, District, and City and South London. Great Western, Brighton deferred, Great Central issues, Great Northern preferred and deferred, and Lancashire and Yorkshire amongst others finished from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ higher. Dearer money and the fact that the new account is a nineteen day one made carrying-over charges distinctly heavier, and rates were seldom as low as $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while on South-Eastern deferred the contango rose to 12 per cent. or more, and the charge on North-Western, Great Central, Great Eastern, District, and North British ranged from 8 to 9 per cent. Making-up prices show advances for the fortnight of $5\frac{1}{2}$ in Furness, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in District, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in Great Central preferred, and 2 to 3 in Great Northern deferred, Lancashire and Yorkshire, South-Western deferred, Metropolitan, and Midland deferred: Chatham preferences were 3 and 4 higher, South-Eastern ordinary and preferred gained $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$, and the deferred

$1\frac{1}{2}$, North-Western put on $1\frac{3}{4}$ and Great Eastern, South-Western ordinary, North-Eastern, and Midland preferred rose from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$. Caledonian ordinary and deferred gained $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{4}$, and North British deferred $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ord. ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	138	138
165	152	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157	157
131	116	Do. Def. ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	123	126
120	111	Caledonian Ord. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	114	117
83	77	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77	78
39	33	Do. Def. ($\frac{3}{4}$ p.c.) ..	38	39
94	88	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	92
86	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84	84
17	15	Chatham Ordinary ..	16	17
47	37	City and South London ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	41	45
71	51	Furness ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	68	71
38	28	Great Central Pref. ..	36	38
19	15	Do. Def. ..	17	19
93	80	Great Eastern ($3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	81	87
108	98	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	100	102
42	38	Do. Def. (1) ..	39	41
145	135	Great Western ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	139	141
50	52	Highland ($1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	52	52
49	41	Hull and Barnsley ($1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	46	47
112	104	Lanc. and Yorks. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	106	108
100	88	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	89	93
42	34	Metropolitan District ..	35	38
71	65	Midland Pref. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	67	68
70	62	Do. Def. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	69	70
89	76	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77	77
49	43	Do. Def. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	45	45
144	134	North-Eastern ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	141	143
160	147	North-Western ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	156	159
96	84	South-Eastern Ord. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	94	96
135	122	Do. Pref. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	132	135
60	48	Do. Def. ..	59	60
71	56	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	57	61
112	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106	106
90	52	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	55	59

Bear covering gave a certain amount of strength to Yankee Railroad shares on Monday, but the market remains purely professional, and immediately these operations were concluded the tone became dull. New York, however, continues bullish on the whole, and, when fears of stiff continuation charges caused a good deal of stock to be thrown out on this side, not only absorbed it readily, but managed to lift quotations a little. A period of apathy followed pending the arrangements for the settlement, but after a

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95	80	Atchafalpa Shares (4) ..	90	90
108	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	107	107
120	104	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	111	116
102	97	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	99	100
61	46	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	57	58
93	73	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	184	186
38	27	Denver Shares ..	34	34
93	85	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	89	90
54	38	Erie Shares ..	48	49
87	77	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	83	83
80	58	Do. and Pref. ..	74	74
187	156	Illinois Central (7) ..	183	181
161	140	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	155	156
36	24	Louisville and Texas ..	33	33
109	100	New York Central (5) ..	133	136
96	77	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	87	89
95	94	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	95	95
65	41	Ontario Shares ..	54	56
76	67	Pennsylvania (6) ..	73	74
64	46	Reading Shares ..	62	64
49	46	Do. 1st Prefd. (4) ..	49	49
51	43	Do. 2nd Prefd. (3) ..	51	51
74	59	Southern Pacific ..	69	73
39	28	Southern ..	36	37
104	97	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	101	102
142	110	Union Pacific (4) ..	134	137
102	98	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	100	100
24	18	Wabash ..	22	22
49	37	Do. Prefd. ..	43	43
86	69	Do. Income Debs. ..	75	78
182	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	175	176
109	102	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	107
112	108	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110	110
26	19	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	24	24
104	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102	102
115	107	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	112	112
107	103	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	104	103
62	47	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	59	59
109	107	Do. Leb. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108

momentary hesitation Wall Street began to push prices up under the leadership of the Morgan interests. "Coalers" have been exceptionally strong throughout the week, Reading being bid up on reports of a "bear" squeeze in New York, and Norfolk advancing on anticipations of an increase in the dividend, which were realised by the declaration of \$2 for the half-year on Wednesday. Southern Pacific and Chesapeake

were also in favour for a time on dividend rumours, but these were seemingly without foundation and the market turned its attention elsewhere. Pennsylvania went back towards the end on the announcement that the company had been authorised to issue \$13,000,000 of car trust certificates, and the market generally ended weaker owing, it was believed, to pressure brought to bear by the banks to prevent any pronounced increase in speculation while the monetary outlook is so uncertain. The persistence with which Wall Street held up prices before the settlement had the effect of keeping changes within very narrow limits, and in spite of the heavy selling which took place last week the declines rarely exceeded \$1 except in Great Northern (U.S.A.) and Northern Pacific, neither of which is much dealt in on this side. Norfolk and Southern Pacific common, indeed, were $1\frac{3}{4}$ up, while New York Central, Norfolk preference and Reading common all rose 1, and Wabash income debentures improved 2. Contangos occasionally touched $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the general range was from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	215	216
321	144	Do. Def. (15) ..	305	305
130	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	128	129
131	113	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	128	129
84	77	Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	83	83
148	134	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142	143
133	127	Do. Prefce (5) ..	131	132
140	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	119	140
118	108	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
110	99	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
115	101	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	110	111
107	92	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	104	104
170	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	165
108	103	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	106	107
142	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	140	142
93	79	Central Uruguay (3) ..	90	91
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	108	108
95	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	92	93
76	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3) ..	72	72
32	28	Costa Rica (1) ..	24	24
76	58	Cuban Central ..	62	72
129	103	Do. Pref. (5) ..	110	112
107	104	Do. Deb. (4) ..	105	105
95	72	East Argentine (4) ..	94	94
74	50	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	62	62
84	50	Leopoldina (3) ..	80	80
97	86	Do. Deb. (4) ..	94	95
110	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	110	110
108	104	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	105
29	19	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	24	24
121	103	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	117	118
57	36	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	46	47
69	48	Mexican Southern (2) ..	57	56
17	10	Nitrate Ord. (5) ..	15	15
198	164	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	192	192
210	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	206	210
211	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	210	211

Canadian Railways, like Americans, were at first disposed to harden, and Canadian Pacific shares at one time touched 178 $\frac{1}{2}$, but profit-taking then set in and they dwindled until they were very little above last week's closing figure. Grand Trunk stocks also went back after being firm, but there was less doing in them, and the movements from day to day were unimportant. On the account Canadian Pacific shares were $1\frac{1}{2}$ down and Grand Trunk issues were heavy, with losses of $\frac{5}{8}$ in the ordinary, $2\frac{3}{4}$ in the first and second preference, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the thirds, and 2 in the guaranteed. Continuation rates in this section ranged from 6 to 7 per cent. Amongst Indian Railway things Bombay and Baroda rose 3, as the result of the publication of the terms of purchase and Madras was lifted 1 as an expression of the hope that similar treatment will be accorded to stockholders in this line in 1907.

Dealings in Argentine Railways were mainly confined to a few particular favourites such as Argentine Great Western, Buenos Ayres and Pacific, and Entre Rios stocks, the first two named being influenced by talk of an amalgamation. Buenos Ayres Western was also in some request, but generally speaking the movements on the week were comparatively trifling. Brazilian stocks were strong on the improvement in the exchange, San Paulo ordinary touching 211, and Leopoldina ordinary and debenture stocks advancing 1 each. Antofagasta ordinary was firm, Uruguay things were also hard, with a large business in Midland Uruguay ordinary, and Paraguay Central debenture stock, and United Railways of the Havana

ordinary stock both showed substantial gains. Mexican Railway stocks, too, were higher on another satisfactory traffic return, and the advance was shared to some extent by the debenture issues of the Inter-oceanic Company. Russian Railways were flat in sympathy with Government things on the serious news from that country. On the fortnight Antofagasta was 6 up, and United Railways of the Hanava ordinary put on 9½, but changes in the Argentine group were somewhat irregular. Argentine Great Western gained 5½, Buenos Ayres Western ordinary and Villa Maria preference 2½, Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary and Buenos Ayres Great Southern ordinary 1 to 1½, and Argentine Transandine preferred 1½, but Argentine North Eastern preference fell 2, Buenos Ayres Western debentures 1½, Entre Rios preference 3½, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario preference stock, Cordoba and Rosario preference, and Cordoba Central first and second preference 1 to 1½. Leopoldina ordinary improved 1½, and Midland Uruguay ordinary stock and debentures and Paraguay Central debenture stock rose 1½-2. Mexican Railway first preference gained 1½, and the ordinary and second preference ½ and ¼, and Inter-oceanic debenture stock put on 2, but Mexican Southern ordinary and second debenture stock receded 2 and 1. Contangos here, as elsewhere, were higher at 6 to 7 per cent., compared with 5½-6½ last time.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	15	20	Allsopp Ordinary	20	20
71	40	—	City of London Ord.	66½	62½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20)	550	550
27½	21½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23	23
2½	1½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
3½	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20)	3½	3½
69½	48	59½	Watney, Combe, Pl. Or. St. (4)	60½	59½
35	15	22	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	25	22
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pl. St. (4)	101	101
78½	50½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	65	67
6½	5½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6
7½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
6½	5½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pl. (5½)	6½	6½
1½	1½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	1½	1½
3½	2½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
7½	5	—	Brunner Mond (35)	7½	7½
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	11	11½
5½	4½	5½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½)	5½	5½
502½	483½	497½	Coats Ordinary (20)	500	500
1½	1	17½	Do. Prof. Ord. (20)	1½	1½
8½	5½	6½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	8½	8½
13½	10½	23½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	13½	13½
4½	3½	4	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	4½	4½
13½	12	26½	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	12½	12½
11½	106	108	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	108	108
1½	1½	25½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	1½	1½
6½	5½	6½	Do. Debenture (4½)	6½	6½
1½	1½	23½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
1½	1½	25½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	1½	1½
7½	5½	18	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	7½	7½
15½	13½	—	Russian Petroleum (5)	15½	15½
15½	13½	11½	Savoy Hotel (5)	15½	15½
105	102½	104	Sweetmeat Automatic	104	104
89	49½	79	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	79½	79½
51	38½	50	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	51	50
108½	99½	106	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	106½	106½
98	88	—	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	92	92
118	104	—	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	118	118
8½	6½	7½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pl. (1½)	7½	7½
13½	10½	12½	Do. Debentures (6)	13½	13½
104½	95½	—	National Discount (10)	100½	100½
13½	126½	—	Union Discount (11)	130	129
3½	3½	3½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	3½	3½
59	32	36	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	59	59
1½	1½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48)	1½	1½
14½	12½	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	130	129
14½	12½	—	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Balcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	United States Steel Ordinary ..	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Do. Preference (7)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Cunard Steam	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Royal Mail	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Ordinary (5)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Anglo-American Telegraph—	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Do. Def. Ord.	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Eastern Extension (7)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	London General Omnibus (8)	14½	14½
14½	12½	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	14½	14½

Miscellaneous markets developed an irregular tendency, especially near the close, but final prices

show improvement in a good many instances with business on a moderate scale. Iron and Steel shares were again firm all round with Pease and Partners notably strong, and Hudson's Bays after being slightly easier picked up. Telegraph securities were inquired for on the excellent reports just issued, Anglo-Americans alone showing weakness, and all Shipping issues were strong, particularly P. and O. deferred and Royal Mails. The latter we understand is doing exceptionally good business. Nitrates were steady to firm, several being up slightly on the week, and amongst Catering shares Slaters again reached 3. Aerated Breads were not much influenced by the better report and increased dividend. Breweries were decidedly weaker after the recent sustained rise, and Textiles became heavy under the lead of Coats, which reacted sharply on the dividend announcement. Dealers had confidently expected a bonus added to the usual 20 per cent. dividend, but the profits are lower by about £200,000, due no doubt to the interruption of business in Russia, and it is very unlikely that anything further will be paid. So after touching 5½ the price of the shares fell to little more than 5. Chinese land and exploration shares were all flat, and Brunner Mond's lost part of the recent considerable gain, but Anglo-Argentine Tramways, B.E.T. ordinary, Linotype debentures and shares, Millars Karri and Jarrah and Callenders Cable all ended higher. London Docks deferred was lifted to 69, but sank back again and ended round about 66. Jones and Higgins shares continue to feel the benefit of the directors' proposals referred to last week, and Drapery issues generally held steady. During the fortnight Associated Cement debentures went up 1½, British Electric Traction ordinary ¾, Charing Cross Electric ½, Eastman Kodak common shares 4, Pease and Partners 1½, Bieckerts Brewery ordinary 9 and the preference 2½, Ebbw Vale Steel 1½ and Hudson's Bays 3. In Pekin Syndicate ordinary the rise was only ¼, but the deferred put on 20, and Direct United States Cable rose 1. There were also a good number of declines, including 2½ in Coats preferred stock and ½ in the shares, ¾ in Metropolitan Electric, 1 in Westminster Electric, 2 in Allsopp ordinary and 4½ per cent. debenture stock, and 4 in the preference and 3 in Watney Combe deferred and preference. Anglo-American Telegraph issues gave way ¾ to 1½, Standard Bank of South Africa fell 3 and Commercial Union Assurance 1½. Fairly stiff rates were sometimes exacted for continuing bargains for the rise, 7 to 9 per cent. being paid on Chinese Exploration and Land shares and 6 to 8 per cent. on Gramophones. Other things ranged from 5 to 7 per cent. as a rule, but Liptons were carried over "even" and Allsopps "even" to a small contango.

Russian stocks were again prominently flat to-day and German bourses sold pretty well everything here, depressing our markets all round. Paris, however, was steady throughout the day, and although there was not much doing it bought instead of selling, as it has been doing for some time past. Home Railway stocks could not resist the tendency, and yet the disposition is to buy them and push them further up. Yankees wobbled and the Kaffir market closed very little above the lowest, struggling as it had to with at least one break-down and a good many crippled players, for whom the provision of crutches is becoming a most expensive affair. Consols set the fashion and closed with no appreciable recovery.

MINING NOTES AND NEWS

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section, and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The past account in the mining market which came to its close this week has again been an unhappy period for "bulls." Prices have suffered from many adverse causes, the principal being the steady stream of liquidation from the Continent and the Cape. The depression in the Yankee market and the

prospects of dearer money have helped, but as affecting the Kaffir Circus these may be regarded as minor influences. The outstanding fact is that no one will buy—the bosses and controlling houses cannot—and that holders everywhere are anxious to sell. Thus making-up prices were again sensibly lower than a fortnight previously. The biggest fall was $\frac{3}{4}$ in East Rand Extension, followed by losses of $\frac{3}{8}$ in Crown Reef, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Modderfontein, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Modderfontein Deep, $\frac{1}{8}$ in H.E. Proprietary, Nourse Deep and New Steyn Estate, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Central Mining, East Rand Mining Estates, Ferreira, Jubilee, Jumpers Deep, Rand Mines and others, $\frac{1}{8}$ in East Rand Proprietary, with quite a host of declines of $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{16}$. There were a couple of rises, one of $\frac{3}{8}$ in New Heriot, the more conspicuous as this is one of the companies affected by the latest amalgamation proposal. It looks, therefore, as if the gain is the effect of inside manipulation, to impress shareholders favourably with the scheme. The other rise was $\frac{1}{4}$ in Jubilee. There were not many changes amongst Rhodesians, nor any to speak of in the Egyptian and West African sections, prices here remaining mostly steady. Amongst West Australians Kalgurli rose $\frac{3}{8}$, but Lake Views fell 3-32. In the Miscellaneous list, Broken Hill issues mostly improved; Esperanzas dropped $\frac{1}{8}$ and El Oros $\frac{1}{8}$. Rio Tintos were unchanged.

Continuation rates were in some instances lighter than at the previous settlement. Gold Fields were again carried over at 4½-5½ per cent., but on Modderfontein and Rand Mines the rate was 5-6 per cent. and on Barnato Consols and Johannesburg Investment 5½-6½ per cent. East Rands were done at 5-6 per cent., the general rate being 6½-7½. The De Beers contango hardened to 3½-4½ per cent. and the Jagers to 5½-6½ per cent. On Rhodesians and Egyptians the rate was 6-8 per cent. and on West Africans 5-7 per cent. As usual, contangos were irregular in the West Australian group. The rate on Associated went off from 6-8 per cent. to 4-6 per cent., and that on Great Fingalls from 5-7 per cent. to 3-5 per cent. Kalgurli was at first done at 4-6 per cent., but later at "even"—2 per cent. Ivanhoes were arranged at 5½-7½ per cent., Golden Horseshoes at 3-5 per cent. and Northern Blocks at 7-9 per cent. The general charge on most shares was 6-8 per cent. In the Miscellaneous group, Esperanzas were continued at 8-10 per cent. and El Oros and Camp Birds at 6-8 per cent.

Gamblers hoped that for the new account, which will cover nineteen days, business would improve. Such hopes have not so far been realised, and it looks as if the account will cover another dreary period. Outsiders have not come forward to give the least encouragement to bosses or professionals and the reactionary movement has continued. Further liquidation from Paris and the Cape has sent prices lower and losses on the week are again numerous.

Nor has any business to speak of been done in other departments, accordingly there is no improvement to record anywhere. In the Rhodesia section there is talk of dissensions amongst dealers, which, if they cannot be settled by the Committee, may go into the law courts. Prices are falling here also, as well as in the West African and Egyptian markets.

There are many good shares in the Westralian group, but confidence in the management of various companies has been so frequently shaken that it will take a long course of honest finance to restore it.

Shares in the Broken Hill group of companies are being steadily bought on prospects. Esperanzas and El Oros have been undecided in tendency, though the statements at the El Oro meeting seem to have created a favourable impression. Camp Birds have been flat and Le Roi issues weak. Amongst Copper shares Rio Tintos have fluctuated from day to day, Spassky's and Libiolas have been dull, but Tharsis and Capes firm. There is no change of importance in Indians.

RAND KLIPFONTEIN COMPANY.—In the year ending May 31 this company, which has been boreholing, received a revenue of £2,229 from brokerage, rents and interest, and as the expenditure took £5,783, there was a further loss of £3,554 to add to the old debit of £17,226, raising it to £20,780. In one borehole the reef was intersected at a depth of 1,886 ft., and in another at 1,896 ft. Drilling operations are now completed, and the work of equipment and development has been commenced. A scheme of amalgamation with the Klipfontein Estate Company is being considered, but "owing to the existing depression and pending more being known regarding the new Gold Law," the scheme is not matured. Cash totals £40,891, which will probably soon be spent.

KLIPFONTEIN ESTATE AND GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This concern has been boreholing in conjunction with the Rand Klipfontein, and as the Main Reef series has been met at depths of 1,886 and 1,896 ft. respectively, drilling operations have now ceased. We refer to the projected amalgamation scheme with the Rand Klipfontein in our note on that company's report. Income from rents, leases, interest, commission, exchange, &c., totalled £2,240 in the twelve months to May 31, and as outgoings amounted to £8,496, there is a loss of £6,256 to be added to the previous debit of £19,830, making it £26,086. Sundry creditors are only £354, and cash totals £46,033.

RHODESIA CONCESSIONS.—The report of the directors of this concern covers the lengthy period of four years, and even this is brought up to the remote date of December 31, 1904. It need hardly be said that the company has not had a prosperous time of it. Owing to the severe depression, is the directorial excuse, it has been impossible to deal with any of the company's land holdings. With extraordinary optimism, they say that the general condition of the country has greatly improved during the present year, and we should be delighted to see evidence of this.

However, they hope to be able to squeeze a little more out of the poor native in the shape of the hut tax, and also to sell more wood fuel. The poor in our own slums could probably do with a little of this during the coming winter. At the same time, every effort is to be made to cut down the expenditure. In directorial fees, we wonder? For the four years the outlay in Rhodesia amounted to £2,261 less £207 from hut tax, leaving nett expenditure £2,054. Expenses in London in the same period came to £338 less £233 income. Thus expenditure exceeded the receipts by £2,017.

OTTOS KOPJE DIAMOND MINES (1903).—Not for the first time in their unfortunate experiences do the shareholders in this concern receive depressing news from the directors. A few months ago the chairman and one of the directors died, and the death is now announced of the general manager at the mines. In view of these unhappy circumstances and of the continued unsatisfactory nature of the returns, the remaining directors invited some of the largest shareholders to a conference with them, the result of which was to instruct the local secretary to give notice to the employees and to suspend washing operations for the present. Accounts up to the end of September are promised at an early date, and the shareholders will then be asked to decide whether or not they will spend more money in testing the value of the mine. Judging by the company's lamentable history, it would seem the height of folly to spend another shilling on it. The present company was formed at the end of 1903, and is a fourth reconstruction, the first taking place in 1896. In all these years the mine has proved utterly hopeless as a paying venture, unless shareholders desire to produce diamonds for the benefit of the impecunious magnates.

NEW DE KAAP.—This company issues a detailed report from Messrs. Mercer, Nicolaus and Company on the Ulundi Mine, dated August 31. The area comprises 98 claims and forms part of the Sheba Hill range, lying about a mile south of the Sheba Gold Mining Company. Four known reefs, it is said, traverse its full length, only two of which have so far been exploited. Exploratory work has been carried out on these reefs since June last. On the result of this work the engineers recommended the completion of the purchase. They estimate for a profit per annum of approximately £10,000, and add:—"While the immediate position with regard to the values of the initial prospecting does not warrant decided statements of a very optimistic nature, the future outlook is very encouraging." This is queer logic, to be sure; as logical as saying the weather is very uncertain but nice and sunny.

SOUTH-EAST AFRICA.—To a certain degree it is delightful to learn from the report of this company that the year's work has brought about essential progress in its enterprise. But progress and ultimate commercial success are not synonymous. Dr. Carl Peters visited South Africa in January last, and engaged in Johannesburg an alluvial expert in the person of Dr. Pherson Ekberg. They afterwards proceeded to the company's properties, and we are not surprised to learn that they have formed favourable opinions of their value and payability. Dr. Ekberg says he has not seen any alluvial that offers so ready a means of remunerative working, and thinks the dividend stage will be reached in twelve months. This opinion we shall bear in mind, and see if it is justified by actual results. A balance-sheet is being prepared and shareholders are promised copies before the meeting is held.

GOLDEN POLE GOLD MINES.—This is a West Australian company with the modest capital of £20,000 in 200,000 shares of 2s. each, and the shareholders are receiving handsome dividends. In the half-year to July 31 10,215 tons were crushed, 1,979 tons of sands were cyanided and 29 cwt. of slags and 40 tons of concentrates were treated for a return of 17,205 ozs. of bullion of a value of £66,314, or £65,720 nett after deduction of mint and bank charges. On this the nett profit was £45,339, and £15,152 was brought in, out of which the directors distributed £40,000 in dividends, leaving £20,491, or a sum larger than the capital, to carry forward. The general manager anticipates an improvement on the above results in the immediate future. In their report the directors say they much regret that recently there has been a heavy fall in the shares, "owing to adverse reports on the mine being persistently circulated by irresponsible persons for purposes of their own. These reports have been proved to be entirely unfounded by the regular official advices received from the mine." Although the company is doing so well we notice it has only about £300 in actual cash.

HALL MINING AND SMOELING COMPANY.—Twelve months ago the directors of this struggling British Columbian company announced that they had arranged with Mr. M. S. Davys, to whom the mines had been leased for some time, to undertake the management and to work the Silver King Mine down to the 7th level; also the Kootenay Bonanza and American Flag claims, on the terms that he should bear half the cost and give his services free in consideration of getting half the nett profits. In pursuance of this understanding a partnership agreement was made with Mr. Davys, commencing from November 16, 1904, to continue until June 30, 1907, and in the report for the year ending June 30, it is remarked that the chief point of interest in connection with the work he has been doing has been the discovery of a vein of ore 5 ft. wide on the level of the No. 1 tunnel on the Silver King, which appears to be in new ground. "Judging," say the directors, "from the direction the vein is taking it cannot have been touched by any of the exploration work at the lower levels under the former management, and there is reason to hope that it may prove to be a body of some magnitude." In addition a new prospect shaft on the Kootenay Bonanza has revealed the

existence of pay ore, and Mr. Davys is sanguine as to the future of this part of the mine. He has advised that the work of unwatering the mine to prospect for the body of ore which he is confident lies between the 5th and 7th levels be deferred, whilst work on the new vein is vigorously pushed, in order to get as much ore as possible before the winter comes. Profit on mine account was £159, on smelter account £5,095, on working the Emma group £2,850, and there were sundry receipts which raised the total credits to £9,324. General expenses in British Columbia and London took £1,813, debenture interest £1,473 and exchange £15, leaving £6,023 to go in reduction of the debit of £22,663, so the deficit now stands at £16,650. Liabilities are over £42,858, but liquid assets exceed them.

WEARDALE LEAD COMPANY.—This company did considerably better in the financial year to June 30 than in the preceding twelve months, although the quantity of ore raised and dressed and the production of pig-lead was less, being respectively 2,196 tons, 2,190 tons and 1,691 tons. The quantity smelted was 2,186 tons, the pig-lead realising £12 8s. 4d. per ton. Gross revenue amounted to £28,131 against £27,483, whilst the nett profit advanced from £342 to £1,747. The sum brought forward was £3,511, giving the directors a disposable balance of £5,258. They recommend a dividend of 3d. per share, which will absorb £1,224, leaving £4,034 to be taken to the current accounts. The £10,000 of debentures falling due on July 1 have been renewed for a further period of three years. According to the manager the opening out work at Wolfcraugh Mine is beginning to give improved results and the prospect at this mine is now considered favourable. Additional mining ground is being opened up at Blackdean, and the work done so far has, the report says, given satisfactory results. The financial position is tolerably comfortable.

YMR GOLD MINES.—A circular has been issued to the shareholders in this disappointing company which may or may not revive their hopes of better times coming. Mr. Oliver Wethered, the chairman, is at present at the mine in company with Mr. Gilam Brown, a San Franciscan expert, who was commissioned by the West Australian Goldfields and the London and British Columbian Goldfields to report upon the property. Cablegrams have been despatched by these gentlemen opining that the present and future of the mine warrant a large amount of confidence, and it is left to the choice of the shareholders to determine the precise degree of confidence they should feel. But time is needed before it is possible to begin to stope the better ore. How long a time? There seems every prospect, it is added, of a new vein recently discovered proving important. But how vague it all is!

QUEENSLAND GOLD RETURNS.—For September the gold returns from Queensland were:—Charters Towers, 20,800 tons, 20,000 ozs.; Croydon, 4,100 tons, 1,200 ozs.; Gympie, 18,600 tons, 8,900 ozs.; Mount Morgan, 22,000 tons, 9,500 ozs.; Ravenswood, 2,900 tons, 3,800 ozs.; other fields, 7,400 tons, 3,300 ozs.; alluvial, 500 ozs.; total yield, 46,700 ozs.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

MEXICAN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

A good many people have reason to be grateful to the Mexican Government for their efforts to put the currency of the country on a more stable basis, and not least the foreign owners of the railway companies who have had such bitter experiences of a depreciated exchange. To the currency reform law which came into operation on May 1 last and reacted favourably on the exchange for several months prior to that date the satisfactory display which appears to be made by this undertaking for the half-year ended June 30 last is largely, though not entirely, due. We say not entirely, because there are sundry items in the accounts, to be referred to presently, which have greatly influenced the results, just as they have for about eighteen months now, and we must again complain of the directors' failure to refer to these matters in their report, because they have an important bearing on the period under review, and promise to be of even greater significance in the future. Dealing first with actual traffics we find that the gross revenue was \$3,131,182 or \$19,205 less than in the corresponding period, due to decreases in foreign goods of \$97,770, and in national goods and sundry earnings of \$23,322, as the revenue from passengers was higher by \$101,887. Number of passengers carried increased by 26,117, and while the national goods advanced by 7,081 tons, the foreign goods which we presume give a longer haul and pay better fell off by 5,106 tons. Against this decrease in income the expenses went up \$73,242, including the outlay of \$55,552 arising from the accident at the Metlac bridge in April last, making the total \$1,821,510. But has all the expenditure of the half-year been fairly met? It does not seem so to us, and the actual position can only be ascertained by a careful study of the items of the accounts as already remarked. For the conditions to be fairly understood it is necessary to run back some eighteen months to the statement of accounts for the half-year to December 31, 1903. At that time the company possessed sundry renewal accounts of \$62,901, including \$4,084 for the permanent way, \$47,429 for locomotives, and \$11,387 for carriages and wagons. By the following half-year these had been reduced to \$26,265, and by December, 1904, to \$9,650, or in other words the necessary renewals to the system and works occasioned by the heavier traffic were met, not from revenue, but from accumu-

lated savings. That in itself does not seem very good policy, but worse has happened in the period now under review. At the end of 1904 there was a credit to locomotive renewal fund of \$9,958, and to carriage and wagon renewal account of \$1,539, but a debit to permanent way renewal fund of \$1,847 leaving the total credit at \$9,650. Now, in the past half-year the carriage and wagon fund has been increased by \$7,195 to \$8,734 because a careful survey of the goods vehicles has shown the necessity of writing 104 of them off the list, which will be replaced, with about another 50 besides; but the locomotive renewal account has been further reduced from \$9,958 to \$2,324, while the permanent way debit now reaches the great figure of \$12,167, an increase on the year of \$10,320. Had that been met from revenue, as it should have been, the display would have been very different and dividend perhaps 5½ per cent. per annum instead of 6¼. This position has arisen, too, despite the fact that considerably larger sums were actually provided from income for special renewals, and it seems pretty conclusive that the past policy has been one of starvation which the directors are now trying to set straight. But it is not possible to pay big dividends at the same time, and by deferring expenditure which should come from current income, the directors are clearly discounting the future too far ahead, be it never so prosperous. The decrease in receipts and increase in expenditure brought the nett revenue down by \$92,447 to \$1,309,671, but the average rate of exchange was 24.3583d. against 22.392d., and the smaller sum actually produced \$2,104 more at \$132,922. Difference in exchange gave only £75 against £2,236, but the Vera Cruz pier and launch produced a nett sum of \$11,360, or an advance of £7,897, and interest and transfer fees £2,064, in all £146,421 compared with £139,602. Deducting £60,000 for debenture interest, £2,000 written off suspense accounts, and a similar sum reserved on account of depreciation of investments, and the balance left is £82,421, an improvement of £6,818. With £383 brought in the sum for disposal is £82,804, and the directors propose to increase the dividend on the 8 per cent. first preference stock from 6 per cent. to 6½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £2,988. Commencing with January 1 next traffics will be published four times a month, the first three statements each covering seven days and the fourth, seven, eight, nine, or ten days as the case may be.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

There is much that is interesting in the annual report of this rapidly expanding undertaking, but pressure on our space prevents us from making more than the briefest reference to the various matters just now. We shall deal more fully with them in a general article reviewing the whole aspect of Argentine railway affairs at an early date. The present accounts include the first year's working by the Pacific Company of the Bahia Blanca and North-Western system, and for the purposes of comparison the figures of that line have been added to last year's totals as well. With these incorporated the revenue for the 12 months to June 30 was £1,263,636, or £218,306 more than in the previous year, and as the expenditure went up £122,503 to £719,111 the proportion between expenditure and income is reduced from 57.07 per cent. to 56.91 per cent., and the nett earnings show an improvement of £95,803 at £544,525. The number of passengers carried rose 194,296, meaning an additional revenue of £39,409, and the tonnage of goods carried advanced from 1,441,075 to 1,809,319, a "tonne" being 1,000 kilogrammes, or 2,204½ lbs. This meant an improved income of £137,077, but the average receipts per ton are down from 10s. 11¼d. to 10s. 3¼d. The principal advance in the merchandise traffic was in wheat, up 173,746 tonnes, followed by much smaller but still substantial gains in wine, general goods, Argentine Great Western Railway material, casks, and firewood. On the other hand, there were decreases in maize, linseed, lime, bricks and sand, wool, and skins. Included in the expenditure is a sum of £12,129, contributed towards the cost of relaying the line with heavier rails, and we learn that practically the whole section from Junin to Mackenna, 202 miles, is now laid with 100 lbs. rails. On this line run the most powerful locomotives in South America, that is 132½ tons weight, hauling 2,700 tons. Improvements and additions to the line, works, rolling stock, and engine power have also been effected at the cost of capital, the total outlay for the year being the huge sum of £802,476, including £296,006 on branches and £136,430 in connection with the independent access into Buenos Ayres. Satisfactory progress has been made with this work, and the plans for the terminal station are now before the authorities. The results anticipated from the acquisition and the working of the Bahia Blanca system have been fully realised, and this seems to have induced the board to enter into a new agreement with the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway, which has been leased to the company until 1920, but the board thinks some method of fuller control is desirable, and therefore recommends a proposal something after the style of that carried through with the Bahia Blanca. Under it the Pacific company will guarantee 4 per cent. interest on the debenture debt, and any future issues, and give the preferred shares 3 per cent. per annum for four years from July 1 last, 3½ per cent. for the following four, then 4 per cent. for a further similar period, and 4½ per cent. from July 1, 1917 and thereafter. The ordinary shares will be reduced to 25 per cent. of their nominal value, and for this amount will rank *pari passu* with the preferred. We think these terms should be accepted. Details have already been published of the arrangements made with a view of promoting the completion of the railway across the Andes, which will link up the Chilean and Argentine sections, and we can now turn to the question of nett revenue. To the profit on working must be added balance brought forward, interest and gain on re-

mittances, making £564,963, from which fixed charges absorbed £319,890, leaving £245,072. First and second preference dividends having been provided, the directors again distribute 7 per cent. on the ordinary stock, placing another £40,000 to general reserve, £4,000 to the staff fund, and carrying forward £76. Reserve will now be £541,402, including the bonus received from the Bahia Blanca Company, and will be further increased by the £80,000 to come from the Villa Maria should the mentioned proposal be agreed to. There is a credit to capital account of £688,645, so there may be no truth in the rumour that the directors are contemplating a further appeal for money.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF THE HAVANA AND REGLA WAREHOUSES, LIMITED.

During the past few years we have frequently counselled readers to keep an eye on Cuba as a country which might provide opportunities for profitable investment, and there is no doubt at all that since its emancipation from Spanish rule the island has made quite phenomenal progress. That the railways reaped immediate benefit from the general prosperity goes without saying, and this undertaking now issues a report and statement of accounts for the year to June 30, revealing a condition of affairs which only a short while back did not seem within the range of possibility. As recently as the year 1900 the company was unable to pay any dividend at all, whereas in respect of the past year 10 per cent. is paid on both preferred stock and deferred shares which have thus automatically become consolidated into ordinary stock. It may be useful here to explain that formerly the capital consisted of £1,400,000 3 per cent. cumulative preference stock and £140,000 in fully-paid deferred shares, the latter being entitled to receive 3 per cent. after the payment of the fixed dividend on the preferred and then to rank equally with it, while if 3 per cent. was paid on the deferred shares for two consecutive years all distinction between the two classes was cease. Now, for 1903-4 6 per cent. was paid on the preferred stock and 18 per cent. on the deferred shares, thus catching up all arrears, and in respect of the past twelve months $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. has already been paid, meaning that these conditions were fulfilled, so that for the final distribution the two issues of capital were consolidated and will now stand together under the name of ordinary stock for all time. In the period under review the company gathered a gross revenue of £554,588 or £116,998 more than in the preceding year, to which passengers contributed £49,541, goods £49,436, live stock £5,215, Regla Warehouses balance £2,718, and sundry receipts from wharves, dividends, &c., £6,638. The increase in the number of passengers carried was 209,433, and in the goods traffic there were such gains as sugar cane 62,705 tons, sugar 26,577, molasses 7,341, tobacco 1,396, bricks and tiles 6,960, native woods 12,759, firewood 8,707 and general merchandise 57,023 tons. The few decreases were of no consequence. Against such a big rise in traffic the advance of £38,044 to £251,025 in the expenditure was very modest, the ratio between outgo and income being no more than 45.26 per cent. compared with 48.67 per cent. Maintenance of permanent way and works rose £12,542, locomotive department £8,146, carriage and wagon outlay £5,907 and traffic expenses £11,213. The ferry-boat service between Havana and Regla cost £1,000 less. After providing interest on debenture stock £99,000 and other charges of £2,396 the nett balance, including a credit of £3,324 for difference in exchange, is £205,491, an improvement of £75,782. Other small credits and debits leave the ultimate sum available for division at £200,139, from which dividends of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the preferred stock and deferred shares absorbed £69,300. The directors now propose to pay a dividend of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary stock, making 10 per cent. for the year, adding £45,000 to reserve and carrying forward £1,139, the sum brought in having been £1,458. This is a very remarkable display, and during the past year we have seen the price of the company's stock go up by leaps and bounds, until the prevailing figure of 210 was reached. Is that too high? Quite high enough, perhaps, even though traffics do continue to expand, because a prudent board of directors is not likely to increase the dividend beyond the present rate until the financial position is made stronger, and investors must not forget that in June last sanction was obtained for the creation of £770,000 5 per cent. preference stock, meaning an annual charge of £38,500, besides an increase in borrowing powers of £310,000—say another £12,000 a year. No doubt all this capital will not be issued at once it should, indeed, suffice for a very long time, but it will eventually mean £50,000 a year in interest, and the prosperity will have to be well sustained to provide that and the present 10 per cent. on the ordinary, let alone anything beyond.

MIDLAND URUGUAY RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Thanks to substantial increases in receipts from passengers, goods and animals the gross revenue for the year ended June 30, notwithstanding a reduction of £4,458 in the amount credited for detention of rolling stock and sundry receipts, was £74,468 higher at £63,398. This is the largest gross income ever earned by the company, and is all the more satisfactory because the ordinary business of the line was interrupted during the first four months by the revolution, which did not come to an end until September. Along with this increase in receipts there was a saving of £1,922 in working expenses, due to the fact that there is on this occasion no entry corresponding to the £4,000 charged in maintenance of permanent way for works suspended during the revolution, as the ordinary outlay under all heads took several hundreds more. Nett profits were £9,390 up at £12,974, and with £5,897 brought in, £55,000 from Government guarantee and £1,150 taken from special reserve the available total came

to £75,021. Of this debenture interest at 4 per cent. took £47,178, expenditure on new works £161, and on new locomotive £1,578, and after transferring £3,800 to general reserve a balance of £22,304 was left, out of which it is proposed to pay an extra 1 per cent. on the debenture stock against $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. a year ago, and to carry forward £10,509. A balance of £26,426 was due from the Government for services rendered and cost of repairing the damage to the line during the revolution, and towards this securities of the nominal value of £8,510 have been received.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

A further small improvement took place in the profits of this bank during the financial year ended on June 30, the total of £248,123 being £1,899 in excess of the preceding twelve months. There was an increase, too, of £1,814 at £12,035 in the credit from previous account, but the expenses of management went up £2,878 to £96,240, so that nett revenue only benefits by £834 at £163,918. Interest on debenture stock takes £39,341, on preferred inscribed deposit stock £26,673, and on deferred stock £24,390, the same as before, but there is no charge on the present occasion for terminable deposit receipts against £3,611, so that after again placing £15,000 to reserve the sum remaining is £4,446 larger at £58,513. Its distribution is on exactly the same lines as a year ago, a further $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest being paid to the holders of the deferred inscribed deposit stock, with 4 per cent. dividend to the shareholders, £7,192 applied to the purchase and cancellation of this deferred stock, £1,000 to the officers' guarantee and provident fund and an increase to £16,612 in the credit carried forward. With the latest addition the reserve will be raised to £121,904 compared with a paid-up capital of £539,437, but a capital reserve formerly existing to the amount of £77,270 has now been written off the bank premises and furniture, bringing them down to £376,939. Other items of the balance-sheet do not show really important change, the largest on the debit side being an increase of £197,304 to £2,555,854 in the deposits and current accounts. The perpetual stocks are a trifle lower at £2,681,724, the terminable deposit receipts of £90,040 due in 1904 naturally no longer appear, the note circulation has gone up a few hundreds to £32,436, and bills payable and other liabilities are rather more than £3,000 higher at £349,865. On the other side there is a smart advance of £94,868 in the cash and bullion to £838,457 and a decline from £225,067 to £150,657 in the cash at bankers and at short notice, the two together reaching £989,114 against £968,656. Investments in British Government securities remain at £100,000, bills receivable and remittances in transit show only a small increase to £612,231, and advances and other assets, after making provision for bad debts and contingencies, are only £85,186 larger at £4,208,724. The security for the note issue consisting of Colonial Government securities has been increased by £13,875 to £52,726. In their report the directors say that over the greater part of the Commonwealth the climatic conditions continue favourable and that, with an excellent lambing, a substantial increase in the wool clip and every prospect of a good harvest the outlook generally is most encouraging.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

Apparently this bank again benefited by its share in the loan operations of the Japanese Government during the six months ended June 30, but business in other directions also seems to have been good, and gross profits, including 529,922 yen or 102,254 yen more brought in rose by 1,850,803 yen to 8,340,221 yen. Expenses, interests, &c., however, increased by 1,648,083 yen to 6,230,501 yen, so that nett profits were only 202,720 yen up at 2,109,720 yen, and the directors, after paying the usual dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, very sensibly devote the surplus to strengthening the position by transferring 220,000 yen or 20,000 yen additional to general reserve, doubling the amount placed to the silver fund at 200,000 yen, bringing the total of these two funds up to 10,740,000 yen, and carrying forward 82,720 yen more at 609,720 yen. Current and fixed deposits are 26,923,755 yen up at 99,695,784 yen, and bills payable and other liabilities have risen by 25,602,500 yen to 120,276,692 yen, against which cash is 8,067,935 yen higher at 21,592,294 yen, or over 21.5 per cent. of the liabilities to depositors, bills discounted, loans, &c., show an increase of 25,339,921 yen at 77,235,045 yen, and bills receivable are 20,953,269 yen up at 131,237,941 yen, while investments have been reduced by 1,608,200 yen to 18,378,448 yen. A decrease of 389,886 yen to 1,678,938 yen in the value of premises is accompanied by a reduction of 454,896 yen to 152,449 yen in the reserve for depreciation, and the provision against doubtful debts has also been cut down by 127,375 yen to 108,007 yen.

EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALASIA AND CHINA TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

The half-year ended June 30 saw a further expansion of this company's business, receipts from messages, &c., showing the highly satisfactory increase of £49,741 at £331,239, and although the revenue from subsidies was again reduced by £934 to £4,350 the total income, including interest and transfer fees, was £48,792 higher at £348,850. At the same time, expenses were reduced by no less than £5,757 to £135,950, so that after providing for income-tax and £2,500 extra for debenture interest the nett revenue came to £194,900 or £51,521 more. A much smaller balance of £22,181 was brought in, but the amount available was nevertheless £31,811 up at £217,081, and after paying the customary quarterly dividends of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. each £100,000 is put to reserve and £42,081 carried forward compared with £110,270 forward a year ago. In addition £3,000 received as

premiums on the issue of debenture stock was transferred to reserve, and as nothing was charged against this fund during the six months its total now reaches the splendid figure of £1,112,450. There are also funds for insurance, maintenance ships and depreciation of buildings and cable depôt, which bring the accumulations up to £1,466,356 or nearly 39 per cent. of the capital outlay, of which £1,078,923 is invested in carefully selected securities, £92,216 is represented by a debt due from the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration in respect of cables supplied and laid, and £180,000 by spare cables held for renewals. Traffic and other credit balances have been reduced by £51,402 to £213,298, and on the other hand sundry debtors are £58,346 down at £166,527, and bills receivable are £8,100 lower at £50,100, but remittances in transit come to £4,600 more at £25,500, cash on deposit has risen by £59,000 to £79,000 and bank balances by £10,302 to £63,407, and altogether the position is a very strong one.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

An all-round improvement of a very substantial character was enjoyed during the half-year ended June 30, and the revenue from messages was particularly good with an increase of £37,022 to £253,236. Bankers' interest, rents, and transfer fees gave £171 more at £1,502, dividends on investments in other telegraph companies were £3,582 up at £20,606, and the interest on investments after crediting £1,135 to sinking fund came to £7,926 or £604 more, making the total income £41,379 up at £283,360. Expenses, on the other hand, only rose by £910 to £75,245 and debenture interest required an extra £278 at £14,146 but income-tax came to £756 less at £5,137, and although the outlay for maintenance of cables was £16,208 heavier at £41,420 the nett balance was still considerably larger at £147,412 compared with £122,674. The sum of £3,132 brought forward was rather smaller, leaving the amount available £23,692 up at £151,304 out of which the usual dividends and bonus making 7 per cent. for the year, are paid, £60,000 is put to general reserve, and £5,000 to maintenance ships reserve against £22,000 and £18,000 a year ago, and £3,132 or £1,308 less is carried to the new accounts. With the present transfer from revenue and £1,320 from profit on sale of investments and premiums on debenture stock issued, the general reserve now stands at £1,016,911, and the total accumulations come to £1,072,311, exclusive of the debenture sinking fund of £56,835, and are to a large extent represented by £753,421 in securities and £54,715 in spare cable. Capital expenditure in the six months was trifling, and the total outlay, including £340,817 in shares in other telegraph companies and £37,500 in Electra House, Limited, amounts to £2,915,721, of which the reserves of all kinds represent about 38½ per cent. Traffic and other balances continue well in favour of the company, £67,868 being due by it against £108,606 to come in, and as remittances in transit amount to £11,727 and bills receivable and cash in hand to £50,254 and £67,502 respectively, the company is very comfortably off.

COOPER, COOPER AND Co. (1901), LIMITED.

This is the undertaking which, in 1901, was formed to take over the wholesale tea business of that unfortunate enterprise known as Cooper, Cooper and Johnson, together with the agencies and retail grocery businesses always carried on under the name of Cooper, Cooper and Company. Unhappily very poor success continues to attend the operations, and we find from the latest report that the working for the year ended June 30 last resulted in a loss. There was a nett trading profit, it seems, of £916 and £4 came in from transfer fees, but managing director's salary and directors' fees alone amounted to £1,286—£370 more than the profit—so that after providing £709 for depreciation of fixtures and leases, £52 for auditors' fees, £190 for secretary's salary, transfer office and legal expenses—how curiously that compares with the expenses of direction—and £162 for income-tax there is a deficiency of £1,480. Deduct credit brought forward £739, and the debit to be carried forward is £741. Out of a nominal capital of £70,000, divided into 20,000 preference and 50,000 ordinary £1 shares, £30,500 has been issued, of which £10 has been forfeited, the amount paid up thereon being 10s., and this together with £7,038 owing to sundry creditors is represented on the other side by a variety of assets, some of them of little or no value. Preliminary expenses £3,771, for example, would not bring in much, and goodwill £250 can also be reckoned of no account. Investments at cost, £4,054, do not seem to produce any revenue, and moreover there is a contingent liability in connection with part of them of no less than £16,000. To find that money would be an impossibility. Suspense account, £94, is another entry of no value whatever, leases and trade marks are probably not worth very much, and of £14,644 due by sundry debtors £4,088 is a debt of the Cooper, Cooper Profit Sharing Co., Limited. Is it a good one? Stocks are put down at a further sum of £7,209 and fixtures at £2,546, cash £1,168 and the debit to profit and loss of £741 completing the balance-sheet total of £37,520. Altogether a pretty miserable display, and we are not surprised to note from the report that the future of the company is receiving the directors' "serious consideration." The board naturally grumbles at the tea duty muddles, and further complains of the continuous litigation to which the company is subjected by some of the shareholders. The formation of the above-mentioned "profit-sharing" company seems to have come in for some specially sharp criticism, but the directors say it is already doing a considerable business. We fear, however, that these expedients to bolster up the company will not be of much use, and unless conditions alter materially and quickly for the better there seems but one end in sight.

AERATED BREAD CO., LIMITED.

This company's annual reports promise to be very unexciting documents in the future because the days of Egyptian Hall finance are over, and shareholders have no longer to bother their heads over the number and actual market value of the shares, or "breadcrumbs," as they used to be called, annually allotted at par to provide a nice little extra bonus. Quite true is it that the adoption and abandonment of this mysterious method of giving something for nothing has landed some of the proprietors with horrible capital losses, but that cannot be helped now, and anyhow the great bulk of the shareholders would not listen to good advice when it was tendered them. Once more the directors tell us, in reviewing the operations for the 12 months to September 30, that the company's trade was larger than in any previous year, but the working expenses, including rent, rates, and taxes, were again higher. Moreover, a further large sum was spent—and well spent, too—in decorating and maintaining the depôts, whose number was increased by seven, while another at Walham Green is now being fitted. Investments were further increased by the purchase of the long leases of the company's premises at 1, Gresham Street, and 11, King's Road, Chelsea, and 15, Fenchurch Street, is being rebuilt, and will be reopened shortly; but, on the other, the leases of three depôts expired and the premises were closed. Balance of amount realised by the sale of two leases, £8,685, will be applied towards writing down the investments, bringing them nearer their present value. Nett profit for the year was £66,411, as compared with £64,482, and against £3,083 received for new shares and £9,498 brought in a year ago. The credit from previous account is £14,177 on the present occasion, so that the total for disposal is £80,588 compared with £77,063. The directors, therefore, increase the dividend for the entire year by 2½ per cent. to 3½, writing off £5,000 for depreciation and carrying forward £16,004. As usual, trading accounts are heavily adverse, and the cash held is much less than the sum required for final dividend payment, but stocks are valued at £16,251, and the high-class investments appear at £98,455. The company is now without reserves of any sort.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SOCIETY, LIMITED.

The most interesting statement in the report of this concern for the year ended September is the one in which the directors tell us they have been in the habit of dealing in the company's own debenture stock. It is not a pleasant disclosure, to our way of thinking, and we should probably have never heard anything about the business, except for a recent decision in the Courts by Mr. Justice Buckley in the case of Geo. Routledge and Sons, Limited, bearing on the matter. According to the directors, they have during past years when opportunity arose acquired certain parcels of the society's debenture stock as an investment, and with a view to reselling the same, a recognised practice, they say, but in view of the ruling mentioned this kind of thing has got to stop. So the board has been obliged to cancel the stock it had on hand instead of reselling, bringing the debenture debt down to £168,820, and informs all concerned that no part of the stock purchased is on the market or outstanding. We were always under the impression that a company was never allowed to trade in its own securities but the ways of the International Financial Society were always strange. Its total revenue for the twelve months ended September 30 was £28,592 or £4,371 more than in the preceding year, £3,661 compared with £335 came in as profit on securities held September 30, 1893, and £408 was received as difference between the cost and par value of £18,680 debenture stock cancelled, so that with £11,709 brought forward the total credit is £44,370. From that administration expenses absorb £3,964 and debenture interest £7,313, while £4,069, being the above-named special profits combined, is placed to reserve. Sum still left is £29,024, and after adding a bonus of 1 per cent. to the usual 5 per cent. dividend, another £5,930 is added to reserve from ordinary profits, making it £40,000, and £11,843 is carried forward. The balance-sheet now has a much cleaner appearance that it used to have, the most noteworthy feature being the decline in the investments fluctuation account—that is depreciation in the book value of securities held—from £27,691 to £1,679. The investments, the greater part of which are marketable, are valued at £373,568, and against floating liabilities of £38,410 the company has cash £19,435, bills receivable £35,415 and sundry debtors £23,038.

QUEENSLAND INVESTMENT AND LAND MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED.

No reorganisation or writing down of capital being on hand for the moment, this company's report for the twelve months ended June 30 last is comparatively uninteresting. It, however, does not seem to have benefited much from the improved condition of Australian affairs, as the total revenue, including £2,850 or £2,150 less as dividend from the Queensland Cattle Company, was only £27,854 compared with £33,584. Against that, however, debenture and other interest absorbed £20,859 only against £25,544, thanks to the repayment of prepaid capital referred to a year ago, and as management expenses were pulled down a few hundreds to £4,575 there is a surplus of £2,037 or just £6 less than for the preceding year. It reduces the debit balance to £10,915. Realisations of the company's investments in Australia have been made during the period under review to the amount of £26,000, providing the means of reducing the debenture debt by upwards of £28,000, which is satisfactory, and we hope that further opportunities for profitable sale will occur during the current twelve months as the amount of terminable debentures falling due is £43,735 with £36,785 beyond spread over the following four years, but before these all fall in some further jugglery will doubtless take place with the capital

account. It appears that a large property referred to at the last meeting has not as yet been sold, but the company is still open to offers and should a sale be effected the directors hope that comparatively small further realisations would permit of a scheme being submitted for a reduction of the uncalled guarantee capital on terms likely to be acceptable to the debenture-holders, including, of course, the fixed debenture debt of £400,000. This uncalled capital amounts to £639,190, and is assigned as special security for the debenture debt. It has long been the directors' endeavour to get rid of it, because they say that the assets actually possessed by the company are ample to secure the money lent, but holders will hardly be in a hurry to vote away their rights. Mortgages with accrued interest are entered at £111,340, and of properties actually held, with balance-sheet value of £579,165, about £427,000 is rent or income producing. Other assets consist of shares in the Queensland Cattle Company £50,001, taken at their par value, investments, cash and loans £52,254 and sundry debtors £3,760, and as the immediate liabilities are quite insignificant the company should have no difficulty in keeping itself going.

NEW DUMBULA CO., LIMITED.

This company has 2,340 acres of tea in full bearing, from which the crop gathered in the year ended June 30 amounted to 1,171,495 lbs. or 63,788 lbs. more than in the previous season. The average price obtained was the same as a year ago at 8d. per lb. and the nett proceeds came to £39,125, giving, with receipts from commission on sales of produce, interest, &c., a total income of £40,522. Of this ordinary expenditure in Ceylon took £21,227, and after writing off £424 for outlay on improving the estate and cultivation of cinchona and meeting London office charges of £1,144, the nett profits were £17,407. Adding £4,547 brought forward the amount available came to £21,954, out of which £1,000 is transferred to reserve, and the shareholders receive a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1 per cent. The financial position appears to be a very sound one. As against liabilities on current account of £7,463 the company had produce on hand valued at £10,199 and £14,598 in cash at bankers and on loan, while sundry debtors owed £809. Property account stands at £78,162 or about £33 10s. per acre, but the reserve now amounts to £10,500, and of this £9,336 is represented by investments.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Although quiet until near the close, when business showed some sign of revival, the London cargo market ruled very firm, the reticence of buyers owing to the large world's shipments being offset by the unfavourable news from spring wheat crop districts in America. Another hardening influence was the news that the Russian railway strike is interfering with grain movements, and in the north considerable speculative activity has developed, with prices steadily rising. Continental markets are also strong, and under the influence of the generally bullish feeling rates in America have been very firmly held. There was slight weakness at one time owing to liberal sales by commission houses, the heavy world's shipments already noted, and the big interior movement, but values were soon moving upward again, new buying being induced by an unfavourable reading of the weather chart for the wheat belt. Bears, too, were covering freely, partly because farmers were said to be holding back supplies for higher prices, and with a big demand from the milling interests quotations rose rapidly. Bradstreet's estimate of the quantity in sight east of the Rockies at 44,087,000 bushels, against 39,385,000 a week ago, and 42,824,000 last year, brought about some reaction, but strength soon supervened once more, and the close was near the best figures of the week. Dornbusch estimates the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 1,320,000 qrs, compared with 1,260,000 last week, and to the Continent 1,910,000 against 2,010,000.

WOOL.—The market for wool continues firm, despite the fact that demand is quiet. Merinos are steady at recent quotations and all fine crossbreds maintain their values. Topmakers, who do not seem to have too large stocks, are firm in their prices for 40's. Buyers are practically operating in a hand-to-mouth way, the distrust and uncertainty in regard to the future discouraging all speculation. In the manufacturing branches the revival is still pronounced and in some textile fabrics is greater than has been known for a considerable time. This recovery is due mainly to the scarcity of stocks and the fact that the early cold weather has stimulated demand.

LINEN.—There is little or no change in the markets from the satisfactory position of the past few weeks. If anything, they are better, and business steadily expands with the advancing season. Irish flax markets have been well attended, and all good quality flax keenly competed for at high prices, with coarse lots more or less neglected. Spinners' position is stronger than ever, and the one or two attempts still heard of at underselling in medium tows are utterly unjustifiable and can only do mischief. Demand for damask yarns shows a satisfactory increase, and in manufactured goods also this branch is improving rapidly. Housekeeping goods generally are in better request. Cloth for dyeing purposes, brown linens, paddings and hollandes are all receiving more attention, but elastics, and brown and bleached drills are a shade quieter, while unions are again unsettled by the uncertainty of cotton prices. In the finished end export demand still absorbs the bulk of the trade, particularly the United States.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the week under review the important feature has been the considerable rise in raw American cotton. On Thursday of last week middling in Liverpool was quoted at 5.40d. To-day the quotation is 5.81d. The rise has arisen partly through "frost" and

partly through a change of tone. Many who were "bears" have turned "bulls." The shorts have hastened to cover. Crop estimates are being reduced, but no one really knows what the yield will be, owing to conflicting reports from the States. Egyptian cotton has been in fair demand at hardening rates. Cotton piece goods have moved off rather better for China, and to-day there has been an improvement in the demand from Bombay and Calcutta. The boycott at the latter port is not now so acute. Clearances are going on in the Bazaar. Lancashire manufacturers are well sold, having plenty of work to go on with, and there is no pressure for orders. The home trade is doing better again. The wholesale houses are being pressed by retailers for delivery. Home trade American yarns are quoted decidedly higher on the week, but spinners have lost ground in point of margin. To buy cotton to-day and sell yarn means little more than change for a shilling. Export descriptions have been fairly active. Nothing new has reached us concerning Egyptian yarns, which close firm and hardening. Combed numbers are healthier in demand.

There has been a considerable advance in the price of American cotton. Values have fluctuated considerably owing to the cold and wet weather, with reports of killing frosts. The publication of the Ginners' report, showing that only 4,940,728 bales were ginned up to October 18 against 6,417,894 bales this time last year, was also another "bull" influence, and prices advanced in a wild and excited manner, such as has not been witnessed for a considerable time. So American cotton closes about 40 points higher than a week ago. Closing quotations are:—October-November, 5.60d.; November-December, 5.61d.; December-January, 5.65d.; January-February, 5.68d.; February-March, 5.70d.; March-April, 5.72d.; April-May, 5.73d.; May-June, 5.74d.; June-July, 5.75d.; July-August, 5.76d.

COAL.—The coal trade is generally quiet, particularly in regard to steam coal, but there is some activity in the gas coal branch. In the Swansea district of Wales business is slack at many collieries, whilst the latest report on 'Change at Cardiff is: "Improving demand for best and second steam; prices steady; current quotations maintained; small coal market moderately active." Best steam is quoted 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d.; best seconds, 12s. to 12s. 3d.; seconds, 11s. 6d. to 11s. 9d.

COPPER.—Under the influence of good American advices the opening was firm at a small advance in quotations, and for a time the improvement was maintained by a moderate demand to cover outstanding contracts and small speculative inquiries. This was followed by some reaction, chiefly due to the weakness of spot metal, and as forward was also more freely offered towards the end the final figures were weaker at £71 12s. 6d. for cash and £70 10s. for future delivery.

TIN.—Only a small trade has taken place in this market, chiefly owing to the attitude of sellers, who for the greater part of the week refused to make concessions from the prices previously ruling. The demand being restricted, dealings sunk to very small proportions, and notwithstanding the firmness of Eastern advices the tendency became rather dull, holders being forced to give way if desirous of doing business. Quotations, however, firmed up again before the end and closed at £149 for spot and £148 5s for delivery three months forward.

IRON AND STEEL.—In the beginning of the week the Scotch malleable iron makers held a private meeting at Glasgow, when they agreed to advance prices 10s. per ton. A similar advance was made early in the month. There is a great scarcity of pig-iron in the Midlands, many makers being several weeks in arrears with deliveries. Smelters who have heavy contracts running at former low rates are anxious to mix them with higher-priced orders; hence the delay in executing old business. All over the country trade is active and buoyant, the demand still threatening to outrun production. In fact, in many places the demand is in excess of the supply. Most producers are well off even for next year, having heavy orders on their books, and some have been asked to quote for 1907 delivery, consumers being committed as far ahead as that. Here and there preparations are being made to blow in more furnaces.

TEA.—The quality of the Indian tea offered was barely so good, but offerings were rather smaller at 40,653 packages, and competition, especially for Assam teas, was again strong. Next week's sales, however, will be heavy owing to the accumulation of shipments delayed by the block in the Suez Canal, and the knowledge of this caused prices to weaken somewhat before the close, so that the average for the week dropped to 7.78d. per lb. against 8.02d. last week and 6.86d. a year ago. Ceylon teas also continued to meet with a good inquiry, and good liquoring teas were firm, with broken descriptions occasionally about ¾d. harder, the average being 7.82d compared with 7.55d. and 7.44d. respectively.

SUGAR.—Business has again moved within narrow limits, and refiners have continued their cautious policy by buying only for near requirements. They were able to obtain 88 per cent. beet at 8s. 4½d. down to 8s. 1¾d. f.o.b., while French *cane* sold as low as 8s. f.o.b. It now remains to be seen whether, with large supplies coming forward, says Mr. Czarnikow, factories can hold back their sugar to the extent recently indicated. Another existing factor which may influence realisations is the changed condition of the money market. A satisfactory condition, on the other hand, is that while grocers confine their attention to ready white sugars, the premium on which has now almost disappeared, some large manufacturers look upon the present quotations for forward deliveries as low, and are providing for their future wants. The American market, as far as raw sugar is concerned, is at a standstill. Landings in the three ports for the past week were 31,000 tons and meltings 40,000 tons, leaving stocks at 220,000 tons.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

EL ORO MINING AND RAILWAY.

The sixth annual ordinary general meeting of the El Oro Mining and Railway Co., Limited, was held on Tuesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. R. T. Bayliss presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. Dundas Pillans) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The most important item of expenditure mentioned in the directors' report is that which has been incurred in the completion of the new mill, and as the cost of this mill has so largely exceeded our original estimate, and even the sum which I told you last year would be sufficient for its completion, I feel that the shareholders are entitled to the fullest explanation of this expenditure. In my remarks last year I explained to you that the increased cost over our original estimate was mainly due to the fact that we had decided to embody in this new mill the process which we originally proposed to employ in a separate plant to be erected for the retreatment of tailings; or, in other words, that we intended to complete the treatment of ore in one operation instead of two. This necessitated a complete rearrangement in the design of the new mill, the introduction of tube mills and other mechanical devices required for the process, and also a further large addition to the tank capacity of the cyanide works. At the same time we have also incurred a very considerable expenditure, particularly in the construction of foundation work, which we did not foresee. Before I leave this subject I would like to draw your attention to some of the benefits which will result from the erection of this new mill. In the first place it enables us to treat, and make a substantial profit out of a comparatively low grade ore which otherwise we should not have been able to utilise, and in this manner of course adds materially to the productive life of your property. Furthermore, we are already deriving very important benefits from the improved methods of reduction embodied in this mill, which have so far resulted in a very large increase in the percentage of gold and silver recovered from the ore, as compared with the operation of the old mill, and Mr. Raymond assures us that the last word has not been said on this subject. It is not, however, in the matter of recovery alone that the new mill is going to show an economy, as results already prove that it is treating the ore submitted to it at a considerable reduction in cost as compared with the old mill; and whilst I have not at the moment any very complete figures on this point, its operation during the month of August showed that in the cyanide treatment alone it was operating at a cost of roundly $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than the old mill, and I am quite sure that after it has been running a few months longer it will show a still further material improvement on these figures. Regarding working expenses, which for the past year amounted to \$6.87 per ton, I wish to say a few words. This seems rather high, even when it is borne in mind that of that amount a sum equal to \$1.11 per ton was expended on development, and 70 cents per ton paid for State and Federal taxes. I wish to tell you, however, that no such sum as \$6.87 per ton is going to prevail as our average cost of operation in the future. The use of electrical power in place of steam will in itself make a very substantial reduction in working costs, and we are assured that we shall be running almost entirely with electric power before the end of the year. In addition to that, you will realise that the treatment of double the amount of ore will result in a reduction of general standing charges, and again, the reduction in the State and Federal taxes, which recently came into force, will tend to lower the average cost of operation. In the matter of the railway, you will have seen from Mr. Raymond's report that whilst there has been a gratifying increase in gross receipts of roundly \$82,000 Mexican, as compared with last year, there has been a still larger proportionate increase in the expenses of \$130,000 Mexican, and that the net profit for the year ended June last was \$81,362, as compared with \$128,650 in the preceding year. This increase in the working cost is almost entirely due to large expenditure which has been made in the year last past in the renewal of the permanent way, and in general betterments, all of which have been charged to revenue. With regard to the Mexico Mines of El Oro, in which we hold a considerable interest, I am glad to say that the development carried out therein during the past year has been of a most satisfactory character, and indicates the existence of a considerably larger tonnage of ore above the levels at present opened up than was anticipated, or seemed probable when I addressed you on the subject last year. There is one other subject mentioned in the report on which I would like to say a word or two, and that is the question of dividends. At the time that the report was printed we had not such precise figures in our hands with regard to the profits and expenses up to the end of the year as we have to-day, and we therefore made no prediction with regard to recommencement of dividend payments; but I feel justified in saying to you to-day that, barring inevitable accident, or something of that kind, we shall recommence the payment of dividends in December, and thus get once more into the dividend list, and I think then we shall be able to stay there. (Applause.) I think it is necessary that I should say something in explanation of Mr. Raymond's estimate of ore reserves contained in the report, which he sets forth as 672,000 tons. I do this because I find, as usual, a great many people, a great many shareholders, and some members of the Press, seem to think that 672,000 tons is all the ore the mine contains and represents its life. Of course it is nothing of the sort, and you will, I think, appreciate that when I tell you that when we

first of all bought the mine our engineer estimated 280,000 tons of ore in sight; we have since taken out 624,000 tons, and we have got 672,000 tons in reserve. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, which was seconded by Mr. Lionel Phillips and carried unanimously. The retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, a vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

A. AND F. PEARS.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of A. and F. Pears, Limited, was held on Wednesday at the Holborn Restaurant, W.C., under the presidency of Mr. Thomas J. Barratt (the chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. Edward Prail, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—This is the thirteenth time that I have had the pleasure of presenting to you, on behalf of the directors, a very satisfactory annual balance-sheet. On these thirteen occasions you have for twelve years (including the present one) received on your ordinary shares a dividend of 10 per cent., and on the remaining year—eleven years ago—8 per cent., and in common with the rest of the board I am entirely confident that this must be regarded as very gratifying by you who embarked jointly with ourselves in this undertaking in 1892. We last year were enabled to report increased trade, and we are again able to report a further augmentation, resulting in an increase of gross profit, as you see, and this increased trade, I am happy to say, continues up to to-day. Notwithstanding the increased gross profit which we have made this year, the deferred shareholders—Mr. Pears and myself, the vendors—do not participate, but that is only due to the accidental incidence of expenses, for the cost of some of the new advertising fell late in the financial year, and hence the reduced net profit. Our expenditure is already resulting, and we expect will continue to result, in extra profit; but such dividend as we, the vendors, might have taken for ourselves we have preferred to carry forward for the benefit of the business next year, for which I trust you will give us some credit. Our substantial dividend of 10 per cent. upon the ordinary shares, after paying the debenture and preference share holders, and writing off some £10,000 to reserve and depreciation, speak much more eloquently to you than any speech of mine, which will consequently be but brief. You will see by the balance-sheet before you that we have written off to depreciation and leasehold redemption £4,678, and to the reserve fund another £5,000, the former now standing at £81,410 and the latter at £55,000. Thus, with our special reserve fund of £5,700, we have written off during the existence of the company a total of upwards of £142,000, notwithstanding our very excellent dividends; and once more permit me, who should know, to say, and conscientiously too, that a large amount of this depreciation has been wholly unnecessary. These reserve funds are largely represented by very gilt-edged securities—namely, £60,000 Consols, £30,000 Metropolitan Consolidated stock, and £27,760 of our own debentures, or £124,000 in all, at cost (less the market depreciation), and we have, besides, the very respectable cash balance at our bankers of upwards of £45,000. It must be very gratifying to you to know that we have one of the very oldest (I think the oldest) and most substantial industrial concerns in our line of business in the world. Its reputation is universal, and the quality of its products unimpeached. Our trade stands, like the Pyramids, upon a broad and safe basis, and we share in their antiquity, for we have entered upon the second century of existence, and, I hope, the second century of success, for I believe that it can be maintained, extended and continued long into the future, for our specialty was never better known nor better appreciated than it is to-day; this, too, in the face of competition—dishonest competition, by means of imitations and substitutions, which in themselves are but the testimony of our competitors to its excellence and evidence of the great demand our goods enjoy. Our financial position is equally strong. The debenture holders, by the balance-sheet, may see that against their £200,000 at 5 per cent. we have in cash and investments £169,000 out of it, irrespective of freehold premises, leasehold premises, goodwill and stock-in-trade. Debentures were never better secured, rarely indeed so well, and the preference shares are so well covered that practically they are a second debenture, whilst the ordinary shares are little less, showing that the business was transferred to the public at a very remunerative price to them. I take this opportunity of remarking that, according to my experience, limited liability is not an entirely unmixed blessing. For the thirteen years I have had the honour of being your chairman, I have neither found more rest nor less anxiety, but, indeed, more responsibility than I had in the preceding thirteen years, and I am sure that as a private concern it would have been more profitable, for then it would have been immaterial if we had made nothing during any period of six months or even twelve, providing that we ultimately saw compensating advantages from adventurous enterprise; but now we have to meet you with a good dividend twice a year, or you would think we were in a bad way, and that in some measure restricts us; but, nevertheless, your directors are of opinion that we have a very satisfactory condition of affairs, an opinion in which you have so frequently and kindly acquiesced. It is a trite saying that we cannot have our cake and eat it too, but this business of ours would seem to negative the proverb, for the whole of the capital which you have invested in ordinary shares was returned to you in just over ten years, whilst the cake itself is more than half as big again. (Applause.) Long may Pears continue to be equally flourishing, to ensure which

you may with confidence rely upon the directors and their excellent staff exercising their best abilities and fullest energies for the common weal. (Applause.) I now beg to move:—"That the report of the directors produced, together with the annexed statement of the company's accounts at June 30, 1905, duly audited, be now received and approved."

Mr. Alexander T. Hollingsworth seconded the motion.

Mr. H. W. Birks in a short speech congratulated the directors on the excellence of the company's position, pointing out that the balance-sheet was such a model of all it should be that shareholders could find no question to ask upon it.

A question having been put and answered concerning the purchase by a company of its debenture stock, the resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. The retiring director, Mr. Hollingsworth, and the auditors having been re-elected, and the proposed dividends agreed to, a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the meeting.

WELGEDACHT EXPLORATION.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the Welgedacht Exploration Company, Limited, was held at Johannesburg on September 18, 1905, at 3 p.m., Mr. W. McCallum presiding.

The Secretaries having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and the accounts, said: Gentlemen,—It gives me more than the usual amount of pleasure which applies to such occasions that I am able to come before you and report a year of very favourable development in the affairs of your company. As you will see from the directors' report, we proceeded immediately after our last meeting to put down another diamond-drill hole on the new mining ground selected by us, the results of which were the proving of two coal seams, one of 8 ft. and the other of 54 ft. in thickness, and what is of still more importance, the drill later on proved the gold reef series to exist at a much shallower depth than elsewhere on the farm, and to contain better values than met with elsewhere. The news of both the strikes, *i.e.*, of the coal-beds and of the gold-reef series, was duly conveyed you by circular. When the coal-beds were struck we engaged two other drills, and started to prove the extent of the field, with the result as stated in the engineer's report. We have practically proved the existence of fifteen million tons of marketable coal. This your directors considered was too large an asset to leave in an unproductive state, and we accordingly took steps to turn it to account at the earliest possible date by the sinking of shafts, the purchase and erection of a coal-producing and sorting plant, and the erection of the buildings necessary to equip a really up-to-date coal mine. The shafts, we hope, will reach the bottom seam, which occurs in No. 6 borehole at from 196 to 250 ft., about October 15 next, and in, say, six months after that we should be in a position to sell an appreciable quantity of coal. As to the cost of equipping the colliery, I believe that we have ample funds in hand and to spare. Now, you must not think that by talking so long about coal I have lost sight of the gold part of your undertaking; far from it. I have dealt with the coal at length because it is quite a new subject in my address to you, and I have been trying to explain the position as it is to-day. As I have said, the drill which gave us the first intimation as to the presence of coal was started primarily to locate the gold-bearing strata on the eastern section of the farm, and this it did at the shallow depth of 1,908 ft. If you will compare this with the depths of the reef in the other holes towards the west, you will readily see that this is another piece of good fortune. On the question of what the saving will be in capital expenditure and future working, I refer you to the engineer's report. As to the date of the resumption of our active development of the gold section, I cannot give you much information, as that will depend largely upon the state of our finances. Though I hope we shall obtain considerable revenue from the colliery in the future, yet that would not materially assist us in our scheme for the development of the gold, and it might not be considered fair to apply revenue gained from such a source in the capital expenditure of another department. I would say, however, that it is not our intention to leave your 1,240 claims in an unproductive stage one moment longer than is necessary. Our neighbours are nearly all going forward with the development of their properties, and naturally we do not wish to be left behind. (With regard to your investment in the New South Rand Company, I can add very little to what I told you last year. It is a good exploring risk, and within a few months we ought to know the result from the drilling now being carried on. I now beg to move the adoption of the directors' report and account as before you.

Mr. R. O. G. Lys seconded the motion, which was carried, and the re-election of the retiring directors and auditors brought the business to a close.

CENTRAL URUGUAY RAILWAY.

The ordinary general meeting of the Central Uruguay Railway Company of Monte Video, Limited, was held on Monday, at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus.

Mr. Henry Bell (the Chairman) said that the report was somewhat pleasanter reading than the last one, and he believed the more it was studied the better it would be liked for its tale of moderate progress in almost all directions. The revolution, which made the last report such a dismal one, ended about the last days of September, and had extended over nine months, full of anxiety to the company. Since the end of the revolution trade had revived, and there had been considerable traffic in general

goods and building materials. Many of the Estancieros had lost cattle and sheep; the gradual increase of these had been lost to the company, and would take time to make up. Agriculture showed signs of extending, and some further colonists had been established on the Western Extension, but nowhere was there shown that desire to cultivate the ground for wheat and grain observable in the sister Republic of Argentina. This state of affairs was largely owing to the unhappy conditions caused by the revolution, and perpetuated by the state of the labour market. In what he was saying he was not referring particularly to their own workmen, for although they had had two strikes these were not of long duration, and no damage had been done to the property. Almost every class of employer had had conflicts with employees, until the condition of affairs had become so acute that the Government had promised to introduce some kind of conciliation Bill to regulate the relations of capital and labour. The new port works were considerably interfered with by the strike, but he was informed that a portion was now open, and that the Government had ordered the entrance to be dredged, so that when these works were finished a large increase of traffic was anticipated. An encouraging feature connected with the Northern Company was the proposal to connect the line with the Southern Brazilian Railways; they had joined in the surveys necessary, and were waiting for the report. If this scheme were carried out it should be the means of giving them a considerable amount of long-distance traffic. The North-Eastern had done better than ever before, the Western Extension showed a 30 per cent. increase of traffic, and the Eastern Extension had also done better, the nett increase being £18,456, every source of revenue, except live stock, showing an improvement. In connection with this company he wished to say a few words as to a long-standing grievance of the shareholders. It seemed inconsistent that while the earnings increased the ordinary dividend decreased, and they had had innumerable discussions on the subject. It seemed impossible to devise a scheme which would benefit the Eastern shareholders without doing so at the cost of the parent company. It had been intimated to them, however, that they should extend the Eastern line to the Brazilian frontier, and Mr. Cable, their secretary, had been sent out to Monte Video to assist Mr. Frank Henderson and the local committee in seeing what could be done. Nothing definite had been settled, but they had received a proposal which might afford a possible basis for the settlement of this question. The shareholders would be duly informed as to the conditions, and Eastern Extension shareholders would be called together before any engagement was entered into. The same remarks applied to the Northern shareholders, who might some day be similarly situated. The company's relations with Government continued to be favourable. The last cable received was to the following effect:—"Crops and camps are in good condition, and better than ever at this time. During the year considerably larger area has been placed under grain cultivation. Prospect of wool-clip is excellent, and prices are satisfactory to farmers. We have had a good lambing season, and cattle are in fair condition. There are apparent signs on all sides of substantial progress being made by country, and general confidence is increased." The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Henry C. Allen seconded the resolution, which was put and carried unanimously, and a dividend of 2½ per cent. upon the ordinary stock, making 4½ per cent. for the year, declared.

Meetings were also held of the Central Uruguay Northern Extension Railway Co., Limited, and the Central Uruguay Eastern Extension Railway, Limited, at which the reports were adopted.

EAST RAND MINING ESTATES.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the East Rand Mining Estates, Limited, was held on Monday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Chesterfield, P.C., chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. Alfred D. Owen) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—I must express to you our regret as a board at the absence to-day of one of our directors, Mr. Isaac Lewis. Mr. Lewis left for South Africa, I think, in the month of May last, and I understand that he intends to remain there some two or three months longer. Mr. Lewis, I can assure you, has the interests of this company very much at heart, and is doing, as far as we can understand, very good work on behalf of the shareholders of the East Rand Mining Estates Company in South Africa; indeed, I think it is safe to say that he is doing a much better work for us out in South Africa than he could be doing if he were here. The Chairman then referred to some of the principal items of the accounts, and, continuing, said: Coming now to the work of the past year upon your properties, I am sure you will all have studied with great interest the exhaustive report of Dr. Hatch. You will remember that last year I was able to inform you on Dr. Hatch's advice that he was satisfied that the main reef of Van Ryn series was proved to exist at a workable depth over the whole of the farm Grootvlei and over a sufficient portion of Palmietkuil to enable the company to locate its full mining area. This has since been further confirmed by the striking of the main reef in the boreholes put down on Daggafontein, and particularly the joint borehole, where the work was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Hatch. Since the issue of the report two further surveys have been completed, and in both cases it has been proved that the reef is considerably nearer to the surface than appeared from the boring records, so that we may infer from these results that the reef throughout our properties will generally be found nearer

to the surface than we anticipated. If you will turn to the map which accompanies Dr. Hatch's report, you will see that your company is the sole owner of the farm Vlakfontein, which has an area of 7,965 acres. This farm is on the dip of the reef worked by the various Nigel companies. In Dr. Hatch's report you will see that he refers to this farm, and states that he is convinced that the main reef exists on this property. I am glad to be able to inform you that arrangements have been made for boring on this farm, so that we shall learn the depth at which the reef is to be met with here. As this farm alone is equal in size to, say, the farm Geduld, you will see that the proof that this contains the main reef series at a workable depth would be of enormous value to your company. In my last year's speech I referred in detail to the area which your company would obtain by the location of the mynpacht or mining area to which it is entitled as owner of the freehold. The delay which has occurred in the settlement of the gold law has interfered seriously with the work of your company, as until the law has been settled definitely your board do not consider it good policy to take any steps to define the boundaries of their mining area. I am glad, however, to learn that the question of the gold law is to receive the first attention of the new Legislative Assembly, which is to meet early next year, and I need hardly assure you that immediately this point has been settled there will not be a moment's delay in the selection of our mynpacht and in commencing work, for, as you are told in Dr. Hatch's report, all the plans are already prepared, including the scheme of development and the plans for shaft sinking. I have reviewed the history of your company for the past twelve months, and I feel that I can, without hesitation, congratulate you, as shareholders in the East Rand Mining Estates, and as interested in the future of the Transvaal, upon the improving conditions which are now obtaining there. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, which was seconded by Mr. Guy Pym, M.P., and carried unanimously.

Other formal business having been transacted, a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

BANKS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—7s. 6d. per share for the half-year ended Aug. 31, making 12½ per cent. for the year, placing £30,000 to a pension reserve and carrying forward £36,000.

Canadian of Commerce.—At the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year to Nov. 30.

MINES.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—For the quarter ending Nov. of 1s. 6d. per share.

Day Dawn Block and Wyndham Gold.—Interim of 6d. per share, payable Nov. 17.

Great Boulder Perseverance Gold.—Second interim for 1905 of 6d. per share.

Fremantle Smelter.—Second interim for 1905-6 of 5 per cent. (or 1s. per share), payable Nov. 29.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alianza.—Interim of 6 per cent., payable Nov. 3.

Caledonia Steamship.—5s. per share for the year ended Sept. 30, placing £1,000 to depreciation and reserve, and carrying forward £2,153.

Charles Phillimore and Co.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the year ended June 15, placing £500 to reserve, and carrying forward £532.

Cleveland Trust.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Sept. 30, carrying forward £397.

Continental Union Gas.—3½ per cent. for the half-year on the ordinary stock, and 3½ per cent. for the half-year on the preference stock, making 6½ per cent. on the former and 7 per cent. on the latter for the year.

Delhi, Umballa, Kalka Railway.—Final at the rate of 3½ per cent. for the half-year, making 6 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

Dunville and Co.—Final of 13s. per share, making 23s. per share, being at the rate of 11½ per cent. per annum for the year ended Sept. 30.

Eastern Produce and Estates.—Interim of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable Nov. 4.

Henry Bucknall and Sons.—3 per cent. on the preference and 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year, making a total respectively of 6 per cent. and 4 per cent. for the year ended Aug. 31, carrying forward £1,402.

Holbrooks.—Interim at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

J. and P. Coats.—Final of 1s. per share for past year, writing off £41,135 and placing £500,000 to reserve, £50,000 to employees' pension fund, and carrying forward £479,980.

James Hinks and Son.—Interim at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

King Insurance.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

Moss Isaacs.—For the year ended Sept. 8 at the rate of 6½ per cent.

Parkgate Iron and Steel.—Interim of 9d. per share for the half-year ended 30th ultimo.

Scottish Trust and Loan of Ceylon.—Final of 10 per cent., making 12½ per cent. for the year ended Aug. 31, carrying forward £2,170.

Short's.—Second interim for the year ending March 31, 1906, of 5s. per share on the deferred ordinary shares.

Swears and Wells.—10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, placing £1,500 to reserve and carrying forward £1,352.

Texas Land and Mortgage.—Interim for the past half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—3s. 6d. per share.

Walker and Meimarachi.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended April 30, placing £787 to reserve.

MINING RETURNS.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—6,282 tons crude ore produced 1,046 tons concentrates, containing 638 tons lead and 30,334 ozs. silver.

Cecil Syndicate.—Treated 1,000 tons tailings, value £650.

Croydon Consols Mines Trust.—Queen Central crushed 724 tons for £3,863.

Day Dawn Block and Wyndham.—Battery 1,500 tons, 802 ozs.; 2,331 tons of tailings for bullion, including concentrates, value £4,200.

Eaglehawk Consolidated.—950 tons crushed, 346 ozs.; 138 ozs. from cyanide.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output of coal 28,870 tons, as against an average per four weeks for the year 1904 of 32,272 tons.

Maryborough Leviathan.—Crushed 832 tons, 145 ozs.

Mills' Day Dawn United.—Crushed 932 tons, value £2,600.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—Treated 5,300 tons of crude ore for 69 tons fine copper.

North Broken Hill Mining.—Treated 1,838 tons of crude ore, producing 394 tons concentrates, containing 233 tons 3 cwt. lead and 5,912 ozs. silver.

Oroville Dredging.—Yield \$17,250.

Pahang Corporation.—2,150 tons of stone crushed, producing 36 tons of black tin.

Pahang-Kabang.—785 tons of stone crushed, producing 7½ tons of black tin.

Peña Copper.—Output of ore, 16,706 tons; shipments of ore, 10,486 tons.

Queensland Mining.—Grant and Sunset Extended crushed 349 tons for £10 4s. 1d. per ton.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce £8,500; yield '59 oz. troy, per ton.

San Miguel Copper.—Copper 36 tons; ore, 2,900 tons; washed ore, 1,624 tons.

Spassky Copper.—Copper produced 80·6 tons.

Tasmanian Consols.—Crushed 400 tons, 70 ozs.

Tyne Valley.—Output 8,029 tons.

Waihi Gold.—24,759 tons of 2,000 lbs. (equivalent to 22,106 tons of 2,240 lbs.), yielding £58,240.

HALDWINS, LIMITED.

It cannot be said that this company did more than hold its own during the year ended June 30, as the total income, including £16 from transfer fees, was only £290 higher at £69,146. A saving, however, of £1,050 was effected in management expenses, bringing them down to £9,241, and expenditure on alterations and improvements was reduced by £3,252 to £13,542, so that after writing off another £10,000 for depreciation, paying the sinking fund premiums of £5,629, and meeting debenture interest and preference dividend the surplus available was £4,592 up at £5,734. To this was added £12,287 from the previous account making £18,022 and the directors consider themselves justified in declaring a small dividend of 1¼ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares held by them and their friends, leaving £11,147 to be carried forward. Additions to capital outlay continue heavy, no less than £38,716 having been spent on the property in the twelve months, bringing the total up to £674,612 exclusive of the £165,186 for goodwill, trade marks, &c. On this the depreciation allowance is only £40,000, while the capital reserve remains at £19,323, and apparently the obligation to make any other provision is regarded as being sufficiently met by the payment of the premiums for redemption of debentures and depreciation of leaseholds. Liabilities to sundry creditors are £4,463 lower at £130,923 and sundry debtors are £1,013 up at £190,489, while cash and bills have risen by £810 to £18,904 but these changes have been brought about at the cost of a reduction of £37,065 to £208,153 in stocks.

JOSEPH LUCAS, LIMITED.

This company makes cycle accessories, and did fairly well out of the business during the year to August 31 last. Nett profit after making provision for depreciation was £14,830, and with £2,550 brought forward there is £17,380 for disposal. From that the preference dividend absorbs £4,750, the ordinary shares receive £5,000 in the shape of a dividend of 5 per cent., a similar sum goes to reserve, and £2,630 is carried forward. Reserve will now be £22,000 against goodwill and patents of £55,573. Only £7,809 is owing to sundry creditors, and as debtors reach £19,962 and cash comes to £19,360, while a sum of £4,998 is separately invested, presumably on account of reserve, there is a good margin of liquid resources. Stock is worth £41,745 according to the certificate of the managing director, and the land and works, plant, machinery, tools, &c., all given under separate heads, are entered at £98,177. What is the wastage allowance?

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Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

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The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

The Russian Revolution.

It is well that leaders of public opinion in this country have abstained from bestowing too warm a welcome upon the latest rescript of the Tsar. If promises made on paper, vague and indefinite, goody-goody in sentiment and often tortuous in phraseology, could have allayed agitation in Russia, order would have been restored long ere now. But the Tsar has never shown the least degree of true moral courage in facing the life and death problems by which he is surrounded; he cannot keep his pledges, and his various proclamations have, therefore, tended only to deepen the distrust which filled the minds of his subjects from one end of the Empire to the other after the brutal and politically senseless January massacres in Petersburg. This latest literary performance of his does not seem to be anything more than a repetition of former amiable futilities. Various large reforms are sketched out, or suggested, or alleged to be about to be inaugurated, and there the matter ends so far as he is concerned. Steam is still kept up on the royal yacht lying hard by the landing stage at Peterhoff. "I do not mean to leave the country," the Tsar keeps assuring all and sundry, hiss of safety-valve notwithstanding, and that statement is no more believed than his promises of reform, because deeds do not consort with words, and never have done in his conduct. Some of the strikes have been called off, it is said, and the railways are again working between Petersburg and Moscow, as well as in other parts of the country, working to feed the hungry we trust, but the popular ferment has not been allayed, and, what is infinitely worse, the bureaucrats, who are the Tsar's masters, evidently do not intend that it should be allayed. Shooting goes on at many places, wild anarchic fighting in some, a state of civil war exists in Odessa, in the capital itself people are sporadically butchered, and in spite of the resignation of Mr. Pobiedonostseff, the Procurator of the Holy Senate, generally proclaimed to be the Tsar's evil genius, his masters evidently do not mean to allow liberty to be given to the nation.

The objects of the men who are ordering and conducting the massacres, and as far as they dare trust the troops making war upon the people, are being worked for with their accustomed cunning. If grand dukes and chief bureaucrats had loyally accepted the Tsar's proclamation promising the gift of true liberty, of some measure of direct franchise, of peasant representation in the Imperial Duma, of freedom of speech and public assembly, there would have been no troops with arms in their hands parading the streets and shooting down unarmed citizens. None would have been required. Plainly, then, these men calculate that if they can but continue to provoke the people by a certain amount of murdering, skilfully or clumsily arranged, they may be able once more to persuade the feeble-minded Tsar that it is perfectly useless to give such disorderly mobs any voice in the management of their own affairs. That is the cold-blooded calculation behind the

apparent defiance of the Tsar's wishes which the military commanders and governors in various parts of the empire continue to display. If they can only provoke violence on the part of the agitators and drive them into making counter attacks upon the still constituted authorities they calculate that their end may be gained, that instead of freedom renewed efforts at stamping out leading to the shedding of torrents of blood may be sanctioned by the yea and nay Autocrat. His character, though, is as well understood by his people as by the bureaucrats. They can even joke about it, for in Petersburg we listened to an amusing history, purely imaginary, of course, of a reception of ministers by the Tsar in Tsarskoe-Selo. One minister was ushered in and made his report to which the Tsar listened, and then dismissed him with the remark, "I quite agree with you." Another minister appeared setting forth his views, which were altogether different from those of his predecessor, and he in turn was dismissed with the observation, "I quite agree with you." A third came, and the same farce was gone through until all those who had been summoned to the audience had been heard and dismissed, each with the same formula, although no two men had recommended the same measures. According to the story the Tsaritsa was listening to this rehearsal concealed in an alcove where, unseen, she heard all that went on. When the last minister had disappeared she came out and said to her august spouse, "My dear, I do not understand. So-and-so came and recommended measures of repression, and you agreed with him; such a one said you must give liberty, and you agreed with him. It does not seem to me that you have any distinct opinion of your own." "I quite agree with you, my dear," was the answer. There you have the Russian popular view of their ruler. He is to them as the cork upon the stream, and as long as no resolute effort is made to break the tyranny of the bureaucratic ring by which he is surrounded and coerced, so long will the Russian people cease to regard or accept with any degree of trust his most liberal utterances.

Russia is at the beginning of a grave revolution, of that we can have no doubt, not only because the action of the Tsar tends to bring about this result but because his masters are not going to allow power to be taken from them without a determined fight to retain it. The bloodshed would probably already have been far greater than anything of which we have as yet had news if the masters of the Empire and its Autocrat could have fully trusted the Army. This they cannot do, and the more the Army is undermined by feelings of sympathy with the rest of the population the more feeble must the men become who have cursed Russia by their dominance. Grand dukes, priests, generals, autocratic officials of all grades, will only become powerless when the army grounds its rifles and unites to utter an emphatic "no" when the order is given to shoot. Is this attitude one likely to be assumed by the troops at an early date? We have no means of knowing, but probabilities lean that way, and we should be inclined to look for an immediate military revolt were the troops now stationed in Manchuria brought home. Just because this might be the immediate result of their return the probability is that they will not be allowed to come back to European Russia until the weapons on hand in the Cossacks and in such regiments as the rulers think they can trust have been tried and found wanting. Here and there reports do come over the wires to the effect that the troops have refused to fire, but judging by what still goes on in Petersburg, in Odessa, in Riga, and even in Warsaw, where the population has a greater mastery than in any other city within the Empire, we feel there are still slaves of discipline in sufficient numbers to obey the order to kill when it is given. Meantime the people are arming themselves, and the longer the autocracy continues the struggle the greater will be the anarchy, the more widespread the murdering, until the Imperial authority may disappear in such a welter of bloodshed as the modern world has never seen. But the victory of the people is sure, and it will in Russia be a victory over much more than Nicholas II. and his grand dukes, his procurators, priests, and governors.

Canada Life Assurance Co.

Some apology is due to the majority of our readers for the infliction upon them of the following correspondence. It appears, however, that the article on this company published in our issue of September 30, unknown to us coincided with severe criticisms upon the management of the Canada Life Office in the Dominion itself. Our article has accordingly excited an extraordinary amount of interest there as well as here, so that it is quite out of print. It has brought us a good deal of correspondence for which we cannot find space; but we append here some portions of a letter received from an eminent expert in life insurance residing in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Another reason for returning to the subject at such length is supplied by the letter from Mr. H. W. Manly, published in last week's *INVESTORS' REVIEW*, for it seems to us that this gentleman totally misunderstood the basis of our attack. We did not immediately call in question the solvency of the Canada Life Office, but merely demonstrated the extravagance of its management, and drew from the facts the inevitable inference that a persistence in this policy of reckless profusion must lead to disappointment and loss all round. Mr. Manly appears to us to have no knowledge of the recent history of the company, else he could not have penned such a sentence as the concluding one in his letter in which he says "I have no reason to believe but that the company is in a perfectly sound condition." One part of the report he drew up upon the position of the company, dated February 9, 1900, is dealt with in the concluding letter to Mr. Cheyne, printed below, which was written on the date appended to it, and therefore with no knowledge whatever of what Mr. Manly intended to say. We have for the present no other comment to make. Amongst the Canadian people themselves the political element enters very largely into the discussion now raging, and a correspondent in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, has given us a number of interesting particulars regarding the financial operations of Senator Cox, who may, without exaggeration, be described as "boss" of this Canada Life Office, and of a good many other financial institutions within the Dominion. Into this side of the subject we do not now care to enter, and only allude to it to totally disclaim any feeling of hostility towards Canada in the strictures already made. The *Toronto World* seems to think us animated by dislike to the Dominion. Nothing could be further from the truth; rather are we jealous of the honour and good name of that young nation.

That your strictures are deserved is the opinion of a very large number in Canada, Liberals and Conservatives alike.

You pay a well-merited compliment to Mr. A. G. Ramsay, whose management was marked by ability and integrity. The company has not improved since he was virtually squeezed out of it. You are mistaken in saying that two of his sons are now in the employment of the office. There is only one—Mr. W. T. Ramsay, Superintendent of Agencies.

On Mr. Ramsay's retirement, Senator Cox had one of his own sons made manager, and another son of his is manager of the Imperial Life Company, of Toronto, so that the Cox influence is predominant in both companies. The Senator is president of the Canada Life; he is also president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and of Western and British America Fire Insurance Companies, and, if I mistake not, of a Trust and Loan Company, and also a director of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, whose incorporation is largely due to his influence with the Government at Ottawa, of which he is a supporter. He got concessions for that company at the public expense, which should never have been granted. He is not in politics for nothing.

There is no doubt that the Canada Life and some of the other Canadian Life offices are managed altogether too extravagantly in order to make a big showing of business. To the detriment of their policy-holders, they have adopted American methods instead of sticking to sound British standards.

Leaving personal matters on one side for the present, it seems well to make room here for a further analysis of the company's financial position as disclosed in its published balance-sheets. We were moved to undertake this examination by the London agent of the company, who asserted that our article of September 30 was full of mistakes and misinterpretations. In any event, the result would have been published one

of these days in the form of an article, but it is now given as a letter that never reached the man for whom it was originally destined, because he declined to receive it in the way disclosed by the following preliminary correspondence:—

14, King William Street, London, E.C., October 4, 1905.
A. J. WILSON, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to our interview this afternoon, I now send you under separate cover the following books and papers:—

1. Our valuation reports from 1870 to 1894.
2. Our accounts and valuation report for 1899.
3. Our accounts and valuation report for 1904.
4. Rate-book in use prior to 1900.
5. Our mortality experience from 1847 to 1893.
6. Government Superintendent's preliminary report for 1904.
7. Our current prospectus.

I also left with you this afternoon a rate-book in use at the present time, and the full report of the Superintendent of Insurance for the State of Michigan. From these documents, you will be able to gather the history of this company for the last 35 years, and you will also find therein sufficient material to enable you to judge the present and future prospects of this institution.

I shall call at your Gracechurch Street office on Friday afternoon at three o'clock to afford you such other information as you may desire.

You make mention of Mr. Manly in your article, and perhaps it might be well if you were to inquire of him as to the position of this company at the time he is reported by you to have stated that we were in a "parlous state."

I am, yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. D. CHEYNE, Manager.

October 5, 1905.

A. D. CHEYNE, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a parcel containing documents enumerated in your note of yesterday's date. These I shall be happy to examine at the earliest possible moment.

You must, however, pardon me for saying that I cannot permit anybody to fix the hours at which I am to be interviewed, and to add that I could not see you to-morrow afternoon, even if I had had time to examine your papers between now and then, which I certainly have not. Also I must add that, in my opinion, the interests of your office will not be served by repeated interviews of the kind you forced upon me yesterday. For a man to come and declaim, as you did, about your office being the best in the world, and you a man who would only serve the best, did not impress me favourably, as I must frankly tell you. A life insurance office whose expenses ratio runs up to 28½ per cent. of the premium income, as you admit that of the Canada Life Office does, may be among the best for its officers, but it cannot be in sight of the best for those who are unwise enough to take out its policies.

I will examine your documents and write to you on Tuesday next, giving briefly the conclusions to which they lead me. If after receiving my letter you still wish for an interview, I shall be happy to arrange for one not later than Thursday.

Believe me,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. J. WILSON.

London, E.C., October 6, 1905.

A. J. WILSON, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., the tone and contents of which greatly surprise me.

I may inform you that it was more in your own interests than ours that I sought any interview with you. We have no wish to quarrel with THE INVESTORS' REVIEW or yourself, but it is evident that our pacific desire is not reciprocated. That being so, we now know how to act, and I have accordingly instructed our solicitors, Messrs. Dawes and Sons, to take charge of our interests.

I am, yours faithfully,
A. D. CHEYNE, Manager.

9, Angel Court, Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
October 6, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. A. D. Cheyne, the manager of the London office of the Canada Life Assurance Company, has consulted us in reference to the article which appeared in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW of the 30th ult., under the name of the above company, and your letter to him of yesterday's date, and as the matter is now in our hands, we shall be obliged by your writing to us direct the letter which you promised to write to him.

Yours truly,
DAWES AND SONS.

A. J. Wilson, Esq.,
Editor, THE INVESTORS' REVIEW,
Norfolk House, W.C.

October 7, 1905.

A. D. CHEYNE, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—I had gone over the documents you sent to me, together with a consecutive series of balance-sheets in my possession, and was ready to dictate my observations thereon when I received your note of yesterday's date, together with one from your solicitors, Messrs. Dawes and Sons, asking me to send to them the letter I promised to write to you. A little reflection should convince you that the intervention of your solicitors

renders it impossible for me to comply with this request. I altogether decline to open my defence to an enemy under threats, veiled or other, but if you desire me to recite in public the facts I have collected and collated from a series of the balance-sheets of your company, I can assure you you will not find me backward.

I am, yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. J. WILSON.

October 7, 1905.

MESSRS. DAWES AND SONS.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to inform you with regret that I am compelled to refuse compliance with the request therein contained.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) A. J. WILSON.

October 10, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—We have your letter of the 7th inst., and note that you do not propose to write the explanatory letter, as intimated in yours of the 5th inst., and we therefore have to request you to return to Mr. Cheyne the documents which he lent you, and which accompanied his letter of the 4th, and also the documents left with you by him for perusal relating to Mr. McGrath's policy.

Yours truly,
DAWES AND SONS.

A. J. Wilson, Esq.

October 12, 1905.

A. D. CHEYNE, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—In obedience to the request made to me in Messrs. Dawes and Sons' letter of the 10th inst., I herewith beg to hand you the documents lent to me, as per enclosed list.

As Messrs. Dawes name Mr. J. G. McGrath, may I be permitted to add that, so far as they went, which is not far, the papers you handed to me bear out in every respect that gentleman's statements, and that I think you in no degree warranted in branding him to me as a blackmailer. This you repeatedly did. So far from deserving a characterisation of this degrading kind, Mr. McGrath appears to me to have received much unjust treatment at the hands of your company. In the letter signed F. Sanderson, actuary, dated Toronto, April 10 last, and which refers, you told me, to Mr. McGrath's policy, I find the following:—

"Under the new rule as to surrender values, the surrender value of this policy would be \$4,612 as compared with \$3,380 under the rule previously in force."

Now, this surrender value is equivalent to only \$1,291 more than, or less than 2 per cent. compound interest upon the total amount paid in premiums over a period of 47 years, and the average rate of interest claimed to have been earned by the company in the course of its existence down to and including 1904 is rather more than 6 per cent. Moreover, Mr. McGrath's statement of the surrender value is exactly the same as Mr. Sanderson's, only to the best of my recollection he gave it to me in pounds sterling. The record of added bonuses as given by you also corresponds. In the circumstances, I think you owe both that gentleman and myself an apology for applying to him in my hearing a designation which the facts in no way justified.

I am, yours truly,
(Signed) A. J. WILSON.

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM MR. A. D. CHEYNE.

"Mortality Experience, 1847-1903."

"Division of Profits, 1870-1894."

"Life Echoes," No. 33. Containing Chapter 53 of "The Story of a Great Success."

"Life Echoes," No. 53. Two copies.

Report of the Superintendent of Insurance of the Dominion of Canada for the year ended December 31, 1904.

Statement of the bonuses added to Mr. McGrath's policy, and another giving the total value of that policy, with bonuses.

"The G.A.C. Manual," No. 2,000.

Copy of the Tables of Rates.

Letter signed F. Sanderson.

October 14, 1905.

SIR,—Mr. Cheyne has handed us your letter to him of the 12th inst. You will be kind enough to address any further communications to us, and not to him.

Yours faithfully,
DAWES AND SONS.

Mr. A. J. Wilson.

It need hardly be said that we never promised to write, or dreamt of writing, an "explanation" to the London manager of this Canadian Assurance Company. All we did was to undertake to examine the evidence which he claimed to be able to produce in rebuttal of our indictment published on September 30, and if we found mistakes had been made to correct them in a letter, which we should, of course, reserve the right to publish. The documents submitted were of very little value—most of them—but we went over the balance-sheets again, and the result is now appended in the form of a letter, because it was arranged and dictated in that form. With sincere regret we have to confess that, as already intimated,

a second examination of the published balance-sheets of the company deepens the unpleasant impression to whose existence we gave emphatic expression a month ago. The subjoined letter, as was inevitable, goes over much the same ground as the previous article:—

October 9, 1905.

TO A. D. CHEYNE, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—The documents you have sent to me are valuable as far as they go, but they are very incomplete; the report of the Government department, in particular, being quite valueless. I happened, however, to possess sundry balance-sheets and reports of the Canada Life Assurance Company from 1870 onwards, and in examining the earlier of these I am happy to say that they give evidence of vigorous business management and a careful supervision of expenditure. The Canada Life Assurance Company was never a cheap office in which to insure, but it doubtless stood high amongst colonial institutions of the kind, because all such have been prone to expend more of the premium income in conducting their business than the best class of home life offices have ever done.

To come to particulars. In 1870, the year then ending on April 30, working expenses came to over 21.5 per cent. of the premium income. In that year, however, there were large writings down applied to premises and such-like, and if these were included the cost would rise to over 48 per cent. of the premium income. By 1880, however, ten years later, the proportion of expenses to premium income was 20.1 per cent. But here, again, there were writings down, which, if included, would raise the expenditure to 26.8 per cent. By 1894, the year then ending on December 31, the proportion of expenses to premium income was brought down to rather less than 18½ per cent., and Mr. Ramsay, the then manager, was undoubtedly solicitous of raising the office to a first-class position. To no small extent he succeeded, in spite of the difficulties involved in reducing the rate of interest at which accumulations were calculated. Before 1870 I believe the rate was 6 per cent. It was then brought down to 5 per cent., and in 1889 to 4½ per cent., \$250,000 being at that date reserved against a contemplated reduction of the rate to 4 per cent. That reduction took place in 1894, but yet, in spite of these reductions, so prosperous was the company that at no time throughout this period did the bonus given to participating policyholders fall below 2 per cent. per annum. Moreover, the management of the office voluntarily enlarged the proportion of profits assigned to the policyholders. In the earlier years of the company's existence the proprietors, owners of the \$150,000 of share capital, seem to have taken about one-quarter of the profits, but after 1875 their share was reduced to 10 per cent., and in 1885 it fell to 6.67 per cent.

It is now, you told me, 10 per cent. In this way the management was able to give the proprietors a bonus of 2½ per cent., and to claim that it was equal to 30 per cent. of the whole premium income paid during the quinquennium. In fact, during the 37 years ended with April, 1895, the bonus additions equalled 2 1-5 per cent. per annum, being generally between 1865 and 1895 above 2 per cent., and falling to 2 per cent. only in the last quinquennium of the six.

It is necessary to emphasise these facts in order to bring into greater relief the lamentable change which took place in the position of the company's policyholders after 1895. Between 1895 and 1899 inclusive the share of profits allotted to the policyholders fell to ¾ per cent., but it rose again to 1 per cent. in the five years ended December 31, 1904, making the additions in the ten years average ⅞ per cent. per annum. This surely is a grievous downcome, and my contention is that the explanation of it is mainly to be found in the stupendous increase in working expenses.

Nor am I by any means sure that the slightly higher bonus distributed in the latest quinquennium has been the product of profits. On this point the accounts as published are obscured by reason of their want of uniformity. Thus in 1900 the large sum of \$865,880

is credited to policyholders, but in the three succeeding years only \$68,000 odd per annum is thus assigned, these amounts being described as "profits to policyholders exclusive of bonus additions." That phrase was also used in the balance-sheet for 1899, but in 1900 the words are "dividends paid to policyholders or applied to purchase paid-up additions." What is the significance of this variation? Who received these paid-up additions? Is there any relation between the large sum set aside in 1900 and the receipts on account of new capital, which amounted in that year to \$258,900, and in 1901 to \$560,380? I insinuate no inference; I merely ask for information, because unless to cover extravagance in current expenditure I can see no warrant whatever for loading the business with all this dead-weight of additional paid-up capital. In the years 1898-1900, moreover, \$625,000 in all was set aside as a contingent fund towards meeting the loss presumed likely to arise through the reduction of the actuarial valuation of future accumulations rate of interest to 3½ per cent., and in 1901 this entirely disappeared from the balance-sheet. Who found this money, and where did it go? In that year also \$50,000 was knocked off a contingency fund of \$125,000 which, in its turn, altogether vanished the following year.

What the growth in the expenditure exactly is I have difficulty in ascertaining, also because of the variations in the balance-sheets issued. Usually the capital received for annuities is lumped in with the premium income proper, and for the year 1903 two different balance-sheets make their appearance. One of these balance-sheets gives the nett premium income for that year at £575,135, and another issued in the company's publication called "Life Echoes" puts it at £579,235. Death and endowment claims are also divergent in the two balance-sheets for the same year, one giving them at £309,952 and the other at £305,361. It is impossible for me to guess why the accounts for the same year should have been stated in these two several ways. Another difficulty arises from the method in which expenses are stated. Taxes are nearly always included in the total, and in one instance at least the dividends paid to shareholders are also wrapped up with working expenses. It has, therefore, been necessary to work out the proportion of expenses to premium income in more than one way, so as to get some approximate idea of what it has cost to conduct the business, and I will now state the figures as I have ascertained them, beginning with the year 1899.

In the balance-sheet for that year, published in "Life Echoes," the total expenditure, excluding the stock dividend, came to 20.5 per cent. of the premium income, and including that dividend to 21.64 per cent. In 1900 the premium and annuity income are taken together, there being no mention whatever of annuity income in the balance-sheet for the preceding year. How much capital was received for annuities sold I have been unable to discover, but thanks to its inclusion amongst the premiums the percentage is brought down to 18.06 per cent., or, if the dividend paid to stockholders, only \$10,000 is excluded, to rather less than 18 per cent. In 1901 the cost rose at a bound to 26.53 per cent. upon the premium and annuity income, including the dividend paid to the shareholders; but if that dividend be excluded the proportion was 24.88 per cent. In 1902 the proportion of expenses to premium and annuity income jumped to 29.60 per cent., including the dividend paid, which for that year was set forth separately. As already mentioned, in 1903 we have to deal with two different balance-sheets, but I take first the one which may be called strictly official printed in the directors' report. On this basis the proportion of expenses to premium and annuity income was 30.60 per cent. for that year, but in the balance-sheet for the same year, published in "Life Echoes," the percentage is very little over 30 per cent. If the dividend paid to the shareholders be included, then the official balance-sheet shows an expenditure of nearly 33½ per cent.,

taking the premium and annuity figures together. In the last year of the six—viz., 1904, the proportion of expenses to premium and annuity income was 30.20 per cent., exclusive of the dividend paid to stockholders. Add that in, and the total was nearly 33 per cent.

If we take the expenses on the gross income from all sources, including profits on securities sold, the percentage is still excessive, as the following brief recital will show:—In 1899 15.63 per cent., in 1900 14.08 per cent., in 1901 19.24 per cent., in 1902 20.83 per cent., in 1903 23.53 per cent., and in 1904 nearly 23.3 per cent. How extravagant and altogether unjustifiable these figures are, on any reasonable supposition, may be to some extent measured by a comparison with the working cost of some of the leading insurance offices in the United Kingdom. I gave the figures for the whole of them in a little book on "Insurance Business," published last year by Messrs. Methuen in their series of "Books on Business." It may be necessary, however, to explain that the percentages therein set forth deal with the nett premium income alone, leaving out of account capital received for annuities sold on the one hand and on the expenses side taxes, which form expenditure not within the control of life offices, or not to any great extent. If the working expenditure of the Canada Life Assurance Company were calculated upon this more strict basis, the results might not be very different from what they are, because of the, to us, compulsory inclusion of taxes amongst the outgoings, as these may to some extent balance the inclusion of capital on the income side. That apart, however, I still believe that if the Canada Life Assurance Company framed its balance-sheet on the regular lines as established by English usage, the percentage of expenses to income would be sensibly higher than the figures I have given show it to be. With this understanding, here are some British office results:—

I put aside companies like the Alliance, the Northern, and the Liverpool, London and Globe, which limit their expenditure on the life department of their business to 10 per cent. of the nett premium income, because they undoubtedly charge some portion of the life expenses to their general revenue—make the fire business bear it, for example—so that the comparison might not be considered fair. The same, however, cannot be said of such companies as the Atlas, whose ratio of expenses to premium income is 13 per cent.; the Clerical, Medical and General, also 13 per cent.; the Eagle, less than 17 per cent.; the Economic, less than 14 per cent.; the Friends' Provident, 9 per cent.; the Equitable, little more than 7 per cent.; the London Life, less than 5 per cent.; the Scottish Amicable, less than 14 per cent.; the Scottish Widows' Fund, 11½ per cent.; the Scottish Provident, less than 13 per cent.; and the National Provident, less than 11 per cent.

My contention is, and always has been, that it is impossible for policy-holders to receive sure and adequate benefits, or even fair treatment, from offices that indulge in a rate of expenditure so far in excess of that established by the usage of the best offices in the United Kingdom, and in reality the Canada Life Assurance Company appears to be to-day more extravagant than the three notorious United States offices whose waste—and I fear it must be added corruption—is now being exposed before the investigation committee of the New York Senate. Even the Mutual Life Assurance Company of New York, in spite of the £30,000 a year paid to its president, spent only 30½ per cent. of its gross premium income the year before last in conducting its furious business. What other conclusion can I come to, then, but this, that the Canada Life Assurance Company has entered upon a career of unmeasured extravagance in the highest degree injurious to its policy-holders, destructive of its own stability, and certain to lead to disaster?

Many other points might be raised and discussed, but I do not wish to extend this letter to an undue length, and will therefore revert to but one other. Why was the company's paid up capital increased from \$125,000 to \$1,000,000? I am credibly informed that

Mr. Ramsay strove for years to get the share capital wiped out altogether, and it was a proper policy for him to pursue. A well-established company, such as the Canada Life came to be under his able management, did not require any share capital at all, and would undoubtedly have been strengthened if its business had been completely mutualised. The small capital, however, did no appreciable harm, because it took so very little away from the policy-holders. Mr. Ramsay's liberal policy of increasing the share of the profits assigned to them not only protected them against anything like rapacity on the part of the stockholders, but compensated them in some measure for the self-denial required while the rate of interest on which accumulations were calculated was being gradually reduced. There was, consequently, no necessity whatever for additional capital unless the extravagant management required money which the revenue from policy-holders could not supply, but this additional capital has worked considerable mischief, as will be understood from the fact that in the six years ended December 31, 1904, about £63,500 went to pay dividends upon it alone. That total, I must explain, is partly an estimate, inasmuch as for the year 1902 no separate statement of the dividends paid is given, but I have assumed that, as the additional share capital was then almost fully paid up, £16,000 was distributed for that year in dividends. In fact, between dividend and working expenses more than £900,000 was swept away during these six years, or nearly one-fourth of the entire amount received in all forms during the same period by the policy-holders. And what good has this extra capital done? It cannot be said to have strengthened the company, for its reserves do not seem to be proportionately larger and its surplus of reserve over liabilities is lamentably small. Said surplus was brought out at £144,000 in 1900 and at £275,000 in 1904, but of this £275,000 £76,000 represented a big increase in the market value over book value of the company's investments. Sweeping that away as an item which ought not to appear in any well-regulated balance-sheet, the surplus for 1904 was only about £199,000, and if the whole of the added market value of the investments is deducted as it should be, the whole of such value—that is to say, including the amount of it brought forward from the previous year—the surplus at the end of 1904 would only be £194,000. During the same period, moreover, a capital reserve of £17,500 shown in the balance-sheet of 1900 has completely disappeared. What conclusion can be drawn from figures like these, when taken in conjunction with the pitifully minute bonus additions, other than that the cost of conducting this business has strained the company's resources and caused a severe loss to its participating policy-holders? I have always contended that when the expenses of conducting a life insurance business rise to a figure approaching 20 per cent. of the nett premium income, the policy-holders must suffer. When one bears in mind the extravagant language employed by canvassers for business, the unctuous laudations of such offices piled upon individuals in order to induce them to take out policies, it is impossible to suppress a feeling of indignation. There may yet be time to save the Canada Life Insurance Company, because it obviously does a large and increasing business, but the days of grace will not be long unless a radical change takes place in its management, a change implying the return to rigorous economy in all departments of current expenditure.

You were good enough to draw my attention to the report of Mr. Manly, formerly actuary to the old English Equitable Society and president of the Institute of Actuaries. I had seen that report before the article published in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW of September 30 last was printed, and found therein amongst other things, this: "Upon our previous assumption that the company makes 6 per cent. on its funds and conducts its business at a nett cost of 12½ per cent. of its premium income, the profit will consist of 2½ per cent. on the funds and 8.2 per cent. of the premiums." How does that assumption accord with the fact, and what

is the value of a theorising based upon any such assumption? Mr. Manly discusses the effect of a reduction in the rate of interest earned to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but that discussion seems to me to be purely academic in the face of an expenditure which now, on the most conservative basis of calculation, exceeds 30 per cent. of the nett premium income.

I am, yours truly,
A. J. WILSON.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

YANKEE LIFE OFFICES.

Their scandals are still with us, but very little of a suggestive kind has come over the cable during the past ten days, almost nothing at all so far as the big companies known here are concerned. It is, however, worth while noting that Mr. McClintock, the actuary of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, admitted before the State insurance commissioners that up to December 31 last about £64,500,000 absorbed in premiums by the company had received no dividends under the deferred dividend system, a system of postponing liabilities until the day comes when they can be whittled away and perhaps repudiated. Apart from this little item the only facts which interested us were supplied by Mr. J. R. Hegeman, president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, a considerable affair within the Union itself, but mercifully unknown here. He admitted that the balance-sheet was cooked so as to hide the fact that the company was lending on collaterals—doing contango business, in other words, on the Stock Exchange. An arrangement was made with Messrs. Vermilye and Co., in virtue of which that firm took over the loans on December 31, 1901, and sold them back to the Metropolitan Life at the beginning of the new year. Most interesting of all are some items in these loans. One amounted to \$80,000, and represented borrowing by Mr. Hegeman himself, and he only paid $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to his company for the use of the money. Then came Mr. John A. McCall, the renowned president of the New York Life Insurance Company, who had a \$50,000 loan also at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and another \$90,000 was obligingly borrowed by Mr. Silas D. Dutcher, a director of the Metropolitan Life Company, but he, poor wretch, was mulcted to the extent of 2 per cent., which was surely hardly fair. Mr. Hegeman did not enlighten the committee as to why he was a borrower from his own company on such comfortable terms, but explained that Messrs. Dutcher and McCall got their advances cheap by way of payment for favours received. Altogether the story is in keeping, or in harmony, with what has gone before.

THE REVOLT IN INDIA.

Hitherto we have said almost nothing about the last great feat in empire dismemberment performed by that superfine, over-baked man Lord Curzon. Our silence was not due to inattention, but to a doubt whether we should not be pounced upon by watchful readers for venturing into the region of "pure politics" in discussing such a matter as the partition of Bengal. What was financially involved in this arbitrary severance was not at first quite obvious except at one point. By creating another lieutenant-governorship, a new outlet for the Bengal Indian Civil Service and other machines of government would be supplied, and a fresh assortment of high salaries provided for the ambitious. This, however, did not seem to be such a deadly matter when put alongside the ever-expanding and Giant Despair sort of requirements of the all-prevailing military faction, so we let the dispute alone. Now, however, that the Hindoo people of Bengal have gone on strike, adhering to their resolution to boycott British manufactures with a steadfastness that promises to effect something very like a revolution, it seems about time to insist that politics and pocket are still and always in-

separable. As far as we can gather this attitude of the people is as much as anything really a product of Lord Curzon's fine academic insolence. He is a perfect flower of Oxford, and there is no cultured insolence known to us so essentially offensive, so calculated to excite resentment, as that of your full-flavoured and fledged Oxford biped. It does not enter into the head of sacred individuals of that class that there might be such creatures as human beings with individual or class feelings and sentiments outside their own charmed and charming circle. As the Calcutta correspondent of the *Daily News* aptly says, Lord Curzon, in his farewell speech at the dinner given to him in Simla, spoke as if the people of India were merely "tax producing automata." That has been his attitude all through, the proper Balliol attitude. A most assiduous worker, a conscious pedant, and an unbounded admirer of himself and of his most superior conception of "empire," he has never once condescended to regard Indian affairs from the native Indian point of view. Possibly enough he might have been right about this subdivision of Bengal—we are not in a position to give judgment; but he was absolutely and completely wrong in the high handed and insolent manner in which he effected the change. Consequently the people are resorting to the only means of opposition within their power, and their action is apparently finding imitators in other parts of India, so that unless some recognition of their sentiments is forthcoming from the British rulers irreparable mischief may be done to British commerce. It is about time for political leaders in this country to give their attention to this danger. It might end by being worse for us than that other Afghan war, for which pretexts are now being sought with all the military fanatic's perverted assiduity. Was the hope of bringing about this war one of the motives behind the partition stroke? The Mahomedans of Bengal are pleased, it is said, and might perhaps back us up in a fight against their co-religionists.

BRITISH AND CHINESE CORPORATION.

Although the capital of this concern is quite a small one, it is without doubt a very important enterprise, and is already playing a by no means insignificant part in the commercial development of the Middle Kingdom. It is fortunate in the possession of men of integrity and ripe experience on its directorate, as although the loss of Sir Ewen Cameron, owing to serious illness—it is with the greatest satisfaction that we learn he is again restored to health—was a severe one, his place should be worthily filled by Mr. Charles Stewart Addis, who was elected in his stead. During the year the corporation was interested in the issue of the Shanghai Nanking Railway loan of £2,250,000, and made a profit on the business of £27,339, including the proceeds of the sale (in the form of the Nett Profit Sub-Certificates given with the bonds) of the relative right to participate in the profits of working the railway. Unfortunately, many delays have occurred in obtaining possession of the land, and otherwise in making progress with the construction of the line; but these have been in a great measure overcome by persistent pressure, and it is expected that the first 14 miles will be opened for traffic almost immediately, some 66 miles more by about next July, and the entire length of 200 miles should be completed by the end of 1907. In addition to all this the corporation has applied for the final agreement for the construction of the connecting railway from Soochow to Ningpo, *via* Hangchow; the final agreement relating to the Canton-Kowloon line is still the subject of negotiation at Peking, and *pourparlers* for further railway business are also in progress. Up to the present the proposals for the development of the Nanpiao coal concession mentioned in last report have not found acceptance with the Chinese Railway Administration, who are jointly interested in the undertaking; but counter proposals are under consideration, and it is hoped that this property, reported to have great prospective value, will

in time be developed. Including the profit above noted the total revenue for the year to June 30 was £45,013, and after providing for administration and general charges and mining engineer's fee and expenses for reporting on property, the balance left is £40,042. From that the directors apply £15,000 to write down certain investments formerly in the balance-sheet at £34,198, pay a dividend of 10 per cent., or £5 per share, absorbing £12,500, and carry forward £14,532 against £1,990 brought in. Issued share capital is £125,000, about £3,200 is owing to sundry creditors, and the credit to profit and loss of £27,032 makes up a balance-sheet total of £155,233. On the other side there is the splendid cash balance of £108,411, investments now reduced to £19,198, debtors £642, and advances and outlay on concessions £26,981. At the date of the previous accounts the last-named stood at £73,829, and £9,009 was spent during the year; but £55,857 came back, presumably in connection with the Shanghai Nanking Railway, leaving the actual expenditure as stated.

THE CALEDONIA COPPER SCHEME.

Philanthropy of a sort revives in the City, for there are persons eager to help, for a consideration, the shareholders in that derelict of London and Globe Corporation promotion, the Caledonia Copper Company. Although it is only six years old, and had an issued capital of three-quarters of a million, it has long been in so pitiable a state of impecuniosity that fruitful activity had to be suspended. In fact, little has been heard of it for a long time, for the property reverted two or three years ago to the mortgagee, Mr. John Higginson. Anxious to raise money, a scheme was formulated some weeks ago for the acquisition of an interest in a property at Broken Hill, but it had to be abandoned. This proposal came from the Share Guarantee Trust, Limited, which, on failure of its first, promised to submit a further scheme. It has carried out that promise, and shareholders have received a budget of literature, printed on various coloured circulars, which will put their intellects and their pockets to an unpleasant test. For a rival scheme is simultaneously put forward by another altruistic (?) institution—the Australasian Share Trust, Limited—and shareholders will find it difficult to decide which is their Codlin and which their Short. Their committee, in a separate circular, comments upon the two schemes, and is unanimously in favour of that put forward by the Share Guarantee Trust, and when the shareholders have compared the two they will undoubtedly share that opinion. "We do not see our way," says the committee, "to recommend any scheme for your adoption which is not underwritten; at any rate, as regards a large portion of the capital." It further expresses the opinion that the new company will be successful in proportion to the extent to which the mineral properties in New Caledonia are energetically worked, and it is on this assumption that the scheme is recommended. But surely the success of the company will not depend upon working only? Unless the property be found rich enough, it will not be worth working, and we still doubt its commercial value. Hence we are inclined to the belief that the fresh capital to be raised may all be spent upon a worthless venture. It is, however, proposed to form a company with a capital of £350,000 in £1 shares and £100,000 in 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures to absorb the Smelting and Refining Company of Australia—another colossal failure—and the Caledonian Mining Corporation. It will acquire a contract from the Share Guarantee Trust, whereby it will get from 20,000 to 30,000 tons annually of lead concentrates—equal to about 200,000 to 300,000 tons of ore—from certain Broken Hill mines for smelting. Why cannot the Smelting Company be certain of getting these concentrates without amalgamating with a concern like the Caledonia Copper? The answer is, because some grand scheme must be hatched likely to impress the foolish and to give certain people a chance of "making a bit on their own." The new company will offer 300,000 shares for subscription, and of these

125,000 will be underwritten by the Share Trust. It may be mentioned that the Trust holds an interest in the Smelting Company's secured liabilities and debenture stock, which may largely account for its ardour in concocting this imposing plan of raising cash. It is to receive a commission of 5 per cent. on the shares to be offered for subscription, a further 5 per cent. on the shares subscribed over 125,000, and in each year that a 5 per cent. dividend is paid it will receive 10 per cent. upon the nett profit for that year after payment of interest on the debenture stock. So the motive is not so philanthropic and disinterested after all. But what of the poor shareholders? The three companies to be fused have an aggregate issued capitalisation of £1,960,530, and £100,000 of debentures. As the capital of the new concern is to be only £350,000, it means the disappearance of £1,610,530 redundant capital; yet people wonder that poverty is spreading! The only solatium offered these pitiable victims of robber-promoters is the preferential right to apply for the new shares. A privilege of that sort does not look tempting, and we advise the prudent to resist the attraction. The scheme had to be abandoned at yesterday's meeting, owing to the formidable opposition to it—and chaos reigns again.

THE TRADE OF FRANCE.

France always seems to us more of a self-contained country than any other in the world. For all that it does a fine trade with other countries, and according to Mr. Consul-General Inglis's report to our Foreign Office the total of this trade last year reached £458,640,000. We think it might be much greater were it not for the obstructive character of the French tariff, but as it stands, and remembering the effects of that tariff in clogging the channels of intercourse, it is a remarkable testimony to French energy and perseverance. Like our own trade, also, the imports for domestic use are always higher than the exports, although in the past year, thanks to a decrease of £14,320,000 in the value of the gross imports, exports were almost £1,000,000 in excess. This decrease in imports, however, so far as it does not relate to mere transit trade, may be taken as another proof of the internal resources of the Republic, for it arises to a large extent from the lesser quantities of food products and raw materials imported. France had a better harvest last year, and was, therefore, less dependent on foreign cereals. The figures last referred to relate to what is called the general commerce of the country, but if we take the imports for consumption and the exports of French produce alone much the same characteristics are shown, although in this restricted area imports exceed exports by fully £2,000,000, the total value of the imports being £180,080,000, and of the exports £178,040,000. Our own country stands at the head of the customers of France, and we import thence much more than we export thither. Last year, for instance, France sent us goods to the value of £48,556,000, but we sent to France only £20,940,000 worth, our exports to the Republic showing a decrease of upwards of £1,500,000. France, indeed, imported from the United States nearly as much as from us, but her exports to the United States were last year only £10,028,000, Belgium standing next to us as a buyer of French goods. We believe that there is room for an enormous increase in the trade between us and France, but its development must necessarily continue slow and liable to sharp fluctuations, as long as France, by reason of her enormous military budget and the general high range of her national expenditure, is compelled to maintain a tariff which chokes up the channels of commercial intercourse. Some day we hope this barrier will be reduced to the great benefit of both countries, to the further knitting of them together in those material interests which form the best guarantee available of international amity and enduring peace. In this connection we welcome once more as an educator of rare ability and much humour, M. Yves Guyot, whose latest book, *La Comédie Protectioniste*, is so captivating by its style and the appositeness of its argu-

ment and illustrations to to be an armoury for combatants on the Free-trade side.

J. AND P. COATS.

In the ordinary way if the profits of a commercial enterprise, be it ever so wealthy and powerful, fall by as much as £322,000 in the short space of two years the impression naturally begins to prevail that its business is on the down grade, but although Coats have had this experience there is not the least reason to suppose that the earning capacity of the combine is seriously or permanently impaired. Indeed, the matter for marvel is, perhaps, that the suffering has not been more acute, because the adverse influences to be contended against have been abnormally severe. The cotton corner alone in the spring of last year was a serious matter, but more potent still has been the terrible state of internal Russia during the past twelve months. The war with Japan must in itself have proved very harmful to industrial enterprise within the country, but when to that is added a condition of anarchy and business paralysis almost without parallel, it is no wonder that Coats, which does a great trade with and within the Russian Empire, should have received a sharp blow. Whether or not we are at the dawn of a new and better era in Russia is hard to say as yet, but business can hardly grow worse, or the anarchy either, and as affairs in other parts of the world seem to be flourishing, it is not improbable that the current year will witness some recovery. As an example of Stock Exchange irresponsibility, it is worthy of record that as dividend day drew near we heard the usual talk of possible bonuses to be added to the regular dividend either in money or by the capitalisation of part of the reserve, the shares being rushed to nearly 6. Then followed the grunts of dissatisfaction when it became public that nothing extra was forthcoming. Surely it must have been known that the year could not have turned out brilliantly, and to have expected the directors to forsake their avowed policy of putting financial stability before dividends was to display more than ordinary want of common sense. Although £216,205 less than in the previous twelve months, the profits and dividends for the year to June 30, including dividends and interest from subsidiary companies, and after making provision for depreciation and bad and doubtful debts, were still enormous at £2,343,440. With interest, transfer fees, and rents, the total revenue is brought up to £2,428,654, and after deducting the slightly smaller sum of £59,224 for administration charges the nett balance is £2,379,429, against £2,583,065, a shrinkage of £203,636. Balance brought forward, however, was larger by £66,086 at £486,806, raising the sum for disposal to £2,866,236, surely an imposing figure. From it there have been already paid income-tax, debenture interest, preference dividend, and three quarterly dividends of 5 per cent. each on the preferred ordinary stock, and the ordinary shares absorb £1,401,327 leaving £1,464,908 over. A sum of £375,000 will provide the final dividends of 5 per cent. on the last-named securities, making 20 per cent. for the year, and although £200,000 less at £500,000 is placed to reserve, £50,000 is again added to the pension fund, and, against no allocation a year ago, £50,000 to the marine and fire underwriting account and £10,000 to the debenture redemption premium account, leaving the slightly smaller balance of £479,908 to be carried forward. Reserve will now stand at £3,500,000, the dividend reserve at £450,000, marine and fire underwriting account at £350,472, pension fund at £250,000, and the premium account at £13,283, besides £185,096 as suspense account against depreciation of investments. Leaving out the last because the wastage may actually have occurred, we arrive at total accumulations of £4,563,755, a perfectly dazzling display of wealth. On the other side the capital expenditure with £170,577 added as the nett result of additions to and writings off from ordinary properties, and £36,292 written off the Ferguslie

Thread Works is £9,741,762, and with such vast profits it would be bold to say that the assets were not worth this figure. Sundry trade creditors are trifling at £260,475 for a business of such size, and against them the book debts, agents' balances, &c., are slightly increased to £1,191,674. Stock of goods and stores is about £68,000 lower at £1,400,317, cash is up from £1,124,624 to £1,250,578, and the bills receivable show an advance of £53,411 to £625,639. Then we get investments, loans and advances against mortgages, which may be considered the separate securities held on account of reserves, showing an increase of £354,217, and finally the advances to subsidiary companies, slightly lower at £1,014,243. Altogether the balance-sheet adds up to £17,374,041 against £16,766,893, and it may be said with truth that the financial position is unassailable at any point.

DALGETY AND CO.

From the revenue standpoint a further improvement took place in the position of this big colonial business during the year ended June 30, the gross profit, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, being returned at £334,161 compared with £305,467, a gain of £28,694, and the exhibit, actual trading profit alone considered, is the best made for a decade at least. Debenture interest and management expenses, however, creep up year by year, the advances last 12 months being £3,733 and £3,871 respectively, so that although the nett profits for 1904-5 are better by some £21,000 against the immediately preceding period, they are still a few thousands below the year ended in 1900, when the trading revenue was little more than £300,000. But shareholders, with the excellent increase now before them, are not likely to bother much about that, and will be concerned only with the fact that, including the larger balance of £55,507 brought forward, the sum for disposal is £141,399 compared with £115,507. A 3 per cent. interim dividend having been already paid, the directors now repeat the distribution, making 6 per cent. for the year or 1 per cent. more, placing £25,000 or £15,000 additional to reserve, and carrying forward £56,399. On the whole, not a bad looking display, and could we be sure that the ponderous items in the balance-sheet were all sound and healthy the position even now might be regarded without serious misgiving, but who can form a judgment when the actual business assets, consisting of advances on land, stations, stock, wool, and other produce, including property held by the company, are all lumped together into one huge item of £4,456,997. This total is £106,535 less than at the end of the last financial year, but of what does it really consist? What is the amount of property held by the company, and does this mean foreclosures? Do the assets relate to Dalgety's business alone, or are the company's affairs inextricably bound up with the other Australian ventures houses in Bishopsgate Street? Did the company make any losses in connection with Monger's West Australian Stores? If so, what, and have they been written off? These questions are not asked with any idea of disparaging the company, but merely to show the necessity of more light and the suspicion which is inevitably aroused when essential details are held back. Shareholders will do well not to forget the enormous debenture debt reaching £2,446,060, their uncalled liability of £15 per share, or £3,000,000, and the minuteness of the reserve £165,000, including the addition now made from revenue. Think, too, of the staggering floating liabilities, such as sundry creditors and customers' balances, £1,417,847, an increase of £54,189, bills payable £201,136, down £154,869, liabilities by endorsement £43,879, showing a decline of £88,939, and balances in transit between branches, up from £121,939 to £127,945. In the aggregate these debts are lower than a year ago it is true, but we must not overlook the great difference between them and the immediately liquid assets. Leaving out of account the freehold and leasehold premises, plant, and furniture £397,786, and the reserve investment

in the Bishopsgate Street freehold, we have only cash at bankers and at short notice £171,535, bills receivable, in hand and under discount £135,191, and sundry debtors and customers' balances, &c., £477,572, and while this great dependence on debts, fixed and floating, remains the position can never be considered a strong one.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: ROODEPOORT UNITED.

The Roodepoort United Main Reef is a leading member of the Albu group, and has for many years been regarded as a first-class outcrop mine. It commenced to pay dividends in 1894 and continued to pay them regularly until they were stopped by the war. The highest distribution was in 1895, when the shareholders received 50 per cent., but the capital then was only half what it is now—£130,000 in the first half of the year, and £150,000 in the second half. Since then it has been gradually increased to £295,000 issued, out of a nominal £310,000. On the other hand, ten years ago a smaller mill was operating, though owing to the better value of the ore the profit per ton was much higher—higher, indeed, than it promises to be in the future. Even with a battery of 110 stamps we do not, for this reason, expect again to see dividends as high as 50 per cent. During 1904 65 stamps ran out of 110, and crushed 99,480 tons of ore, yielding from all sources gold to the value of £205,230, at the rate of £2 1s. 2d. per ton, which compares with £2 12s. 4d. per ton in 1895, and £2 3s. 4d. in 1899. The profit from mining was £64,696, equal to 13s. per ton, the lowest figure in its history. In 1895 the profit was 21s. 5d. per ton, and in the war year 16s. 2d. Compared with 1903 the yield was lower by 2s. 6d. per ton, but as expenses were cut down by 2s. per ton, the nett reduction in the profit was 6d. per ton. Even with this saving, the expenses per ton at £1 6s. 2d. were very high, though less than the cost in 1895, which was about £1 12s. In 1899 the figure was 27s. 2d., so the comparison is in favour of last year. The lower yield was attributed to the enforced use of machine drills in the stopes, whilst the decreased costs were the results of a greater tonnage milled and the employment of more modern plant. When the whole of the 110 stamps are in regular operation—and all have since been running—the management anticipates a further appreciable reduction in the working expenses. Though only 65 stamps were at work the quantity of ore treated was a record for the company, being 12,517 tons in excess of the tonnage for 1897, the previous best year. A couple of dividends, equal to 20 per cent., were declared, absorbing £59,000 out of the £63,966 nett earnings, but with a large credit brought in a balance of £69,700 was carried forward. As an option was given to the controlling concern, the General Mining and Finance Corporation, over the 15,000 reserve shares at £4 each up to August 1 last, the future issued capital will probably be £310,000. The consulting engineer estimates that on the increased stamping basis the monthly profits will be £12,000. Should this estimate prove to be fairly exact the annual profits should enable the directors to pay dividends averaging 35 to 40 per cent., after deducting profits' tax, &c., and leaving something to be carried forward. Depreciation has been charged to the reserve fund, composed of premiums, and when this is exhausted, as it soon will be, it will have to be debited to profits. Last year the sum written off at 10 per cent. was £34,452, which reduced the reserve, invested in the business, to £63,874. For this reason the company will do well if it can maintain an average yearly distribution of 35 per cent. for the rest of its life. We will calculate it at 35 per cent., and put the yield as high as 12 per cent. It is generally considered that the mine will last another 12 years. That will give a return of £144 on £100 invested, leaving only £44 for dividends, or a little over 3½ per cent. per annum, for commission, &c., must be paid. As about £6 17s. 6d. would have to be set aside at 3 per cent. compound interest to redeem the principal the yield

would be over 5 per cent. in that case, with all risks to be faced. It must be borne in mind, too, that the present price of the share is much lower than the average of the past ten years.

UNITED STATES STEEL TRUST PROFITS.

In the September quarter this Protectionist monster of monopoly claims to have earned \$31,240,382 in the shape of nett profits or \$935,266 more than in the previous quarter, and \$12,466,382 more than in the corresponding quarter of 1904. Added to the previous figures the nett earnings for the nine months of the year expired on September 30 last came to \$84,571,394 or \$11,395,394 more than the profits for the whole of 1904, and \$32,853,394 more than in the first three quarters of that year. This looks very fine, and the explanation of such wealth of revenue is no doubt to be found in the splendid liberality with which railroad and other corporations have been emitting new capital. How much of the alleged gains, we should like to know, is represented by short term and other bonds taken by the Steel Trust in payment for goods supplied. Is it all pure finance—or all impure? It is impossible for us to say but we still doubt whether the concern has any substantial real profits at all, and, apart from financial payments, the ground of this doubt is the infinitesimal amount set aside for depreciation and reserve. In the past quarter this amount was \$5,559,000, and that is less than 1½ per cent. per annum upon the aggregate capitalisation of the trust. No business of the kind in this country could flourish or live long and prosper if financed in this devil-may-care fashion, and the end of the dividend-paying and other magnificent looking operations of this Yankee combination must either be ruinous collapse or fresh issues of capital. It is a thing dishonest throughout, unscrupulous in its inception, capable of existence only by the most cruel oppression of consumers, and sustained as a going concern by financial legerdemain of the most regardless type. But it had on September 30 last 5,865,377 tons of unfulfilled orders, or 2,837,941 tons more than at the corresponding date last year. What more would you have?

ELECTROLYTIC ALKALI CO., LIMITED.

According to the directors the process of manufacture employed by this company continues to work satisfactorily, and there is a good demand for the products, but if this is really the case the outlook for the ordinary shareholders is blank indeed. Sales for the 12 months ended August 31 increased by no less than £31,327 to £77,889, and with £14 from registration fees and £3,252 for stock in hand the total credit was £81,155. After deducting £3,719 for stock brought forward, however, and £72,690 or £26,631 more for expenses, including £4,920 allowed for depreciation and £1,043 written off preliminary expenses, the nett profits were only £4,224 higher at £4,746. To this was added £1,374 brought in, making £6,120, out of which one year's dividend on account of arrears is paid on the preference shares issued prior to April, 1902, a distribution which apparently leaves two years still outstanding, as a dividend at the same rate is declared on the new preference shares for the period from the payment of the instalments to August 31, 1903. Even these dividends have only been possible by drawing heavily on the balance brought in, and only £519 is carried to the new account. Judging by the auditors' certificate, which merely states that they have made a report on the accounts to be read to the shareholders in general meeting, the balance-sheet does not meet with their approval, and little wonder, as the company is, and always has been, heavily handicapped by the price paid for the patents. This item figures in the balance-sheet for £100,500, although the business is not profitable enough to provide the preference dividend, and to all appearances will never be able to do so unless some method can be devised of reducing the cost of production considerably. Free-

hold land, buildings, machinery, &c., are valued at £189,346 or £2,494 more, in spite of the allowance for depreciation, and preliminary and debenture issue expenses come to £5,981. Liabilities to sundry creditors are down £5,104 to £6,329, thanks to a reduction of £5,656 to £8,904 in sundry debtors, while cash is rather better at £13,666, but stores and manufactured stock in process are small at £16,597. In view of the position disclosed it is significant that the directors make no reference to the committee of investigation demanded by the shareholders at the last general meeting. Was the committee ever appointed, and what was the result of its investigations? The chairman openly stated that he would oppose the publication of a report, and it looks as if he has been strong enough to carry out his threat.

INSURANCE AMALGAMATIONS.

A notice has been issued by the Alliance Assurance Company calling an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders for Wednesday next to sanction sundry resolutions. The purport of these resolutions is to enable the directors to increase the company's capital by 200,000 additional shares in order that it may exchange these shares for four businesses to be bought up—viz., the Westminster Fire Office, the County Fire Office, the Provident Life Office, and the Alliance and General Marine Office. The Westminster Fire Office dates from 1717, and its business is not large, although it must be good of its kind to have survived so long. The County Fire is also an old office, dating from 1807, and one of the best of its class in the world. Its twin concern, the Provident Life, dates from the year before and is a company which has been out-distanced by many a younger rival. It is respectable, however, and doubtless worth acquiring. The Alliance Marine, too, although not particularly prosperous in recent years—in fact, it had to write off £50,000 of its paid-up capital of £250,000 a short time ago—is also among the better institutions of its class. What will the Alliance Company have to pay for these businesses? We have not the least idea, but the 200,000 new shares taken at the current price of the company's existing £1 share should put it in possession of about £2,500,000, which should be ample for everything. The Westminster Fire Office is a mutual one, and the paid-up capital of the Provident Life is under £48,000. The County Fire, however, has a paid-up capital of £254,000, and that itself will be worth considerably more than £1,500,000, while the paid-up capital of the Alliance Marine is £250,000, without taking into account the £50,000 treated as lost. What shall we say of amalgamations of this kind? They are in accordance with the spirit of the time, and should not bring harm to anybody, least of all to the shareholders of the Alliance Company, provided its management continues to be of the same powerful and able description which it now enjoys.

Passing Events.

At last the mail from Australia brings the report of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing and Company upon the Broken Hill South Blocks mine, in which the Lake View has taken a half interest. Should the statements in this report prove to be tolerably conservative the Lake View shareholders may have no reason to regret their bargain, and that reflection may to some degree console them for being asked to conclude the business at breathless pace. With all due respect to Messrs. Bewick, Moreing and Company it would be foolish to conclude immediately that the bargain will ultimately prove an excellent one; the eventual success of it will depend upon many conditions and contingencies. No ore has ever been extracted from the property, but a large body of ore has been opened up in the northern portion, and there are about 400,000 tons in sight. "The experience in the district," the experts argue, "gives great confidence as to continuity of the ore bodies in depth." We may add that experience of the

district assures anything but individual success; there have been so many failures. Who can foresee the future course of the silver and lead market? Taking lead at £14 and zinc at £25, the profit per ton is estimated at £1 1s. 5d. On 400,000 tons the profit in sight at the minimum prices for metals would be £90,000, and at the maximum £428,000. For the half interest the Lake View paid £73,500, so its half-share of the profits may be over £200,000, exclusive of the prospects at depth. If we live long enough we shall see if the company gets it.

Sir Lewis Michell has an article in the *Empire Review*, in which he tries to convince the ignorant and simple-minded that Rhodesia is a remarkably rich country. He tells us that it has an area of 745,000 square miles, but does not add that the greater part of it is a wilderness. The first bank was opened in July, 1892, and in the intervening thirteen years banks have grown to the awesome number of three, so wealthy are the people and the country. Over 4,000 miles of good roads now traverse Southern Rhodesia, whilst 2,208 miles of railways have been laid, connecting with the Cape ports in the south and with Beira on the East Coast. But the railways are run at a loss, and the deficits promise to grow for indefinite years, though Sir Lewis omits to mention this. Most astounding of all, however, is this magnate's confession that the mining industry of this wonderful country is only "a crutch to lean on for a time, and not a leg on which to walk permanently." This is revolutionary, true though it be. The cripple who leans on a crutch that is continually slipping from under him finds it no support, for his limbs stand in greater danger than if he stood or laid still. That is the kind of crutch the Rhodesian mining industry is to those who have invested their money in it. The more they seek to gain from it the more they lose and are likely to lose. It is a crutch that cannot be strengthened with patching. And if the Chartered Company has to depend upon it—Sir Lewis is one of the directors—we are now influentially assured that it will never be able to stand on its own pins. So the mining industry being unsound and unreliable, the future of the country and the prosperity of the Chartered Company must depend upon "cattle ranching, sheep rearing, cereals, tobacco culture, cotton, coffee, rice and rubber." Sir Lewis is to be congratulated on his outspokenness.

A fortnight ago we dealt with the latest proposed Rand amalgamation affecting three well-known companies—the Henry Nourse, Nourse Deep and New Heriot. A part of the scheme is that the Nourse Deep shall sell to the New Heriot about 34 claims on the eastern portion of its property for 45,000 fully paid shares, and the right to subscribe for its *pro rata* proportion of an issue of 35,000 new shares by the outcrop company at £3 15s. per share. Mr. Francis Dormer, who is a director of the Transvaal Estates and Development Company, has issued a circular to the shareholders of the New Heriot attacking the directors' proposals to acquire deep level claims from the Nourse Deep and to raise further capital. He has managed to secure a copy of an unpublished report on the proposals by the well-known expert, Mr. Sydney J. Jennings, dated September 15, and addressed to the directors of the New Heriot. Mr. Jennings puts the life of the New Heriot at 9.69 years, and estimates that the Nourse Deep claims would last 6.81 years, or 16½ years in all. Assuming that the ore in the acquired claims would average 9s. per ton, the aggregate profit would be £323,595. If we take the 45,000 shares at an average price of £4 per share, it will be seen that the New Heriot will pay £180,000 for a probable profit of £323,595. But 35,000 shares are to be issued at £3 15s., which will be a further £131,250, or about £311,250 all told. On this basis the New Heriot shareholders will not stand to gain anything, and it looks as if the Nourse Deep will benefit at their expense. Mr. Jennings, however, assumes a value of £4 10s. for the New Heriot share, on which calculation there would be

a certain loss, to say nothing of the uncertainty of earning even the profit he computes to be possible.

On the 4th inst. Mr. F. H. P. Creswell, who had to resign his post of general manager at the Village Main Reef mine because he advocated the employment of white labour, delivered an important speech on the Chinese labour question at Potchefstroom. He reminded his hearers of the many bogeys that have been set up by the bosses to scare the country into an approval of yellow labour. One threat was that without it many mines would have to stop. But before a single coolie arrived on the Rand there were 3,500 stamps working, whilst 47,250 natives were employed on producing mines. This was in June, 1903. In the following twelve months the magnates put on an extra 100 stamps for every additional 1,085 natives employed, so that by June, 1904, 1,255 stamps were actually added, making a total of 4,755 in operation at that date. "Does any man really believe," Mr. Creswell asked, "that if no Chinese had come here at all the gentlemen controlling the mines would not have done exactly the same from June, 1904, to August, 1905, as they did from June, 1903, to June, 1904?" Had they continued to add 100 stamps for every 1,085 natives there would have been 6,503 stamps at work in August last. The number actually crushing in that month was 6,845, or a paltry 342 stamps more than if no Chinese had been imported. Clearly, he argued, the present 45,000 coolies can be no solution of the problem to solve which they were introduced. Manifestly, some other solution must be found, and that is, to make the mines go on as some of them were going before the Chinese cut-throats were welcomed by the bosses.

When is that \$25,000,000 collected by Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb, and Co., on account of the American share of the latest Japanese loan to be transmitted to London? Altogether \$50,000,000 have to be gathered up, or £10,000,000, and the whole of that money has to come here. It will not be sent for some considerable time, the agencies assure the Wall Street market, so there is no cause for anxiety, but it will have to come one day, because the Japanese Government wants the money on this side. Will it involve the transmission of gold from New York, that and other commitments of the Wall Street financiers? We shall see.

Last week's return of the New York Associated Banks, as far as it indicates anything trustworthy, seems to reveal a retransfer to the New York market of some of the loans raised in European markets upon Yankee Railroad securities. Loans show an increase of \$15,100,000, or rather more than £3,000,000, at the same time that nett deposits have gone up by \$18,200,000. Was this transfer, as the increase in the loans may be taken to be, effected so as to relieve the strain upon the London market at the end of the month settlement, and that settlement once over did the banks immediately retransfer the loans to London? This also is a question which no outsider can answer, but bankers here will do well to keep their eye upon the borrowings of their customers on this class of security.

Much shrewd sense was dispensed to the Institute of Bankers by Mr. J. Spencer Phillips last Wednesday evening. He is the chairman of Lloyds Bank, and therefore in a position to speak with impressive emphasis about existing business circumstances. As regards the future, he was decidedly hopeful, building much upon the Anglo-Japanese Treaty, although we hardly follow his reasoning upon that point. His description, however, of the state of trade in the Midlands and North was cheering, and we trust that the hopes he outlined may be fulfilled. The unemployed question, he said, had become a social question. "It was now a common occurrence to find a scarcity of skilled workmen in particular trades, and yet, co-existing with this scarcity, a mass of unemployed which for the particular purpose in hand was quite worthless." Is this "mass" a product of the great development in the use of machinery whereby the multitude of workers are more and more driven back into the unskilled category? Mr. Phillips

did not say. On another point he gave a very plausible reason for the continued depression in the price of gilt-edged securities, viz., the generally extravagant habits of living. These press people to sell their gilt-edged securities in order to put the money into others of less stability, yielding higher rates of interest. But he might have said more about the deadly extravagance of the Government.

We had a good deal to say the other day concerning the extraordinary progress made by the United Railways of the Havana Company, but apparently all the good news was not disclosed in the report, as the chairman had further pleasant things to tell the shareholders at the annual meeting held on Monday. It seems that negotiations have been going on for a very long time with a view to obtaining control of the railway known as the Cardenas and Jucaro, so as to get access through it to the Cuban Railway which runs to the extreme east of the island. This will facilitate through traffic at present worked with the rolling stock of the three railways. This Cardenas railway is apparently a very valuable property, and in order to make sure of carrying out the fusion, the United company purchased a large amount of its shares, meaning that later on, when Cardenas securities are exchanged for United of Havana bonds and stock, the Havana company will receive back with a substantial profit the amounts issued against the Cardenas shares. As the chairman frankly admitted, the arrangement is somewhat complicated, but the result will probably be entirely satisfactory to United shareholders, as we gather that the securities so released will be used to provide a special bonus for them. Later on, when the negotiations are carried through, proprietors will no doubt be put in possession of more complete details, and, meanwhile, they have the gratification of seeing their securities steadily rising in market value.

A tip has lately been going round to buy the shares of a company called the Canadian Northern Prairie Lands, and in order that those with a mind to gamble may not plunge entirely in the dark, it will be useful to supply a few particulars. The enterprise, it can be said at once, is legitimate enough, because it was formed by the Canadian Northern Railway to take over 500,000 acres of land selected from its land grants at \$3 per acre. That makes the capital \$1,500,000 in shares of \$5 each, and up to the end of August the company had sold 37,160 acres at an average price of \$6½ per acre, and 84,918 acres in September for \$6.56 per acre. In the past month the price was raised to \$6.75 for wholesale blocks and \$8.50 for retail, so that if these figures can be anything like maintained for the entire holding some excellent profits may be made. The desirability of acquiring the shares depends, of course, on their price.

A most interesting function took place in the "search" room at Somerset House during the week, when Mr. James Barber, the assistant registrar, bade farewell to his colleagues on his retirement after 40 years of meritorious service. Mr. Barber was made the recipient of a well-deserved testimonial and illuminated address, and we wish to add our voice to the appreciative sentiments expressed by those who have shared with him the enormous labour which the company registration department involves. During our long association with the search-room in quest of interesting and educative material in the shape of details of shareholdings we have always received unfailing courtesy and attention at his hands, rendering, if not a pleasure, at least easier the tedious and troublesome work which the searching involves. Mr. W. Walker has been appointed to fill the vacant post, and we doubt not he will prove a worthy successor.

Shareholders of Showell's Stockport Brewery—which must not be confused with Showell's Brewery—have just received another communication from Mr. A. Wright, animadverting upon a circular which he issued in July last, and calling upon them to assist him in bringing about a change of management, this being

a better course, he thinks, in the interests of the company than the appointment of a committee of investigation. Along with himself Mr. Wright thinks Mr. E. J. Collins should be put upon the board, and although the date of the annual meeting has not yet been fixed it is necessary to be prepared for any contingency. He therefore invites proprietors to send him proxies in support of the mentioned candidatures, and since the most recent performances of the company certainly leave a good deal to be desired, it may be necessary to support the present movement. We shall be able to judge better when the current year's results are known.

Mr. A. J. McMillan has addressed a further circular to the shareholders of the Le Roi, in which he repeats his statement that he is prepared to recommend the payment of a dividend for the year ending June 30. But "to carry this out it would seem necessary to have a new board." He sees no difficulty in paying it "unless the available funds have been used for other purposes since I left the board." With respect to the report that the directors have contemplated the removal of some portions of the Northport smelter, he as one of the largest shareholders in the company, has recently made application to the United States Courts for an injunction until a meeting of shareholders could be held to discuss the situation. He is advised that the injunction has been issued, thus preventing interference with the smelter for the time being. As the directors have failed to redeem their promise to convene a meeting he thinks it high time the shareholders called on themselves. We think so, too, and hope shareholders will support him in looking after their own interests. He further asserts that the annual report and accounts for the year ending June 30 have been in the hands of the directors since the first week in August. Why, then, have they not been issued to the shareholders?

According to the *Cape Daily Mercury*, the great mine boss, Mr. J. R. Robinson, is getting heartily sick of the Chinkee, although he has been one of the strongest advocates of coolie labour. At Krugersdorp he is credited with having confessed that he is growing tired with the Chinese who are working on his various mines. In the event of their giving further trouble he will, the journal adds, repatriate the whole lot at his own expense, and again employ Kaffirs. There are, says he, plenty of blacks to be got. Should Mr. Robinson carry out this threat, it will be one of the hardest blows given to the permanent employment of Chinese on the Rand.

Critical Index To New Investments.

TONOPAH AND TIDEWATER RAILROAD CO.

It is proposed to build and equip a standard broad-gauge railroad from or near Ludlow, on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé Railroad, crossing the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad, *via* the Borate Mines near Death Valley, to Bull Frog, Nevada. The new line is expected to tap a wide and prosperous territory requiring a heavy tonnage of imports and exporting large quantities of mineral and other produce, and in addition to a good general traffic a large business is looked for from the opening up of extensive borate mines on the line of the railway. No mention is made of the amount of the share capital, and we presume this has gone towards paying for concessions, right of way and such-like objects, as the funds required for building the line are to be provided by an issue of £500,000 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture certificates guaranteed by Borax Consolidated, Limited, which is no doubt interested in the above-mentioned borate mines. The certificates are redeemable at par on July 1, 1960, and provision is made for their repayment at that date by sinking fund policies effected with the Commercial Union and Alliance Assurance Companies, but they may be repaid at an earlier date by drawings at 105 on six

months' notice. It is estimated that the line should earn an annual revenue of £175,000, of which expenses are calculated to take 30 per cent., or about £53,000, leaving a margin of £122,000, and should the actual results obtained come anywhere near these figures the certificates would be a good investment without the Borax guarantee.

ISSUES BY TENDER.

CABINS (1901).—An issue of £10,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock is offered to shareholders at 95 per cent., to provide funds for the repayment of £4,000 of the existing debentures, and for further working capital. The stock will be redeemable at par on or after January 1, 1911, or prior to that date at 105 per cent. on three months' notice.

NIDDRIE AND BENHAR COAL.—In order to repay a temporary loan of £8,000, and to complete the equipment of certain pits, &c., an issue of £50,000 6 per cent. debenture stock is offered at par, payable 10 per cent. on application, 40 per cent. on allotment, and 5 per cent. on February 1, 1906. The stock is repayable at par on May 15, 1925, but may be redeemed on six months' notice at 105 at any time after May 15, 1912.

SANGLI GOLD.—Shareholders are offered the 9,072 unissued shares of £1 each at par in the proportion of one new share for every seven held.

WESTERN RAILWAY OF HAVANA.—An issue of 7,000 shares of £10 each is offered to shareholders in the proportion of one for every ten shares held at par, payable £2 on application and £8 on November 30. The shares will rank for dividend from July 1, 1905, and otherwise *pari passu* with the existing shares.

CERRO MURIANO.—The capital of this company has been increased to £235,000 by the creation of 75,000 new shares of £1 each, ranking *pari passu* with the existing shares, and these are offered in the first instance at par to shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every two held, fractions being included. Debenture holders who have given notice to exchange their holdings for shares on or before November 7 will participate in the allotment.

Answers to Correspondents.

Olive.—There is of course a possibility of losing part of the price you have paid should the event you mention come to pass, but there does not seem to be any immediate danger of that. We will see what we can do for you in the other matter in a few days.

T. Kirkwood.—We prefer the first.

Yarn.—No. 3 appears to be the best of your selection.

A Kensington Subscriber.—Particulars of this enterprise have not come under our notice, and we find it difficult to advise. If you can send fuller details we shall be happy to answer further. On the face of it the profit looks worth taking.

A. Pinhorn.—The office you name is a very good one indeed, quite to be trusted to fulfil any engagement it enters into.

A. E. R.—Not in the very first rank, but still a good, sound office.

Reader Wallasey.—This undertaking is undoubtedly making excellent progress, and we do not think you would be running great risk in making a small purchase. Such a rise as that anticipated in some quarters may not take place, but any serious reaction is improbable because there is every chance of an increased dividend for the current year.

The *Book Monthly* has a clever article this month on "The Modern Novel" by Mr. Hubert Bland, and his thoughts on this latter-day production are instructive; also rather startling, for if the past 10 or 15 years have seen such strides in "the liberty of unlicensed expression" in the novel, where will the next 10 land it? There are other clever things in this number, notably the account of Mr. Richard Kearton's interesting discoveries in the realms of nature, the romance of the animal world. Many interesting books are promised for this month, and greatly does the editor's catalogue help the would-be reader thereof.

Six Newnes Publications.—If time and space allowed we might go into detail over the comparative merits of these six. As it is, we can only say that there is no falling off in their usual attractive points. *C. B. Fry's* and *The Captain* are devoted to all that pertains to the world of boy and man, some of which the girl mind does not disdain. *The Wide World* is so full of strange truths that it would be difficult to say which was the strangest, but "Our Trek in Basutoland," "The End of the Spanish Prisoner," "Five Hundred Miles in a House Boat," and "The Old Guitar Player" are certainly among the most entertaining. In *The Strand* Father Gapon brings the dramatic "Story of My Life" to a conclusion with a vivid description of his escape from Russia, and a prophecy as to the fate of his troubled country that is already more than half fulfilled. "Pigs is Pigs," an amusing example of the dangers of arbitration and delay, and the fiction in this magazine is always pleasant if not powerful. The same may be said of the *Sunday Strand*, whose chief article of interest this month is the third on the "Romance of the Monuments." *The Grand* "Under the X Rays," concerns itself this month with "A Bunch of Bogus Bishops," an exposure of the audacious methods of a band of blasphemous swindlers.

Standard Bank of South Africa.—Mr. William Reiersen Arbuthnot, jun., has joined the board.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The animation of last week's London cargo trade has not been kept up, and it has again become quiet and rather indifferent. Markets throughout the country have not been quite so lively either, and but for the serious news from Russia they would probably have been still duller. Prices for English wheat have kept firm, foreign has occasionally gone in favour of the buyer, and demand has been duller for both of them. Our imports from abroad for the week amount to 300,673 qrs., supplies of wheat and flour in passage are 1,620,000 qrs., or 300,000 more than last week, and farmers' deliveries amount to 86,116 qrs., averaging 27s. 4d., nearly double the quantity delivered in the same week last year, 47,947 qrs., of which the average was 30s. 6d. American markets have fluctuated more or less under conflicting influences, at one time weaker after bear activity, heavy North-Western receipts, and favourable Argentine news, later it strengthened for the same cause as here, principally the foreign political situation. Bradstreet's estimate of 47,841,000 bushels in sight east of the Rockies, against the 44,087,000 of last week, had no effect upon markets.

WOOL.—Trade in raw materials has again been quiet and perhaps a shade in favour of buyers, but not to any definite extent. Forties are still quoted at last week's rates, and the shortness of stocks alone will prevent any break in prices as yet. Spinners are fairly active, both on new and old contracts, though still disinclined to do business far ahead, for they declare that values must fall before the end of the year. For these reasons trade in manufactured goods is expanding on home account and is expected to be better than for some years past, and exports continue in a satisfactory condition, particularly as regards the United States.

LINEN.—The all round satisfactory condition of affairs calls for little comment. Home flax continues to come on the markets in fairly large quantities, demand continues active and prices advance, ranging from 5s. 6d. to 8s. per stone according to the quality of the fibre. Underselling in some of the tow yarns is still heard of, but the qualities thus dealt in are said to be poor, and have not affected the steady price of better grades. Spinners are in a sufficiently independent position to hold their ground. Damask yarns have again been called for to such an extent as to raise the problem of adequate supply, and in manufactured linens also these are well to the front. Unions show increasing strength in spite of the eccentricities of cotton prices, and elsewhere the only change to note is a steady improvement. Cross-channel business in finished linens is at last going up, and the export end keeps fairly well up to the mark, though on Colonial account, with the exception of Canada, it might certainly be better.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The demand for cotton piece goods for export during the week under review has not been large by any means, but a generally healthy tone has prevailed and a fair amount of inquiry has been experienced. Buyers for Bombay and Karachi have operated to a slight extent, but Calcutta remains quiet; few orders for that port can be heard of. The boycott is not yet over, if leading Manchester merchants are to be believed. The crops in India are very good, and the prospects of trade are very encouraging. Stocks of piece goods are beginning to show themselves, owing to the large shipments this year. China buyers have bought less freely; they have refused to follow the upward course of values. The nearer markets have been moderately active, notably South America and the Levant. All kinds of goods are well held and prices are higher. There is no pressure on the part of makers for business. On the other hand, shippers are not very anxious to operate. Home trade goods are undoubtedly moving better. The position of affairs in this section is strong. Producers are pressed for delivery. Home trade American yarns have lost ground again owing to the rise in cotton. The margin today with cotton at 5.85d. on spot, is worse than a week ago. Weft is not very abundant in supply, but common cop-twist can be easily obtained for quick delivery. The better marks of cop-twist keep steady. Ring yarn is in over supply. Shipping bundles remain strong with less business than last week. There have been transactions in 40's mule for Calcutta, and February delivery has been granted. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton close strong, with an increasing amount of business. Fine numbers seem better in point of demand.

Despite the increased movement of the American crop quotations have gradually hardened during the week. According to some authorities 69 per cent. of the crop was picked by October 24, and it is thought there is not much chance of an average top crop, in consequence of the heavy damage done by last week's frosts. Other reports say that the yield in Texas and the territories will be 800,000 bales less than last year. These reports, together with other bullish influences, have helped prices to move upwards. Closing prices:—November-December, 5.81d.; December-January, 5.85d.; January-February, 5.88d.; February-March, 5.90d.; March-April, 5.93d.; April-May, 5.94d.; May-June, 5.96d.; June-July, 5.97d.; July-August, 5.98d.

COAL.—House varieties are again more active and in one or two districts prices have been put up locally. Steam prices keep firm, but with less activity in them, as is only to be expected with northern navigation more or less closed. There is still a certain amount doing from the Humber, and Wales has received several large contracts, but in the north it is almost at a standstill. Gas is not so strong as last week, and 1½d. per ton less is being offered and taken for the best qualities. The Scottish trade is in a more flourishing condition. Shipments from the ports during the past week were 17,000 tons larger than the corresponding week last year. The tone of steams is firmer, and

house coals have risen in price 6d. or for better qualities 1s. per ton.

COPPER.—Dealing was very restricted during the early days of the week, with prices showing a disposition to go lower. Even when sellers made concessions in order to induce business, buyers showed little or no enthusiasm, and at times operations were virtually at a standstill. Scarcity of accommodation for near delivery, however, caused a hardening tendency later on, and although trade never became really active, it was brisker at the end with prices closing firm at £71 15s. for cash and £70 15s. for future delivery. During the month ended on Tuesday the visible supplies of copper fell off by 532 tons at 15,772 tons, after being down by nearly 1,000 in the middle of the month, compared with the last day of September. Stocks in England and France alone were less by 1,307 tons, but although the quantities advised from Chili were less by 125 tons, the shipments from Australia show an increase of 900 tons. According to Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co.'s statistics the total supplies for October were 26,573 tons, and the deliveries, including shipments of 300 tons of "standard" metal to America, 27,105 tons.

TIN.—Strong Eastern advices and moderate buying orders from America caused this market to open with a firm tendency, and as the week advanced values steadily improved on a brisk general demand. The monthly statistics subsequently furnished a further "bull" point, but there was some selling on the advance before the end, and part of the early improvement was lost, so that prices closed at £149 15s. for spot and £148 2s. 6d. for three months forward. Messrs. A. Strauss and Co. give the quantities on the spot and landing and in transit as 4,497 tons, against 1,802 tons a month ago. Deliveries of October in London were 1,067 tons, and in Holland 1,312 tons, against 1,537 and 1,096 tons respectively last September. The visible supply amounts to 12,495 tons, against 14,237 tons on October 31. The Straits shipments for the month total 3,900 tons of which 2,525 tons are for London, 795 tons for America, and 580 tons for Continent.

IRON AND STEEL.—In the North of England there has been a slight lull in the demand for pig-iron, but after the activity of the last few weeks this has not been unexpected. Prospects are as encouraging as ever, and the opinion amongst leading business men is that the coming year will be more active and profitable than the past year has been. There are no signs of a falling off in business in the Scottish steel trade, in which the activity approaches the dimensions of a "boom." Demand for ship-building material is as keen as ever, and steel makers can now pick and choose amongst eager and increasing buyers. Leading producers are booked for months ahead, some of them to July next. In Wales prospects are also very hopeful. A sound, healthy business continues to be done in manufactured iron and steel in other parts of the country, accompanied by a steady advance in prices.

TEA.—The moderate supplies of Ceylon teas kept the heavy offerings in India from overstraining the market, and prices were steady for all except commonest kinds. 46,476 packages were offered and obtained an average of 7.96d., against 7.78d. last week and 7.00d. a year ago. Medium teas were the best competed for in Ceylons and sold occasionally at higher rates. Finer grades showed some irregularity and commonest were neglected. The average price for the week was lower than last, being 7.56d. for the 20,638 packages offered, against 7.82d.

SUGAR.—Realisations of November contracts and offers of French and Belgian sugars have been mainly responsible for a week of quietness in the sugar market, and a recession of prices below the lowest figure of the preceding week. There is less pressure to sell at the reduction, though Licht reports that with the recent more favourable weather he may have to raise his estimate for Germany a little. In view of the disturbed state of the country the Russian crop figure is uncertain. If, says Mr. Czarnikow, we keep at a low level long enough, we may look for a future natural improvement on a healthy basis, the more so as the world's consumption at ruling values should once more show considerable progress. Monthly imports barely cover the usual consumption, and it may be that buyers wish to be prepared for more pressure of actual sugar in November-December, but when factories have once made room for storing fresh arrivals may not prove excessive, even with the present moderate premiums for forward delivery. New York reports another unsatisfactory week, and quotations are practically unchanged, both buyers and sellers being disinclined to operate. Landings in the three ports were 34,000 tons and meltings 40,000 tons, reducing stocks to 214,000 tons.

LADY'S PICTORIAL AND SPORTING AND DRAMATIC PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED.

A further increase in the circulation of the papers owned by this company during the year ended September 30 was more than neutralised by the falling off in advertisements and receipts from all sources again showed a serious shrinkage at £21,529. Adding £4,489 or £475 more brought forward the disposable balance after paying directors' fees and putting another £2,000 to reserve was £1,845 smaller at £22,768, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is once more reduced by 1 per cent. to 5½ per cent., leaving £4,393 to be carried to the new account. With the present addition the reserve amounts to £20,000, or about 6 per cent. of the outlay on the business and copyrights which stands at £329,847, and of this £18,096 is invested outside the business, exclusive of £5,000 in Consols counted as cash. Sundry creditors are £90 up at £5,118 and sundry debtors have risen by £587 to £17,241, but cash and Consols are £1,528 lower at £17,865.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended October 24, \$5,298, increase \$634.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 29, \$20,204, increase \$3,906; aggregate from January 1, \$695,545, increase \$152,460.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 30, Rs. 82,516, increase Rs. 12,474; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 8,87,416, increase Rs. 1,44,486.

British Columbia Electric.—Net earnings for September, \$41,824, increase \$19,185.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 21, \$118,700, increase \$20,500; total from July 1, \$1,472,700, increase \$305,700.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 30, Rs. 29,015, increase Rs. 8,625; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 3,29,339, increase Rs. 26,923.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 14, £680, increase £95.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of October, \$13,942, decrease \$1,696; aggregate from January 1, \$647,982, decrease \$6,082.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended September 30, Rs. 18,262, increase Rs. 7,303; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,60,355, increase Rs. 22,570.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended October 14 amounted to \$35,361.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending October 28, £1,253, increase £65; aggregate from July 1, £20,156, decrease £295.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending October 28, £801, increase £82; aggregate from July 1, £16,435, decrease £1,405.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for August, £4,243, decrease £354.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending October 28, £421, increase £95; aggregate from July 1, £5,591, decrease £518.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 27, £1,334, increase £456; aggregate from July 1, £23,775, increase £8,431.

Blessington and Poulaphuca.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 29, £10; aggregate from July 1, £472, increase £18.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 27, £4,497, decrease £336; aggregate from July 1, £87,903, decrease £2,013.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending October 27, £27,039, increase £3,542; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,162,252, increase £114,423; 433½ miles, against 413½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 28, £1,109, increase £66; aggregate from July 2, £19,436, increase £863.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 29, £97, decrease £6; aggregate from July 1, £2,795, decrease £60.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 27, £96, decrease £5; aggregate from July 1, £2,350, increase £2.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 27, £4,466, decrease £113; aggregate from July 1, £89,618, decrease £966.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 28, £4,518, increase £177; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £210,161, increase £15,853.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 27, £211, decrease £38; aggregate from July 1, £4,507, decrease £323.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 26, £389.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 28, £293, decrease £64; aggregate from October 1, £1,344, decrease £365.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 21, £14,208, increase £820; aggregate from April 1, £441,526, increase £64,391. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 28, £22,191, decrease £1,095; aggregate from July 2, £404,787, decrease £8,526.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 28, £7,474, decrease £117; aggregate from July 1, £135,324, increase £1,132.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 27, £307, increase £7; aggregate from July 1, £3,448, increase £166.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 28 £13,358, increase £117; aggregate from January 1, £571,379 increase £35,756.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of September, £10,584, increase £438.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to September 30, \$287,231, increase \$75,624. Net earnings from July 1 to September 30, \$131,841, increase \$52,363.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending October 29, £2,855, decrease £420; aggregate from January 1, £148,722, increase £6,996.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for three months ending September 30, \$653,500; increase \$31,600.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 28, Rs. 37,810, increase Rs. 4,234; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 7,21,884, increase Rs. 88,873.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Cartagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of October, £3,155, decrease £83. Total to October 31, £37,763, increase £6,130.

Lomtardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of September, \$454,061, increase \$80,118; aggregate from January 1, \$3,482,687, increase \$274,516. Net traffic receipts, \$278,030, increase \$70,104; aggregate from January 1, \$1,904,537, increase \$206,534.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.			Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Oct. 29	£ 1,884	—	197	17	35,435	—	1,463
Cambrian	" 29	5,278	—	245	17	133,567	—	6,880
Central London	" 28	7,008	+	232	17	102,750	—	1,279
City and South London ..	" 29	2,741	+	123	17	41,354	—	305
Furness	" 29	10,087	+	2,046	17	186,479	+	15,457
Gr. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 29	68,139	+	6,868	17	1,245,736	+	75,246
Great Eastern	" 29	104,500	—	1,460	17	1,979,500	—	53,449
Great Northern and City ..	" 28	1,670	+	275	17	25,348	+	6,224
Great Northern	" 28	112,100	+	6,005	17	2,056,788	+	10,095
Great Western	" 29	232,900	+	10,100	17	4,534,900	+	52,669
Hull and Barnsley	" 29	10,005	—	28	17	167,756	—	1,671
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 29	104,207	+	4,016	17	2,036,803	+	47,073
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 28	55,297	—	386	17	1,215,653	—	5,369
London & North Western ..	" 29	281,000	+	12,000	17	5,138,000	+	81,000
London & South Western ..	" 29	86,000	+	1,300	17	1,736,700	+	11,509
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 29	8,601	+	427	17	195,878	+	2,033
Metropolitan	" 29	17,386	+	21	17	291,305	+	325
Metropolitan District ..	" 29	7,411	+	515	17	114,914	—	390
Midland	" 28	234,526	+	14,479	17	3,957,514	+	103,446
North Eastern	" 28	177,141	+	4,68	17	3,247,754	+	13,131
North London	" 29	9,624	—	230	17	150,475	—	4,566
North Staffordshire	" 29	18,104	+	1,239	17	302,486	+	4,392
Rhymney	" 29	5,865	+	34	17	97,315	+	522
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 28	79,954	+	1,520	17	1,795,283	+	25,614
Taff Vale	" 29	20,361	+	1,104	17	311,842	—	1,863

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Oct. 29	84,681	+	3,523	13	1,172,182	+	4,203
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 28	32,198	+	52	13	500,838	—	1,354
Great North of Scotland ..	" 28	8,893	—	109	13	135,803	—	1,734
Highland	" 29	8,736	—	217	13	162,101	+	156
North British	" 29	99,631	+	2,395	13	1,267,310	—	7,517

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Oct. 27	2,853	+	254	17	60,140	+	2,086
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 27	1,739	—	21	17	33,171	+	347
Great Northern	" 27	19,411	+	9	17	360,404	—	2,432
Midland Great Western ..	" 27	11,116	—	1,039	17	197,058	—	8,968

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Oct. 25	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Oct. 25	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
5 1/2	Angelo	5 1/2	3 3/4	3 3/4	May Consolidated	3 3/4	3 3/4
5 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Apex	5 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	Modderfontein	8 1/2	7 1/2
5 1/2	Aurora West	5 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Bantjes	5 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	New Goch	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Barnato Consolidated	5 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Block B.	5 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	5 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Comet (New)	5 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	2 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	5 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	6 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Do. Pref.	5 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	8 1/2	8 1/2
5 1/2	Crown Reef	5 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	Randfontein	12 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Driefontein	5 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	3 1/2	8 1/2
5 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	5 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Do. Randfontein	3 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	East Rand	5 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Rodepoort United	6 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	East Rand Extension	5 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Salsbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Ferrelra	5 1/2	18 1/2	10 1/2	Sheba (New)	10 1/2	10 1/2
5 1/2	French Rand	5 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Geduld	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	5 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Steyn Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Ginsburg	5 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Glencarm	5 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	5 1/2	10 1/2	3 1/2	Treasury	3 1/2	3 1/2
5 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	5 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
5 1/2	Henry Nourse	5 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Vereniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Heriot	5 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Vogelstruis	3 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	5 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Welgedacht	5 1/2	6 1/2
5 1/2	Jubilee	5 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Wemmer	5 1/2	5 1/2
5 1/2	Jumpers	5 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Kleinfontein	5 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Knight's	5 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Lancaster	5 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
5 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	5 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Nourse Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chindrella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	1 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rose Deep	1 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Village Main Reef	1 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	1 1/2	3 1/2

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Northern Copper	2 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia, Ltd. (5/ pd.)	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	1 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Do. Exploration	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Lomgunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Selakwe	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mashanaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	1 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witloughby	1 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Koffyfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lace Diamond	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	1 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Kanfersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbotiakoan	1 1/2	9 1/2	6 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	6 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Akmasi (New)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/ paid 3/ ds.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Goldfields East'n Akim	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Himan Concessions	1 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Ashanti Sansu	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Obhass Syndicate	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	1 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Broumassie	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Taqnah and Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Efuenta (Wassau)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Panti Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	2 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2	Ida H.	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	2 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nib. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	1 1/2	3 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Browhill Extended	1 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	Lancefield	10 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	2 1/2	11 1/2	London & W.A. Exploration	11 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	Cosmocon, Pr'p'ty	1 1/2	5 1/2	6 1/2	Mount Boppy	6 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	1 1/2	7 1/2	3 1/2	North Kalgurli	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Links	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Pole	1 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	Peak Hill	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/	1 1/2	24 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	1 1/2	15 1/2	3 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	3 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Great Bingall	1 1/2	6 1/2	3 1/2	W.A. Goldfields	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	W'str lla Mt. Morgans	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

6 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	6 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
33 1/2	Balaghat, full pd.	33 1/2	33 1/2	27 1/2	Mount Lyell	27 1/2	29 1/2
10 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	10 1/2	10 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
55 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	55 1/2	57 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	3 1/2	3 1/2
5 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	10 1/2	Do. West, 19/	10 1/2	10 1/2
32 1/2	Champion Reef, 10s.	32 1/2	32 1/2	10 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 19/	10 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Coniapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/ shares	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Esperanza	5 1/2	5 1/2	19 1/2	O'og egum	19 1/2	19 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5.	10 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	St. John del Rey	11 1/2	11 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Waihi	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Lunares, £3.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Ymir	4 1/2	4 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	
Alcoy and Gandia.....	Oct. 28	Ps. 15,000	+ Ps. 8,500	Ps. 598,100	+ Ps. 8,900	
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Sept. *	\$1,000,000	+ \$176,000	\$8,481,000	+ \$188,000	
Argentine Gt. Western	Oct. 27	11,852	+ 2,247	214,049	+ 35,406	
Algiciras (Gibralta)	" 21	Ps. 33,818	- Ps. 6,484	Ps. 357,915	- Ps. 71,813	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 28	27,833	+ 7,529	435,554	+ 121,319	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 28	73,216	+ 4,623	3,303,467	+ 116,699	
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 29	69,541	+ 6,506	1,091,596	+ 185,959	
Do. Western	" 29	32,088	+ 3,704	490,722	+ 87,464	
Do. Ensenada	" 29	375	+ 12	5,055	+ 134	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 28	5,979	+ 3,619	117,437	+ 6,850	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 28	1,680	+ 1,860	23,022	+ 3,215	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 28	962	+ 707	17,030	+ 5,453	
Do. Western Ex.	" 28	914	+ 152	16,643	+ 4,089	
Cordoba Central	" 29	3,145	+ 220	129,120	+ 5,040	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 29	7,176	+ 1,209	232,035	+ 16,165	
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 29	2,470	+ 340	82,595	+ 7,535	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 29	4,365	+ 465	73,450	+ 5,450	
Costa Rica	" 28	3,626	+ 276	60,528	+ 4,243	
Cuban Central	" 28	4,646	+ 1,701	81,154	+ 18,275	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 28	11,988	+ 5,138	335,898	+ 141,170	
Entre Rios	" 28	2,633	+ 254	50,243	+ 12,710	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 21	\$120,000	+ \$10,530	\$1,804,500	+ \$79,651	
Leopoldina	" 28	33,123	+ 10,339	907,457	+ 258,615	
Mexican	Sept. *	\$469,500	+ \$5,400	\$1,557,500	+ \$143,000	
Mexican	Oct. 28	\$117,000	+ \$7,200	\$2,022,500	+ \$108,300	
Do. Southern	" 31	\$28,537	+ \$8,526	\$1,072,617	+ \$18,975	
Do. Central	Aug. *	\$2,294,684	+ \$204,789	\$4,413,431	+ \$377,220	
Do. Do.	Aug. *	\$738,876	+ \$123,902	\$1,357,431	+ \$220,835	
Manila	Oct. 28	\$23,885	+ \$4,697	\$1,488,105	+ \$271,132	
Nitrate	" 31	32,483	+ 8,520	449,217	+ 92,060	
Ottoman	" 28	10,952	+ 689	141,458	+ 16,499	
Peruvian Corporation	Sept. *	\$624,403	+ \$87,800	\$1,831,925	+ \$292,325	
San Paulo	Oct. 22	40,850	+ 6,405	588,187	+ 76,224	
Salvador	" 28	\$19,000	+ \$5,750	\$21,904	+ \$3,901	
United of Havana	" 28	\$4,700	+ 1,516	144,405	+ 26,040	
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 28	1,073	+ 203	49,009	+ 5,995	
Western of Havana	" 28	4,115	-	28,077	+ 3,50	

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED **£5,500,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over £1,000,000.

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

NON-CONTENTIOUS POLICY CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

All week borrowers have usually had to pay 4 per cent. and upwards for seven-day money. Call loans might sometimes fall to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but not until this afternoon did the figure for such go below that, and yesterday so keen was the demand for advances that they rose to $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., with the pressure continuing to the last hour. This pressure arose from the Stock Exchange settlement payments, and continued in a modified way this morning, when banks had again no difficulty in getting 4 per cent. for their seven-day money when they chose to hold out for it. A good deal, however, was borrowed at $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., which was occasionally, though not often, the rate earlier in the week, and in the afternoon call money became so abundant that those offering it at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. overnight could not always find borrowers.

Where this flush of credits came from we could not quite learn. Some said the Government had "let out a lump," to use market language, others that balances had been released by one or two of the joint-stock banks, and still another explanation was that too much credit had been provided yesterday for the Consol settlement payments, and was knocking about to-day depressing rates. It can only be a temporary ease, whatever its source, and the India Council had no difficulty in doing a good business to-day in renewals and fresh loans at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for about a month.

Bill brokers tried to maintain the discount rate with a fair unanimity at almost 4 per cent. They quoted that rate as a rule, and have done so all the week, but business has been done at $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. below it when the market felt in the mood to work at all, and therefore the discount business has not gone to the Bank in any volume. Some days it does nothing at all,

whether in loans or discounts, but as a rule the market is at its mercy, thanks to our brilliantly managed Treasury. Bank bills due within the year, however, were not taken under 4 per cent., even to-day, and one or two houses persisted in quoting 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for such. If, as is reported probable, the Imperial Bank of Germany puts up its discount rate to-morrow to 6 per cent., we shall have our market in a greater state of nervousness than ever and its stringency accentuated.

In the main the gold movements this week have been favourable, as the Bank got about £500,000 of the supply of raw metal in the market last Monday, and has not been drawn upon for export to any formidable extent. It is reported, moreover, that another 1,000,000 sovereigns are to be shipped from Bombay to-morrow, and Egypt will doubtless take part or the whole of them in satisfaction of demands which would otherwise come direct on our market. The French, however, seem likely to compete for the supply of raw metal due in on Monday next, the total of which will only be about £370,000, and the Paris cheque to-night came weak at 25.14. No wonder that some people talk of a 7 per cent. rate as a possibility of the not distant future. We hope nothing of the kind will come, because that would in all probability mean the failure of several banks, but a 5 per cent. rate is quite probable in the near future, what with Russian financial complications and the overburdened conditions of all money markets.

SILVER.

The ordinary trade demand for bars has shrunk to minute proportions, and except for a moderate inquiry from the Indian Government the market has had little to do. Spot metal, however, continues very scarce, and the nett result of the fluctuations of $\frac{1}{16}$ d. which occurred during the week left the price unaltered at $28\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz. Silver for delivery two months forward has been even less sought after, and after touching $28\frac{3}{8}$ d. closes $\frac{1}{16}$ d. lower on the week at $28\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz. Applications for the Rs. 1,20,00,000 Council drafts in India on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 7,24,20,000 in bills and Rs. 1,35,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Allotments were made of Rs. 93,83,000 in bills and Rs. 26,17,000 in transfers, tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. $4\frac{1}{16}$ d. per rupee receiving about 19 per cent. The amount to be offered next week is reduced to Rs. 1,00,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, November 1, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 48,137,060	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	29,687,060
		Silver Bullion	—
	£ 48,137,060		£ 48,137,060

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities	£ 16,840,006
Reserve	3,195,829	Other Securities	34,085,604
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	13,641,351	Notes	18,947,965
Other Deposits	40,226,223	Gold and Silver Coin	1,822,680
Seven Day and other Bills	79,852		
	£ 71,696,255		£ 71,696,255

Dated November 2, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE Chief Cashier

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	—	Jan. 2 ?	—
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 11
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
23,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Nov. 2.		Oct. 25, 1905.	Nov. 1, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,162,341	Rest	3,183,812	3,195,829	12,017	—
7,583,987	Pub. Deposits ..	13,331,007	13,641,351	310,344	—
39,619,452	Other do. ..	40,072,126	40,226,223	154,097	—
85,846	7 Day Bills ..	73,442	79,852	6,410	—
15,144,802	Assets.	16,647,729	16,840,006	—	Increase.
25,196,449	Gov. Securities ..	31,923,525	31,509,740	—	192,277
24,663,375	Other do. ..	33,080,448	34,085,604	—	1,005,156
	Total Reserve ..	21,485,210	20,770,645	714,565	—
				1,197,433	1,197,433
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,249,335	Coin and Bullion	28,888,315	29,189,095	200,780	—
34,462,710	Proportion ..	31,923,525	31,509,740	—	413,785
52½ p.c.	Bank Rate ..	40½ p.c.	38½ p.c.	—	1½ p.c.
3 "		4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £11,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
Week ending				
August 2	276,003,000	197,842,000	78,161,000	—
" 9	198,949,000	202,728,000	—	3,779,000
" 16	237,068,000	200,284,000	36,784,000	—
" 23	211,787,000	154,068,000	57,719,000	—
" 30	174,559,000	190,242,000	—	15,683,000
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
" 27	187,852,000	164,860,000	22,992,000	—
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,726,000	27,856,000	—
" 18	270,692,000	226,552,000	44,140,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,631,000	15,589,000	—
Nov. 1	270,695,000	250,973,000	19,722,000	—
	10,356,757,000	8,774,294,000	1,582,463,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday, Bars £22,000	Saturday, Egypt £175,000
Monday, Gibraltar £5,000	Monday, Continent £50,000
Tuesday, Bars £80,000	
Wednesday, Bars £96,000	
Thursday, Bars £145,000	Net Influx £270,000
Friday, Bars £147,000	
Total £495,000	Total £495,000

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	3
Berlin	5	October 3, 1905	4½
Hamburg	5	October 3, 1905	4½
Frankfort	5	October 3, 1905	4½
Amsterdam	2½	March, 1905	2½
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4½
St. Petersburg	5½	February, 1904	7½
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	1
Stockholm	5	September 22, 1905.	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½
Calcutta	5	September 29, 1905	—
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	—
New York call money ..	6	—	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15	25'14	Antwerp	short	25'24½	5'23
Brussels	chqs.	25'23½	25'22½	Italy	sight	25'11	25'10½
Amsterdam	sight	12'13½	12'13	Constantinople	3 mths	110'05	110'05
Berlin	chqs.	20'40½	20'45½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	16½d.	16½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'25	20'24½	Valparaiso ..	90 dys	5½d.	15½d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'45	20'44	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort	short	20'43½	20'42½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna	sight	24'04	24'03	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/11½	1/11½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'80	93'80	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/9½	2/9½
New York	60 dys	4'83½	4'82½	Singapore ..	4 mths	2/18	2/18
Lisbon	sight	50½	50½	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	32'33	32'10				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Oct. 28.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs £ 738,000	National Debt Services .. £ 24,223
Excise £ 769,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties .. £ 187,000	Charges
Stamps £ 193,000	Payments to Local Taxa-
Lamp Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax.. £ 61,800	Supply Services £ 1,326,000
Post Office £ 310,000	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands £ 50,000	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds
Miscellaneous £ 7,077	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts ..	Act
Land Registry Acts ..	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means £ 2,500,000	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency	Cunard Agreement £ 63,387
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	paid
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid
Temporary Advance ..	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances £ 3,400,967
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
	£4,815,077
	£4,815,077

* Exclusive of £428,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £5,212,717.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 24.	Oct. 26.	Oct. 31.	Nov. 2.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'45	25'45	25'47½	25'47½
Hamburg	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'72	20'72
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'72	20'72	20'72	20'72
Paris	cheques	25'16½	25'16½	25'15	25'15
Do.	3 months	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½
Switzerland	3 months	25'37½	25'38½	25'37½	25'37½
Switzerland	3 months	25'51½	25'51½	25'51½	25'51½
Austria	3 months	24'33	24'36	24'34	24'31
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'48½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P...	3 months	36½	36½	36½	36½
Lisbon	3 months	49½	50	50	50
Oporto	3 months	49½	50	50	50
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'41	18'41	18'41
Christiania	3 months	18'41	18'42	18'42	18'42
Stockholm	3 months	18'41	18'42	18'42	18'42

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Oct. 28, 1905.	Oct. 21, 1905	Oct. 14, 1905	Oct. 29, 1904
Specie	£ 39,212,000	£ 38,632,000	£ 38,390,000	£ 47,672,000
Legal tenders	15,379,000	15,077,400	14,959,800	15,908,400
Loans and discounts ..	208,360,000	205,340,000	206,060,000	228,460,000
Circulation	10,978,000	10,936,200	10,831,200	8,649,800
Net deposits	208,420,000	204,780,000	205,240,000	240,880,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,486,000 against an excess last week of £2,514,400.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 23, 1905.	Oct. 14, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£ 44,980,083	£ 45,541,000	£ 45,541,208	£ 48,651,083
Silver reserve	11,975,541	12,054,916	12,063,416	12,012,416
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	2,344,833	2,002,416	2,021,666	2,029,416
Note circulation	76,894,833	72,888,916	72,281,000	74,514,125
Bills discounted	25,382,333	22,150,500	21,205,833	20,411,873

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 26, 1905.	Oct. 19, 1905	Oct. 12, 1905.	Oct. 27, 1904.
Coin and bullion	£ 4,757,960	£ 4,865,560	£ 4,795,360	£ 4,812,800
Other securities	23,688,920	23,373,600	23,104,480	22,194,400
Note circulation	27,188,960	26,841,040	27,085,800	26,048,520
Deposits	3,324,800	3,319,000	2,892,120	3,009,080

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 23, 1905.	Oct. 14, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1904.
Cash in hand	£ 39,708,700	£ 41,720,450	£ 39,367,050	£ 45,100,190
Bills discounted	55,474,250	51,779,800	55,758,650	43,600,900
Advances on stocks ..	4,087,750	3,691,500	4,013,850	3,501,000
Note circulation	72,103,600	69,410,200	72,512,550	68,973,450
Public deposits	24,374,650	26,537,050	25,882,800	23,727,950

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 28, 1905.	Oct. 21, 1905	Oct. 14, 1905	Oct. 29, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Gold	14,973,044	14,968,842	14,961,193	14,839,691
Silver	22,568,513	22,428,561	22,389,067	20,097,924
Foreign Bills	2,501,426	2,477,782	2,424,855	1,551,079
Discount and Short Bills	45,792,978	45,712,036	45,819,276	38,733,928
Treasury Account	20,917,092	20,875,066	20,824,416	22,050,651
Notes in circulation	63,046,329	63,214,283	63,319,009	65,557,036
Current Account deposits	21,908,427	21,770,474	21,733,062	25,130,578
Dividends Interests	3,015,170	2,901,895	2,987,885	2,621,158
Government Securities	5,475,611	5,374,080	5,123,508	5,070,782

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 2, 1905.	Oct. 26, 1905.	Oct. 19, 1905.	Nov. 3, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	116,058,760	116,629,240	116,787,040	103,858,400
Silver in hand	43,632,800	43,811,240	43,814,800	43,881,030
Bills discounted	38,351,600	29,243,600	30,137,320	34,453,280
Advances	19,147,400	18,979,200	19,220,280	20,593,200
Note circulation	184,710,720	179,068,440	181,268,840	177,814,680
Public deposits	13,178,720	12,905,200	10,594,160	7,514,120
Private deposits	22,544,800	22,479,560	23,411,440	21,070,380

Proportion between bullion and circulation $86\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against $88\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1905.	Sept. 20, 1905.	Sept. 10, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Reserve	28,066,000	28,045,560	28,002,680	25,441,080
State notes and small change	439,320	511,600	479,120	452,200
Discount and loans	14,281,000	11,709,760	11,221,240	11,499,760
Public stock and State loans	8,407,640	8,408,000	8,411,800	8,429,120
Credits	7,025,120	6,728,800	6,602,840	6,844,140
Note Circulation	40,327,040	37,995,200	37,774,640	36,557,400
Current account	2,266,960	2,982,680	3,228,840	4,274,880
Deposits	4,629,080	3,939,640	3,782,680	3,282,600

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 8/21, 1905.	Oct. 1/14, 1905.	Sep. 23/Oct. 6, 1905.	Oct. 8/21, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	89,198,652	87,991,437	89,611,583	84,139,256
Silver and subsidiary coin	4,000,973	10,658,721	4,324,000	6,943,590
Advances and bills discounted	38,974,061	38,811,365	37,970,029	40,145,353
Securities belonging to the Bank	7,238,173	7,200,687	7,362,360	7,282,627
Notes in circulation	109,397,144	109,560,704	110,413,244	82,405,066
Deposits and current account	47,337,421	45,430,750	55,006,300	42,379,342
Treasury account	3,488,154	6,493,677	7,323,744	22,913,293

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	48
Three months	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4
Four months	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4
Six months	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4
Three months fine inland bills	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Four months	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Six months	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{3}{4}$

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" " short loan rates	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bankers' rate on deposits	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Current rates for 7 day loans	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4
" " for call loans	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4

total accumulation under the head of public deposits of £13,641,000, or fully £6,000,000 more than the figure at this time last year. Had this money been in the market's possession, as it ought to have been under any rational or prudent system of Government management, there would have been no 5 per cent. rate on Consols at the settlement concluded this week, nor would the Stock Exchange as a whole have been driven to pay cruelly burdensome rates of continuation.

What is the necessity for all this piling up of banking credit on Government account at the Bank of England? There is the necessity of paying off £10,000,000 of the £14,000,000 of Treasury bills due on December 7, and the Treasury officials, with their wonderful Chancellor of the Exchequer to guide them, seem to be totally incapable of realising that the gathering and hoarding up of this money, all of it borrowed, might any week bring a disastrous crisis on stock and money markets alike. It will do that almost to a certainty if the money is not somehow released, for at the present time the debt of the market to the Bank under one head or another must be between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000, and it is paying $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the greater part of this money. On the one hand the Treasury gathers up the market resources by discounting short term bills at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or calling up instalments on the April issue of Exchequer bonds, yielding 3 per cent., and on the other the market has to go and borrow the credit again at whatever rate the Bank likes to ask, mostly at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This is surely wonderful finance, marvellous business management. Can anybody who looks at it calmly be surprised that stock markets are unhappy, that prices do not "get away," that even Home Railway stocks refuse to bound upward after the fashion sanguine "bulls" have been telling us to look for these many weeks back? Not only is business in existing securities hampered by this Government-induced market poverty, but the way is barred to the issue of new securities of which there are a great variety waiting to court public favour. And one of these days there will be a whirlwind and a collapse.

Politics are blamed for the stagnation of markets, especially the revolutionary upheaval in Russia, but if money had been cheap this particular influence making for stagnation would have been ignored in a good many departments of the Stock Exchange. As it is the plight of Russia and the ominous outlook for holders of Russian securities just add that final touch of misery which predisposes the multitude to take a pessimistic view of the future, and therefore to keep away from the markets unless when it takes to selling "bears." Such being the position, it is useless for us to discuss individual sections of the market, still less the prospects of individual securities. We can only wait to see what will turn up, and the wise man will wait carrying as little sail as he possibly can.

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Not a few "bulls" of Consols had to pay 5 per cent. and sometimes $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the use of money to the December settlement. It was a very high price, and a continuance of such charges for a few months would be certain to lead to serious failures in this market. We do not pity it much for it has supported the present Government through thick and thin, and therefore deserves punishment. This is said of the market as a whole. Individuals therein doubtless deserve commiseration, but we can have little sympathy with the dealers as a class. They were eager to subscribe to the various loans issued by the Government, and regardless of all prudence took some of them at ridiculously excessive prices. Now the Government has turned round, and is callously bleeding them to death, as the Exchequer figures and Bank return show. According to last week's revenue return, the balances of the Treasury in the Banks of England and Ireland were increased by £3,401,000 during the week, £2,500,000 of that amount coming from new three months' Treasury kites, and Thursday's Bank return showed a

The Week's Stock Markets.

The position of Stock Exchange operations is not a very pleasant one just now. Hopes are buoyed up one day only to be shattered the next, and dealing with a fair chance of coming out on the right side must be exceedingly difficult. Russian affairs have, of course, been the dominating influence on markets this week, and as the news from that wretched country seemed favourable or otherwise dealers became cheerful or disconsolate, with prices, as usual, reflecting the prevailing mood. Monday was a day of uncertainty, with all wondering how far the Czar would go in conceding the demands of the Reform party, a steady opening being followed by a reaction in the absence of reassuring news, but on Tuesday prices bounded up in response to the intelligence that the Russian people had been granted a constitution. Unhappily, the enthusiasm was short lived, because since the Czar's proclamation the position has steadily grown worse, and at the moment of writing anarchy and riot reign supreme. So after the brief respite caused by the closing of the

House on All Saints' Day, all is gloom once more, with genuine business almost paralysed, and people wondering what will happen next. The monetary situation, too, is gradually becoming more acute, and although the Bank directors are evidently doing their best to avert it by purchasing as much gold as possible in the open market the possibility of a 5 per cent. Bank rate is again being discussed. Not a cheerful outlook truly. Monday was Contango day in Consols, and money, as we last week said it would be, was dear and hard come

The Foreign Bond market was fairly active, with most of the attention centred upon the Russian and Japanese issues. The movements in the first-named were quite sensational, a big advance being registered on the day the reforms were known, all issues sharing, but the close was naturally weak again, with a heavy slump in the 5 per cent. 1882. Japanese, on the other hand, were a good market throughout, buying being stimulated by talk of the immediate launching of the conversion loan for 50 or 60 millions to take the form of

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 1/2	87 1/2	Consols (2 1/2 p.c. Money) ..	88 1/2	88 1/2
91 1/2	87 1/2	Do. Account (Dec. 1) ..	88 1/2	88 1/2
90 1/2	86 1/2	2 1/2 p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	87 1/2	87 1/2
100 1/2	99 1/2	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
95 1/2	89 1/2	Irish Land (2 1/2) ..	90 1/2	90 1/2
101 1/2	96 1/2	Local Loans (3) ..	99 1/2	99 1/2
99 1/2	97 1/2	National War Loan (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	98 1/2	98 1/2
99 1/2	97 1/2	Do. Account (Dec. 1) ..	98 1/2	98 1/2
101 1/2	97 1/2	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98 1/2	98 1/2
30 1/2	29 1/2	Bk. of England Stock (9 p.c.) ..	29 1/2	29 1/2
109 1/2	104 1/2	India 3 1/2 p.c. Stock red. 1931 ..	103 1/2	103 1/2
99 1/2	95 1/2	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948 ..	95 1/2	95 1/2
85 1/2	80 1/2	Do. 2 1/2 p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	80 1/2	80 1/2
66 1/2	65 1/2	Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66 1/2	66 1/2

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ordy. (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	138	138
165	152 1/2	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157	157
131 1/2	116 1/2	Do. Def. (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	126	125 1/2
120	111	Caledonian Ordy. (3 1/2 p.c.) ..	117	117
83 1/2	77 1/2	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78	78 1/2
40	33 1/2	Do. Def. (5 p.c.) ..	39 1/2	40
94 1/2	88 1/2	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	92
86 1/2	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84	84 1/2
17 1/2	15 1/2	Chatham Ordinary ..	17 1/2	17 1/2
47 1/2	37 1/2	City and South London (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	45	44
71	69 1/2	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	71	70
39 1/2	28 1/2	Great Central Pref. ..	38 1/2	38 1/2
79	15 1/2	Do. Def. ..	19	18 1/2
93 1/2	80 1/2	Great Eastern (3 1/2 p.c.) ..	87	86 1/2
108 1/2	98 1/2	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102	101 1/2
43 1/2	38 1/2	Do. Def. (1) ..	41	43 1/2
145 1/2	135 1/2	Great Western (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	141 1/2	142 1/2
50 1/2	52	Highland (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	52 1/2	52 1/2
49 1/2	41	Hull and Barnsley (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	47 1/2	47 1/2
112 1/2	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 1/2 p.c.) ..	108	109 1/2
100	88 1/2	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	93	92
42 1/2	34 1/2	Metropolitan District ..	38 1/2	38 1/2
71	65 1/2	Midland Pref. (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	68 1/2	69 1/2
71	62 1/2	Do. Def. (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	70	71
83 1/2	76 1/2	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77 1/2	78
49 1/2	43 1/2	Do. Def. (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	45 1/2	46 1/2
144 1/2	134	North-Eastern (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	143 1/2	143 1/2
160 1/2	147	North-Western (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	159	159
96	84 1/2	South-Eastern Ord. (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	96	95
135	122 1/2	Do. Pref. (4 1/2 p.c.) ..	135	134
60 1/2	48 1/2	Do. Def. ..	60	58 1/2
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	161 1/2	160 1/2
111 1/2	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106	106
60 1/2	52 1/2	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	59	59

by. No operator was able to borrow at less than 4 1/2 per cent., and some unhappy "bulls" were obliged to pay 5 per cent. for loans into September, in addition to which there was a difference against them of no less than 1 1/2. Under the circumstances prices held up pretty well, and not all the improvement which occurred early in the week was knocked off before the end. The advance was shared by Annuities, Irish Land stock, War Loan, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per cent., and India sterling issues, but Bank of England stock gave way another 1, being sold as low as 293. Very little went on in the Home County and Corporation division, but Birmingham 3 1/2 per cent. and Stockton 3 per cent. went up £1, and Cardiff 3 1/2 per cent. 1/2, while Birmingham and Eastbourne 3 per cent. were each 1 lower.

a 4 per cent. issue at 90. These statements have since been officially described as premature, but undoubtedly the thing is on the way. Continental stocks, aside from Russians, added fractions, and in the South American group Cédulas were again prominent, with

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 1/2	99 1/2	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102 1/2	102 1/2
102 1/2	97 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101	101
106 1/2	100 1/2	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	100 1/2	100 1/2
104 1/2	98 1/2	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101	101
93 1/2	85 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Reiss ..	92	92 1/2
93 1/2	85 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	90	89 1/2
92 1/2	85 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	90	89 1/2
104 1/2	99 1/2	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101	100 1/2
92 1/2	82 1/2	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	88	87 1/2
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99	100
106	101 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104	104
91 1/2	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89 1/2	89 1/2
102 1/2	95 1/2	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101	101
97	87 1/2	Chilian 4 1/2 p.c. 1885 ..	96	96
98 1/2	89 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1886 ..	98	98
96 1/2	88 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1895 ..	94	94
102 1/2	96 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101 1/2	101 1/2
107	100 1/2	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98	94 1/2
106 1/2	100 1/2	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106 1/2	106 1/2
102 1/2	92 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103	103
106 1/2	99 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99 1/2	99
59 1/2	28 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104 1/2	104 1/2
51 1/2	2 1/2	Costa Rica A ..	56	54
107 1/2	104 1/2	Do. B ..	46	45
107 1/2	104 1/2	Colombian External ..	43 1/2	43 1/2
107 1/2	104 1/2	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106	106
107 1/2	104 1/2	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	106 1/2	104 1/2
107 1/2	104 1/2	Do. 3 1/2 p.c. pref. ..	101 1/2	101
107 1/2	104 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
91 1/2	82 1/2	German 3 p.c. ..	87 1/2	87
54 1/2	47	Greek, 1884 ..	53	52 1/2
55 1/2	48 1/2	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53	52 1/2
44	38 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	42	41 1/2
54 1/2	47	Do. Funding ..	53	52
100 1/2	96 1/2	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96 1/2	96
106 1/2	102 1/2	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 1/2	104 1/2
103 1/2	88 1/2	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102 1/2	103
103 1/2	88 1/2	Do. New ..	100 1/2	100 1/2
91 1/2	76 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	91 1/2	91 1/2
106 1/2	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102	102
106 1/2	102 1/2	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103 1/2	103 1/2
70 1/2	64 1/2	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70	69 1/2
95 1/2	86	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	91 1/2	91
83 1/2	76	Serbian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
95 1/2	89 1/2	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	92	91 1/2
103 1/2	100 1/2	Turks 3 1/2 p.c. Tribute ..	101	101
103 1/2	100 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103	103
92	86 1/2	Uruguay 3 1/2 p.c. Unified ..	89 1/2	89 1/2
74 1/2	63 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. ..	72 1/2	72 1/2
99	86 1/2	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	95	95
51 1/2	42 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. ..	50	49 1/2

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95 1/2	80 1/2	Atchison Shares (4) ..	90 1/2	90 1/2
108 1/2	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	107 1/2	107 1/2
120 1/2	104 1/2	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	116	115 1/2
102	97 1/2	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100	100
61 1/2	46 1/2	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	58 1/2	57 1/2
193 1/2	173 1/2	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	186 1/2	185
38	27 1/2	Denver Shares ..	34 1/2	35 1/2
93 1/2	85 1/2	Do. Pref. (5) ..	90 1/2	90 1/2
54 1/2	35 1/2	Erie Shares ..	49 1/2	49 1/2
87 1/2	77 1/2	Do. Pref. (4) ..	83 1/2	83 1/2
80 1/2	56 1/2	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	74	73 1/2
187	156	Illinois Central (7) ..	184 1/2	183 1/2
161 1/2	140 1/2	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	156 1/2	157 1/2
36 1/2	24 1/2	Missouri and Texas ..	33 1/2	36 1/2
169 1/2	140 1/2	New York Central (5) ..	157	155 1/2
90 1/2	77 1/2	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	89 1/2	89 1/2
96 1/2	94 1/2	Do. Pref. (4) ..	95	95
65 1/2	41 1/2	Ontario Shares ..	56 1/2	55 1/2
76 1/2	67 1/2	Pennsylvania (6) ..	74 1/2	74 1/2
65 1/2	40 1/2	Reading Shares ..	64 1/2	63 1/2
49 1/2	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	49	50 1/2
51 1/2	43 1/2	Do. 2nd Pref. (2) ..	51	50 1/2
74	50 1/2	Southern Pacific ..	73 1/2	73 1/2
39 1/2	28 1/2	Do. Pref. (5) ..	37 1/2	37 1/2
104 1/2	97 1/2	Union Pacific (4) ..	102 1/2	102 1/2
116 1/2	107 1/2	Do. Pref. (4) ..	137 1/2	136 1/2
102 1/2	98 1/2	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100	99
24 1/2	11 1/2	Wabash ..	22 1/2	22 1/2
49 1/2	37 1/2	Do. Pref. ..	43	43
80 1/2	69 1/2	Do. Income Debs. ..	78	77
182 1/2	135	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	176 1/2	177 1/2
109	102 1/2	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	107
112	108 1/2	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110 1/2	110 1/2
26 1/2	19 1/2	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	24 1/2	24 1/2
104 1/2	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102	101 1/2
115 1/2	107 1/2	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	112 1/2	112
107	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	103 1/2	102
62 1/2	40 1/2	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	59 1/2	58 1/2
109 1/2	107 1/2	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108	107 1/2

a further sharp rise. Argentine Government stocks were likewise favoured in a small way; also Brazilians and Chilians, but Peruvians had no particular tendency. Venezuelans went up in the Central American group, but Guatemalans and Colombians displayed some weakness. Chinese were firm.

In the midst of the uneasiness produced by the outbreak in Russia Home Railway stocks were conspicuous

by their firmness, and when on Tuesday the Stock Exchange made up its mind that the concessions made by the Czar meant the end of the troubles the market became fairly active. A good proportion of the business was no doubt due to "bears" covering in view of the House being closed on November 1, but in addition to that some support was received from the investing public. A good batch of traffic returns helped to increase the cheerful feeling, but dealers had hardly settled down to business on Thursday, and business in consequence was not sufficiently important to affect prices to any material extent. Great Northern issues, and especially the deferred, have been in demand from the North, and show fair gains on the week. Lancashire and Yorkshire, too, was bought pretty vigorously, and Great Western and Midland preferred and deferred also advanced smartly. Furness, however, suffered a reaction of £1 or so, and the stale bull account in South-Eastern deferred had a depressing effect on quotations for all that company's stocks. South-Western ordinary, Metropolitan and City and South London were all substantially lower and Great Central preferred and deferred and Great Eastern showed weakness.

excellent, and with strong buying from New York the shares on balance showed a fair improvement.

The market responded to the optimistic note struck by the chairman of the United Railways of the Havana Company at the meeting on Monday by hoisting the price of the ordinary stock to 218½, and it closed very little below that figure. Brazilian Railway stocks were again helped by the strength of the exchange, San Paulo ordinary especially being firm, and Antofagasta ordinary has once more moved upwards. The gamble in Cordova and North-Western debentures has broken out again, and transactions were recorded as high as 46½, but Argentine Railways as a rule were inclined to drag owing to reports of locusts, and Great Western ordinary and Bahia Blanca preferred in particular were heavy. Midland Uruguay ordinary and debenture stocks continue to attract a fair amount of attention, and closed 1 to 2 up, and other Uruguay things were steady. Paraguay Central debenture stock received further support, Nitrate Railway shares were also harder, and further substantial improvements were scored in the stocks of the old Mexican Company, but Mexican Southern issues fell back on a few sales. Russian Railways moved in irregular fashion, Grand Russian Nicolai bonds losing 2, while Moscow-Windau-Rybinsk bonds put on 1½.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10).. ..	216½	219
321	144½	Do. Def. (15)	305	305
130½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	129	125xd
131	113½	Do. Prfd. (5)	129	126xd
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Prfd.	83½	82
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	143½	138½xd
133½	127	Do. Prefce (5)	132	129xd
141	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	140	140
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	115
110½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
115	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	111	110
107½	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	104½	104
170½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	165
109½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	107
142½	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	142	138xd
93	79	Central Uruguay (3)	91	88xd
100	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	108	108
95½	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	93	93
76½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	72	71
35½	28	Costa Rica (1)	24	24
79	50½	Cuban Central	72	72
124	107½	Do. Pref. (5½)	112	112xd
107½	104½	Do. Deb. (4½)	105	105
95½	72	East Argentine (4½)	94	93
74	62	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	64	64
84½	50½	Leopoldina (3)	80½	80½
97½	86½	Do. Deb. (4)	95½	95½
110½	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	110	110
108	104½	Do. "B" (6)	105	105
208	198	Mexican Ord. Stk.	244	244
121½	103½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	118½	118½
57	36½	Do. 2nd Pref.	47½	47½
69½	48½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	56	54
17	10½	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	15½	15½xd
198	164	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	192	192
214	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	210	214
217½	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	212½	217½

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	Allsopp Ordinary	20	19
71	40	City of London Ord.	62½	60½
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	550
27½	21½	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23	23
27½	21½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	23	23
27½	21½	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	34	34
68½	48	Watney, Combe, P. Or. St. (4) ..	59½	59½
35	15	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	22	22
105	99	London & Ind. Docks P. St. (4) ..	101	101
78½	56½	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	67	65
6½	5½	Aerated Bread (3½)	6	6½
7½	6	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
6½	5½	Ass'd. Portland Cement P. St. (5½) ..	6½	6½
17½	17½	Bradford Dymers Ord. (7) ..	17½	17½
119	9½	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	22½	22½
119	9½	Brunner Mond (35)	74	74
51½	47½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11½	11½xd
502½	483½	Calico Printers Ordinary (24) ..	500	500
179	179	Coats Ordinary (20)	500	500
179	179	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	500	500
179	179	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	179	179
179	179	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	179	179
179	179	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	179	179
179	179	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	179	179
179	179	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	179	179
179	179	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	179	179
179	179	Do. Debenture (4½)	179	179
179	179	Lipton Ordinary (7)	179	179
179	179	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	179	179
179	179	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	179	179
179	179	Russian Petroleum (5)	179	179
179	179	Savoy Hotel (5)	179	179
179	179	Sweetmeat Automatic	179	179
179	179	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	179	179
179	179	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	179	179
179	179	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	179	179
179	179	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	179	179
179	179	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	179	179
179	179	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. P. St. (1½) ..	179	179
179	179	Do. Debentures (6)	179	179
179	179	National Discount (10)	179	179
179	179	Union Discount (11)	179	179
179	179	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	179	179
179	179	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	179	179
179	179	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½) ..	179	179
179	179	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	179	179
179	179	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	179	179
179	179	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	179	179
179	179	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	179	179
179	179	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	179	179
179	179	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3½) ..	179	179
179	179	United States Steel Ordinary ..	179	179
179	179	Do. Preference (7)	179	179
179	179	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	179	179
179	179	Cunard Steam	179	179
179	179	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	179	179
179	179	Royal Mail	179	179
179	179	Union-Castle Mail Steamship ..	179	179
179	179	Ordinary (5)	179	179
179	179	Anglo-American Telegraph— ..	179	179
179	179	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	179	179
179	179	Do. Def. Ord.	179	179
179	179	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	179	179
179	179	Eastern Extension (7)	179	179
179	179	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	179	179
179	179	Western Telegraph (7)	179	179
179	179	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	179	179
179	179	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	179	179
179	179	London General Omnibus (8) ..	179	179
179	179	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	179	179

Money in New York has been decidedly harder this week, and this stiffening of loan rates has prevented anything like an organised effort to keep quotations for Yankee Rails on the upward tack. Wall Street made the usual spasmodic attempts to put things higher, and the few favourites selected for the demonstration were hoisted merrily enough, but the outstanding strength of these merely emphasised the heaviness of the rest of the market. Missouri and Kansas were amongst the chosen, and although they eased off a little before the end they still topped the list with a gain of several dollars. Louisville, Reading common and Denver ordinary followed with an advance of \$1 or thereabouts, but Milwaukee, Illinois Central, New York Central, Norfolk common, Ontario, South Pacific, and Southern ordinary and preference were all appreciably lower.

The "bulls" of Grand Trunk stocks were bitterly disappointed with the September statement, which showed a decrease in nett earnings of £9,100 instead of the increase of £13,000 to £15,000 so confidently anticipated. Prices of the ordinary and second and third preferences tumbled rapidly after the figures were announced, and although a slight rally naturally followed, the life seemed to have gone out of the market for the time being, and a fresh relapse occurred on the resumption of business on Thursday. On the other hand the Canadian Pacific statement was regarded as

Miscellaneous securities attracted very little attention, and the tendency on the whole was somewhat irregular. Iron and steel issues commenced with a

further rise in some cases, but others were heavy and prices eased off all round before the close. Shipping shares were good again, Royal Mails keeping exceptionally firm, as also P. and O. preferred and deferred, but Dock stocks were at best steady. Hudson's Bays displayed very little animation, although finishing higher, while Pekin Syndicates and other Chinese Land and Exploration shares eased off. Catering shares held their ground, especially Slater's and Aerated Breads. Breweries usually went down when they moved, Apollinaris ordinary hardened, as also James Nelson shares, and Russian Oils, after being dull, became steadier. Offering of Coats shares by those who bought in anticipation of a bonus was still noticeable, and this caused an easier tendency amongst all textile issues. Tramway and Omnibus shares occasionally lost fractions, Nitrates showed an occasional upward movement, and while Telephone things went back a little, Anglo-American deferred was carried up. Wm. Griffiths shares were particularly weak, but no special reason transpired.

A slightly firmer tone pervaded the Stock Exchange to-day without any increase in business. Prices just stiffened up, and closed steady without any marked characteristic. Rio Tinto shares, however, were good, and it was announced that the payment on the new shares will be £3 on application, and £60 on December 20. The company's mortgage bonds will be accepted in discharge of the price of these new shares on the terms as advertised.

The Growth of Belgium.

In dealing with the trade of this busy little kingdom for the past year Mr. Consul-General Hertslett takes the opportunity to contrast the position now with that when Belgium became an independent kingdom in 1830. The figures are most interesting, and well worth quoting here. In 1831 1,092 vessels of a total tonnage measurement of 126,094 tons entered the several ports of the new kingdom. In 1904 the number of vessels had risen to 9,188 and the capacity to 11,231,959 tons. There was thus an increase in the course of seventy-four years of 741 per cent. in number and 8,807 per cent. in tonnage. The figures of the trade, excluding transit trade, are equally significant. In 1831 imports for domestic use were valued at £3,599,542, and exports of Belgian produce at £3,862,220. By 1904 the totals had risen to £111,228,000 for imports and £87,322,000 for exports, an increase of 2,292 per cent. in the one case and of 2,166 per cent. in the other. No country in the world has shown greater progress than this in its foreign trade if any so great, and Belgium to-day is one of the busiest communities in the world. Last year's trade, too, was excellent, imports showing an increase of 6.9 per cent. in volume and of 4.7 per cent. in value over the figures for 1903, and strange to say, the trade of Belgium with the United Kingdom flourishes exceedingly. It ought not to do that if the Chamberlainites are right, or if Mr. Balfour is correct in his diagnosis of the effects of competition, for Belgium is one of our greatest competitors in several important lines of business, notably in iron, steel, and cement. In sugar, too, our protectionist, retaliatory, preferential, countervailing reciprocity, free trade Government, has given the Belgians such a lift that all their producers must ever pray for the welfare of Arthur and Joseph. For all that, or in spite of that, or because of that, our exports to Belgium expand in a manner on the average commensurate with the growth of her exports to us. Last year Belgium sent us goods to the value of £15,693,000, an increase of 7½ per cent. in value over 1903, yet Mr. Hertslett says the returns of the import trade of Belgium in goods from the United Kingdom during 1904 were highly satisfactory, both as regards bulk and value. In 1903 there had been a falling off because trade all over the world was slack then, but

the lost ground was regained last year, and a total value of £13,416,000 was attained by the imports of Belgium from the United Kingdom. This was a rise in value of little more than 3 per cent., but the increase in bulk was 12.6 per cent., and this has been going on for many years, will go on for ever, we believe, as long as no artificial obstructions are put in the way of exchange. Belgium is a low tariff country, and from our experience in dealing with it we should say the lower the better. It might be interesting to go on with the particulars relating to trade between Belgium and Germany, between the Netherlands and Belgium, and between France and Belgium, but this would carry us too far. All the statistics merely emphasise and confirm what has been said about the trade of Belgium with the United Kingdom. It may, however, be interesting to note that the business done between Belgium and the United States showed a large decrease in the past year. Much of this decrease is due to the diminished quantity of grain imported from the United States, that Republic having last year little grain to spare, but petroleum imports from the Union also fell off as well as vegetable substances, and oils, cotton, and chemical products, wood alone showing any material increase. Possibly enough the import of cereals from the States to Belgium will again increase; much will depend upon the capacity of the Union to export cereals at prices capable of commanding the Belgian markets. It is otherwise, however, with American petroleum, which is, we believe, being more and more effectually competed with by oils from the Far East, and the United States has no compensation to offer its merchants, nothing to tempt the buyer with when its raw produce falls short or is beaten in the market. Belgium does a considerable trade with Australia. It was valued last year at £2,328,000, or nearly 37½ per cent. more than in the previous year, the increase in bulk being 116 per cent. Belgium bought minerals, grain, and miscellaneous articles from our colonies out there, but that also is a precarious business. With Canada, on the other hand, trade in all its branches "appears to be rapidly declining," our Consul says; not to Canada's benefit, we may be sure. The falling off last year was over 22 per cent. in volume, and the trade in pulp wood has completely discontinued. Oil cake also is in much less demand. Imports from Cape Colony into Belgium "are no longer worthy of note," a trifle of 31 tons coming in last year, but business with British India is expanding and reached last year a value of £5,667,000 in imports by Belgium. Much of this, however, appears to be merely a transfer of grain orders from the United States to British India, because of the fine Indian harvest and the poor American one.

As usual, our Consul has much to say about openings for trade in Belgium, and advice to give to manufacturers which they seldom appear to take any notice of. At the same time, enterprise is not dead on the part of our manufacturers, for several of them have established factories in Belgium, where they compete effectually with the native producer. The articles manufactured by these firms are often exported to the United Kingdom, "where they are admitted free of Customs duty," and are sold there on account of the lesser expense of production at a lower cost than that charged for similar articles of British manufacture. This is a remark in favour of the Tariffites surely. Well, they are welcome to it, for if the manufacturer who remains at home is not able to compete with the one transplanted to Belgium he deserves to go to the wall. A more interesting point is the fact that many goods of Belgian and German manufacture are sold in Belgium with English names and phrases intended to give the erroneous impression that they are of British origin. Amongst such things are cloth made in Belgium and Germany described as "Scotch tweed, best quality," pocket knives and table cutlery made in Sweden, and described as "guaranteed steel," or "best steel"—labelled in English. Neckties made in Belgium are marked "London make." The best retail

houses, for all that, sell British goods honestly enough. Collars made in Germany, however, are marked with the words "warranted all linen," and the sizes are frequently printed in both British and Continental measurements, which surely misleads nobody. Gloves made in Belgium and France are described as being of English make, cheap tools made in Germany are marked with the words "warranted steel," and other similar descriptions in English. Writing paper made in Belgium and Germany is described as "— Mill," packets of note paper made in Belgium and Germany as "best quality," note paper and envelopes, and toys and games made in Bavaria are sold with English descriptions. Misleading descriptions of Belgian cement, which competes formidably with home-made in our markets, are also common, and these transactions all more or less constitute a real grievance, but they also surely illustrate the high position which English manufacturers still maintain in Continental markets. It would never be worth while for any foreign producer to label his goods English if it were not that he hoped thereby to get better prices for them. And why cannot our great and most powerful Government intervene to stop frauds or hoaxes of this kind? Ah, it reforms the Army and plays golf!

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Since the Czar published his Ukase mining markets have looked a trifle more cheerful.—Very funny that, but true!—This, however, is not tantamount to saying that business has improved. Prices firmed up a little on "bear" covering, professionals adopting a cautious attitude in view of the many uncertainties of the immediate future. Though the Continent has not been buying, it has for the moment abstained from selling, and the market tries its best to interpret this as an encouraging symptom. Gold Fields have again been particularly firm, evidently on inside support. The annual report has been expected daily for the past fortnight, but it has not yet made its appearance, and gossip says it will not be published until the end of next week. "What dividend will the directors pay?" market men are still asking, and the general expectation is 25 per cent. A further cablegram has been issued by the South Nourse stating that the Main Reef Leader has been struck at a depth of 2,094 ft. The upper portion is 16 inches thick, and shows an average assay value of 3½ dwts. to the ton, whereas the lower portion—the Main Reef Leader proper—is 17 inches thick of a value of 18 dwts. per ton. It may be recalled that the Main Reef was encountered in the shaft at 2,055 ft., or about 700 ft. nearer the surface than was anticipated, and that the average value over 27½ inches was 7 dwts.

The gloom in the Rhodesian section lightened simultaneously with the betterment in the Kaffir Circus. After all, the jobber who was declared to be in difficulties at the close of last week, but who was to be assisted by market Samaritans, had to default on Monday. The improvement is nothing to speak of. The marking up of prices is merely the usual professional dodge to mislead and decoy the multitude. Report says that good news will shortly be forthcoming regarding the developments at the third level in the Eldorado mine of the Banket company, but this is merely to help insiders to offload on outsiders if the opportunity be given them.

Business has been, as usual, stagnant in the West African and Egyptian markets. Nor has it been much brisker in the West Australian section. Great Findalls have been exceptionally firm here, on the cablegram reporting the latest developments in the mine. At the 1,200 ft. level, the lowest reached, the reef for the last 6 ft. of the north drive averaged 8 ft. wide, assaying 1 oz. 7 dwts. per ton. The total length of the drive is 506 ft., and the average assay value 12 dwts. per ton over 7 ft. 10 ins. Dealings for special settlement have been commenced on the basis of par in the shares of the Broken Hill South Blocks, in which the Lake View Consols has purchased a half interest. It is being reorganised as an English company, with a capital of £200,000 in £1 shares, the directors to be the same as those of the Lake View Consols.

The Broken Hill group has continued active, with a general advance in prices. But Esperanzas and El Oros have been quiet, as have copper shares.

"THE JUMPERS" GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Here is a member of the Wernher, Beit group of companies that does not employ Chinkies, not, at any rate, at the present moment, but as it is a subscriber to the Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency it may employ some of the yellow slaves later. In the financial year to July 31 only 75 stamps ran out of 100, and crushed 121,267 tons. From the mill the yield was 24,868 ozs.,

from concentrates 529 ozs., and from sands 17,340 ozs., a total of 42,737 ozs., averaging a little over 7 dwts. per ton. This shows a decrease of 1.12 dwts. compared with 1903-4, as the management has now to treat the lower grade ore in the mine. The total revenue from gold was £179,641, equal to £1 9s. 7d. per ton, a decrease of 4s. 9-15d. per ton. Working costs came to £149,332, at the rate of £1 4s. 7-54d. per ton, which is a saving of nearly 9s. 2d. per ton on the year. Thus the working profit per ton was as low as 5s. per ton at £30,308, though it was 4s. 3d. per ton higher than in the previous year. A sum of £4,629 was brought in, rents produced £962, and unclaimed dividends were taken credit for to the extent of £262. A dividend of 20 per cent. was declared, requiring £20,000, depreciation took £10,424, and after deducting other outgoings there remains £4,997 to take forward. Cash in hand of £3,431 at the date of the balance-sheet was a long way short of the amount required to pay the dividend. The consulting engineer says the development of the mine is nearing its end. During the present year the whole of the mine will be fully opened up, when it will be possible to make an accurate forecast as to its life.

MYSTRE REEFS AND GENERAL EXPLORATION COMPANY.—In the financial year ending August 31 gross receipts, including water rent, profit on sales of shares, interest and transfer fees, amounted to £4,616, against which the total outlay was £2,590, and after deducting the previous debit of £353 the accounts now show a credit of £1,672. Exploratory work has been done on a limited scale on the area surrounding the Um Rus mine, over which the company holds an option, but with questionable success. The directors have now approached the Sudan Gold Field, Limited, with the view to the acquisition of a half interest in prospecting rights over an area of 1,000 square miles within the concession held by that company. As a large proportion of the capital is represented in the balance-sheet by the property originally worked in India, upon which operations have been suspended, it is suggested that this should now be dealt with. The directors propose to form a new company, to be called "The Mysore Reefs and General Explorers, Limited," to take over the assets and liabilities of the present company, and to give the shareholders one fully paid share in the new company for each share held in the existing one. The capital is to be fixed at £50,000, divided into 40,000 preference and 160,000 ordinary shares of 5s. each, thus providing for the allotment of one 5s. ordinary and preference share for each £1 ordinary and preference share. Preference shares are to be entitled to a non-cumulative dividend of 40 per cent. per annum, when the ordinary shares will rank for 40 per cent., after which profits are to be divided equally. There is no certainty, however, that any such profits will be earned in Egypt.

CENTRAL CHILI COPPER.—The position of this company is steadily improving, but progress is so slow and the prospects are still so uncertain that it is doubtful if it will ever earn enough to pay dividends. In 1889 and 1900 it managed to distribute 6d. per share; there have been no distributions since. On the contrary, losses have been made, and a big debit has been piled up. In 1903, in which year a fresh board was elected, there was a nett loss of £20,000, which arose mainly from heavy writings off. The company held 50,000 shares in a concern called the Carmen Copper mines, which in the previous balance-sheet were valued at £15,000. These were all taken off the books, and in addition £3,600 for bad debts in London and Chili. Thus the accounts at the end of 1903 showed a debit balance of £31,326. As late as this week the directors have issued their report and accounts for 1904, in which period 43,900 tons of ore were treated at the smelting works for a yield of 2,254 tons of fine copper. Profits from mining and smelting amounted to £16,701, a substantial increase upon those for 1903 and former years. After allowing for depreciation and other outgoings the nett profit was £10,933. The directors have dealt with this in a somewhat uncommon way, by carrying it to the general reserve fund, instead of applying it in reduction of the deficit, though they say "the balance to the debit of profit and loss has been reduced by the endowment of a general reserve fund of £11,642." For the first eight months of the current year they report that a larger amount of ore has been treated than in the corresponding period of 1903, with a considerable increase in the profits, and the production, it is believed, would have been greater, but for the damage caused by very heavy floods in June, also by the loss, through the wreck of the s.s. *Menantic*, of a new boiler, required by the increased furnace capacity. The management has decided upon a policy of active development of the Cocinera group, which so far has received little attention. A main adit level has been started, which will cut the Cocinera lode in 374 ft. at a depth of 325 ft. from the surface. The company's mining engineer advises that the extension of this level will serve to work the Verde, Esperanza, and the Inagotable mines, which form the other properties of this group, all of which are owned by the Central Chili save one-half interest in the Cocinera mine. A working option for seven years against the payment of a small royalty per ton of ore extracted has been assigned to the company upon this half interest, also an option of purchase, exercisable during three years. The ore from the Cocinera is anticipated to average 4 per cent. of copper, and contains a small amount of silver, and the general manager estimates there are 2,000,000 tons of ore available in the Cocinera mine alone, irrespective of the other three mines. But to develop them and instal concentration plant further funds are immediately necessary. Accordingly, it is proposed to increase the capital by the creation of 100,000 new shares of £1 each, and to make an issue of 30,000 shares forthwith at par. Arrangements have been made to guarantee the subscription in consideration of certain options

on the unissued capital ranging from six to eighteen months in time and from par to 25s. per share in price. With suitable concentration works it is estimated that electrolytic copper can be delivered in Europe or New York at a cost of about £45 per ton.

CERRO MURIANO MINES.—An extraordinary meeting is convened for the 31st inst. to authorise the directors to increase the capital to £235,000 by the creation of 75,000 new £1 shares to be offered to the shareholders at par in the proportion of one for two. Mr. Frecheville, the well-known expert, has recently visited the property, and has written a favourable report, so the board consider that steps should now be taken to get the working capital necessary to put the company on a sound basis, and think £75,000 should be provided. It is proposed to erect dressing and smelting works; to equip the San Rafael shaft with more powerful winding plant and further pitwork for deeper sinking; to build tanks and lay pipes for water supply; to lay down tramway and railway sidings; to erect offices and workshops and to develop the mine vigorously. In a circular to the shareholders, the directors say: "It is highly satisfactory to note that during the short period of about three and a-half months the existence has been proved of a considerable quantity of copper ore, which it is estimated will yield good profits when worked on a sufficient scale."

SANGLI GOLD MINES.—From the report for the twelve months to June 30 we learn that during the year 5,480 shares were allotted, making the total number now subscribed 47,178 out of the 56,250 originally offered and leaving 9,072 for future issue. As 7s. 6d. per share was called up, the shares at June 30 were 17s. 6d. paid. Expenditure has been incurred to the extent of £21,600, less £42 received from transfer fees, rents, fines, &c. Since the close of the financial year the final call on the 47,178 shares has been made. It is stated that the mining and prospecting operations have been vigorously proceeded with, giving results of an encouraging character. At the date of the previous report the principle mining work was the sinking of two vertical shafts, known as the north shaft and the south shaft, with the object of intersecting three reefs proved by ancient workings to be dipping eastwards under the sites selected. These two shafts have now been turned on the underlie of the lode, at a depth of 200 ft. in the north shaft and 250 ft. in the south shaft, and according to the latest reports received distances of 31 ft. and 40 ft. respectively have been reached. In addition, prospecting operations have been carried on at Nos. 1 and 2 prospecting shafts, No. 17 shaft, and also in what is known as the northern section of the property, in lodes carrying quartz of varying width, assaying from a few grains to 2 ozs. 18s dwts. 19 grs. of gold per ton. As the company cannot develop the whole of its area an agreement has been made with the Road Block Gold Mines of India for the grant to them of an option of purchase of about 338 acres. It has also been decided to issue the 9,072 unissued shares.

SUDAN GOLD FIELD.—This company was incorporated in June, 1904, and the directors now issue their report for the twelve months to June 30 last. Work has been practically concentrated on the Om Nabardi mine, with promising indications so far. The main reef has been developed for a continuous length of 2,090 ft., to depths varying from 100 ft. to 200 ft. below the surface. Three offshoots have been discovered and partially developed, one of which appears to be of as good value as the main reef itself, whilst a separate reef has been met with which, says the superintendent, "promises to greatly enhance the value of the northern blocks," and he adds that over 1,000 ft. in length of the reefs opened is regarded as payable. He expresses the opinion that in the Om Nabardi the company has a very valuable mine. At the date of the balance-sheet 10s. per share had been called up on the 155,000 cash shares, and the cash resources amount to over £80,000. No profit and loss account is issued. Expenditure amounted to £11,136 against £267 received from transfer fees and interest.

IDAHO EXPLORING COMPANY.—The directors of this unsuccessful concern offer their shareholders two unpleasant proposals—one for the raising of fresh capital, the other for winding up the company and distributing the assets. For many dreary months the directors have been awaiting a moment that looked propitious for the raising of capital, and actually pen the following opinion:—"The cessation of hostilities in the Far East and the improvement which has shown itself in the markets generally point to a revival of speculative activity in mining business." Why, mining markets are in a state of the deepest gloom, and if any time were unfavourable for getting money it is the present. Our advice to the shareholders is to bury the company and divide the relics. Little will come to the individual, but he will thus avoid losses in the future. The directors will doubtless strive for reconstruction, but that is no reason why shareholders should accept it.

BRILLIANT AND ST. GEORGE UNITED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year ending August 12 this company's output was 12,622 tons of ore, which yielded 7,604 ozs. of gold of a value of £26,987; 67 tons of concentrates were sold for £1,809, whilst the cyanide works treated 16,680 tons of residues for 12,128 ozs., worth £19,878, and 13 tons of slags for £155, making a total of £48,829, an average of £3 17s. 4d. per ton of ore milled. In addition, tributors raised 254 tons for 233 ozs. of gold, which fetched, with concentrates and residues, £1,007, making the total output 12,877 tons, and the value of the yield £49,837. The profit was £20,139, of which £18,000 was distributed in dividends and £1,239 was carried forward after allowing for depreciation. In regard to the future the directors, despite the gradual decrease in the size and value of the ore reserves, hope to con-

tinue to earn dividends, though the distributions will probably be at longer intervals. Anyway, the prospects of the mine are becoming more uncertain.

MERTON'S REWARD GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This West Australian company resumed crushing operations on July 15, 1904, and during the twelve months to the end of last June milled 18,602 tons, for a yield of 6,641 ozs. of fine gold. In addition 16,127 tons of residues were treated, by the cyanide plant for a production of 3,299 ozs. The slimes plant commenced work in May of this year, and for the two months treated 4,032 tons of slimes for 659 ozs. Thus the total output was 10,600 ozs., of a value of £44,987. Interest on deposits gave £574 and transfer fees £2, so the entire revenue was £45,563. As mine expenditure, development costs and depreciation amounted to £33,268, the company managed to earn a nett profit of £12,295, enabling the directors to reduce the debit balance from £39,337 to £27,042. Debtors slightly exceed creditors, and the company has £24,252 in cash. In November Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co. retired from the management, and Mr. Henry A. Judd took charge of the mine. The directors say the mine is now opening up well, and that the ore reserves, on a conservative estimate, amount to 76,287 tons of payable ore.

SORIA MINING COMPANY.—Readers are probably not familiar with the name of this company. It was registered in 1898 by Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Company to acquire two groups of iron ore mines in the province of Almeria, Spain. Up to the present it has not been successful, and losses have had to be written off by reducing the capital from £100,000 to £50,000. The report and accounts recently submitted to the meeting at Newcastle cover a period of thirteen months, and are dated July 31. A profit of only £72 was earned in this period. Since closing the accounts the directors say they have sold the options which they acquired in the Alquife district, and the profit made out of the sale has been applied in paying off loans; also in repaying the cost of exploration work. A balance will be left to defray the cost of exploring fresh mines which have been acquired. It is impossible to be hopeful of the company's prospects.

TALISMAN CONSOLIDATED.—In their half-yearly report to August 31 the general managers of this company, Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co. calculate that there are about 62,966 tons of ore in reserve, which are likely to be considerably increased in stoping. The average mill yield for the half-year (£2 11s. 5d.) represents about the average value of the reserves. There were crushed in the six months 23,665 tons of ore for a yield of 16,345 ozs. of gold and 118,376 ozs. of silver, of a total value of £60,898, whilst the expenditure in New Zealand came to £34,110. They say the nett profit over every expense in the colony, both on capital and working accounts, is £25,788. In conclusion, they report that the position of the mine shows a great improvement, and there is now a longer supply of profitable ore ahead of the mill than at any other time in the history of the mine.

SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN MINING COMPANY.—Sales of coal in the half-year ending June 30 amounted to 107,795 tons. Though the quantity was satisfactory, prices were very low owing to growing competition, whilst wages were high. Coal sales and other receipts amounted to £37,377, and as working expenditure cost £38,412 there was a loss of £1,035. After charging administration outlay in Australia and London and taxes, and allowing for £253 received from rents, transfer fees, &c., the debit balance in the last accounts is raised from £5,739 to £8,285. Liquid assets appreciably exceed the current liabilities, but the outlook is most unpromising.

BONNIE DUNDEE GOLD MINES.—In a circular to the shareholders the directors say they have received a requisition from a couple of shareholders, one a holder of only 510 shares and the other possessing 29,650 shares, requiring them to convene a meeting to reconstruct the company and to appoint the smaller shareholder liquidator. They suggest that a new company shall be formed in Queensland with a similar title and a capital of £120,000 in £1 shares. The meeting was held on Thursday last and the resolutions were carried.

GWALIA CONSOLIDATED.—In an interim report the directors say they have entered into an agreement with the Lake Way Goldfield Company for the purchase of its machinery, buildings, stores, &c., for only £3,000, on the condition that the company had an option of repurchase at a profit up to the 7th inst. As the condition has not been complied with the purchase is completed. When the 30-stamp mill is erected, the general manager estimates that it will crush 4,000 tons monthly at a profit of 9s. 8d. per ton.

The Union of London and Smiths Bank has opened a branch in Cambridge in temporary premises at 12, St. John's-street (pending completion of permanent premises at 26, Trinity-street, adjoining Trinity Gate), under the management of Mr. A. Eliott-Lockhart.

The World's Work and Play this month is a creditable number and without possessing any article of a very striking character, has a good deal in it of interest to the general and particular reader. "An Electrical House," for instance, may be read by those who possess sufficient cash to indulge in expensive economies; "How to Live in London on 6s. a Week," by those who have small appetites as well as lean purses. The papers on Professor von Behring's cure for tuberculosis, the building of Vauxhall Bridge, public crèches, and the education of an artist may be read by all interested in the progress of science, art, and humanity.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY, U.S.A.

This is one of the lines which formed part of the great railway combine known as the Northern Securities Company, dissolved by order of the Courts as a violation of those laws of the United States Republic directed against the creation of trusts and monopolies, and known as the Sherman Act. The others were the Northern Pacific Railway Company and the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railway, and although the merger has been put an end to, the control of the lines rests in the same hands as before, and the American public are not likely to reap many benefits from a reversion to the old order of separate existence. Hill and Morgan will see to that. During the year which ended on June 30 about 2,350 additional shares were issued for various purposes, bringing the issued capital to \$124,365,625 out of the authorised amount of \$125,000,000, and the company also received several large blocks of stocks from various undertakings, presumably dependents, to which money had been advanced for construction purposes, thus completing the total of securities to be acquired with the proceeds of the \$25,000,000 of Great Northern stock issued in accordance with resolutions passed in February, 1901. No increase in the bonded debt of the Great Northern seems to have taken place during the year, but the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway, which it leases, increased its public indebtedness by \$4,105,485, besides issuing \$6,910,000 improvement bonds in part payment for another line. Against the latter issue, however, money has already been advanced by the Great Northern, which holds the bonds as collateral, so that they do not now appear as additional obligations. Expenditure on capital accounts of proprietary companies for work completed or under contract reached \$788,806, advances to other companies came to \$8,133,504, and for its own equipment the Great Northern spent \$497,102. The report next deals with the question of the control of railway rates by the Federal Government, a matter which has been prominently before the public for some time past. It has been stated that while tariffs have been reduced, the various classifications have been changed so as to offset the apparent reductions in rates, and in order to traverse this charge the company publishes a table giving the details of its freight business since the year 1881. It is a most instructive exhibit, showing that the average revenue per ton per mile has gone down steadily from \$2.88 to .792 of a dollar, an enormous reduction, and to show what it means to shippers the receipts actually received year by year, and what they would have been if the revenue obtained had remained at the highest figure, that is \$2.88 per ton, are shown. During the 24 years covered by the statistics the actual income was \$354,580,519, whereas had it all been carried at \$2.88 the amount would have been \$1,031,564,339, an apparent saving to customers of \$676,983,820. We say apparent because had freights remained at the top figure the development of business to its present figures would have been impossible. Anyhow, the company in a manner refutes the charges brought against the railways as a whole, although we still refuse to believe that the average Yankee railroad magnate is a paragon of piety—cannot believe it until it is proved that these low rates are not the outcome of illegal rebates where competition is keen, with the screw put on where it can be done with impunity. Coming now to the actual working we find that the gross revenue for the twelve months to June 30 was \$43,526,088, or an increase over the previous year of \$3,468,735, to which freight contributed \$3,069,422, thanks to an increase in tonnage of 3,290,660. Passenger trains earned an additional income of \$339,826, with an increase in numbers of just 6. Operating expenses went up by \$847,564 to \$21,441,927 divided between maintenance of equipment and way and structures, as the traffic expenses were less by \$277,024, notwithstanding the big increase in traffic. Only a very small amount of equipment was sold or taken out of service, while on the other hand the expenditure on additions reached \$570,594, of which \$504,429 was charged to the equipment fund. A large amount of work was also carried out in the shape of additions and improvements to the system a sum of \$1,117,972 being charged to additions and improvements account and \$2,040,645 to ordinary expenditure under the head of maintenance of road and structures. After providing \$1,516,922 for taxes and adding \$1,507,040 miscellaneous income received, the total nett income is \$22,074,279, while the balance transferred from the revenue account of the Great Northern Railway, with its leased and worked lines, after providing rentals and \$3,000,000 transferred to fund for permanent improvements and renewals is \$11,815,176, increased to \$14,195,736 by other receipts. That provides \$364,500 for interest on sterling loan, and dividends aggregating 7 per cent. on the stock, carrying \$5,137,376 to profit and loss, increasing it to \$22,767,569.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross earnings for the year ended June 30 amounted to \$50,722,886, or an increase of \$4,108,311, the average per mile being \$702 larger at \$9,543. Of this improvement \$3,862,210 came from freight traffic, thanks to the heavier train loads hauled, as the rate per ton per mile was a trifle lower at .00832 cent, compared with .0088 cent. Passenger receipts gave \$230,099 more, although the number carried was only 23,352 more, and the rate per passenger per mile was practically the

same at .0223 cent, while mail and express earnings showed an increase of \$106,002. On the other hand, cost of conducting transportation rose by \$844,134, maintenance of equipment by \$941,216, and maintenance of road and structures by \$699,867, the total operating expenses being \$2,574,216 heavier at \$26,808,759, or 52.8 per cent. of the receipts, compared with 52.1 per cent. a year ago. Included in the charge for maintenance of equipment were 79 new locomotives, 28 passenger cars, and 2,877 freight cars of various kinds, less 77 locomotives and some 462 freight cars scrapped or otherwise disposed of, while maintenance of way and works covered the laying of 36 miles of second track and 89 miles of sidings and spur tracks, the relaying of portions of the main line with heavier rails and the replacement of 234 bridges either by timber structures or by embankments and steel bridges. Nett earnings were \$1,624,095 higher at \$23,914,127, of which taxes absorbed \$1,601,000, or \$138,225 more, and, with dividends and interest received, the surplus available was \$1,924,083 up at \$24,234,694. Interest on bonds required \$6,947,983; of this rental of leased lines took \$160,469, after which \$10,850,000 was distributed in dividends, giving 7 per cent. for the year, and \$3,000,000 was again appropriated for additions to and betterments of existing lines, leaving \$3,276,241 to be added to the balance brought forward, raising it to \$14,381,219.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

In the year ended June 30 last this company earned gross \$48,145,108 and spent in working expenses and taxes \$35,082,515. Adding \$1,613,300 as income from other sources, the entire free revenue was therefore \$14,675,434. Interest and rentals took \$9,290,433 of this, and after making other deductions amounting to \$233,368, the surplus of income over charges was \$5,151,632, out of which \$3,000,000 have been taken to provide two years' dividends upon the preferred stock, leaving \$2,151,632 as free surplus. From this \$1,056,549 have been taken as special appropriations for improvements and betterments not to be capitalised, the final result being a balance of \$1,095,082, which compares with little more than \$406,000 last year and \$688,000 the year before. Thus the line has shown elasticity in revenue; but the figures do not appear to justify the predictions made about dividends upon the company's common stock, whose total is \$120,000,000. Moreover, capital expenditure goes on as in all American railroads, and was tolerably large last year, the cost of the road having been increased by \$2,656,434. This, however, would seem to be exclusive of the cost of equipment just dealt with, commendably enough, by means of issues of trust certificates. The increase in the cost of the rolling stock was \$2,044,278 in the past year, and the outstanding amount of trust certificates was \$14,986,345, a nett increase of \$7,196,047 during the year. We cannot be sure, however, that this is inclusive of the \$5,670,200 of Southern Railway, Mobile and Ohio trust stock certificates at the same date. The total cost of new equipment purchased during the year was \$10,538,284, of which only \$1,328,617 was paid in cash, leaving \$9,209,668 to be met by the issue of certificates. Altogether the company has spent nearly \$25,000,000 upon its equipment, or, as we should say, upon its rolling stock, and of this less than \$10,000,000 has so far been paid off. It is the usage to treat all expenditure of this kind as a matter involving the issue of short term annuities, and in the past year 137,550 tons of rails were bought on the three years system—that is to say, within three years, by means of regular equal instalments, the whole of this large outlay will be met from revenue. It is significant, however, of the condition of the property that such an enormous order for rails alone should have had to be placed, and just because there is so much finance of this kind illustrative of past waste in the accounts of these American railroads, we never can be sure that their financial position is really what their public accounts represent it to be. The total cost of the road exclusive of the reserves and current liabilities was on June 30 last about \$390,000,000, of which only \$180,000,000 was represented by common and preferred stock.

ERIE RAILROAD COMPANY.

Here is another road, an old one many times reorganised, about which great things have been prophesied these many months past in all the financial journals controlled by the great railroad men and bankers of the American Union. Its figures for the past year do not appear to warrant what has been said, although in some respects it seems to have been prosperous enough. Gross earnings for the year closed on June 30 came to \$45,724,738 or just \$523,574 more than in the previous year. Working expenses, however, went up by \$560,370 to a total of \$33,142,208, so that the nett revenue from the railroad was about \$134,000 less than in the preceding year at \$12,609,000. Including taxes, as these figures do, the ratio of expenses to earnings was 72.48 per cent., an increase of 40 per cent. on the figure for the preceding year. This hardly looks like progress, and we doubt whether working expenses, liberal as they seem to be, are quite all that the road requires. It is a coal road still, in spite of its growing passenger and general freight business, for the coal tonnage of the company in its past year was 49.80 per cent. of its total tonnage, or almost one-half, and in spite of combinations, buyings up of coal properties, and efforts at a monopoly in the trade of various descriptions, it is not yet very profitable. If the railroad flourishes the colliery starves, and a very good thing it is in the main that this should be so. However, the property is being improved, for no less than 20,612 tons of new 90 lb. rails were put into the lines last year besides 1,853 tons of new 80 lb. rails. "The property has been fully maintained," the president says in his report, and such maintenance seems interminable. Amongst other things, ballasting the line, building new side tracks, adding to the length of telegraphic wires in use,

and so on, appear and mean capital outlay. Much of the money is systematically charged to capital account. The company had \$6,378,534 of equipment trusts outstanding at the end of this year, the total payments on account of such trusts made during the year having amounted to \$1,503,593. Altogether since the line was started on its present career on December 1, 1895, the expenditure on new equipment has aggregated \$24,131,476, and there does not seem to be any end to this kind of thing. Moreover, "improvements and additions" to the property charged to capital account within the same period of time have aggregated \$6,161,735, and we really cannot think that all this capital outlay should have been necessary if the line had been kept up beforehand, or, even if not, that capital should have borne the burden and not revenue. The result of all this is, naturally, a poor prospect for holders of the common stock, who are continually being titillated with visions of dividends to come. Since the present company succeeded to the legacy of the past it has issued \$15,524,000 of new mortgage securities, but this by no means represents the whole of the new money put into the property, for between December 1, 1895, and June 30, 1905, no less than \$24,839,628 in cash has been received through the sale of securities for construction and equipment purposes. Much of this money came from stocks already created and held by various trust companies; also some of it was provided by the sale of the bonds or capital stock of subsidiaries, and even the total amount just given was not sufficient to cover the expenditure within the same time, which aggregated \$26,212,611. Moreover, the accounts of the Erie and Wyoming Valley Railroad, the Pennsylvania Coal Company and the Delaware Valley and Kingston Railroad Construction have been kept separately, and to June 30 last \$543,000 were expended under these heads on capital account. A plan is now being carried out for shortening, straightening and improving the lines and grade of the road, in virtue of which the Erie and Jersey Railroad has been organised under the laws of the State of New York to construct a railway over a certain route, and this new company has been authorised to place a mortgage of \$10,000,000 upon its property. As the whole thing belongs to the Erie, what object can there be in creating a separate company for a purpose of this kind? What is disguised by the device, unless it be the ravages of capital expenditure? Has the Pennsylvania Coal Company proved a lucrative investment to the Erie? We do not know, but the accounts as they stand are not at all points reassuring.

SALVADOR RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking found the year ending on June 30 last a comparatively good one, and it is worthy of particular notice that the debenture interest was earned without the aid of the Government subsidy. With this subsidy, amounting to £24,000, added the gross revenue was £129,304 or £25,969 more than in the previous twelve months, and as the working expenses were up only £6,297 to £55,058 the nett revenue is nearly £20,000 better at £74,246 and the proportion of outgo to income is no more than 42.58 compared with 47.19 per cent. The increase in the receipts from passengers was £5,240, freight, storage, &c., rose £19,391 and special trains £1,648. Complete details of the freight traffic are not published, but the directors say that the coffee crop was, within a few tons, the same as that of the year before, but the improvement in the embarking and disembarking service which the company is now able to afford at the Port terminus has enabled it, without any increase in tariffs, to secure larger receipts. The rates of exchange, too, have been favourable, the conversion of dollars into sterling being taken at 125 per cent. premium against 140 per cent. last year. The company is now in complete control of the Acajutla Pier Company, holding 8,217 shares out of 10,000, without any capital outlay being involved, as under the agreement with the vendors the shares are to be paid for by semi-annual quotas to be provided, as far as may be, out of the earnings of the Pier itself. To the nett revenue mentioned must be added interest of £322 and difference in exchange £2,126, making £76,693, which provides debenture interest, a debit of £6,413 brought forward and sundry small charges, and still leaves £24,601 for disposal. So the directors propose a dividend of 6s. per share on the preference shares—the first ever declared—adding £5,500 to special reserves and £2,000 to general reserve, the credit carried forward being £9,601. Altogether an exhibit indicating marked improvement, and it seems probable that the current year will show a still better result, as the present coffee crop, the shipment of which will probably commence this month, is reported to be fully as good as, or even larger than, that of either of the two preceding seasons, and the general commercial conditions of the country have been making substantial progress.

H. H. THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED.

On its broad gauge system this company earned a gross revenue of Rs. 23,68,913 during the half-year ended June 30 or Rs. 16,137 more than in the corresponding period, but as the working expenses went down by Rs. 83,210 to Rs. 7,83,645 the nett earnings increase Rs. 99,347 to Rs. 15,85,268, and the ratio between expenditure and income falls from 36.84 to 33.08, surely a remarkably low proportion. In the coaching traffic there was an increase of Rs. 32,647, chiefly in second and third-class passengers, but general merchandise and military stores showed declines in the goods business, so that despite a small improvement in coal the income was smaller by Rs. 31,147. Nett earnings after deducting £7,258 payable to the Government of India on account of the Bezawada extension amount to £98,829, which provides the guaranteed interest on the debentures and the sinking fund and 5 per cent. on the remaining capital with £13,829

beyond which is divisible equally between the Government of the Nizam and the company. On the metre gauge system the gross revenue increased by the great sum of Rs. 5,89,559 to Rs. 18,17,688 with an advance of Rs. 1,96,170 only to Rs. 8,80,904 in the working expenses leaving the nett income larger by Rs. 3,93,389 at Rs. 9,36,784. Proportion of expenditure to total revenue was down 7.29 per cent. to 48.46 per cent. Coaching traffic contributed Rs. 79,478 to the gross gain, the balance of Rs. 5,03,326 being in goods and sundries, largely due, the directors say, to the development of the country served by the railway. The advance in working expenses was mainly owing to heavier charges on account of renewal of sleepers. Against the nett earnings in sterling of £62,696 the sum required for guaranteed dividend is £40,500, so that there is a further surplus of £22,196 divisible between the Government and the company. In all then the company receives £18,012, which is added to reserve, making it £75,992. Capital expenditure during the half-year on either system was trifling.

WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This company submits accounts for the twelve months ended June 30 last, incorporating the results of operations of the local companies, all of whose capital is owned by the White Pass, for the year to December 31, 1904. Interest and dividends paid by the local companies is returned at £123,586, including small sums for ordinary interest and transfer fees, and after providing interest on the consolidated and 6 per cent. mortgage bonds, together with administration and other charges, the nett profit is £63,256. Add £33,040 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £96,296. Of this £16,002 was allowed for the sinking fund, by means of which £16,586 of stock was cancelled, and an interim dividend of 4s. per share absorbed £27,500. The directors now propose to pay a final dividend of 6s. per share, making 5 per cent. for the year, and leaving £11,544 to be carried forward. Therefore the company pays away £21,496 more than was earned, not a thing to be done lightly, and we hope the directors see their way to maintaining the present rate of dividend, or shareholders' disappointment will be keen. For 1903-4 only 4 per cent. was paid. Total sum invested in the local railway and navigation companies is £2,374,011, a very big sum; and while no actual reserve fund has yet been started there is a sinking fund of £49,321. Cash at bankers and in hand is only trifling at £1,396, but £95,261 is owing by the local companies, and practically nothing is due to sundry creditors.

ALBERTA RAILWAY AND IRRIGATION COMPANY.

An amalgamation of the Alberta Railway and Coal Company, the Canadian North-West Irrigation Company, the St. Mary's River Railway Company and the Lethbridge Land Company, which was effected on October 1, 1904, was followed by a good deal of active speculation in the securities of the new company. The first report, covering a period of nine months to June 30, has just been issued, and although the results recorded cannot be described as brilliant they are perhaps as satisfactory as could be expected, all things considered. Coal sales amounted to 170,682 tons, gross earnings of the railways were \$127,714 and sales of 13,190 acres of land produced \$164,139, or about \$12.50 per acre. Of these sales, 1,482 acres were covered by the trust deed for debenture stockholders and the remainder were formerly the property of the Canadian North-West Irrigation Company, and free from the trust. The estimated nett profits were \$100,426, of which \$5,359, being the proportion of cash received for the free lands, has been included in the revenue account, and \$95,967 placed to reserve. Nett revenue from all sources for the nine months was \$193,471, and after payment of London expenses, exclusive of directors' fees, and meeting interest on prior lien debenture stock there was a balance of \$150,181, out of which interest for the nine months is paid on the 5 per cent. debenture stock and \$28,306 is carried forward, subject to directors' fees. The chief interest, however, lies in the prospects for the future, and with regard to these the directors speak very optimistically. The settlement of the country served by the company's railways is proceeding rapidly, and the area under cultivation is now about 70,000 acres, or more than double the acreage of last year, while the company owns 943,995 acres unsold, of which about 170,000 acres are irrigable and worth from \$12 per acre upwards and the other 773,995 acres, being above canal level, are known as winter wheat lands, and valued at \$5 per acre. While about 1,000,000 bushels of wheat were produced during the present season, the cultivation of sugar beets is also an industry which seems likely to develop, and it is expected that the Knight Sugar Beet Factory will this year treat 35,000 tons of beets for about 3,500 tons of refined sugar. Capital expenditure up to June 30 amounted to \$7,495,056, of which \$3,250,000 has been raised by the issue of common stock, \$1,246,400 by 4 per cent. prior lien debenture stock and \$3,250,000 by 5 per cent. debenture stock. In addition the company owes \$500,000 to the Dominion Government, \$205,231 to sundry creditors and \$95,067 on land suspense accounts, against which it has \$833,081 due from debtors for land, &c., and \$204,610 in cash.

BAHIA BLANCA AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This company's accounts do not now possess so much interest as they used to do, because the line is leased to the Buenos Ayres and Pacific under guarantee. Still it is pleasant to find that the working company seems to have made a good bargain, the gross receipts for the twelve months ended June 30 being £124,874 compared with £85,943 in the preceding year. Details of expenditure are not given. The cereal harvest was the best ever known in the district served by the line, and the reports of the

growing crops are, so far, good, with the area under cultivation larger than last year. Good progress has been made with the construction of the new line from Nueva Roma to connect the system with that of the Pacific Company, and some portion will be opened in time to carry the next wheat harvest—say in January or February, 1906, while in the town of Bahia Blanca extensive accommodation is being provided to meet the development of the region to be served by this fresh line. The mole will be trebled in capacity, work being carried on night and day in order to have some extra accommodation ready for the coming season. Capital expenditure for the year was £292,221. Total sum received for guarantee and expenses from the Pacific Company was £63,495, which provides debenture interest, general charges and the guarantee of 3 per cent. on the preferred stock.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT RAILWAY COMPANY.

The proportion of gross receipts for the six months ended June 30 handed over by the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway was £152 smaller at £1,807, but the Midland Railway paid £3,750 or £750 more and with £60 from rents, transfer fees, &c., the total income showed an increase of £598 at £5,617. A saving of £130 was effected in general charges, chiefly through the directors drawing £125 less in fees, and after adding £359 brought forward and £207 from general interest the nett revenue came to £5,722 compared with £5,095. Of this, debenture interest and rent of Midland passenger station absorbed the usual £3,011, leaving £2,711 available, out of which the dividend on the preference shares is raised from 3 to 4½ per cent. per annum and £460 is carried forward. Land sales gave a credit on capital account of £1,923, which was reduced to £1,560 by law charges and £272 for directors' fees, salaries and general expenses, making the nett credit balance on this account £11,224.

NEW HUDSON CYCLE CO., LIMITED.

There is no doubt at all that the revival in the cycle industry is real and substantial. Practically every report that one comes across gives evidence of solid progress, and if, as we hope, the days of unwholesome finance are over the manufacturing companies ought to go on and prosper, for assuredly the cycle was never more popular than to-day. The report of this undertaking for the twelve months ended August 31 affords an excellent example of the change that has come about. Trading profit, including interest, dividends and transfer fees reached £27,772, say £13,000 more than in the previous year, and the directors do well to allow an extra £1,831 at £5,597 for repairs and depreciation. This sum, together with various other charges detailed in the profit and loss account, brought the balance of nett profit down to £19,252, a gain of £11,134. Add £7,499 from previous year, and the total credit is £26,751, from which the preference share dividend absorbs £1,490 only. So besides doubling the dividend on the ordinary shares, making it 10 per cent., the directors add £7,000 or £4,000 more to reserve, write £3,100 off goodwill against £2,235 used to extinguish ammunition account a year ago, and increase the carry forward to £10,268. Reserve fund will now be £10,000, not a large sum truly, but as the goodwill account is of only equal amount the position might be worse. What we believe is a new item in the balance-sheet is an advance of £8,000 to the Instalment Department, Limited, secured by debentures from which it may be assumed that trade done on the hire purchase system is kept distinct from the cash and manufacturing portion of the business, not a bad plan perhaps. Sundry creditors are slightly larger than debtors, but cash has been increased to £9,196, and stocks come to £22,956.

ENFIELD CYCLE CO., LIMITED

A further moderate improvement took place in the profits of this business during the year ended August 31, the total, including £20 from transfer fees, being £20,981 compared with £19,305. Repairs and depreciation absorbed £6,111 or £739 more, income-tax took £400, bad and doubtful debts £844, and directors' fees and professional charges £999, leaving the nett balance £1,186 better at £12,617. Add £5,648 brought forward and the sum for disposal is £18,265, from which the preference dividend takes £1,662. The ordinary dividend is then increased by 1 per cent. to 6 per cent., credit more at £5,000 to reserve and carry forward the slightly smaller sum of £5,605. Reserve will now be £20,000 against the goodwill, patents, &c., of £58,074—not a very handsome accumulation, especially as it is almost entirely involved in the business and capital expenditure is to be further increased by the erection of an additional factory. Last year's addition to properties cost £3,705, and as only £2,048 was allowed for depreciation the latest valuation shows some increase. Sundry creditors, however, are not very heavy at £12,870, and on the other side we have cash and bills £20,796, sundry debtors £23,819 and investments £1,120, besides stock £19,871, giving the company a very fair margin of liquid resources.

SWIFT CYCLE CO., LIMITED.

This well-known cycle business, reconstructed out of all knowledge and blessed with two Du Cros amongst its directors, did rather well in the year to August 31, increasing its profit from £31,241 to £35,204. Amongst a large number of charges, fully detailed in the profit and loss account, we may note directors' and trustees' fees and managers' commissions £2,621 in all, maintenance and depreciation £6,813, bad and doubtful debts £1,362 and debenture interest £3,750. The directors then provide the preference dividend with £6,500 and again pay 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, absorbing £4,000 only, placing

£3,000 to reserve against £7,000, but £7,500 to provide extensions and buildings of motor department, this comparing with no allocation a year ago, so that the total sum saved is £3,500 larger. There is then a balance of £2,358 to be carried forward against £2,700 brought in. No one could fairly complain of this division of profits, except, perhaps, the ordinary shareholders, who might think they were entitled to more, and the financial position, take it altogether, is fair. The company has a good cash balance of £32,917, sundry debtors and bills receivable aggregate £46,848, or over £28,000 more than the sum due to creditors, and stocks are by no means too heavy at £29,522. Reserves are just under £40,000, and the property, plant, tools, &c., are valued at about £174,000, depreciation allowance made.

RUDGE, WHITWORTH, LIMITED.

The year ended July 31 last brought this up-to-date cycle company back to its old-time prosperity, the profits recovering in quite brilliant fashion. Shareholders are not favoured with a profit and loss account, but the directors tell us that after providing for debenture interest, directors' fees, depreciation, and ample reserve for bad and doubtful debts, the nett profit is £46,513 compared with only £7,235 in the previous eleven months, this period being occasioned by an alteration in the date of closing the accounts, and £34,106 in the year before that. Add £12,159 brought forward, and the sum for disposal is £58,671, from which only £14,225 is paid away in dividends—that is, £4,731 for the preference and £9,494 for the ordinary distribution of 10 per cent., being an increase on the previous year of 5 per cent. This is surely a very modest payment and enables the directors to create a property reserve fund with £10,000, add £19,803 to general reserve, and increase the carry forward to £14,643. The company has always been conducted with such prudence and forethought that a division of the profits on these lines is just what we should expect, and the fruits of the directorial policy are now seen in the existence of a general reserve of £75,000 besides the property reserve of £10,000—in all, £85,000. By means of these accumulations it would be an easy matter to wipe away the goodwill agreement and patents, standing for £56,306, and still leave a substantial balance. Only £46,365 is owing to sundry creditors against debts £99,233, cash and bills £20,843, and stock-in-trade £69,067. About 10 per cent. depreciation is allowed on plant, machinery, fixtures, &c., bringing them down to £45,850, freehold property is entered at £43,720, and the leaseholds are valued at £682.

ROVER CYCLE CO., LIMITED.

The extent of this company's recovery in the matter of gross profit for the year ended August 31 was no less than £17,420 at a total of £22,206, so that after providing for depreciation, sinking fund, debenture interest, directors' fees, &c., there is a nett balance of £16,212, including £17 for transfer fees, compared with a deficiency of £1,369. With £333 brought forward—the credit remaining a year ago after deducting this loss from the sum brought into the accounts—the total for disposal is £16,545, and besides providing a dividend of 10 per cent. compared with nothing the directors add £5,500 to reserve and carry forward £3,920. Reserve will now be £30,000 against goodwill, patents, and registrations of £45,000, and the position generally is fair, as although creditors are now rather more than debtors, cash shows a considerable increase to £12,791, and the stock of goods and materials is £11,388 higher at £32,522.

PREMIER CYCLE CO., LIMITED.

In this, unfortunately, we have a company whose experience during the past year has been in marked contrast to that of other cycle manufacturers. Only the smallest amount of profit was earned, and the directors say that the disappointing result has been caused by losses incurred at depôts and the extremely low prices at which machines have been sold. Regarding the first-named reason we have nothing to say, not being acquainted with all the circumstances, but concerning the second the company has had nothing worse to contend against than the rest, which have earned good profits, and we are disposed to think this excuse will not do. If the low prices so seriously affected this company and not others stocks must have been taken in above their selling value, or so it seems to us. The depôts mentioned, with the exception of the London office, have been closed, all losses on fixtures, fittings, &c., being written off, and it is gratifying to hear that the directors take a more hopeful view of the prospects for the ensuing year's trade. Last twelve months the gross profits were £69,689, or £597 less than in the previous eleven months, but general expenses increased a little to £52,878, repairs and depreciation required £10,246 compared with £7,908, debenture interest took £4,500, and directors' fees and expenses £1,083, so that the balance of nett profit was only £996 compared with £4,453 shown twelve months ago and £19,275 for the year before that. This credit, together with £2,664 brought in, will be carried forward, meaning that neither preference nor ordinary shares receive a penny of dividend. There is now 17 months' preference dividend in arrear, and unless the directors' hopes of better times are quickly fulfilled the position will be getting serious because the reserve of £3,072 is too mean for words bearing in mind the goodwill account of £104,031. Debtors, however, are a long way in front of creditors, cash and bills reach £19,798, apart from £3,066 deposited with bankers on account of reserve, and stock and stores are entered at £50,718.

LIVERPOOL NITRATE COMPANY.

The success which has lately attended the operations of this concern is simply amazing, and there are so many pleasant

things to be said that we hardly know where to begin. However, we may first recall that in August last, following extraordinary meetings held in April to pass and confirm the necessary resolutions, application was made to the Court to sanction a return of capital to the amount of £3 per £5 share. Permission being duly received, that amount was paid back to the shareholders whose shares are now £2 paid up, but the effect of the operation does not appear in the latest balance-sheet, which is made up to June 30. It therefore follows that the dividends and bonuses, aggregating 35 per cent., which the directors propose for the past year, being an increase of 2½ per cent., are on the original fully paid capital, and shareholders are indeed in luck's way. Total revenue was £66,202 compared with £46,718 in the previous twelve months, and after writing off £9,192 for renewals and £208 for depreciation of debenture stock the balance of nett profit is £56,712. With the sum brought forward the actual credit available is £69,503, from which the dividends and bonus named take £38,500, a sum of £5,000 is placed to reserve and £9,523 to depreciation account leaving £16,480 to help swell the profits of the current year. When the reduction is given effect to in the next balance-sheet the capital will stand at only £44,000, and as the reserve at present amounts to £35,000 the position virtually is that all the capital has been replaced. The property, too, has been so steadily written down that its present figure is now equal to the capital still remaining, £44,000, and without doubt the company's condition is wonderfully sound and healthy. Total floating liabilities run up to £53,455, against immediately available assets including cash and investments aggregating about £179,000. No wonder the £2 shares stand at over 15.

COLORADO NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

Working profits for the twelve months ended June 30 were no less than £9,535 up at £24,652 and with £3,431 more at £18,343 brought forward and £458 from interest, &c., the total revenue was £13,110 larger at £43,453. During the year the remainder of the £150,000 debentures authorised were issued and paid up so that interest charges absorbed £6,473, and repairs to machinery and plant took £1,503. Deducting the final dividend paid for 1904, the directors had £35,477 at their disposal, out of which they transfer £5,000 to depreciation fund and increase the distribution on the shares to 10 per cent., carrying forward a much smaller balance of £14,477. Such a disposition of the profits shows a recklessness and disregard of the future which cannot be too strongly deprecated. It is true that new works at Carmen Bajo are complete, and that the nitrate combination has assigned a quota of 1,220,000 quintals per annum to this oficina, so that the output of the company should be largely increased, but this fact does not absolve the directors from the necessity of paying proper attention to the matter of depreciation. The new works have cost to date £187,219 and the old property, allowing for the £5,000 now written off, is valued at £136,338 against which there is not a penny piece of reserve, unless the fire insurance fund of £453 can be so regarded. In addition a sum of £13,152 representing cost of issuing the debentures is carried as an asset, although a grain of prudence would have suggested that this is an item which should have been written off as speedily as possible. The balance-sheet is far from satisfactory in other directions also, liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors having risen by £56,570 to £68,243 against which bills receivable are only £12,166 higher at £12,581, stocks are £1,498 up at £30,953 and sundry debtors come to £1,685 more at £1,794, while cash has further shrunk from £3,113 to £2,590 and £12,000 is required to meet the dividend just declared as payable on November 9.

LONDON NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

In May last we gave prominence to the details of a capital reorganisation brought forward by the directors of this flourishing undertaking, not the kind of reconstruction it is usual to encounter, but one bringing something good to the shareholders. It consisted in the reduction of the capital from £120,000 to £80,000 by the return of 25s. on each ordinary and preference share, the ordinary shareholders receiving in addition a bonus of 20s. per share in consideration of their allowing all difference between the two classes of capital to cease. This was necessary because later on the directors intend to bring forward a proposal for cancelling the liability of £2 10s. per share created by the aggregate return of capital to that amount. With the special bonus just named the total sum to be handed back to the proprietors is £50,000, which has been provided in the following manner: At the end of June, 1904, the reserve stood at £23,638, a further £23,466 is now added to the fund from last year's profits and another £2,895 is withdrawn from the sinking fund, making the total required. It is readily available in the shape of cash, investments and stocks, but when it has been paid away the company will not possess much in the way of liquid resources, as the floating liabilities are slightly in excess of debtors. After the reduction the property account will stand at the very modest sum of £70,000, and even against that there will be a sinking fund of £17,105, besides a fire insurance fund of £3,000, a wonderfully strong position, especially when we consider the excellent profits earned. They last year came to £38,623 compared with £25,640 in the previous twelve months, built to £39,811 by interest, discount and transfer fees. Administration charges and directors' fees required £1,366 only and income-tax £1,505, so that after placing £23,466 to reserve as stated, the balance is sufficient to again provide 8s. 1d. on the preference and 10s. 7d. on the ordinary shares, of which interim payments of 4s. have already been made.

GRAMOPHONE AND TYPEWRITER, LIMITED.

For the year ended June 30 the nett profits of this company were £71,521 smaller at £140,229, and the chairman at the meeting on Monday last had many reasons to put forward for this falling off. The home trade, he said, is very good, and is increasing day by day with a better demand for the higher-priced machines, and it was in the Continental business that the decline occurred. In Germany the company had to contend with the competition of manufacturers who put upon the market cheap and inferior imitations, and in France business was tied up by an action for copyright which the company won in the first case but lost on appeal. Yet another reason was found in the heavier cost of one of the principal ingredients of the records, which accounted for about £20,000 of the reduction in profits. With £367,332 brought forward, the amount available was £507,561, and after meeting preference dividend and administration charges the ordinary shares again receive dividends and bonus aggregating 20 per cent., leaving £397,797 to be carried to the new account. Patents, goodwill, &c., remain at £534,551, a very heavy amount for such an asset in a company dealing with an instrument which may at any time lose its hold upon popular favour, but otherwise the balance-sheet is a good enough one. Stock-in-trade has been reduced to £34,869, matrix account stands at £33,015 and sundry debtors, including capital employed as accounts current with foreign companies and agencies, come to £255,545, while sundry creditors and the final quarterly interim dividends paid since the closing of the accounts come to no more than £58,255. Cash is down to £83,309, but another £100,000 has been invested in British and Colonial stocks, bringing the securities held up to £122,928.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LAND MORTGAGE AND AGENCY CO., LIMITED.

We should not much care to be shareholders in this undertaking, even if the shares were given to us. They carry a liability of £6 each, and with properties very hard to realise and debentures quickly falling due, there would be a constant dread of some of this money being called up. During the year ended June 30 the debenture debt was reduced by £11,030 to £297,464, and since the close of the accounts has been further lowered to £290,279, but including the latest redemption there is no less than £36,426 due on July 28, 1906, that is nine months from now, and £95,488 during the next four years, the current one included, and we doubt not the money will be hard to find be the seasons never so good. According to the report the past one was tolerably favourable, but the company did not do very grandly, the balance of revenue from the properties being no more than £17,905 against £29,357 in the previous year. Interest, commissions, and transfer fees were a trifle better at £3,049, making £20,954, but after providing general charges and debenture interest only £3,835 remains, a drop of £10,517, and this goes in reduction of the debit brought forward, bringing it down to £15,880. Properties account is now entered at £370,363, and loans on mortgage at £10,530, but what the lot are really worth we should not like to guess. However, floating debts are light, even including the loan of £2,000 from bankers, and as liquid assets run up to £48,000 or thereabouts, the position is not absolutely desperate.

CALIFORNIA OILFIELDS, LIMITED.

This important and, we should imagine, well-conducted business enormously increased its production of oil during the year ended June 30, the output in barrels, including the quantity used for fuel, being 2,099,059 compared with 858,121 in the previous 12 months. The whole of the increase was in the heavier oil which rose by 1,270,809 barrels to 1,776,080 barrels, as there was actually a decline in the output of the lighter oil of 37,267 barrels to 345,019. No material change occurred in the quality of the respective grades, and it seems that local conditions led to the increased production being confined to the heavier description. On June 30 last the company had 34 producing wells, since increased to 36, and it follows that the steady development of the property calls for considerable capital expenditure for additional buildings and equipment. Within the year covered by the accounts the outlay on equipment has risen from £34,035 to £73,848, and on development from £13,897 to £20,347, and while these sums are still very modest considering the great success which has attended the operations we must not overlook the directors' own words that while consumption shows satisfactory growth the supply of oil is still in excess of local requirements. That causes the directors to cast about for other outlets, and we learn that further shipments of refined products have been made to Oriental markets. Negotiations are also in progress with the view of developing trade in other directions, more particularly for fuel purposes. Nett proceeds from sales of oil during the past 12 months were £95,363 or £34,626 more, increased to £96,191 by interest and transfer fees. General agency, commission and other outgo in California absorbed £17,844 compared with £9,979, and after providing this together with London expenses, income-tax, reserve, insurance, and taxes, the nett balance is £71,047, a gain of £38,215, larger than the gross increase because a year ago the directors wrote off the whole of the preliminary expenditure amounting to £14,230. So besides adding £10,000 more at £15,000 to reserve the directors increase the dividend from 10 per cent. to 20, and raise the carry forward from £7,272 to £13,319. An excellent display all round, and with its modest capitalisation of £300,000, of which £250,000 has been issued, the company should have a prosperous career before it.

METROPOLITAN INDUSTRIAL DWELLINGS.

The latest report and accounts of this undertaking cover a few days longer than previous statements, being made up to Septem-

ber 29 instead of the 25th, in order to take in the considerable number of periodical payments due on Michaelmas Day. A double set of such payments is therefore included in the figures now published, which show a gross revenue of £32,488 compared with £31,878. Against that the total charges, including interest on mortgages and loans, absorbed £21,854 or £476 more, leaving £10,634 nett, an advance of £134. Balance brought in was £431 larger at £9,331, making a total for disposal of £19,965, out of which the usual 4 per cent. on the preference and 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares are paid, with £1,500 as before to special repairs fund and £9,915 carried forward. The company does not possess an ordinary reserve, but the special repairs fund will be built to £4,628 by the addition now proposed and the leasehold redemption fund is increased by £347 to £3,855, which, we suppose, is sufficient. Floating liabilities, £3,346, are a long way in front of debtors, £403, and the cash in hand will not do much more than provide the final dividends. The company has taken a half interest in the Vale Estate, Limited, which holds an agreement for a long lease of the site near Elm Park Gardens, referred to in last year's report.

MONTEVIDEO TELEPHONE CO., LIMITED.

Apparently matters moved smoothly enough with this company during the twelve months ended July 31, as the directors do not consider it necessary to do more than submit the accounts with the simple statement that there has been a marked increase in the number of subscribers and a proportionate increase in receipts. Revenue from all sources was £28,679, and after meeting all expenses the nett profits were £1,946 up at £15,473, and with £1,806 brought in gave an available total of £17,279 or £1,968 more. Of this £5,000 is as usual put to reserve and an extra £1,000 at £3,000 is added to the special reserve for renewal of plant, after which the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised 1 per cent. to 4 per cent., leaving a larger balance of £2,041 to be carried forward. Further progress was made in cleaning up the balance-sheet, liabilities to sundry creditors having been reduced by no less than £5,436 to a mere trifle of £1,884 at the cost of reductions of £177 to £3,891 in sundry debtors and £1,722 to £2,278 in bills receivable, while cash is slightly higher at £1,296. Capital outlay during the year amounted to £3,498, making a total of £191,199, against which the reserves stand at £54,500 or about 28.5 per cent.

COX AND COMPANY.

Liabilities of this private bank on current and deposit accounts went up by £100,109 to £3,338,983 during the year ended October 9, and circular notes issued were £90 higher at £890. On the other hand, investments show an advance of £144,485 at £1,218,460, although the Consols held have been further written down to 88½, but against this advances to customers are £135,478 lower at £1,443,445. The bulk therefore of the increased resources shown by the rise in deposits has been utilised in the money market, loans at call and short notice being £90,000 up at £390,000, while cash in hand and at bankers is practically unaltered at £492,277.

LIVERPOOL AND NORTH WALES STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

Broken weather in August and September rather handicapped this company, but the popularity of *La Marguerite* continued great, and the gross profits for the twelve months ended October 27 consequently showed a further improvement of over £1,000 at £16,531. Expenses, however, were heavier, and after writing off £5,720 or £406 less for depreciation the nett profits, including £37 from interest and transfer fees, were only £204 up at £5,078. With the larger balance of £416 brought in the amount available came to £5,494 compared with £5,046, out of which 6 per cent. is paid and £1,672 is carried forward, subject to directors' fees and income-tax. The reserve fund is again ignored and remains at the insignificant figure of £5,000, so that the allowance of 6 per cent. on the value of the steamers for depreciation is anything but liberal. By the issue of debentures in November last the debt to the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company has been paid off, but sundry creditors have risen by £1,547 to £5,787 against an increase of £1,004 to £4,159 in the amount due from sundry debtors, while cash is £357 up at £10,958.

ROCHDALE AND MANOR BREWERY, LIMITED.

The amount of deadweight wrapped up in the property account of this company must be indescribably heavy, as never in the whole of its existence has the question of depreciation been fairly and frankly faced. Profits during the twelve months went up a little, and the directors increased the allowance for depreciation from £920 to £1,471, but even so this only represented about ½ per cent. on the outlay—a proportion which can only be considered as farcical. Gross trading profits, less this provision, were £282 higher at £14,693, but debenture interest, directors' fees, and other charges absorbed £289 more at £7,919, and with £51 from interest and transfer fees the nett revenue came to £6,825 or £6 less. After meeting preference dividend, however, the ordinary shares are again given 4 per cent. for the year, and the balance brought forward has to be further drawn upon to the extent of £357, leaving £3,114 to be carried to the new account. Liabilities on mortgages and loans have been reduced by £357 to £11,111 and sundry creditors are £693 down at £4,760, while sundry debtors have risen by £686 to £5,455 and stocks are £1,824 larger at £7,002, but these changes have only been brought about at the cost of a decrease of £3,593 in the cash, which is now down to £6,144 or very little more than is required to pay the dividend just declared.

SCOTTISH TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY OF CEYLON, LIMITED.

Thanks to an improvement in the market towards the end of the year, the average price obtained by this company for its tea was not so much lower as might have been expected at 6.94d. compared with 7.03d. At the same time, the crop was 111,219 lbs. larger at 891,756 lbs., and with a further slight reduction in the cost the nett proceeds, including £1,884 or £211 more brought in, were £1,544 up at £9,086. General charges, home salaries, directors' fees, &c., having been met, the amount available came to £7,795 against £6,384, and the directors hasten to increase the dividend by another 2½ per cent. to 12½ per cent., carrying forward £2,170. It is quite unnecessary to say that the reserve is once more passed over and remains at £11,000 against an outlay on the estates of £38,639, or to point out that although another £1,000 is written off tea extensions, factories and machinery £511 was spent on this item, leaving it at £15,767. Sundry creditors and bills payable show an increase of £742 at £8,249, while, on the other hand, sundry debtors are only £159 up at £1,319 and cash is £448 higher at £4,302; but estate produce on hand is valued at £6,371 or £1,822 less. The balance-sheet, therefore, is very far from being a good one, and it would have been more to the purpose if some of the extra profits had been used to strengthen the position instead of being distributed in this lavish fashion.

REALISATION AND DEBENTURE CORPORATION OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The year ended August 31 was favourable for the profitable realisation of securities, and the revenue including over £16,000 from this source showed an increase of £13,956 at £64,910. Expenses were again slightly reduced, so that nett profits were £14,121 up at £36,611, and after paying the preference dividend and setting aside £1,140 as usual to the preference shareholders' reserve, the distribution on the ordinary shares is raised from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent., and that on the founders' shares from 2s. to 6s., leaving £20,271 or £10,354 more to be added to the general reserve. With a share capital of £162,500 and a debenture debt of £550,921, the investments are valued at £829,370 or £1,078 less than a year ago, against which the reserves come to £97,896. No mention is made of any provision for depreciation, nor is the slightest hint given as to what the investments are, but if the shareholders are apathetic enough to submit to such treatment it is their concern and not ours. Why do they not insist on the directors taking them more fully into their confidence?

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED. RAILWAYS.

Pennsylvania.—At the rate of \$1.50 per share, payable Nov. 29.
Tatal.—Further of 4s. per share, making 7s. per share, or 7 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £5,391.

MINES.

Brilliant and St. George United Gold.—6d. per share, payable Nov. 23.
Brilliant Central Gold.—6d. per share, payable Nov. 14.
Butters Salvador.—No. 20 of 5 per cent. (1s. per share) payable Nov. 6.
Ooregum Gold Mining of India.—Interim of 6d. per share on the ordinary and preference shares, payable Dec. 7. This makes the amount paid for the first eight months of the present year 9d. per share on the ordinary shares and 1s. 9d. per share on the preference.
Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. per share for the month of Oct., payable Nov. 1.
No. 2 South Great Eastern Gold.—6d. per share, payable Nov. 16.
Stratton's Independence.—6d. per share.
Waihi Gold.—Interim of 3s. per share, payable Dec. 1.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. W. Gamage.—Usual interim for the half-year ended July 31, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.
Belfast Pure Ice and Cold Storage.—4 per cent. for the past year.
British and Chinese Corp.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £14,532.
Burmah Oil.—Interim for 1905 on the first and second preference shares, equivalent to 6 per cent. per annum, and on the ordinary shares of 1s. per share, equivalent to 10 per cent. per annum to June 30, 1905.
Castner-Kellner Alkali.—Interim for the six months ended Sept. 30, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable on Nov. 21.
City of Buenos Ayres Tramways (1904).—1s. 3d. per share for the three months ended Sept. 30.
Cotton Powder.—Interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on both the preference and ordinary shares for the six months ended Oct. 31.
Farmer and Co.—Final of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the past year, carrying forward £1,913.
Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.—Balance at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 4 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30.
India General Navigation and Railway.—2 per cent. on the ordinary shares.
Land and Mortgage of Egypt.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30.
Lascelles, Tickner, and Co.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on ordinary shares.
Meters.—Interim to Sept. 30 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Nalder and Collyer's Brewery.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

National Bank of Australasia.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, £5,000 to reserve fund, and £6,450 carried forward.

San Donato Nitrate.—Interim of 2 per cent., being at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

San Lorenzo Nitrate.—Interim of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.

Sir Elkanah Armitage and Sons.—Interim of 6s. per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

Spencer Santo and Co.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30.

MINING RETURNS.

Alaska Treadwell.—Crushed 83,944 tons ore, value \$81,806; saved 1,678 tons sulphurets, value \$71,217.

Balaghat Gold.—4,200 tons, 3,378 ozs.; 2,750 tons of tailings, 289 ozs.; total 3,667 ozs.

Bogosu Gold (Himan Concessions).—Result, 257 ozs. from 247 tons crushed.

Brilliant and St. George.—Crushed 2,645 tons for 1,776 ozs.; residues £4,765.

Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 3,000 tons, value £7,474; cyanide £980.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—Refinery products, fine silver, 409,574 ozs.; soft lead, 5,297 tons; antimonial lead, 59 tons.

Cerro Muriano.—Sold 109 tons 16 cwt. of copper ore, realising £1,156.

Champion Reef Gold.—19,650 tons, 15,606 ozs.; 16,950 tons of tailings 2,195 ozs.; total 17,801 ozs.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal, 19,000 tons; sales, 18,000 tons; consumption, 1,325 tons.

Coronation Colliery.—Output, 16,059 tons.

Dundee (Natal) Coal.—Output 10,292 tons.

Elands Laagte Collieries.—Output 12,065 tons.

Gibraltar Consolidated.—Tributors crushed 160 tons ore, 130 ozs.; 7 tons concentrates, containing, as per assay value, 40 ozs.; extracted from tailings, 8 ozs.; total, 178 ozs.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output, 8,253 tons.

Great Eastern Collieries.—Output of coal, 15,600 tons.

Kamfersdam.—Diamonds recovered, 4,813 carats.

Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Returns, 214 ozs.

"Lloyd" Copper.—Treated 5,750 tons of ore, produced 77 tons copper.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—632 tons crushed, 263 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons; value, £310.

Natal Navigation Collieries.—Output, 18,865 tons.

New Queen Gold.—Crushed 660 tons, 613 ozs.; £675 obtained from 169 tons by cyanide; concentrates, £550.

New Vaal River Diamond.—Value of diamonds registered by the diggers on the Vaal River £4,875.

No. 2 South Gt. Eastern Gold.—Crushed, 4,956 tons for 3,268 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—1,825 tons of crude ore treated, producing 350 tons concentrates, containing 244 tons lead, and 6,405 ozs. silver.

Nundydroog.—6,800 tons, 5,200 ozs.; 7,020 tons of tailings, 616 ozs.; total 5,816 ozs.

Ooregum Gold.—10,595 tons, 4,576 ozs.; 10,098 tons of tailings, 969 ozs.; total 5,545 ozs.

Premier (Transvaal) Diamonds.—105,854 loads treated for 56,155 carats.

St George's Coal and Estate.—Output 8,330 tons.

Sulphide.—Milled 10,317 tons, producing 1,873 tons of leady concentrates, also 2,637 tons of middlings and 3,145 tons of tailings treated, producing respectively 902 and 1,121 tons of zinc concentrates.

819 tons leady concentrates, 483 tons residues, and 3,287 tons of purchased ores smelted, yielding 1,408 tons lead, containing 99,968 ozs. silver and 5,561 ozs. gold.

Tasmania.—5,596 tons, 3,142 ozs.; chlorination 585 tons, 537 ozs.

Transvaal Coal Trust.—Output, 36,600 tons.

Transvaal Gold.—Crushed 8,530 tons, 1,925 ozs.; central cyanide works 3,880 tons, 740 ozs.; central slimes works 2,410 tons, 374 ozs.; Kameel's cyanide works 1,460 tons, 287 ozs.; Kameel's slimes works 640 tons, 148 ozs.; old slimes 1,070 tons, 300 ozs.; total, 3,774 ozs.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6.

Aërated Bread.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Carlton Hotel.—Carlton Hotel, noon.

Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Winchester House, noon.

Ontario Lands and Oil.—Broad Street House, noon.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7.

Brazilian Street Railway.—Palmerston House, 1 p.m.

Consolidated Mines Selection.—Winchester House, noon.

Central Chili Copper.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Imperial Continental Gas.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

Leeds and District Worst Dyers' and Finishers' Association.—

Leeds, 2.30 p.m.

Pan de Azucar Nitrate.—Winchester House, noon.

Premier Cycle.—Coventry, noon.

South Behar Railway.—46, Queen Anne's Gate, 1 p.m.

South Australian Land Mortgage and Agency.—River Plate House, noon.

Wilson's and Clyde Coal.—Glasgow, 1.15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8.

Etruscan Copper.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

Gaiety Theatre.—Strand, 12.30 p.m.

Henry Bull.—Winchester House, noon.

Liverpool Nitrate.—Liverpool, noon.

Neath and Brecon Railway.—Charing Cross Hotel, 11 a.m.

Sudan Gold Fields.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Salvador Railway.—7 and 8, Idol Lane, noon.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9.

California Oil Fields.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Dalgety.—96, Bishopsgate Street, 12.30 p.m.

J. and P. Coats.—Glasgow, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10.

Duff Development.—Winchester House, noon.

Daimler Motor.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Lady's Pictorial and Sporting and Dramatic Publishing.—172, Strand, 12.30 p.m.

Mysore Reefs and General Exploration.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

Rover Cycle.—Coventry, 11.30 a.m.

Robert Younger.—Edinburgh, noon.

Scottish Australian Mining.—Winchester House, noon.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Monopolies, Trusts, and Kartells. By F. W. Hirst. Books on Business Series. (London: Methuen and Co., Essex Street, Strand.) Price 2s. 6d. nett.

An Outlander in England. By J. H. M. Abbott. (London: Methuen and Co., Essex Street, Strand, W.C.) Price 6s.

National Review. November. (London: 23, Ryder Street, St. James's, S.W.) Price 2s. 6d.

BRAZILIAN STREET RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Owing to the continued trade depression at Pernambuco the passengers carried during the year ended July 31 showed a decrease of 110,220 at 1,406,248, and the gross receipts converted at an exchange of 1s. per milreis were £1,305 lower at £22,803. Part of this was offset by reductions of £730 to £16,672 in working expenses and £28 to £774 in London office charges, leaving the nett revenue £547 smaller at £5,357, but the average rate of exchange at which remittances were made rose from 12.092d. to 14.588d. and the gain from this source was £1,012 compared with £67, so that with £410 or £57 more brought in the amount available was £523 up at £6,847. Debenture interest having been met and another £400 written off for renewals, the preference dividend is paid and the ordinary shares receive $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. a year ago, leaving £501 to be carried forward. No attempt has yet been made to write down the capital expended before 1898, although this is valued at the excessive exchange of 2s. per milreis, and if written down to current rates would not be worth much more than half. This step will have to be faced sooner or later, and it is therefore disappointing to find that a provision of £400 per annum for renewals is all that the directors consider necessary.

BUENOS AYRES GRAND NATIONAL TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

The report of this company for the year ended March 31 has only just made its appearance some four months late, and now that it has arrived is not calculated to cheer the shareholders. Traffic receipts showed a further improvement of £5,533 at £175,348, but the nett revenue from coal traffic was £877 down at £1,170, and advertisements and exchange operations both yielded less, so that the total income was only £4,243 larger at £176,897. Expenses absorbed £130,997 or £2,856 more, leaving a balance of £45,900 compared with £44,513 a year ago, but of this £5,514 or £1,118 more went to the "Nueva" account as its proportion of the profit on working the joint line, after deducting the profit on the "Nueva" lines, so that the amount available was actually no more than £269 up at £40,386. With interest and transfer fees the total was increased to £40,511, but nothing is this time credited for transfer to electric construction account against £1,191 last time, and after meeting administration expenses and interest on the preference and second preference debentures and 6 per cent. debenture bonds £10,652 or £932 less was left. Out of this, interest is again paid on the income debenture bonds at 5 per cent. and £3,739 or £1,589 more is transferred to debenture reserve fund, leaving £3,187 to be transferred to contingency fund compared with £5,798. Arrears of preference dividend now amount to £328,406, and of course the debit on revenue account remains at £129,856, and in the meantime the outlay on the conversion of the lines to electric traction continues heavy. Expenditure under this heading to March 31, including £65,250 for discount on the conversion debenture stock issued, was £241,420, and the burden is now so heavy that some rearrangement of the capital has become necessary if the shareholders are ever to reap any benefit from the expected improvement in the position, and the directors have therefore decided to proceed by a Bill in Parliament for the reorganisation of the capital and revenue accounts.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

GRAMOPHONE AND TYPEWRITER.

The annual general meeting of the Gramophone and Typewriter, Limited, was held on Monday at the offices, 21, City Road, E.C., Mr. Trevor Williams (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The notice calling the meeting having been duly read, The Chairman said: On the receipt of this report, shareholders will have pondered over three items of first importance—viz., trading profit, bonus, and the carry forward. Possibly a good many may have looked at the second item first, but I will take these three items in the order named. First, then, as to the trading profit for the year—this amounts to £140,220, as against £211,750 last year, or a falling off of £71,500. There has been a very considerable drop in the profits, but such a drop as is easily explained. To deal with the reasons, the causes are several, but none of them can be said to be permanent. When we met last year the general trade appeared to be brightening, but it did not continue to do so; indeed, it remained dull, and became more depressed throughout the year. Then the war between Russia and Japan continued throughout the financial year, and the internal troubles of Russia made matters no better. Curiously enough, however, our trade in Russia during the last half-year increased rapidly month by month, and any diminution in our profits caused by the war was so caused more by its influence upon general trade than upon the demands for our goods in Russian territory. The only explanation of this is that in Russia the gramophone is becoming a necessary of life. Last year when we met I told you that competition would come to be felt, and would have to be dealt with. Germany and the branches controlled from Berlin have this year suffered very considerably in this respect. In England competition exists, but is very little felt; indeed, the trade in England is very good indeed, and is increasing day by day, week by week and month by month, the feature being the increased demand for the higher-priced machines, and for the best records independent of price. Another serious cause for the decrease of our profits for the year has been the increased cost of our goods, an increase owing to a phenomenal rise in price of one of the principal ingredients of the material of which our records are composed. Prices are now normal, and a recurrence of the higher prices is not looked for. Again we have had considerable trouble and anxiety in France, which has very much curtailed your profits in that country and in the branches controlled from Paris. It would be difficult to explain to you the intricacies of this trouble except at very great length. I now come to the bonus. Your directors recommend the payment of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which, with 10 per cent. already paid, makes a dividend of 20 per cent. for the year. I need only say that this 20 per cent. dividend has been earned with a large margin. I have no doubt that you will endorse the recommendation, and the warrants will be with you to-morrow. As to the carry forward, the figures are £397,796, against £397,796, against £367,332 last year. It will be satisfactory to shareholders to note that after paying the fixed dividend on the preference shares and the 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, we are able to add to the carry forward a sum of £30,404, making a total accumulated profit in five years of just upon £400,000, and that is after paying 25 per cent. on the preference shares and 70 per cent. on the ordinary shares. (Applause.) Referring to the balance-sheet, it is useful to note the item of stock-in-trade. That stands at £34,869 as compared with £55,100, or a decrease of £20,231. The reason for this decrease is owing to the strenuous efforts of your management to reduce the amount of stock at the various branches and depôts. The item of debtors requires some explanation for comparison purposes. Last year the figures were £289,592, but that was made up of two items, which this year are included in one item, so that the real comparison is £255,545 this year, against £289,592 last year or a decrease of £34,047. This decrease is owing almost entirely to better collections at your various branches. On the other side of the balance-sheet, under liabilities, last year there appeared a mortgage of £14,000. This mortgage has been paid off, and there is now no preferential claim upon the company in front of the preference shareholders. Going back to the report, and taking the statement of assets, your buildings, machinery and plant show a slight increase, this increase being due to additions and improvements to your factory at Hanover. The matrix account, I am sorry to say, shows a slight increase rather than a considerable decrease, which I foreshadowed last year, but the march of events and the necessity for keeping up our products to the highest standard have rendered the increase of this item unavoidable. The item of cash in the statement of assets shows a decrease of £23,000 odd in figures, but we have this year £100,000 invested in gilt-edged securities, which did not appear last year, and the actual increase in cash is therefore some £76,000. The patents we hold to-day are far greater in number and, I think I may safely say, far greater in value than when we purchased the business five years ago. The goodwill of the business, in my humble opinion, has a value greater to-day, or, at any rate, equal to what it was five years ago, when the earning capacity of the company was only £70,000. As to the future, apart from the very grave political news which the last few days have brought us, everything is very bright and encouraging. Trade generally has improved, and we are feeling the improvement every day. Trading expenses are very much lower. Our sales for July, August and September this year show an increase over the sales of the corresponding

months of last year, and the sales for October, so far as we have them up to date, show a very marked increase, in the case of London alone of over 25 per cent. I now move: "That the report and accounts, dated June 30, 1905, now presented, be received, approved and adopted." (Applause.)

Mr. Theodore Birnbaum seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to without discussion, and resolutions regarding the dividends having been carried, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

The retiring directors, Mr. Edgar Storey and Mr. Joseph Berliner, were re-elected, as were the auditors, Messrs. Cooper and Cooper.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

EASTERN EXTENSION AUSTRALASIA AND CHINA TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixty-fourth half-yearly ordinary general meeting was held on Wednesday, at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, under the presidency of Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B.

The general manager and secretary (Mr. F. E. Hesse) read the notice convening the meeting, and other formal business having been disposed of,

The Chairman said: The report having been taken as read, I venture to offer a few remarks. I think that the shareholders will agree with me that the report and accounts are, on the whole, satisfactory. The gross revenue for the half-year under review amounted in round numbers to £349,000, against £300,000 for the corresponding period of 1904; showing an increase of £49,000. This result is not entirely due to growth of traffic. A portion (some £19,000) of the increase consists of revenue that was earned in 1904, but not included in that year's accounts owing to unavoidable delay in adjusting accounts with other telegraph companies, and consequently the increase during the past half-year actually due to growth of traffic was about £30,000. A portion of this increase is undoubtedly attributable to the war in the Far East, but as the bulk of it is spread over the company's whole system, with the exception of the Australasian, where a small decrease was experienced, we may draw the encouraging conclusion that a considerable portion of the increase is due to general growth of business. Since the conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan a falling off has been noticeable in the China and Japan traffic, but, on the other hand, I am glad to say the traffic with Australasia has shown some improvement during the last few months, and we may hope that growth of business with China and Japan, when relieved of the incubus of war, will equal the abnormal growth due to the late exhausting hostilities.

The working and other expenses amounted in round numbers to £136,000, against £142,000 for the corresponding period of 1904, showing a decrease of £6,000. Although station salaries show an increase of nearly £5,000, due mainly to a larger staff having been engaged in order to efficiently deal with the increased traffic, it will be seen from the accounts that there have been reductions in many other items of expenditure, notably in the cost of maintenance of cables, which alone accounts for £4,000 of the decrease. This arises from our having an exceptionally small number of cable interruptions during the past half-year, and to the fact that they have occurred in our shallow water sections, which, as you are aware, represent a considerable proportion of our extensive cable system. Consequently we have been able to employ the small steamer *Magnet* for this work, and it has only been necessary to keep the larger vessels, *Patrol* and *Recorder*, in reserve ready to effect repairs in the deep-water cables whenever required, instead of in full commission. The comparative immunity from cable interruptions, to which I have just alluded, may largely be attributed to the extensive renewal work which we have carried out from time to time whenever the old cables have shown signs of serious deterioration. However this may be, cable repairs have been, comparatively speaking, light during the period under consideration, and it would not be prudent to look upon the present as necessarily an index of the future.

The net profit for the half-year is, roundly, £195,000, and after adding to it the credit balance of £22,000 brought forward from the previous half-year, there remains an available balance of £217,000. The usual quarterly interim dividends of 2s. 6d. per share have been paid for the past half-year, leaving a balance of £142,000, of which £100,000 has been transferred to the general reserve fund and £42,000 is carried forward to the current half-year. You will have seen from the report that the tariff for telegrams between Europe and Japan by this company's route was reduced from July 1 last from 5s. 8d. to 4s. 10d. per word, making it the same as by the Great Northern Company's route via Russia. The Pacific Cable Conference, as you have doubtless learned from the announcements in the newspapers, was held a few months ago under the presidency of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and you have probably seen the Parliamentary paper that was published shortly before the adjournment of Parliament embodying the conclusions arrived at by the Conference. I do not, however, think that I need allude further to that matter, as it does not affect us in any material manner, and I will conclude by moving:—"That the report and accounts of the directors, now submitted, be received and adopted."

The Most Hon. the Marquis of Tweeddale, K.T., seconded the motion.

The Chairman then invited discussion, but no shareholder rising to address the meeting, he put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Joseph Shennan proposed a vote of thanks to the directors and staff for their able management of the company's affairs. It was a great pleasure to be connected with a company which was so successful for so many years. As far as could be judged wireless telegraphy was not likely to injure the company in any way.

Mr. John Newton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, on behalf of the directors and the staff, I beg to tender my sincere thanks for this vote of thanks, and to assure the shareholders that there is nothing which the directors value so much as the unanimous approval of those whom we are pleased to meet on these occasions.

The proceedings then terminated.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, Limited, was held on Wednesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Charles John Hegan (the chairman), presiding.

The secretary (Mr. J. Paterson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: We trust that you have found the report satisfactory. If it does not bear witness to any surprising development in the business, at least it continues the record of steady progress, which I think I may say has been the feature of our annual statements for some time past; and that is a position with which every true friend of the bank may well be satisfied, for the state of things in the Commonwealth was not a very favourable one, from a banker's point of view, during the year with which we are dealing. This statement may occasion surprise to some who remember the optimistic utterances heard in many quarters a year ago on the final break-up of the long drought; and whose attention has since been called to the improvement which has taken place in the position of the pastoral industry, owing to the favourable season and the higher price of wool—to the abundant harvest of 1903-4, and to the revival of the butter trade. It might be expected that all this would have added materially to the monetary resources of the community, and that a period of business enterprise, with its usual concomitant demand for banking facilities, would have set in; but that has not been the case so far, and the explanation would seem to be that the earlier proceeds of this renewed activity had to go very largely in the reduction of indebtedness incurred during the trying period of drought. Other causes have, no doubt, operated in the same direction. Every well-wisher of Australia must have rejoiced to see that a very welcome change has recently taken place in the attitude of public men and party leaders towards immigration, and that determined efforts are about to be undertaken to attract a desirable class of emigrant from this country by the offer of good farming land on easy terms of payment. Land suitable for this purpose exists in abundance, and the advantages to be derived from the adoption of this policy are so obvious that all must sympathise with the present demand for "closer settlement," but it looks as if some of the State Governments were allowing their zeal to outrun their discretion in this matter, and instead of purchasing the land where necessary at a fair market price, were determined to tax the large owners out of existence, or at all events so to cripple them that they will be forced to sell at prices greatly below the present-day value of the land. It is scarcely to be believed that the proposed legislation will be carried—at all events in its present form, for anyone taking a broad and statesmanlike view of the situation must see that however desirable the object aimed at may be, it cannot be wise or prudent thus to throttle the premier industry of the Commonwealth at a time when it is only just recovering from a prolonged and severe drought, and when it has by no means yet regained the position it occupied but a very few years ago. Another feature in the situation militating against the banks has been the high rate of interest paid on fixed deposits. There has been yet another drawback against which we had to contend, viz., the absence of any agreement between the banks doing business in Australia as to the exchange rates on London. Having completed our retrospect, let us turn to the prospect—from the past to the future. Over the greater part of the pastoral and agricultural districts there has been an abundant rainfall. The wool clip is expected to exceed largely the one of last year, while prices are considerably higher than they were then, and seem likely to be maintained. Dairy production promises to surpass all previous records, and if only the wheat crop, which so far has had everything in its favour, fulfils anticipations, the Commonwealth will reap the benefit of a third good export season in succession. This reminds me to draw your attention to two points of supreme importance in forecasting the trend of events and of business in that far distant portion of the Empire. The year 1904 witnessed a remarkable increase in the exports from Australia, the figures being, roughly, £48,000,000 in 1903 and £57,000,000 in 1904, or an actual increase of upwards of £9,000,000. Imports, on the other hand, showed a decrease of nearly a million, and the excess of exports over imports, which amounted in 1903 to upwards of £10,000,000, rose in 1904 to upwards of £20,000,000, figures for which there is no precedent in the history of Australia. This, of course, is as it should be, looking to the large amount payable annually for interest on Government and corporation indebtedness to the United Kingdom, and to the fact that large sums have to be provided for the payment of bank, mining, pastoral, and other dividends. But it has not always been so, and there can be no doubt that the large exports and restricted imports of 1904 have

combined to place the people of Australia in a much easier position than at any time since the days of excessive borrowing—now happily gone by. Then there has been a remarkable improvement in at least three of the States in the revenue derived from the railways, which, added to the facts I have already dwelt upon, are of happy augury for the future of the Australian Commonwealth. The Chairman then referred to some of the balance-sheet items, and concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and of the application of the amount available for distribution as recommended.

Mr. James Tulloch seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to, and after the retiring directors and auditors had been re-elected votes of thanks to the chairman and directors and to the staff closed the proceedings.

WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of the White Pass and Yukon Railway Co., Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. C. C. Macrae (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. H. P. Stevens) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman: This is the third time I have had the honour of addressing you from the chair of this company, and I feel, as the chairman on such occasions always must do, the anomaly of the position—viz., that I have to speak to you on what is really ancient history, because while our minds, on the board of your company, have during the course of the year been exercised on current affairs, I am at this meeting forbidden to talk about them, and am thrown back on occurrences of eighteen months to over a year ago. The reason for that anomaly has been explained to you more than once, and by myself on the last occasion from this chair, so I shall say no more about it at this moment, except that it presents one compensating advantage—viz., that, although I am about to tell you of the business of this company only for the year 1904, we have the advantage of knowing generally what has been the result of the operations of the year 1905, and that, of course, is of inestimable advantage in guiding us as to the dividend that we recommend on each occasion. The Chairman then gave the reasons which had influenced the directors in paying a 5 per cent. dividend, although it was not fully earned, remarking that this return could be maintained for the current year with a good balance forward, and, continuing, said:—I will now turn, as briefly as possible, to the sterile discussion of figures; but it is impossible to avoid them on this occasion. A comparison of this year's operations with those of the previous year show that in the railroad division you carried 11,773 passengers, against 12,600 in the previous year, and 33,225 tons of freight, against 33,700 tons. Your gross earnings were \$991,000, against \$977,000. Your operating expenses were \$524,000, as against \$551,000. I pause here for one moment to observe with what satisfaction I note the comparison of the percentage of your earnings to your operating expenses. You have reduced them from 56.44 to 52.91 per cent., and this, I think, does the greatest possible credit to the gentleman engaged in operating your road. The net income for that division is \$400,000, as against \$395,000. In the River division you carried 6,849 passengers, as against 8,700; and 26,066 tons of freight, as against 23,500. The gross earnings were \$737,000, as against \$834,000, and the operating expenses \$488,000, as against \$555,000; again a small diminution—in this case but very slight—on the percentage. The net income was \$146,000, against \$157,000. I do not want to weary you, so I will not in detail give you what I have worked out, but for the mail service the result was a net income of \$51,000, as against \$35,000 in the previous year. Taking the three divisions, the rail, river, and winter services, the gross earnings amounted to \$1,729,000, as against \$1,811,000 in the previous year; operating expenses \$1,216,000, as against \$1,278,000, and the net income \$508,000, against \$588,000, leaving available for dividend \$342,000 from the revenue of this year, against \$331,000 for the previous year. I would invite you for one moment to visit with me the Tanana district referred to in Mr. Graves's report, which accompanies the directors' report of this year. As the map shows, that is a district very much outside what you might call the White Pass territory. It is in American territory and not in the territory of British Columbia. It is very nearly a thousand miles—950, in fact—from Dawson City, which, as you know, is what you may call your present terminus. But, notwithstanding that, there is a feature which comes into play, and that is that the greater part of this 950 miles is traversed by the great river Yukon, which, as you know, is your own water route to Dawson, and which flows for thousands of miles onwards until it goes into the sea at St. Michaels. Now, by reason of the fact that you can from Dawson City go down the Great Yukon river and then meet, as you will see by looking at the map, the smaller river Tanana—although in that country everything is on so vast a scale that when I speak of a smaller river, it is only comparative—you get by this a direct communication between the White Pass system and this district of Tanana; and Mr. Graves, when he was over last year, having reported to us that this Tanana district was for the time being and at the moment the central point of interest, a country to which miners and prospectors were taking themselves in the belief that they would find a second Klondyke, and that investigation had proved to him that that belief was well founded, and that there was already a very large population who had gone there to prospect and stay through the winter; we, your directors, after full consideration and a very considerable amount of work, assisted the enterprise

of giving railroad facilities and improved communication to that district with the object of, as we hoped, obtaining a corresponding benefit for the White Pass Railway Company. Now, I have purposely put this in the most general terms, as this year I do not want to dot the i's or cross the t's. Next year I hope we shall be able specifically to give you the results of this venture, and in that case perhaps I may tell you a little more definitely of what I am now thinking. It may interest you to know—I forget where I got it from, but I think it must have been from Mr. Graves, for everything that I get that is worth knowing I get from him—the total output of gold from the Klondyke district until, I think, the end of last year, is \$110,000,000, and from Tanana, where work had only just begun in the way of prospecting, in one short season upwards of \$1,000,000 of gold had already been taken out, and the thing looks as if it was going to stay. I now beg to move that the report and accounts presented to the meeting be received and adopted.

The Hon. Sidney Carr Glyn (vice-chairman) seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to, without discussion.

A final dividend of 6s. per share, making 5 per cent. for the year, was then declared, and after Mr S. H. Graves had dwelt at length on the position and prospects of the company a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors closed the meeting.

SANGLI GOLD MINES.

The second ordinary general meeting of the Sangli Gold Mines, Limited, was held on Tuesday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Malcolm Low, D.L., J.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The secretary (Mr. John Ponsford) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—When I came to think over the scope of the few observations that it is my duty to address to you on the present occasion, I confess to finding myself in a position of some little difficulty, and in that difficulty I venture to ask for your sympathy. It arises not at all from there not being anything of interest to say, but simply because so much of interest has been said already, or will be said presently. On the one hand, you have had the comprehensive—I was going to say the voluminous—report of your directors, together with a detailed mining statement by our superintendent. On the other hand, you are to have an address from Mr Henry Taylor, who will give you the particulars of our mining operations, and his opinion as to our prospects. We think the time has now come for us to issue our remaining 9,072 unissued shares, and we hope that all our shareholders will unite in taking up their respective quota without the necessity of the intervention of any outsiders at all. All our business relations with the local authorities, whether British or native, have continued to be of the most satisfactory character. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Henry Taylor: I beg, gentlemen, to second the resolution. Since the date of the last annual report 2,276 ft. of mining work has been done, as compared with 929 ft. for the nine months covered by that report. The whole of this work has been carried out in the Sangli State holding, where the old workings on the three principal lines of reef, as you are aware, are very extensive. At our last meeting it was announced that pumping machinery had arrived on the mine, and this, together with winding engines, has been erected at north and south shafts, which are now well equipped with machinery for deeper sinking. In the course of the operations the interesting feature was revealed that the large north and south dyke apparently dips to the west, and it gives an indication as to why the reefs have been intersected at a shallower depth in the vertical shafts than expected. At the depths attained and for the short distances driven on, the reefs are unsettled, and require development at a greater distance from the dyke. For this reason the north and south shafts are at present being pushed down on the inclination of the Nos. 1 and 2 reefs, and driving is temporarily suspended. From a personal inspection of your properties in the months of January and February last I can tell you that we have had many difficulties to overcome in laying out the work for the speedy and advantageous development of this Sangli block. Undoubtedly the wise course was to sink the two shafts that are now down to the east of the great dyke that runs north and south through the property, and though these shafts were placed at appreciable distance from the great dyke, I think it is now clear that we shall have to get further away from the influence of that dyke before we see the reefs in their true form. The great hopes of the mine are, of course, in this ground to the east of the main dyke, but some very encouraging indications have also been found to the west of the dyke and some 1,800 ft. distant from north shaft.

The reef discovered at this point has a much steeper dip than is usual on this field, and its distance west of the dykes makes further exploration here desirable and quite feasible to considerable depth. The results obtained in the northern workings give us, I think, ample further encouragement, if such is required, for our belief that the extensive ancient workings in this part of the Sangli block indicate the occurrence of payable gold here, as they have done in other parts of India. The undertaking we are engaged upon in this Sangli mine started under similar conditions and prospects to those of the Dharwar Reefs Mine, and I would say in conclusion that in our opinion there is every reason to expect that the judicious and patient prosecution of the exploration work now in hand will lead us to satisfactory results. (Applause.)

The motion having been put to the meeting and carried unanimously, the other formal business was transacted, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

CERRO MURIANO MINES.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Cerro Muriano Mines, Limited, was held on Tuesday, at the offices, 6, Queen Street Place, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. William Frecheville, chairman of the company, for the purpose of submitting a resolution providing for the increase of the capital to £235,000 by the creation of 75,000 new shares of £1 each, to rank *pari passu* with the existing shares of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. F. H. Williams) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—We have called you together to ask you to authorise the raising of £75,000 more working capital by the issue of an equal number of shares of £1 each, and I beg to propose to you the resolution which has just been read by Mr. Williams. The report which was issued to you about two weeks ago—the report which I made on my return from the mine—will have brought the information you have pretty well up to date. In the two or three weeks which have passed since then, good progress has been made at the mine, and the ore in both ends—both east and west—has continued to open up in a quite favourable way. I told you in my report that something like 20,000 tons of ore might be regarded as available, although, strictly speaking, it was not blocked out for extraction. Since that day a certain amount more has been added; it is a little difficult to say how much, because the ore, again, is not blocked out—we are only driving on the lode—but a considerable amount has been added, and I should think we might take it at somewhere about 5,000 tons. The 20,000 tons I spoke of in my report I stated might be taken to be worth about 4 per cent. of copper, or a shade over, and I estimated that about 2½ per cent. would pay expenses. I also mentioned that the western ends were a good deal better than that average, both as regards size and quality. Well, the reports which have come from the mine indicate that the developments which have taken place have been of the better quality ore, while the lode has been of the larger size. There have been, I am glad to be able to tell you, two quite important developments in the mine in the last two weeks. We are now passing from the exploring stage to the stage when it will justify us in putting up plant to utilise the ore which we are developing, and for that purpose we propose the issue of capital which we are here to-day to authorise. We think that the amount proposed will be sufficient to put up a plant to treat the ore as a commencement, at any rate, and to push on with the work in the mine. If the plant is ordered pretty soon it should be up and at work within about eighteen months. I will now go on to speak about the issue which we propose making. The proposal is for the issue to be made in the first case to the shareholders, who have the privilege of taking up at par one share for each two shares now held, and any shares which are not applied for within the time fixed will be available for others who care to increase their holding, and who will bid a premium for such shares. The forms of application will be posted to you this evening, and there is attached to them at the back a form by which those who do not care to apply can transfer the right to others. You will see that the holders of debentures can exchange into ordinary shares, and can take part in the issue which we are now making. As to the calls, it is proposed to call up 2s. 6d. on application and 2s. 6d. on allotment, and the balance in calls of not more than 5s. per share at intervals of not less than three months. I have no doubt you will think the terms on which we offer these shares to be exceedingly good for the shareholders—(hear, hear)—and we hope that you will all take advantage of the issue. If there are any questions which I can answer I shall be very pleased to do so.

Mr. John Taylor seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Snell then addressed the meeting at some length, and the Chairman having replied to the questions put, a vote of thanks closed the meeting.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The sixty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Western Telegraph Company, Limited, was held at River Plate House, on Wednesday, under the presidency of Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B.

The Secretary (Mr. E. Steer Hodson) read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It again affords me great pleasure to call your attention to the continuance of the prosperous condition of affairs in South America, and to the consequent satisfactory improvement in the company's revenue. Our message receipts for the half-year ended June 30 last amounted in round figures to £253,000, and for the corresponding period of 1904 to £216,000, being an increase of between £37,000 and £38,000. During the current half-year it is gratifying to observe that this improvement is being maintained. I would, however, remark that although the prospect is encouraging, we must be prepared for times of depression and slackness of trade, which appear to be inevitable, sooner or later, to every community. The fortunes of a company like ours are directly dependent on those of the countries which we serve. Our increased revenue has not been obtained without some increased expenditure, to which I will now allude, and I must premise that a large propor-

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The Appendix contains extracts from the opinions of eminent men on the question of unbroken communication between this country and France.

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The Investors' Review.

Money and Stock Market Prospects.

A transitory ease spread over the London Money Market this week, and while it was with us call loans fell to 3 per cent. as what might be called the ruling rate. This encouraged the Stock Exchange to take a more cheerful view of the outlook, and the price of Consols stiffened, while efforts were renewed to give greater elasticity to the market for Home Railway stocks. We should rejoice to think that the change in the Money Market was really a promise of quieter times to come, but there is no probability of its being that in any sense. The difference between such stringency as attended the settlement at the end of last month and such flaccidity as the market has suffered from, chiefly during the earlier part of this week, arose mainly, if not entirely, from the action of the Exchequer. Last week we had to speak in any-

thing but complimentary terms of the way in which the money of the market was being raked in and held back by the Treasury until the unfortunate dealers in Consols had to pay 5 per cent. and upwards for the loan of balances to carry them on to the December settlement. Apparently the Exchequer officials have become aware of the mischief they were doing, and perhaps to some degree alive to the danger of their hoarding. They have accordingly been buying up the expiring Exchequer bonds under 3 per cent. discount and thus letting balances free to an extent which has enabled the market to redeem its short loans at the Bank, and still to have enough between Stock Exchange settlements to go on with. Last week's Treasury figures indicate that £1,739,000 more was paid out than received. The whole of this excess payment, however, does not represent a redemption of Treasury bills, for no less than £970,000 of it went to meet demands on capital account under the Telegraph and Naval Works Acts, and in reality only about £600,000 was used to redeem some of the expiring Exchequer bonds. The disbursements, however, still go on.

A financial operation of this description can only have a most temporary influence upon the supply of credit in the open Money market, and in all probability before the end of the month such liberality in redeeming debt falling due may compel the Chancellor of the Exchequer to come for a further supply of credit through an issue of three months' Treasury bills. In one form or another we may be perfectly certain that the floating debt—our more immediately irksome market inheritance from the waste of the South African war—is going to continue to give much affliction to the ordinary trader and to business men of all classes for many a day to come. And the fact that our market is being worried in this fashion does not make it any the better able to bear its part in helping other markets to endure their troubles. When we are asked whether we think the 4 per cent. Bank rate will be able to pull us through this winter, as everybody hopes, we always answer by pointing to the condition of markets abroad, and asking whether in the event of a breakdown on Wall Street or a real panic about Russian securities in Paris, or a monetary stringency leading to some financial earthquake in the German Empire, our market is in a position to render effective help at the point of danger. The answer, always given with a shake of the head, is: "No, we have enough to do to keep our own bucket from spilling." There is just the trouble. All money markets are at the present time surcharged with liabilities, pure credit liabilities many of them—liabilities, i.e., against which there are no visible assets—and all the more effective on that account in using up resources, so that not one of them is able to help another. The day after the municipal elections in New York money rose to 8 and 9 per cent. on Wall Street, and later touched 15 per cent. There is considerable probability that it may go far beyond

15 per cent. before the end of the year, and if current credit does continue extremely dear on Wall Street efforts must be made there to get supplies of gold from somewhere under penalty of a banking cataclysm.

Thursday's *Times* contained a short note from its Paris correspondent intimating that the small French investor has begun to clear out of his Russian bonds. Hitherto he has accepted the most sinister-looking facts with apparent equanimity. All the frightful destruction of capital caused by the war never moved him, nor was he disturbed by any of the evil deeds of the autocracy—his only real debtor in Russia—all through the earlier months of the year, but he seems to be beginning to grasp the meaning of revolutionary tactics applied on the French model to what in Russia may still be called established order. If this infection of fear spreads then we shall have Paris upon us as a market requiring help, and Paris cannot become financially demoralised without reacting unfavourably upon Berlin, Frankfort, Brussels, and Amsterdam, as well as upon London. All these markets will want money, gold, will come to London in quest of it, and we cannot conveniently spare one of them a sovereign. On the contrary, it is well within the bounds of probability that we ourselves may be driven by the urgency of our affairs to bid high for such gold supplies as may be available. In any case it looks highly probable that the Bank of England will be obliged to raise its rate to 5 per cent. in order to try and protect the market from foreign raids upon its slender stock of gold.

Things are now quieting down in Russia, the private and newspaper advices say, and therefore it may be possible to avoid anything like a panic amongst French holders of Russian securities. We have not much faith in these assurances because Russian society is obviously so disorganised, and above all the governing machine is now thrown so completely out of gear, that it would be unsafe to count upon anything in the way of financial stability in the Empire's affairs for months, perhaps years, to come. Already revolution must have had disastrous effects upon the revenue, so much of which comes from state monopolies of one kind or other, from railway receipts, from the drink monopoly, and the administration of public domains. The mere strikes on the railways must have had a most disastrous effect upon the receipts of the Imperial Treasury, and it has been called upon, at the very time when the collection of taxes in every form must have been difficult and sometimes impossible, to find money to feed the hungry in the famine-stricken provinces, to make advances to the owners of the devastated oil works in the Caucasus, and to provide something at least towards the cost of the repatriation of that army which has lain rotting so many months in Manchuria. All these untoward circumstances might be overcome by means of a large new loan, and the functions of government, especially its interest-paying functions, might continue with no outside trace of strain for some years longer, but will the new democracy in Russia fall into line with the old bureaucracy and obey the behests of Western loan mongers unquestioning, with alacrity? That is just the one vital point impossible beforehand to determine, but there are plenty of utterances scattered amongst the writings of those who lead the Russian people in their fight for liberty to warn us against being too sure that the foreign debt of Russia will be recognised in its entirety by the new democracy when it comes to its dominion. All this apart, however, the winter is bound

to be an anxious one, involving much ruinous liquidation, some important failures, and a devouring hunger for gold as the only safe stand-by in a tempest.

Equitable of the United States Figures and Bluff.

A good deal is being made just now in an adroit, bluffly fashion of the revised valuation put upon the assets of this grievously besmudged business by the New York State Insurance Department. The sum of the matter is that, although a reduction of \$18,786,000 is made in the book "reserve" shown by the company's officials at the end of 1904, there is still a surplus of \$62,000,000 over and above the liabilities. These liabilities are put at only \$344,064,000 and the assets at \$406,073,000. It is added in the telegraphic summary that the report of the New York State Insurance Department cuts down the valuation of the company's real estate by \$5,000,000, and does not count as an asset \$5,813,000 appearing in the company's own returns as "advances to agents." We do not quite follow all these figures in comparing them with the actual exhibit as printed in the annual Green-book of Mr. Francis Hendricks, Superintendent of Insurance for the State of New York, but it may be reasonable enough to accept this verdict as being in the main correct, only it does not carry us further than we were before.

It would be wise, however, to be sure on more than one point before joining in the chorus of praise, for we do not find any mention in the telegraphic summary of a re-valuation of all the merely credit or paper securities possessed by the company, and in its own balance-sheet presented for the year 1904 it brought out the market value of its securities at \$17,321,000 more than the book value. Has Mr. Hendricks written off this fancy figure? Where would the company stand if the whole of its assets were taken at cost? It has visible losses now on its Russian, British and other easily tested investments, and no small portion of the added value shown in the aggregate might be ascribed to the company's holdings in a few trusts and in the National Bank of Commerce. Here is a group of figures suggestive enough:—National Bank of Commerce, par value of the Equitable Company's holding \$4,501,000, estimated market value, \$10,127,000; Equitable Trust, par value of holding \$1,316,000, market value \$8,847,000; Fifth Avenue Trust, par value of holding \$235,000, estimated market value \$1,176,000; Fidelity Trust, par value of holding \$250,000, estimated market value \$1,813,000; Lawyers' Title Insurance Company, par value \$475,000, market value \$1,426,000. To be sure, the company paid a good deal more than par for its holdings in these securities, and we only adduce these figures as an example of the kind of fancy totals which, for all we can tell to the contrary, may be used throughout in making up the aggregate of the assets. What would these trust or bank shares be worth in a panic? We do not know, but none the less feel disposed to believe that the policy-holders are still safe in a sense, provided no catastrophe overtakes the security market in the United States or that no failure occurs among the numerous trusts and banks—credit generators or retorts all—with which these insurance companies are so intimately bound up.

It would be an infamous shame for even the rapacious and unscrupulous gentlemen who have had the untrammelled management of these American offices in their own hands were the nett sums written upon their issued policies not forthcoming when called for; and, honestly reinvested, there ought to be a good deal more for old survivors. This Equitable Company, for instance, has really done a most riotous new business in recent years, with results which ought to have left some little profit to the surviving policy-holders even after "James Hyde and associates," with the other officials of the company and hangers-on like Mr. Chauncey Depew, had had pickings and stealings to their hearts' content. Let us

once more illustrate how things have gone on. In the four years ended December 31 last the Equitable Company claims to have issued about 438,000 policies. This is not true, but that is the figure, including 5,259 old policies revived, the expert touts and canvassers, the board and managers, put forth to stun us by. From this dazzling total, however, we have to knock off about 83,000 policies which were never taken up at all during these years; that is to say, in order to make a parade of doing an overwhelming business, the mere proposals which ended in nothing were added to the figures of new policies in some fashion issued each year and then deducted on the side of policies lapsed or otherwise put out of existence. In reality, therefore, and including old policies revived, the number of new policies accepted and paid upon during these four years appears to have been about 355,000, and of that number only about 195,000 may be said to have been left at the end of the four years. This is not a strictly accurate way of putting it, but it is sufficiently so for our present purpose, which is to show the remarkable speed with which lapse money can be made to accumulate for somebody's—let us hope for the enduring policy-holder's partial benefit. In all policies to the number of nearly one-half the entire new business of the past four years disappeared within that period, the aggregate loss being 164,000, and of this number 97,533 vanished under the head of policies lapsed, 33,053 disappeared as policies surrendered, while only 33,709 policies all told went off the books in the ordinary way—by decease, by maturity, or expiry of term. What moneys the company made by lapses we have no means of knowing. Probably as a mere company very little—5 per cent. of the premiums exacted perhaps—thanks to the high rates of commission paid to the various agents and hangers-on whose business it is to live and grow fat by lapses. Nor do we know how much was made for the company by surrenders; but the figures given in the various reports indicate that the amount handed over to the people who surrendered their policies, whether in the shape of cash down or in paid-up policies for smaller amounts than those originally written, came in the four years under review to just one-fourth of the sums assured by these surrender policies. That is the average for the period, and bearing in mind the fact that so much of the business done consists in short-term policies, one cannot very well refrain from drawing the inference that there might have been a considerable profit on this branch of the business if the harpies had not intercepted it all. And the victims? "Oh, they got what they deserved for being so confiding," says the callous agent.

The facts being thus, it is, plundering notwithstanding, surely in no way surprising that the surviving policyholders should find their contracts fully covered by the existing assets. It may be so. We hope it is so; but shall decline to abandon an attitude of healthy scepticism about the whole fabric until this and other smudged American offices doing what is called "Life" business here consent to submit their books, their affairs from end to end, to a strict actuarial and accountants' valuation at the hands of British experts appointed by the British policyholders direct. In saying this we in no way mean to cast doubts upon the ability or thoroughness of the New York State Insurance Department at Albany. What we rather wish to convey is that the methods of handling life insurance business in the United States appear to be so radically different from what is habitual here, the ideas of even the moderately honest men being so loose and untutored on many points, as to make it impossible to know whether the men set to do the work are really capable of estimating what the true liabilities of the offices may be, still less of putting a safe or genuine value upon the bulk of the assets. It is therefore to be hoped that policyholders here will not be lulled to sleep again by the soothing syrups now being deftly supplied to them by their numerous counsellors in the Press, some of it obviously advice offered at a rate of remuneration perhaps considerably higher than the "dollar a line"

standard mentioned by one of the witnesses who recently gave evidence before the New York Senate Commission. But really those Yankee insurance fellows excite our admiration, their effrontery and adroit cunning are so perfect! Just look at the appended letter and try to imagine yourself writing it, after what has occurred in regard to this Equitable Life Company in particular, and American concerns trading in life policies as a whole, after the James H. Hyde scandal, the syndicate deals and steals and all. You could not say that the writer of this letter is lying, and yet there is no real solid truth in it, only an adroitly phrased simulation of ingenuousness. His statements, as it were, run parallel to the truth, but never by any chance merge therewith. But obviously it is on simulacra, make-believe, brazen assumption such as this letter discloses—a letter sent to a policyholder who had determined to withdraw and have nothing more to do with the company—that the American concerns are going to try and face the scandals out. It is just as well we should have examples of their peculiar methods in good time. They never have stuck at anything; why should they now?

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Henry B. Hyde, Founder.

6, Princes Street, Bank, London, E.C.,

October 30, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your favour of 28th inst., and note your remarks.

Holding the opinion you do respecting Mr. Hyde, who is now no longer an officer of the company, I would suggest that his having severed *his* connection should not be made the reason for your severing *your* connection with it as well, but rather the contrary.

You have seen the Equitable itself make a protest against certain things in its administration, and successfully reform its weak points, emerging from the ordeal, after a public criticism such as few institutions could have hoped to survive, in a stronger and more prosperous condition than ever before.

In the course of a few weeks you will receive a circular from our president embodying the investigation into the society's affairs made by the well-known accountants Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co., of London, and I think you will be very gratified at the result then shown.

As you have thirty days' grace in which to make payment of your premium, I would suggest that you should withhold any thoughts of surrendering it until after you have perused this report, which I expect will be published very shortly.

I cannot too unhesitatingly assure you that everything that has recently happened has been of great advantage to the society, and its policyholders have every reason to congratulate themselves upon the firm stand taken by the society in reforming its administration and upholding the interests of its policyholders at all costs.

Yours very truly,
REGINALD T. NAISH,
General Manager.

After the above notes were written we heard that a meeting of Equitable policyholders had been held, and the proceedings at it were reported in Wednesday's papers. It seems that Sir William Mather, the principal speaker, has been out in the United States and diligently, as is his wont, endeavouring when there to look after the interests of British policyholders in the Equitable. He appears to have satisfied himself that great reforms are being instituted, and in spite of the past record of Mr. Paul Morton, particularly in connection with the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé Railroad, he gives that gentleman a certificate of character of which he may well be proud. From personal interviews, Sir William said, he had formed a strong opinion that Mr. Morton eminently possessed the great qualities which were recognised in him by President Roosevelt and all those who had been closely associated with him. Well, we hope it will prove to be so, and that Mr. Morton's promise of large reductions in expenses will take place. For all that, we are not going to abandon our attitude of watchful suspicion, knowing the strength of the influences making for a continuance of the old régime of "graft" and corruption. And on one point we cannot agree with Sir William Mather and other British policyholders. They seem to have come to the conclusion that if a British director could be appointed to the board of the Equitable in New York all would be well. The British director would have no

more value than Mr. Chauncey Depew or any other United States director had under the Hyde domination—not yet eliminated, we fear. His views would be all right, doubtless, and his attitude most irreproachable, but his influence would be *nil*. What we wish to see provided for is a periodical overhaul of the accounts of all foreign or alien insurance offices doing business in this country by competent men, appointed not so much by their policyholders here as by the Institute of Actuaries, or that body and the Government together. These alien companies must be brought into line and into subjection to the rudimentary principles of honesty if they are to be allowed to continue to do business here.

Five Years of Argentine Railway Progress.

Instead of following usual custom, and confining our review of the Argentine railway position to a single year, we think it will be useful if on the present occasion the survey is allowed to take a wider scope. About five years have now elapsed since Argentina entered upon a period of progress and prosperity which, we are sure, must be quite without parallel in its history, and amidst all the gloom that has characterised the greater part of this time it has been quite a relief to turn to a subject which afforded opportunity for a few cheerful words. Year by year, or half-year by half-year, we have been able to speak of the phenomenal advance made by the railways of the country, and although it may be too much to expect that a time of reaction will never come, yet we think it may be safely said that Argentina will never again experience a recurrence of the depression that formerly threw the finances of the country into such a state of wild disorder. The administration is doubtless far from perfect, but so far as can be judged the recent and present prosperity has been taken advantage of to put the internal affairs of the country in some sort of order, so as to be prepared for a turn of the tide; and so far as the railways are concerned we know that much has been done to consolidate and strengthen their positions by making lavish contributions to reserves and keeping the systems in a high state of efficiency. To bring clearly before readers' minds the remarkable achievements of these lines during the period now under review it will be necessary to inflict upon them a good many figures, but they seem to us so instructive that their perusal should amply reward the patient reader.

For example, in the year ended June 30, 1901, the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway gathered a revenue of £2,367,000, but for the twelve months ended June last this had expanded by very nearly £1,000,000, so that although the expenditure went up in the usual ratio of slightly less than 50 per cent., the nett profit was larger by some £470,000. An increase in the mileage of 183 partly contributed to these remarkable increases, but not materially, and it is to real and genuine development of the country that the advances must be considered due. The number of passengers carried has gone up just 2,000,000, taking up the receipts from £598,000 to £858,000, luggage and parcels traffic has expanded by £70,000, and the goods tonnage by something like 1,100,000 tons. The carriage of animals has not increased to such a notable extent, a sharp advance from 3,333,000 to 4,794,000 being followed by a shrinkage to 3,966,000, and we suppose it is inevitable that, in some parts of the country at least, as agricultural pursuits become increasingly popular the pastoral industry should decline. The company's wool traffic, for example, has been on the down grade for some time, but, always taking our fixed period of five years, we find an increase in the wheat tonnage of 802,000 tons and in maize of 260,000 tons, with other commodities following up to a less pronounced extent. So it is that the goods receipts are higher by £560,000. On the Buenos Ayres and Pacific the expansion in receipts has reached £463,000 by a series of uninterrupted advances, and although the directors have wisely seized the opportunity to spend lavishly on the system the nett

revenue has gained to the extent of £276,000, so that from no payment at all the dividend on the ordinary stock has steadily advanced to 7 per cent., notwithstanding an increase in fixed charges of £143,000. Mileage in operation is now 1,030 compared with 617, and besides building extensions the company has followed the policy of absorbing other lines which appeared likely to promote traffic and consolidate the system. In this way it has taken over, under guarantee, the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway, giving it direct access to the rapidly growing port of Bahia Blanca, and the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway. Also the company has, in conjunction with the Argentine Great Western Company, interested itself in completing, through the Buenos Ayres Transandine Railway, the great line across the South American Continent from Valparaiso to Chile, and as we have before remarked, this railway promises to show the most consistent development during the next few years. Its gain in passengers carried amounts to 688,000, with receipts up by £112,000, and there is likewise an advance in the income from luggage and parcels of £14,500. In animals the increase has amounted to 659,000 and in goods over 1,000,000 tons, and between these two classes of traffic the revenue has expanded by £491,000. Grain traffic alone has gone up 400,000 tons.

On the Buenos Ayres Western there are also such big improvements in cereals as 107,000 tons in maize and 467,000 tons in wheat and barley. The animal traffic has risen by 1,810,000, the goods tonnage by 760,000, and the receipts by £540,000; but, curiously enough, although the passenger traffic gave an increased revenue of £130,000, the numbers carried have fallen off by about 200,000. This is due to a shrinkage in the short distance traffic owing to the electric tramway competition now very keen in Buenos Ayres, a shrinkage which has been made good, so far as money is concerned, by the development of long distance traffic. Luggage and parcels improved some £22,000, and from all sources the gross receipts appear at £1,514,000 compared with £820,000 on tracks larger by 374 miles. At the same time the expenditure rose £347,000 and nett revenue benefits to the extent of an almost equal amount. On the Argentine Great Western line the expansion in business, although excellent, has not been so phenomenal. An increase in gross revenue of £121,000 was accompanied by a rise in expenditure of £74,000, so that the nett revenue was no more than £47,000 larger. Moreover, the increase in mileage was very considerable at 145. Passengers carried went up from 372,000 to 625,000, goods tonnage from 370,000 tons to 507,000, and the animal carriage from 47,000 to 90,000, so that the passenger receipts advanced £24,000, luggage and parcels a few hundreds, and the goods income some £91,000. The Entre Rios next comes under observation, and it is really very pleasing to observe the progress this line has made. Even now the success it obtains is very qualified, judged by the return on capital, but improvement is not done with yet, and at present the line is in a position which three or four years ago few could have considered possible. Its gross receipts have gone up from £91,000 to £189,000, the expenditure from £70,000 to £106,000, and the net profit from £22,000 to £83,000. Passengers carried and the receipts therefrom have shown a very solid increase, in goods the gain is 163,000 tons, meaning extra revenue of about £74,000, while the animal carriage has improved from only 11,360 to 140,477.

This brings us to the Buenos Ayres and Rosario company, which we have left till last, because a semi-annual statement only is issued at this time of the year, the financial year being made to end on December 31. Since 1901, the first of our five years, the Buenos Ayres and Rosario has included also the Central Argentine, so that the rise in prosperity is not quite so remarkable as it seems. It may, therefore, be useful to first mention that the roads in operation are almost 1,200 miles longer. However, while in the

first six months of 1901 the gross revenue was £579,000, and in same period of 1902 £1,169,000, including the Central figures, for the opening half of the present year it was £1,979,000, so that the company has not lagged behind. Similarly the expenditure has gone up from £306,000 in 1901 and £662,000 in 1902 to £992,000, and the profit from £272,000 and £566,000 to £986,000. Here our double comparisons may as well end, and for the rest of the figures it will be fairer to take the year 1902 than 1901, because of the great size of the system absorbed. Revenue from passengers is now £130,000 larger than it was in 1902, with an advance in numbers of 690,000, weight of goods has jumped from 1,959,000 tons to 3,250,000 tons, and the goods revenue from £750,000 to £1,352,000, luggage and parcels following with an improvement of £18,000 or thereabouts.

That immense capital outlay has been involved in promoting and carrying this vast traffic need hardly be said, so great indeed, that only long sustained prosperity such as the companies have enjoyed, and will, we trust, continue to enjoy, could possibly justify it. The Buenos Ayres Great Southern, which we always regard as the premier line of the Argentine, leads with an increase in capital of about £5,500,000, involving extra prior charges of £215,000 a year, apart from additional sums required to maintain the ordinary dividend at 7 per cent., the rate paid for seven years now, and so it is all through. With the Buenos Ayres and Pacific the increase is in round figures £3,500,000, the Buenos Ayres Western has added close on £2,000,000, the Argentine Great Western nearly £1,000,000, and the Buenos Ayres and Rosario from the end of 1901 to the end of 1904 about £1,500,000. The last named company now pays 5 per cent. per annum on both its ordinary and deferred stocks, the Buenos Ayres Western 7 per cent. on the ordinary stock, like the Great Southern and the Pacific already mentioned, while the Entre Rios has raised its preference dividend from 2 per cent. to 4½. Happily there seems no immediate likelihood of any company having to recommend a smaller distribution to its shareholders, as business continues to expand in a most satisfactory fashion, and while the present policy of prudence and caution is followed Argentine railway stocks will probably continue to enjoy the same high favour amongst investors that they do to-day. As evidence of what has been done to help to safeguard the future, the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Company can point to an increase in its reserve funds of over £600,000, and the Pacific of over £500,000, with more to be added when the absorption of the Villa Maria is completed. With the Buenos Ayres Western the additions have been on a still more liberal scale, no less than £786,000 having been added to the accumulations, and while it is true that the savings of the Argentine Great Western show a nominal decline, that is due to the diversion of reserves to the relief of capital. Since the end of 1901, and including the savings of the Central Argentine Company, the Rosario Company has accumulated reserves to the amount of something like £1,100,000, and no matter where one looks the position gives evidence of greater stability and strength than is usually encountered in present-day finance. The companies, one and all, are entitled to congratulation on the positions they have attained, and as yet there is no sign that the tide of prosperity and progress has run its course, or begun to recede.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

TEN MONTHS' FOREIGN TRADE.

It is to be regretted that the date of the Birmingham prophet's latest inspirational deliverance was not arranged so that he could expatiate upon the figures of our foreign trade for October. It would have been amusing, if not instructive, to note what he had to say about a decrease in the value of our imports, and the impending ruin of

Kynochs through peace. Failing his exposition of the indications of approaching dissolution of an Empire this shrinkage might be supposed to imply, we must accept the facts without gloss. There is nothing alarming in them, for the total value of the imports for the month came to £48,676,418, and the decrease was only £841,407, or 1·7 per cent., and exports went up by £3,923,869, or nearly 15½ per cent. to a total of £29,367,556, and the whole of the increase was due to exports of manufactures, textiles alone giving an increase of upwards of £1,000,000. The reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise also gave an increase of £574,437, or fully 10 per cent. on the figures for October, 1904, the total being £6,238,810. That the decrease in the value of the imports was accidental may be inferred from the fact that it is ascribable principally to the decline in the value, of wheat and Indian corn imported during the month. There was likewise a decrease of 30 per cent. in the quantity of raw cotton, and of 34 per cent. in the value during the month of October, and this also may be considered to some extent accidental, or at worst an indication that the manipulations of gamblers in the raw material have again tended to restrict the purchases of British manufacturers.

When we come to the figures for the ten months thus far expired, the slight decline of imports shown for last month is seen to be of no account, since in the current year up to the end of last month the excess value of merchandise imported over the value for the same period of 1904 was £11,188,000. This is less than half the increase in the value of British and Irish produce exported in the same time, but still a sufficient indication of the vitality and profitable nature of our commerce. And it is surely a remarkable fact that it is not to any material degree with our own Empire that the increase has taken place on either side of the account, least of all on the export side. Our supply of fresh beef has come principally from the United States and the Argentine Republic, and in the past month, at any rate, the Argentine Republic took the lead in the supply of fresh mutton, for the first time outstripping New Zealand. On the 10 months New Zealand still leads, with consignments aggregating about 1,410,000 cwt., but Argentina follows very closely with 1,216,433 cwt. Australia has done a little better in this line but not much, and it is only in dead rabbits that the Australian and New Zealand settlements retain their supremacy. New Zealand even beats Belgium in that particular article of export. In spite of the revolution, Russia continues to send large quantities of wheat to this country, but there was a sensible decline in the past month, although the total for the ten months is much higher than we received either in 1904 or 1903 up to the same date. Last month British India sent us very much less wheat than has recently come from that quarter, but our leading sources of supply in the year to date have been that dependency and the Argentine Republic, each of which has sent us more than 21,000,000 cwts. of this one cereal, the

IMPORTS.

	October.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise	£ 47,758,188	£ 49,517,825	£ 48,676,418	— 841,407
Gold	2,851,776	3,186,939	2,316,832	— 870,107
Silver	878,405	578,355	850,680	+ 272,325
	51,488,369	53,283,219	51,843,930	— 1,439,289

EXPORTS.

	October.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 25,861,180	£ 25,443,687	£ 29,367,556	+ 3,923,869
For. and Col. M'dse...	6,381,457	5,661,373	6,235,870	+ 574,437
Gold	3,320,746	6,235,109	3,016,910	— 3,218,199
Silver	844,045	803,462	1,146,785	+ 343,323
	36,407,428	38,143,631	39,767,061	+ 1,623,430

IMPORTS.

	Ten Months ended October 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise.	£ 441,904,658	£ 447,875,447	£ 459,063,829	+ 11,188,382
Gold	23,699,678	27,958,889	32,061,624	+ 4,102,735
Silver	7,911,904	9,921,230	10,635,533	+ 714,303
	473,516,240	485,755,566	501,760,986	+ 16,005,420

EXPORTS.

	Ten Months ended October 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 243,439,985	£ 246,632,475	£ 271,763,124	+ 25,130,649
For. and Col. M'dse..	58,931,328	58,168,577	64,012,454	+ 5,843,877
Gold	20,080,221	24,719,722	25,569,643	+ 849,921
Silver	8,608,267	11,057,901	11,794,922	+ 737,021
	330,859,801	340,578,675	373,140,143	+ 32,561,468

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	October.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports.. .. .	£ 51,488,369	£ 53,283,219	£ 51,843,930	— 1,439,289
Exports	36,407,428	38,143,631	39,767,061	+ 1,623,430
Excess value of im- ports over exports	15,080,941	15,139,588	12,076,869	— 3,062,719

	Ten Months ended October 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports.. .. .	£ 473,516,240	£ 485,755,566	£ 501,760,986	+ 16,005,420
Exports.. .. .	330,859,801	340,578,675	373,140,143	+ 32,561,468
Excess value of im- ports over exports	142,656,439	145,176,891	128,620,843	— 16,556,048

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

Argentine Republic leading slightly with about 300,000 cwts. more than India. Australia has also come to the fore as a source of supply, beating for the time being the United States and Canada taken together.

It is somewhat difficult to account for the increase shown in our exports, because one can never be quite sure how much of the augmented trade comes from the borrowings of our customers in our market. The enlarged business with Japan, for example, in textiles of all descriptions and in machinery could not have taken place but for the war and the war loans. These transitory increases, however, are of no particular account in relation to the aggregates of our business, for it is a world-wide trade, thanks, we must never forget, to the freedom with which our merchants and manufacturers are allowed to carry it on; and in some parts of the world we are always getting compensation for checks or recoils in others. All branches of our business have shown a tendency to improve during the current year in continuation of the improvement of the two years preceding, and some weak spots have been eliminated so that the aspect of our export business as a whole has seldom looked more healthy than it does now. The export of new ships, for example, has recovered, and the total value for the expired 10 months of this year exceeds that of either of the preceding years. Our exports of machinery also keep up well, and show increases with customers outside the Empire, especially countries in Europe, which are altogether satisfactory; but it is in our unrivalled cotton industry that the most remarkable expansion of business continues to be shown, and it is an expansion provided by foreign countries almost alone—foreign countries and India. Australia has imported a little more cottons to date this year than last, but New Zealand has taken less, and also Canada. We have, however, sent larger quantities of cotton tissues to Germany, the

Netherlands and Belgium, to Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Foreign West Africa, Dutch East Indies, the Philippine Islands, to China and Japan notably, to the United States of North America, Peru, Chile, and Uruguay. Business has also been better with British West and South Africa, but the trade revival is substantially, and in the main with customers still outside the charmed circle of the British dominions, and the same holds good of woollen fabrics, for which, however, Canada ranks amongst our best customers, if not as the very best after the United States, which continues to be the largest buyer by far of worsted goods. But the tariffites would put an end to all that sort of unlicensed and toll-free prosperity.

ANTI-JEWISH OUTBREAKS IN RUSSIA.

Well may the Jews here complain of the apathy displayed by the British public towards these ghastly tales of murder, robbery, and every form of outrage perpetrated on men of their race throughout Russia, but especially in Odessa and neighbourhood. We have gone through the City day after day since the tales of these massacres began to appear in the Press, and nobody has ever spontaneously alluded to them. The whole story appears to have been passed by with the utmost indifference. Are we to infer from this that the English people have become callously indifferent to suffering, or that "Jew baiting" is tacitly approved by them? We think not. The indifference is less complete than it appears, and arises much more from a disposition to doubt the truth of these tales than from any dislike to the Jews or sympathy with their persecutors. The tales are so horrible that the average mind absolutely refuses to admit their truth, and undoubtedly there has been systematic exaggeration in the reports of atrocities sent to the newspapers of Western Europe by correspondents in Russia. The events in Petersburg last January were exaggerated; horrible enough they were, but not so utterly demoniac as we were led to suppose. Therefore, people say, there must be an immense amount of exaggeration in these tales of riots and massacres of Jews in Russia, particularly in Southern Russia. We hope this view may prove to be the correct one, but all the same, enough must have occurred to enlist the sympathies of every lover of liberty on the side of a persecuted people. It is not the Russian civil or civilised population which has been or is now systematically massacring the Jews, nor is the Jew being pursued by the rabble for his alleged vices. His enemies are the members of the bureaucratic Government and their ignorant tools, and the Jew is being hunted down and murdered in revenge by agents of a form of government which we hope is passing away in Russia for ever. In other words, it is for his best qualities, his patriotism, his acuteness of intellect, his resistance to tyranny, his unquenchable love of education and unrelenting pursuit of civilised ideals that the Jew is being punished by the old horde, slain, deprived of his possessions, in so many parts of Russia to-day. Had he been only the vicious creature presented to us in so many of the officially-inspired writings of the Western Press, the Russian bureaucrat and his tools would never have molested him or the rabble been stirred up to compass his ruin. It is rather because of his virtues, of his keen intellectual sympathies, his humanity, and his unrelenting efforts in the cause of liberty that the Jew is suffering in Russia to-day. That surely entitles him to the sympathy of all classes in this country, and we hope means may be found to express the feelings excited in the minds of the English people by these horrible atrocities with an emphasis and unanimity that may force even the Russian bureaucrat, still fighting for his supremacy, to hold his hand.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN BONDHOLDERS' REPORT.

This is published a good deal later than usual owing mainly to the late receipt of some of the materials necessary to bring the report up to date, and it seems that in future the issue will not be made until the early

part of each calendar year, so as to bring the information up to the end of the preceding year. Consequently the thirty-third annual statement—the present one is the thirty-second—will cover a period of 15 months from October 1, 1905, to December 31, 1906. So much explained, we can now proceed to say a few words regarding the council's achievements in bringing defaulting countries and states to book during the past year, and it is satisfactory to find that a certain measure of success has attended the efforts of Lord Avebury and his band of not very heroic lieutenants. At the time of the publication of the last report there were six Spanish-American debts in default, viz.: those of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Venezuela, and the Buenos Ayres Cédulas, and unhappy holders of the external debts of two of these countries have been overjoyed to find them returning to the paths of honesty and modified rectitude. These are Colombia and Venezuela, whose defaults have been settled on terms which, all things considered, the Council thinks may be regarded as fair, especially in the case of Colombia. But the council is always very easily pleased. At the present time negotiations are proceeding for a settlement of the Costa Rica debt, and also of the Buenos Ayres Cédulas, and we concur in the hope that arrangements may be effected in both these cases in the near future. At one time agreement seemed very near in connection with the Costa Rica debt, but the thing broke down at the last moment, and as a new government has come into power no further progress is possible until Congress assembles in the spring of next year. No subject has been more widely discussed during the past few months than the Buenos Ayres Cédulas business. Since the collapse of what is known as the Bemberg scheme owing to insufficient support, a lot of new facts of a very startling character have come to light, and both the National and Provincial Governments have been charged with concealing heavy indebtedness which they are said to have incurred to the Mortgage Bank. So far as we can judge, the stories current in the Argentine and here have more than a substratum of truth behind them, and evidently the Stock Exchange thinks the same, as these Cédulas have been made the medium of such a vigorous gamble that during the past year the price must have pretty well doubled. Whether there is just reason for the optimism that current quotations imply it is very hard to say, and, to use the words of the Council, "until more definite information has been received it is difficult to estimate what effect these alleged revelations are likely to exercise on the position and prospects of the Cédula holders." Not only Cédulas but the market value of all other Spanish-American securities have shown extraordinary appreciation during the past year, and although we know they must not be considered as other than illustrations these days, the following figures are without doubt very instructive:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Colombia.....	14	18	24½	24	44
Costa Rica A.....	16½	24	22	26	56
Costa Rica B.....	15	19	19	19½	46
Guatemala.....	13	27½	21	24	39½
Honduras.....	5	5½	5½	6	13
Nicaragua.....	57½	66½	60½	59	79
Paraguay.....	23	27	29	35	50
Uruguay.....	49½	55½	58½	59½	72
Venezuela.....	26	29	32½	42	51

Up to the present it cannot be said that there is much justification for the rise in the bonds of Guatemala and Honduras, the latter making not the slightest attempt to abide by its obligations, while the former, if anything, acted in a more wanton fashion, simply fooling the bondholders by coming to an arrangement which it had not the slightest intention of carrying through. What seems to be an unwarrantable interference by the United States with the affairs of Santo Domingo—with that State's permission it must be admitted—appears to have been prejudicial to the

interests of the English holders of Santo Domingo bonds, and it is a significant fact that while President Roosevelt is always ready to tub-thump with regard to the proper interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine and its bearing upon defaulting republics, he cannot see his way clear to cause the Republic of Panama, which separated itself from the rest of Colombia at his instigation, to assume its proper proportion of the Colombian debt. Happily against all this can be recorded the faithful fulfilment of obligations by Uruguay, Nicaragua, and Paraguay, and we learn that the final payment on the debentures of the Ituana Railway by the Brazilian Government brought to a conclusion a settlement which the debenture holders cannot but regard as eminently satisfactory. But even now much remains to be done, and although the summary of principal loans in default as shown below has a much better appearance than it had twelve months back, we fear a long time must elapse before the publication of this little table can be dispensed with altogether:—

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LOANS IN DEFAULT IN 1903-1904.

States.	Approximate Principal Outstanding.	Approximate Interest Arrears.
Argentine Municipal Loans	£ 793,600	£ 714,220
Do Provincial Cédulas.....	*14,458,853	—
Costa Rica.....	2,000,000	600,000
Former Confederate States	2,418,800	6,857,298
Guatemala.....	1,482,800	385,528
Honduras.....	5,398,570	15,216,512
Louisiana (Certificates)	184,432	—
Mississippi.....	1,400,000	4,810,000
West Virginia	4,047,874	—
Total	31,184,929	28,583,558

* Including interest to December 31, 1903, in arrear.

SWEETMEAT AUTOMATIC DELIVERY COMPANY.

It would be useless to attempt a comparison of the latest report and accounts of this misguided venture with those of the previous year, because the whole of the latter period was devoted to reorganisation and clearing up, so that the twelve months under review really constituted the commencement of a new era. Glad are we to say that the statement just issued gives promise of slightly better times ahead—better, that is, than seemed likely only a short year ago, but there can never be a return to the glorious, if fictitious, prosperity of Edward Hore's best days, and, though they may do something to prevent the complete collapse which at one time threatened the enterprise, the present chairman and deputy-chairman, Mr. Geo. A. Touch and Mr. W. Capel Slaughter, will never, we fear, find this company a means of enhancing their reputations, despite their previous remarkable successes in swimming through turbid waters. Notwithstanding a further falling off of upwards of £15,000 in the takings of the machines, the nett profit for the past year increased by £3,126 to £20,366, the gross revenue having been £104,137, including profit from the wholesale business, and the total outgo £83,771, striking items of expenditure being rents and commission £42,323, wages and salaries, including repairs, £23,990, depreciation £4,866 and directors' fees £2,000. The reduced takings are, it seems, to a great extent attributable to the heavy decline in the receipts from the stamping and non-delivery machines, but the outlook as regards the former appears more promising, as the directors have completed arrangements for the control of the commercial rights for Great Britain in these stamping machines, and some have already been sold to large manufacturing and engineering businesses. In other directions, too, there are encouraging signs, as substantial reductions have been effected in working costs, rentals on the railway platforms have been materially reduced, and, thanks, perhaps, to the introduction of new kinds of sweetmeats more suitable to the public taste, the takings of the machines have lately been pick-

ing up. Then the wholesale department, carried on under the name of Reeves, Limited, has shown satisfactory progress, the directors say, a substantial expansion in turnover being accompanied by increased profits, notwithstanding the unfavourable price of sugar during the greater part of the period under review. Moreover, the indications for the current year's trading are hopeful. Last year the company carried forward a credit of £9,627, and this, added to the profit now brought out, gives a total of £23,895. From it the board has decided to pay the shareholders a dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 6d. per share, absorbing £9,627, adding £10,000 to the reserve and carrying £4,268 to the current year. The new reserve will now stand at £15,000—the old one of over £200,000 disappeared in making good capital deficiencies—and while the directors put more to the accumulations than they distribute in dividends there cannot be much cause for complaint. The goodwill and patents, machines and fittings are now in the balance-sheet at £200,000, and the directors have given a promise that all additions will come from revenue. Investment in Reeves, Limited, the wholesale business, is entered at £135,000, and the company has an excellent supply of liquid assets, as although sundry creditors reach £11,997 against £2,109 due by debtors, there are high-class investments and cash of £67,057, including £15,000 in Irish Land and Transvaal Government stocks held on account of reserve. Plant and machinery, tools, fixtures, &c., are considered worth £8,086 and the stock of sweets, cigarettes, &c., is valued at £11,753.

AGENCY LAND AND FINANCE COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

The accounts of this company are brought down to June 30 last, which is quite meritorious, and in their report the directors say that they have been able to pay off an instalment of £24,115 due on the debenture debt on July 1 last without making any further call upon shareholders. This also is meritorious if they provided the money without borrowing, and we trust the security of the remaining debenture-holders was in no way impinged upon by this transaction. They were able to make the payment, the directors say, owing to the realisation at a satisfactory price of an important property belonging to the company. Has it many more assets of this description, and what will the shareholders have left after the debentures are paid? Are the accounts real in the matter of revenue and expenditure? is another question which may be asked. The directors say that they have again this year "only in a few cases taken interest on advances to the credit of profit and loss." What is the meaning of that sentence? Has the interest not been received? We judge not, by the succeeding sentence, which runs, "The difference between receipts and expenditure on the foreclosed properties, which shows a surplus, has been applied in reduction of the book values of these accounts." Presumably, had interest been earned there would have been no reduction in these book values. However, the number of sheep on the company's stations has considerably increased by lambings, and the increase has not been taken into account in the figures for the past year ended June 30, which is indeed self-denial! The balance-sheet tells very little beyond the fact that £36,822 had been received during the year upon realisation of assets and £3,025 from calls paid by shareholders. Then £24,220 was paid out to redeem debenture stock and £10,429 disbursed as debenture interest. The advances on land, stations, and stock, together with foreclosed properties, figure at £336,970, less £100,000 "written off" against profit and loss for depreciation, but the balance at the debit of profit and loss is now £234, 198, and there is a contingent liability of £52,280 on guaranteed mortgages. Unsecured creditors figure for £24,191, and the total liability of the company on debenture stock is still £217,035. The year's business seems to have been worked so far as ordinary revenue and expenses were concerned at a loss of £10,148; that is to say, the de-

benture stock interest was not earned. Well may the chartered accountants who audit express their inability to give any opinion as to the adequacy of the provision made for losses accrued, but there is still enough money to pay the directors' fees and sundry law costs, so the story will be continued a little longer.

OUR MODEL TRUST.

PLEASE NOTE.—To prevent misconception about these trusts we have to state that they are never drawn up to further private or personal interests. When this Review was started in 1892, we gave a pledge that it would never be used to "work the market" in any sense, and that pledge has been faithfully kept; therefore neither the conductors nor any brokers or speculators in the City have any interest in the stocks named in our "model trusts" the stocks in which are selected week by week wholly on their intrinsic qualities as far as known, and we publish the selections solely as a guide to serious investors in using their own judgment, not as a means of working off upon the public stocks bought and held for the rise.

The question of yield is one which troubles investors greatly, and with many of them the aim is to get as high a return as possible consistent with a reasonable prospect of safety for their capital. To these the undernoted selection may therefore appeal, as it contains two first charge securities, which may be considered to give it stability, while by the inclusion of two rather more speculative things, the yield is brought up to about £5 3s. 3d per cent. Cordoba Central Buenos Ayres Extension debentures are the issue recently made for the purpose of building a line from Rosario to Buenos Ayres and interest on them is guaranteed by the Cordoba Central Company until October 15, 1912. After that date they become entitled to two-thirds of the surplus profits after 5 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares, and should Argentine progress continue on the same scale as during the past few years, an improvement in capital value may be looked for, especially as the bonds can be redeemed at 110 after 1917. William Beardmore and Co. are a firm of shipbuilders and engineers in which Vickers, Sons, and Maxim have a large interest, and so far as can be judged from the particulars made public, they seem to do an enormous business. The Linoleum Manufacturing Company has, we believe, a very good business, and although its profits have fluctuated somewhat widely during the past few years, it is not over-capitalised, and the shares should be safe enough. Nobel Dynamite Trust is a parent concern dealing through subsidiary companies throughout the world, and as its products are indispensable to the mining industry, to say nothing of the other uses for dynamite, it appears bound to prosper.

	Nominal Amount.	Price.	Dividend.
	£	£	£ s. d.
£100 Cordoba Central Buenos Ayres Extension Debentures	100	102½	5 0 0
£100 Wm. Beardmore and Co. Debs. .	100	105½	4 10 0
20 Linoleum Manufacturing Co. Shares	100	280	15 0 0
10 Nobel Dynamite Shares	100	180	10 0 0
	400	668	34 10 0

SIMMER AND JACK PROPRIETARY MINES.

Once more, gleefully cry the directors of the Simmer and Jack, our mine has become the premier gold producer on the Rand. This is nothing to boast of, seeing that it has a mill of 320 stamps, and the shareholders are not sensibly benefited by the thousands of tons mined. Huge profits are earned, it is true, but owing to the intolerable quantity of water in the capital the dividend is only 5 per cent., and the nett yield on the market price a mere £3 6s. 6d. It may be one of the largest gold producers, and its profits may be comparatively large, but it is one of the tiniest dividend payers. Investors do not put their capital into such a mine to be satisfied with the reflected glory of helping to run the greatest producer on the Rand. They desire to get a decent return on their investment, to make something out of it, but what will it profit those who bought at the high figures in the past? Even at 1½ the share is much too dear. At 10s. each one might risk buying

them, for a return of 10 per cent. is not too much to cover all the risks. On current dividends the shares are inflated at 1½, yet even in this year of depression they have been as high as £2½. The financial year ends on June 30. In July, 1904, 150 stamps were running, increased to 170 in September. In the following October, in consequence of the changes due to the arrival of Chinese, 25 stamps had to stop working, but subsequently the number in operation was again increased, and by February last the full battery of 320 stamps was running. Taking the whole year the average was 250 stamps, which crushed 475,181 tons, for a yield of 121,794 ozs. from the mill. The cyanide works treated 341,809 tons, the slimes plant 88,171 tons, whilst by-products gave 435 ozs., making a total output from all sources of 180,637 ozs., averaging 7.60 dwts. per ton. The value was £760,323, equal to £1 12s. per ton; expenditure amounted to £553,689, or £1 3s. 3d. per ton, leaving a profit of £206,633, or only 8s. 8d. per ton. Rents, transfer fees, &c., gave £8,316, increasing the profit to £218,080. A sum of £1,826 is written off demolished buildings, the profits tax for two years takes £15,710, interest, commission and exchange absorb £1,305, and a balance of £199,239 is left as clear profit to add to the credit of £150,047 brought from 1904. The two dividends of 2½ per cent. each take £150,000, £143,254 represents revenue appropriated for capital purposes during the last two years, £15,000 goes to reserve for additions and renewals to machinery and plant, and after debiting the account with £1,825 as difference in respect of contracts for machinery and mining commodities entered into during the war, a balance of £39,207 remains to carry to the current accounts. The above reserve now amounts to £152,075 after writing off £19,822 during the year, and this is represented by an investment, the character of which is not disclosed, of a book value of £129,397. There is another reserve account of £916,031, of long-standing and consisting practically of premiums, the major portion of which is sunk in the mine. With all its wealth the company has had to borrow £58,000 from the London Joint Stock Bank, owes £106,747 on open accounts, and at the date of the balance-sheet had not paid the final dividend of £75,000 nor the year's profit tax of £9,819. All the cash it could display was £13,368, with debtors down for £47,188, bills receivable amounting to £18,716, and gold in transit £17,151. This means that the money for the dividend would have to be borrowed, but the directors had some good shares to pledge. The company possesses 2,909 £1 shares in the South Rose Deep, 64,959 South Goldenhuis Deep shares, 28,000 General Electric Power shares and others in the Rand Mutual Assurance Company, the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and the Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, the cost of which is entered in the books at £209,666. Profits may be increased in the future should the 320 stamps be kept regularly at work, which will depend upon the wills of the Chinkees. Costs, we are told by the consulting engineer, have been recently reduced to 20s. 7d. per ton, but it is doubtful if the increase in earnings will be considerable enough to enable more than 1 or 2 per cent. to be added to the dividend. For 2 per cent. will require an extra £60,000, whereas profits ought to be at least £100,000 more to justify the present high market price.

LE ROI DIRECTORS ANSWER MR. McMILLAN.

The Le Roi directors have at last broken their profound silence, goaded into articulation probably by the growing discontent and indignation of the shareholders. Now they have opened their mouths they show they can be amazingly garrulous, for the circular they issue is a lengthy one; but, unfortunately for their defence, there is more empty verbiage than substance in it. They regret they have not been able to call a meeting, as they promised, some time last month, "in consequence of unforeseen delays in regard especially to the holding of the meetings in Canada of the other companies interested." This is a trivial excuse, for they could easily have given the explanation long before now, had they any regard for

the feelings of the shareholders and the necessity of acting with due courtesy towards them. They now learn by cable, they say, that Mr. Mackenzie—one of the new managers—mailed on October 20 his report on the properties to be amalgamated, likewise that the meetings of the Canadian companies will probably be held on or before November 14. If there have been unexpected delays, the directors could easily have inquired into causes and have enlightened the shareholders upon these; if, on the other hand, they have been ignorant of what is going on on the other side, it shows that the other interested parties in British Columbia are doing pretty well what they please, ignoring both the directors and shareholders on this side. This appears to us to be a reasonable conclusion from the vague statements now made. On receipt of Mr. Mackenzie's report and on learning the results of the meetings of the other companies, the directors promise "to take steps to issue their own report and convene a general meeting." This means further indefinite delay, and the shareholders may be kept in suspense for months to come, for, judging by past experience, the "steps" the directors will take may be tardy and exasperating, not energetic and brisk. As regards the action of M. McMillan in obtaining an injunction from the United States Courts to prevent the removal of valuable machinery from the Northport Smelter, the directors now say they had no intention other than that of "cleaning-up" "with a view to recover, from the surroundings of the smelter, the values which are deposited as the result of smelting operations." We may take it, however, that Mr. McMillan knew what he was about, and shareholders should be the last to regret the precaution he has taken. What confidence can they now place in the directorate after the manner in which they have been treated? And after breaking their promises the shareholders cannot be blamed if they feel they cannot put further trust in any profession of the directors. In his circular of a week ago Mr. McMillan said he was prepared to recommend a dividend for the year ending June 30 "unless the available funds have been used for other purposes since I left the board," but the directors say the available cash at that time was only £1,309 in London. Does this mean, then, that the funds have been used for other purposes?

The greater part of the circular consists of extracts from letters the directors have recently received from Mr. Mackenzie. "These show," they add, "plainly how unfortunate for the company has been Mr. McMillan's recent administration of its affairs, how little to be depended upon are his statements in regard to his officials, and how small a chance there would be of any profit for the shareholders if its management were again confided to him." If there were any passage in this egregious circular that should settle the doubts of the shareholders as to the line of action they should take it is this. Until August last the directors could, we believe, judged by their past praises and statements, find no fault with Mr. McMillan, but because he refused to fall in line with them on the amalgamation proposals they turned him out of the board room. They have since admitted that this was his principal offence. Such an action as this was not only an insult to Mr. McMillan, but an insult to the shareholders, who should first have been consulted before so momentous a step was taken. Since such high-handed action the directors have appointed Messrs. Bradley and Mackenzie managers of the property. Now, their opinions, as opinions, are worth no more than Mr. McMillan's, and extracts from the letters of such interested persons are no defence for the action of the directors. On the contrary, it shows plainly that so hard put to it are the latter to get together any plausible defence, that they will even stoop to put rival against rival. Does it stand to common sense that Mr. Mackenzie would approve anything that Mr. McMillan had done? If he did, where would the justification of his substitution for Mr. McMillan be found? It would be downright silly. So the directors thus unconsciously give themselves away and expose the weakness of their position. For this reason, together with many others, we think shareholders should

support Mr. McMillan, and make, if possible, a clear sweep of the present directorate.

Passing Events.

The issue of the statutory report this week serves as a reminder that the reorganisation of the unfortunate Holloway drapery and furnishing business of Crisp and Co. has been definitely carried through at last. Up to November 1 121,807 shares were allotted, of which 60,000 were considered paid up to the extent of 5s. 6d. per share and 61,800 to the amount of 4s. per share, being part consideration for the transfer of all the assets of the old company. The amount of cash received is £31,155, the debenture issue of £41,344 bringing up the total receipts to £72,499, against which the amount paid by way of purchase money is £67,999. Preliminary expenses are estimated at £600. Three directors will serve the enterprise in its new financial guise, Mr. Alfred H. Bull, Mr. H. Pearson, and Mr. Harry J. Slade, and now that the promoters' booty has been cut away we shall hope to find the business favoured with a more prosperous career.

The Special Commissioner of the newspaper *South Africa* says he has had an interview with Mr. G. H. Goch, the retiring Mayor of Johannesburg. Mr. Goch, it appears, expressed his conviction that the commercial outlook of the country is improving, an opinion that is not reconcilable with the reports that come from Johannesburg and other centres of growing distress. But probably his opinions were greatly coloured by his wishes. The gentleman, too, with the German name, expressed the indignation which he "and many other prominent men holding responsible positions in the Transvaal feel at the manner in which a large section of the Liberal party is utilising the anti-Chinese election cry." He denounced as unjust and unpatriotic the efforts of men who, for party purposes, "seek to brand loyal and upright British colonists as unprincipled rogues." In a word, Mr. Goch seems to have let himself go comfortably in the usual disinterested mine boss style. His logic seems to imply that every man who has put a penny in a Kaffir share and is now anxious to sell it is an unpatriotic Radical. Mr. Goch should know as well as any man living that the rottenness of the Kaffir market is not the work of any Radical conspiracy, nor that of unprincipled roguish colonists, but of the dishonest bosses, who try to sell a sovereign to the foolish for 30s. when they cannot get 60s.

Mr. T. M. C. Nourse has returned to Johannesburg from Madagascar, and has given to *South African Mines* his impressions of the mineral potentialities of the island. He inspected a large area, but found nothing sufficiently encouraging, and came to the conclusion that there may be some properties in the island worth working by small syndicates with small capitals, or by individuals, but nothing to warrant the flotation of a big company. Gold appears to be distributed all over the island, but it is very patchy. The people interested in the industry are mostly married to Malagash women. These have influence with the natives, and if the latter find gold anywhere they report it to the women. The European then pegs out the area, and the native works it for him, he is not allowed to work it "on his own." Natives get 75s. an ounce for the gold they win, the value of the gold being about £4 2s. 6d. an ounce. As the Government takes about 2s. 6d. an ounce the European's gain is only about 5s. an ounce. A striking fact is that in spite of the high price paid to them for gold, the natives are not making money out of mining, and this proves to Mr. Nourse that no rich deposits have been found up to the present.

The Finns have won their liberty in a way which must excite envy as well as admiration all over Russia, Poland, and Austria-Hungary, let alone Ireland. The Tsar has given them back their liberty, the tyranny of the alien bureaucrat is at an end, and it remains now to be seen whether the prudence of the liberated people

will save them from any of the excesses which the socialistic party and the small remnant of anarchists might be induced to excite. We think and believe the Finns may be trusted to manage their own affairs with the same prudence and self-restraint they have exhibited in resisting the Russian tyranny until they overcame it.

Indian crop prospects do not seem to be very good, and the latest report from the Viceroy is that although prospects have improved in the Deccan and Karnatak rain is still wanted, that in the United and Central Provinces there has been no rain, and that Rajputana is also drought-stricken. Prices are high in these regions and "emigration" continues. So, as Central India is likely to have a poor crop, relief works have been opened, and at the date of the telegram—November 4—41,551 human items were in receipt of this form of relief, 30,000 of them in Ajmer and Rajputana. Rather a dreary welcome this to the Prince of Wales, who has started on his Indian tour.

We should like further light upon that Reuter telegram from Rio de Janeiro, dated November 6, to the effect that the Brazilian budget shows a deficit of £3,000,000 "on the estimated revenue." Is the excess of expenditure over receipts this amount, or what does the gap really mean? The telegram adds that the Finance Minister expressed his doubt whether the sum raised by the Rio de Janeiro harbour works loan would be sufficient to complete the works. We should be surprised if it were. When were ever works of this kind completed for the sums originally estimated?

The poor mine bosses are at their wits' ends to know how to move that Kaffir Circus. Sir Julius Wernher has now taken a trip to Paris—can the poor man afford it?—to try to persuade French bankers and other financiers to support the crumbling structure. We remember that some two or three years ago Mr. Wernher—he was mere Mr. then—declared his calm belief, when it was urged that the public would not buy Kaffirs, and that the bosses must support the market, that where they lost one buyer they would ultimately gain four. That was to say the magnates would gain four "mugs" for one lost whenever they chose for their own ends to hoist prices to catch 'em. Since then Sir Julius has learnt that flat-catching is not so easy and delightful a sport as it used to be, and as he finds fools scarce in England he has betaken himself and his magic across the Channel. "For heaven's sake, come and save us and the Kaffir market," was probably the cry of the millionaire. "Let us not perish for lack of shekels!" If Sir Julius will stoop to this humiliating posture and appeal thus frantically for assistance, it gives us insight into the mental distress he suffers with his German brethren. It is doubtful, says a Press Agency cable, whether anything immediate will spring from his visit, but promises were held out that the French banks may see their way to turn their attentions to the Kaffir market once more. But suppose the market collapses ere the promise is redeemed?

Mr. Francis J. Dormer, a director of the Transvaal Estates and Development Company, has addressed a further circular to the shareholders in the New Heriot Gold Mining Company, arguing that the proposals of the directors to acquire deep level claims from the Nourse Deep are most injurious to their interests. Instead of receiving dividends at Christmas they must not look for any return for two years, unless the scheme be rejected at the meeting on December 21. "We shall, furthermore, be called upon to provide additional capital amounting practically to an assessment of 25s. per share." It is our own opinion that the scheme will not benefit the shareholders in the New Heriot, therefore it would be well if they would take the advice of Mr. Dormer and others and send in their proxies against the directorial proposal.

Are not the Radical newspapers a little hard upon Mr. Balfour for his treatment of the unemployed deputation? What could he say to the poor women and to the men who introduced them to him except to

theorise pleasantly over the impossibility of doing anything for those who have no work? It is not, according to Mr. Balfour, the business of the State to provide work for the hungry; its business is to collect as large a revenue as it can and spend it in directions where the unemployed have little or no chance of getting any share of it. Moreover, what did the deputation expect? Did they hope that Mr. Balfour would intimate the issue of a new loan in order to provide the wherewithal to buy up impoverished landed estates throughout the country and settle the unemployed upon them? Short of something of this kind, where are the means to be found of relieving the congested, the hunger, areas, not only of London, but of all our great cities? That a root and branch change in the method of dealing with the land must come before long everybody must recognise, many of the landowners themselves admit, but is this Government going to initiate the change? Not until the population strikes against rent as so many of the Irish tenants did. And is there any chance of that? Not the very least that we can see.

Last week's Revenue figures were not particularly brilliant, but then only £170,000 came from the Post Office and £224,000 from stamps. Altogether the receipts amounted to £2,127,000, of which £749,000 came from Customs and £604,000 from Excise. Supply services alone took £2,287,000, and £820,000 was spent on naval works, for the most part absolutely useless.

We always knew the member for Battersea to be a man of imagination; he could not have obtained the hold he has over his constituency and enthusiasts of all classes had he been otherwise. It is a pity, though, that he allowed his fine enthusiasm to mislead him over this question of the Thames steamboat service in winter. As a regular thing that service cannot be maintained for four months out of the twelve. The other day we saw three boats together lying at the Temple pier. Fog had stopped the service. And even on clear winter days there is no temptation to forsake the humble 'bus for the river boat, not even the temptation of steam-warmed saloons. The stoppages, moreover, are too numerous, and as it is impossible to count upon regularity of service, everybody during the winter months will avoid the river. Worst of all it seemed to us a purely imaginative anticipation of millennial days to come to talk, as Mr. Burns did, of this river steamboat service as if it were part of the County Council's tramway system. It can never be that until the tramways are linked up over the bridges, and such linking up cannot really take place until the County Council, with the citizens of London behind it, makes up its mind to throw additional bridges over the Thames. Assuming that Blackfriars Bridge is widened, then two other bridges at least for tramway purposes are required between the Tower Bridge and Westminster. We should be none the worse for three. Better save the money lost during the winter on the steamboat service in beginning to make provision for this great expenditure which one day must come.

What good is this new Traffic Board for London going to do, and why is this moribund administration of ours so eager to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on London traffic? The papers say that a "board" is to be forthwith constituted. Has the Government any authority to do this, and is the object merely to damage the London County Council and to give additional worries to the local borough councils? Whence will this new board derive its authority? Something very like Russian despotism appears to be the ideal of Government as understood by the band of condemned shufflers who now cling with such desperation to the salaried and other offices of State. London should resent tyranny of this description. It is for the ratepayers to say who shall regulate the street traffic and how thoroughfares are to be opened up.

We hear that the Russian Government has decided to grant ten year loans without interest to the various

British petroleum companies to enable them to repair the damage done to their property by the recent officially-provoked massacres and burnings in Baku and neighbourhood. The damage apparently has not been so very serious, to the British companies at any rate, only surface property having been destroyed. As in the case of the Jews the hatred of the ruling caste and its executors has been directed against the Armenians, and so thoroughly has the property of the Armenian-owned oil works been wrecked—and they produced about 40 per cent. of the entire yield of the deposits—that it may be almost impossible to start some of the wells again. This will mean—has already meant—a rise in prices which will give compensation to the British and other producers. The Armenian was a more or less enlightened and light-seeking being, just as the Jew is, therefore he was to be murdered and expelled from the land.

The dividend announced by the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa Company is not quite what the market expected, although 15 per cent. in cash is graciously accorded. As usual, a great parade of figures is made, and the board evidently intimates that it could, if it would, do tremendous things, but as a matter of fact in paying 15 per cent. it is distributing quite £25,000 more than the nett profits of the year ended June 30 last. Gross profits came to £372,245, and nett, after paying preference dividend and English and foreign taxes, to £274,873, and it takes £300,000 to pay 15 per cent. upon the existing capital. At the current price of the shares this is less than 2½ per cent. on the investment, and not a word is said about that distribution of Simmer and Jack shares upon which the market was counting for 6s. 6d. or so more. Instead, we get a wonderful show of wealth in the shape of inflated market values of securities held. Out of this inflation—impure gas—£1,000,000 is ostentatiously placed to reserve, and after paying the dividend there will be a balance of £984,000, also all, or nearly all, wind, to be carried forward against £2,009,814 brought in. The glory has departed. What banks stand behind the share market?

The figures relating to the trade of Uruguay are somewhat belated, but that is not the fault of Mr. Consul Kestell-Cornish, for months must elapse before the completed statistics of the trade of 1904 are made public. He was able to inspect the figures of the Monte Video Custom House and so to give a summary of the trade movements of the past year. They were not very brilliant, at any rate so far as imports went, because of the revolution which occupied the citizens most of the year, and did a good deal of damage. Thanks to this revolution the debt of the Republic will have another eke. It was reduced a little in the past year, but that was because no opportunity arose for making a successful fresh issue. Now, however, a new debt of \$8,000,000, entitled the Extraordinary Loan of 1904, bearing 6 per cent. interest and 1 per cent. sinking fund, is to be added to the total, which at the end of last year amounted to £26,112,000. How the small country carries this burden, about £21,000,000 of which is purely foreign debt, we never can make out. Its trade, however, for the past year showed an excess of exports over imports amounting to upwards of £3,500,000.

From Mr. G. Seton's excellent little table of statistics we gather that the value of tea-planting shares was still on the up grade during October, the 45 representative companies chosen for special observation showing an improvement of £350,000 to £8,800,000, the face value being £9,500,000. Since January 1 the advance has reached the very considerable sum of £1,600,000, while, if we look at the total share and debenture capitals of the entire 170 or so companies registered in the United Kingdom, we find the gain on the month is £700,000, and for the ten months to date £3,200,000, at a total of £17,600,000. This compares with a nominal worth of £19,000,000, so that a moderate further advance will leave the capital without any depreciation at all.

How would our protectionists explain the fact that in the first eight months of the current year the export and import trade of the United Kingdom in merchandise alone—excluding in our case, at least, re-shipments of foreign and colonial goods—exceeded that of the ultra-protectionist United States by quite £188,000,000, and that of too-protectionist France by £321,000,000. Perhaps Mr. Bonar Law, a Parliamentary Board of Trade official of a peculiarly unsatisfactory stamp, will explain how it is that our trade can be thus kept ahead of all others, in spite of the low wages, long work hours, and other by-him-admired advantages of the foreign workman.

Apparently the naval revolt at Kronstadt, about which such lurid accounts have been coming through *via* Paris, has its origin in the same provocative attitude of the privileged officials which has done so much mischief in other directions. Whether or not the demands of the sailors for better treatment were of set purpose refused in terms deliberately calculated to excite revolt is, perhaps, a point as yet impossible to determine, but there can be no doubt at all that the attitude of the Russian officer towards the rank and file, whether of the army or the navy, has been destructive of all allegiance and full of incitement to rebellion for many a day past. Equally beyond question is it that the rank and file of the Russian fighting services have been slowly awakening to the fact that they are human beings possessed of sundry primitive rights. Rebellion naturally follows any awakening of this kind, but we trust the tales of streets running with blood, Kronstadt half burned to the ground, of robbery, violence, and murder upon the civil population are either wholly untrue or grossly exaggerated; but assuming the disorders to have been confined to men trained to the use of arms, the facts that the sailors in the principal arsenal of the Empire have thrown off their allegiance, and that regiments of the guards would seem to have joined them are full of sinister import, not only for the autocracy, but for those who are attempting to establish some adumbration of a civilised representative Government throughout the Empire.

Critical Index To New Investments.

BANK OF ABYSSINIA.

We should imagine that it will take a good deal of both time and trouble to educate the Abyssinian native up to the point of enjoying the blessings of bank notes and current accounts, but the National Bank of Egypt apparently thinks otherwise. Having secured a concession from H.M. the Emperor Menelik, giving it, amongst other things, a monopoly of all banking business in the country, the sole right to issue bank notes and the profits on all minting operations, it has founded this bank with a capital of £500,000 in £5 shares. All of these have been issued, and 25s per share has been paid up, and the National Bank of Egypt, on behalf of itself and others, this week offered the shares for public subscription at £7 per share. Virgin soil for such an institution though the country is, the name "Abyssinia" seems as potent to stir the imagination of the speculator as "Egypt," and before the lists were even opened a premium of £2 per share was established in the market. The handsome profit secured by the issue price is not all that the National Bank of Egypt hopes to secure, as the statutes provide that after setting aside 10 per cent. of the nett profits for reserve and paying 7 per cent. on the shares the said National Bank is to receive 20 per cent. of the surplus. The venture has its attractions and might succeed, for all "Abyssinian gold" is not necessarily pinchbeck.

NEW ZEALAND TRAWLING AND TRADING CO., LIMITED.

This company has been formed with a capital of £120,000 in £1 shares to develop the sea fisheries of New Zealand, and by way of making a start has agreed to purchase the chief fish business in Wellington, with

one steam trawler and another trawler worked from Napier. In addition, it is proposed to purchase and equip a fleet of not more than twelve first-class steam trawlers, at a cost of about £6,000 each, to develop an export trade in fresh and cured fish to Australia and elsewhere, and, lastly, to erect canneries and plant for the manufacture of fish guano and fish oil. In connection with the last-named industry, the New Zealand and Australian patents of the Fish Oil and Guano Company have been purchased for £10,000 in shares, the Wellington business is to cost £3,900 and the Napier trawler £780. For the options to acquire these two businesses and for its expenditure on investigations and arrangements the New Zealand Fisheries Syndicate receives an allotment of 14,000 shares out of the total capital of £120,000 in £1 shares, and as 26,000 shares are reserved for New Zealand 70,000 are left for subscription in this country. It is estimated that the twelve steam trawlers working 44 weeks per annum should yield a profit of £23,760, that the guano factory should produce £4,950 and the two businesses taken over £2,920 or a total of £30,730, while a dividend of 12½ per cent. would require £15,000. The New Zealand Ministry, we are told, approves of this enterprise, but neither this nor the presence of that wonderful business man, the Hon. Sir Joseph George Ward, K.C.M.G., on the local board can imply that the venture must necessarily prove a success. The thing is possible, of course, Government or no Government.

CITY OF ROSARIO (ARGENTINE REPUBLIC) LOAN OF 1889.

This city has not lost much time after coming to terms with its creditors in seeking to increase its indebtedness, and offers through Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son 2,976 bonds of £100 each at the price of £69 per bonds, payable 5 per cent. on application, 20 per cent. on allotment and £44 on November 30. Messrs. Hambro undertake to purchase the coupon due on January 1, 1906, at the rate of £1 15s. 11d., being the rate at which the October coupon was paid on the quoted loans, and will also buy the coupons maturing from July 1, 1906, to July 1, 1909, inclusive, at the same rate as may have been paid for the immediately preceding coupon of the city's loans now quoted. After that date the City of Rosario has undertaken to pay 5 per cent. in gold, so that the coupon due January 1, 1910 will be payable at that rate, whereas the 5 per cent. rate on the existing issues does not commence until October 1, 1910. Some slight advantage over existing issues is therefore offered in connection with the new bonds, but with the city's record behind them they do not seem attractive to any but investors of a sporting turn of mind. Yet Rosario should be able to offer first-class security for a bigger debt than it has ever hitherto contracted.

NIGERIA BITUMEN CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The Nigeria Properties, Limited, and the Nigeria and West Africa Development Syndicate, Limited, ask a mere trifle of £125,000 in shares for two licences to prospect for bitumen, coal, and petroleum over an area of 400 square miles, which they have obtained from the Government of Lagos. According to the engineers for the vendors, three distinct areas have been proved by borings, but two of them are considered to form one deposit with an area of over 1,100 acres and an average thickness of at least 10 ft. of bitumen, and it is estimated that the bitumen actually proved to exist is sufficient for a very large output for many years to come. The directors have stipulated that before the purchase price is paid over an independent report is to be obtained, and pat themselves on the back for their wisdom, but this ought surely to have been done before appealing for public support. The total capital of the new undertaking has been fixed at £200,000, in £1 shares, and 65,000 are offered for subscription, the remaining 10,000 going as commission to underwriters of 25,000 shares. That is to say 40 per cent. is being paid to the guarantors, an outrageous commission

which in itself should cause investors to fight shy of the venture.

VALPARAISO (CHILE) DRAINAGE CO., LIMITED.

This company takes over from the Valparaiso Drainage Co., Limited, a concession granted by the Municipality of Valparaiso for the exclusive right of laying sewers and drains within the city and its immediate vicinity for a term of 30 years from July 6, 1905. The old company had a share capital of £46,670 and a debenture debt of £55,200, but the present concern is capitalised at £150,000 with an authorised debenture debt of the same amount. All the share capital is issued to the vendor company in payment for its property and assets, and £100,000 in 5 per cent. debentures is offered for subscription at par in order to provide for the discharge of the liabilities, including the outstanding debenture stock, and for extensions and improvements in the existing system. During the five years ended March 31, 1905, the amounts received from the drainage rate fluctuated between £13,849 and £18,154, and the nett profits for the past three years were £9,910, £9,580, and £10,912, so that there is a fair margin over the sum required for interest. The debentures offered are to be repaid at 105 by a cumulative sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum, which, commencing in 1907, will redeem the whole of the debentures before the expiration of the year 1945.

ORDERS AND HANDFORD STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

Established in December, 1898, this Newport company had a capital of £120,000, but this was increased in 1902 to £250,000 in £5 shares, and 19,100 shares have been issued. The company owned seven steamers with a tonnage of 20,850 tons, and of an average age of 4½ years, and has ordered another boat, of 5,800 tons, to be delivered in June next, for £35,750. In order to provide the necessary funds for this and for the £19,000 still due to the builders of the last boat, an issue of 10,000 shares is offered for subscription at par. The total cost of the fleet to October 31, 1905, was £163,845, but £49,345 has been written off this for depreciation, bringing the value down to £114,500, or £5 9s. 10d. per ton. Nett profits for the six years and ten months of the company's existence are not stated separately, but are said to have amounted to £94,110, while the average dividend has been 7½ per cent. per annum. The company is in the hands of managers, who are remunerated in the usual style by a payment of £200 per annum for each steamship owned and a commission of 5 per cent. on nett trading profits, but such an arrangement seems to satisfy the shareholders, and the new shares will probably be placed locally without much trouble.

WHITWORTH COLLIERIES, LIMITED.

When the formation of this company was first talked of a terrible outcry was raised in a certain section of the Press about the alien getting control of our steam coal supplies, an attitude which was never justified by the facts. It is true that out of a capital of £600,000 in £5 shares, 60,000 have been issued in Germany against 40,000 offered for subscription in this country, but the directors are all British, and the affairs of the company are controlled here. An estate, situated about five miles from Port Talbot, with an area of about 6,526 acres, and estimated to contain from 298,000;000 to 400,000,000 tons of coal, of which at least one-third is expected to be first-class, smokeless, steam coal is acquired. For this the purchase price is £280,000 in cash, payable by instalments of £150,000 on or before October 31 last, £35,000 on allotment, £65,000 on January 31, 1906, and £30,000 on May 15, 1907, but the first two instalments may be taken in second mortgages bearing interest at 5 per cent. The vendors undertake to pay off an existing mortgage of £170,000 as the various amounts fall due, and on payment of the final instalment the second mortgages will be surrendered, when first mortgage

debentures for £170,000 will be issued to them. A shaft for working the middle series of the coal measures will be fitted up for an annual output of 100,000 tons, and it is estimated that this figure should be reached within three years of the commencement of the sinking. When the lower series is reached an additional output of 800,000 tons per annum is expected, and this is to be gradually increased until the minimum outturn reaches 1,000,000 tons. The speculation seems reasonable enough, assuming the facts to be as stated, and we may be quite sure German capitalists would not have risked their money in an untested undertaking, a mere peradventure. It is a little heavily loaded, that is all.

W. T. HENLEY'S TELEGRAPH WORKS CO., LIMITED.

This company has built new works at Northfleet for the construction of underground electric light and power cables in order to enable it to keep pace with the growth of its business, and is in need of funds to meet this outlay. An issue of £150,000 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock forming part of an authorised total of £300,000 is therefore created, and £108,022 is offered for subscription, the balance of £41,978 going to the holders of the existing £44,800 debenture stock in part payment under an arrangement made to redeem the stock at a premium of 10 per cent. The company, which was formed in 1880, held at December 31 last nett assets, exclusive of goodwill, valued at £625,999, and during the past ten years dividends on its ordinary shares have fluctuated between 8 per cent. and 20 per cent., those for 1903 and 1904 having been at the rate of 15 per cent., so that the stock should be well enough secured both as regards principal and interest.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.—The County Council offers for subscription at par an issue of £13,500 in £100 debentures, bearing interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, and having a currency of 1 to 27 years. On November 30 next the outstanding debt, exclusive of this loan, will be £160,950, while the present rateable value of the Administrative County is £1,244,034.

LONDON DEEP LEADS (VICTORIA).—The liquidator having obtained an extension of his right to call for shares of 5s. each in the new company credited with 3s. 6d. paid, invites shareholders to purchase the shares as fully paid for 1s. 7d. per share.

Answers to Correspondents.

MITHRA.—(1) No. The company's traffic returns do not show any possibility of a dividend yet, as the income bonds come first, and even if last week's increase can be maintained for the rest of the year the margin would still be insufficient. (2) It is possible that a dividend will be paid next year, but floating liabilities are still heavy, and such a payment would be against the expressed intentions of the board. We do not see much prospect of a rise in price. (3) The buying and selling of these shares are pretty much matters of negotiation, as they cannot be officially quoted owing to the conditions under which they were issued. Prospects of the company seem fair. (4) The company is doing better, but the improvement is fully allowed for in the current quotation. (5) There seems to be a fair speculative chance in these if you are prepared to hold for some time. (6) This stock is nowhere in sight of a dividend so far as we can see, and the price seems quite high enough. (7) Dear at the price given, even as a lock-up, seeing that the company is a long way from paying its preference dividend. (8) Company seems very badly managed, but a few shares might be worth picking up for a long shot.

PLow.—Your questions involve the examination of 39 securities for which you enclose a fee of 4s. Do you consider that proper remuneration for a task which, properly done, would involve at least two hours' labour? (1) The best we can say is that of these the most stable offices are Nos. 4 and 5. (2) Yes, we believe the liability of all these companies is unlimited. (3) Nos. 13 and 17 seem to be the best, but do not forget that all have a heavy uncalled liability. (4) Nos. 30, 36, and 37 offer fair possibilities.

ARCH (Glasgow).—(1) Not first class, but these bonds should make a fair enough investment. (2) It would not be particularly cheap at this price, judging by the present value of existing loans or some of them, but there would probably be certain advantages given to make the issue sufficiently attractive. (3) You might hold on for a possible better price, but we cannot advise an increase in your holding.

H. Bayley.—(1) Company is horribly over-capitalised, and its affairs need a lot of overhauling before the shares can be regarded as offering even a fair speculative chance. (2) A very fair security, yielding about 6½ per cent. at present price, with good prospects. (3) Prospects appear to be a little more promising, but the share is rather too speculative to buy.

The following notice is not issued for the purpose of inviting Subscriptions, but by way of information only, and no applications will be entertained unless the same are made on the footing of and with reference to the Prospectus referred to below, copies of which can be obtained from the Bankers Solicitors, Auditors and at the Offices of the Company.

THE WHITWORTH COLLIERIES, LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

AUTHORISED SHARE CAPITAL - - £600,000

(Divided into 120,000 Shares of £5 each).

Already subscribed (mostly in Germany) and paid up in full (30,000 Shares)	.. .. .	£150,000
Already subscribed in Germany and partly paid (30,000 Shares)	.. .. .	£150,000
The Company is issuing a Prospectus, which has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, inviting Subscriptions for the remaining	.. .. .	£200,000

Of the Company's Share Capital, in 40,000 Shares of £5 each at par, which have been reserved for issue in England.

The remaining 20,000 Shares are held in reserve for the provision of additional Working Capital if required.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST on the footing of the Prospectus will CLOSE at 4 p.m. on MONDAY for Town and on TUESDAY MORNING for Country.

Payable as follows:—5s per Share on Application;
£1 5s per Share on Allotment;
£1 10s per Share on the 15th January next; and
£2 per Share on the 15th March next.

DIRECTORS.

J. C. A. HENDERSON, Sun court, Cornhill, E.C., Chairman (Chairman of Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Limited, and Director of the East Rand Proprietary Mines, Limited).

ROBERT LITTLEJOHN, 8 Cavendish square, W. (Director of the African Banking Corporation, Limited).

W. M. FRANK SCHNEIDER, M.I.N.A., A.M.Inst. C.E., 139 Cannon street, E.C. (Director of the Barrow Hematite Steel Company, Limited).

ROBERT JOHN TURNER, of Weddel, Turner and Co., 16 St Helen's place, E.C. Shipowner.

COLONEL J. R. WRIGHT, of Pant y Gwydr, Swansea (Deputy Chairman Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company).

BANKERS.

The Capital and Counties Bank, Limited, Threadneedle street, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

Rehder and Higgs, 29 Mincing lane, E.C., for the Vendors.
Ashurst, Morris, Crisp and Co., 17 Throgmorton avenue, E.C., for the Company

BROKERS.

T. and E. Halsted, 2 Bank Buildings, Prince's street, London, E.C.
J. Silverston and Co., 43 Threadneedle street, London, E.C.

JOINT AUDITORS.

W. B. Keen and Co., 3 Church court, Old Jewry, E.C.
W. B. Peat and Co., 3 Lothbury, E.C.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.

D. H. C. Higgins, 120 Bishopsgate street, E.C.

THE PROSPECTUS, amongst other things, states as follows:—

This Company has been formed with the objects mentioned in its Memorandum of Association, and primarily to acquire and work the freehold land, mines, minerals, and mining rights known as the Whitworth Estate, in the county of Glamorgan, South Wales.

PROPERTY.—The Whitworth Estate is situate about five miles from Port Talbot, in the centre of the South Wales Coalfield, and covers a total area of about 6,526 acres, or more than ten English square miles. Over 6,375 acres of this property the Company own the mines and minerals absolutely as freehold, free of rents and royalties, and over 3,679 acres they own the surface also.

REPORTS.—The recent Parliamentary Commission on Coal Supplies, according to their last issued map, have introduced a classification of the Coalfields of South Wales, according to which by far the greater part of the Whitworth Estate lies in the area of the Steam Coal Field. (See map accompanying the Prospectus.)

Special reports have been made upon the property by Dr Krusch, Professor to the Mining Academy of Berlin, and Member of the Royal Geological Institute; by Messrs Foster Brown and Rees, Cardiff; and by Professor Galloway, F.G.S., Cardiff. The last two of these reports were made on behalf of the Company before the date of the contract for the purchase of the property.

Messrs Foster Brown and Rees report:

This Estate lies in the bottom of the Northern Basin of the South Wales Coalfield, containing a large number of coal seams, of which they estimate at least eleven will be found of workable thickness and quality, and they add that, according to data obtained from collieries in the locality, the No. 2 Rhondda seam, which lies in the Upper or Pennant Series, will be the first good workable seam of coal suitable for Bunkering (containing from 18 to 22 per cent. of Volatile matter), whilst the steam coal seams lying at greater depth will contain good smokeless steam coal with approximately from 11 to 13 per cent. of volatile matter.

Professor Galloway stated that No. 1 Rhondda seam was worked a number of years ago at the northern end of the Estate, and was found of such excellent quality that it was placed on the Admiralty List as a first-class steam coal, and Nos. 1 and 2 Rhondda Seams will be of steam coal quality towards the middle and northern end of the Estate.

Reporting on the steam coal series, Professor Galloway states that the coal in the lower shale series, about three miles south of Glyncastle Colliery, will contain about 13 to 14 per cent. of Volatile matter, or in other words, will be First-class Smokeless Steam Coal, and that most, if not all, of the seams will be workable over the whole area of the Whitworth Estate.

This coal is, of course, the Steam Coal par excellence of the South Wales Coalfield.

The estimated reserves of coal are calculated by the experts, Professor Galloway, Dr Krusch and Messrs Foster Brown and Rees, at from 298,000,000 to 400,000,000 tons.

The whole area of the Company's mineral rights being freehold, the property is absolutely free from royalties or wayleaves.

The freight to Port Talbot, the natural shipping port for the estate, is 6½d. per ton, plus 2½d. per ton tipping, which is exceptionally low. There is also direct communication with Swansea and Cardiff by the South Wales Mineral Railway and the Great Western Railway.

Professor Galloway gives the following table, showing the thickness of the series of seams:—

Mountain	2 ft. 11 in.
Wenallt	3 ft. 3 in.
No. 1 Rhondda	3 ft. 1 in.
Lower Shale	45 ft. 1½ in.

It is estimated that after sinking to the lower series an output of 900,000 tons per annum will be obtained. In the opinion of the experts the quantity of water will be moderate, and no unusual difficulties are likely to be met with.

PROFITS.—Upon the basis of the expert reports, of which copies may be obtained at the Company's offices, and in view of the assured advantages of the Company as regards freedom from royalties cheap and easy transport and accessibility, the Directors confidently anticipate making, when their Collieries are in working order, a very liberal return on the capital of the Company—a return which may readily be estimated when they state that it is their intention to raise not less than a Million Tons of Coal per annum, at which rate, according to the reports, and taking only the lowest estimate, the output can be maintained for an almost indefinite period.

In addition to this the Company expect to earn substantial profits by making briquettes with small coal, by making coke, and the manufacture of by-products obtained by modern scientific means. A further income is secured by the rents and profits accruing at present from the surface of the Company's property and by royalties on the output of collieries on the estate.

The Vendors have agreed with the Company that they or their nominees will undertake the sale of the whole of the output of coal and coal products during 25 years, under the control of the Board at a commission of 3 per cent. on the gross price realised f.o.b. Port Talbot or equal.

The Prospectus contains particulars of contracts and other information to satisfy the requirements of the Companies Act, 1900. Copies of the contracts can be seen at the offices of the solicitors of the Company at any time during business hours before the closing of the lists.

London, 8th November 1905.

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000

TOTAL INCOME over £940,000

LARGE BONUSES.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

It looked this afternoon as if the cheap money spell were ended. As elsewhere explained, the market has been easy for short credits all week, thanks to Treasury disbursements, but now the Treasury is probably at the end of its tether, and the market is looking for the announcement that £5,000,000 worth of new three months' Treasury bills will be put up for tender next week to help the Government out with the redemption of the December Exchequer bonds. This shows what the market thinks of the way the nation's finances are managed—all on the "borrow or burst" system.

Discount rates have really been under 4 per cent. all week by $\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. or so for remitted bills up to four months' usance and by $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for six months' bills, so that the Bank of England has done no new business. The market was no harder to-day, although there were free offerings of Yankee paper for discount. We do not think it can harden until Continental markets feel the pinch of their necessities enough to make them call their credits home. At the same time there is no ease possible, and we still fear that circumstances will force a 5 per cent. Bank rate upon us. Not only is money urgently wanted in the United States, but German markets are already well above ours, and the necessities of France must become more pronounced as the discredit of Russia increases.

We shall nevertheless have money cheaper for the Stock Exchange at the settlement pay day, which is on Wednesday next, than it was in the end of last month, but it is improbable that many borrowers will get the banks to give them accommodation at a lower rate than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and people in first-class credit, or money brokers themselves, will probably have to pay $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Something will depend upon the extent to which the Yankee speculative account is again shunted on to our market. If in order to relieve Wall Street we are asked to carry many additional millions of that account, then rates here will be stiffer than looks probable to-night.

Apart from any incidentals of this description, there is no reason to believe that our market can remain in even comparative ease for more than a few days at a time. The Bank return shows that other deposits, which contain the market balances, only benefited to the extent of £1,035,000 through the disbursement of £1,500,000 by the Exchequer and an increase of £656,000 in the banking reserve. This was because £1,279,000 had been paid off on other securities, and the further payments under this head since Wednesday have brought the open market back to a state of impecuniosity which nothing but a substantial increase in the gold reserve can really modify, and of that there is very little chance. The Bank did secure the greater part of last Monday's supply of the metal at about 77s. 10d. per oz., and will perhaps get most of the £500,000 to be disposed of next Monday; but even so, it is continually being called upon to ship sovereigns abroad, and the little balance left to the good week by week is altogether too slender to be of much use.

SILVER.

The Indian Government bought silver pretty freely in the beginning of the week, and at the same time there was a fair general inquiry as well as some covering on the part of "bears." Quotations consequently were very firm, and the spot price in particular went up to 29 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz., or the highest point touched since January, 1901, while forward metal rose to 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. The advance, however, as usual had the effect of bringing out supplies, and prices went back to 29d. and 28 $\frac{9}{16}$ d. per oz., closing steady. Applications for the Rs. 1,00,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 3,56,10,000 in bills and Rs. 3,20,00,000 in telegraphic transfers, when Rs. 69,38,000 were allotted in bills and Rs. 30,62,000 in transfers. Tenders for bills at 1s. 4 1-32d. and for transfers at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per rupee received about 19 per cent. Next week another Rs. 1,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 8, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 48,612,645	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	30,162,645
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£ 48,612,645		£ 48,612,645

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 17,039,131
Rest ..	3,213,176	Other Securities ..	32,806,689
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	12,141,417	Notes ..	19,700,765
Other Deposits ..	41,261,064	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,726,040
Seven Day and other Bills ..	103,968		
	£ 71,272,625		£ 71,272,625

Dated November 9, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Nov. 9.		Nov. 1, 1905.	Nov. 8, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,186,412	Rest ..	3,195,829	3,213,176	17,347	—
6,845,525	Pub. Deposits ..	13,641,351	12,141,417	—	1,499,934
39,516,503	Other do. ..	40,226,223	41,261,064	1,034,841	—
83,704	7 Day Bills ..	79,852	103,968	24,116	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,160,005	Gov. Securities	16,840,006	17,039,131	—	199,125
24,702,468	Other do. ..	34,085,604	32,806,689	1,278,915	—
24,322,671	Total Reserve ..	20,770,645	21,426,805	—	656,160
				2,355,219	2,355,219
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
27,934,205	Note Circulation	29,189,095	28,911,880	—	277,215
33,806,876	Coin and Bullion	31,509,740	31,888,685	378,945	—
52 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	Proportion ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	40 p.c.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	—
3 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £565,000 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
Week ending				
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
" 27	187,852,000	164,860,000	22,992,000	—
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,726,000	27,856,000	—
" 18	270,692,000	226,552,000	44,140,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,631,000	15,589,000	—
Nov. 1	270,695,000	250,973,000	19,722,000	—
" 8	216,916,000	195,045,000	21,871,000	—
	10,573,673,000	8,969,339,000	1,604,334,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£			
1,800,000	6 months	1906. Jan. 1	1 19 11
11,200,000	—	Jan. 27	—
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 22	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
23,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.			WITHDRAWALS.		
Saturday, Bars ..	£69,000		Saturday, Continent ..	£50,000	
Monday, " ..	£100,000		Wednesday, Ecuador ..	£5,000	
Tuesday, " ..	£38,000		Thursday, Constantinople ..	£204,000	
Wednesday, " ..	£121,000				
Thursday, " ..	£68,000		Net Influx ..	£142,000	
Friday, " ..	£5,000				
Total ..	£401,000		Total ..	£401,000	

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	3	2 1/2		
Berlin ..	5 1/2	November 3, 1905	4 1/2	4 1/2		
Hamburg ..	5 1/2	November 3, 1905	4 1/2	4 1/2		
Frankfurt ..	5 1/2	November 3, 1905	4 1/2	4 1/2		
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	2 1/2	2 1/2		
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3 1/2	3 1/2		
Vienna ..	4 1/2	October, 1905	4	4		
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	4 1/2	4 1/2		
St. Petersburg ..	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2	7 1/2		
Madrid ..	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4	4		
Lisbon ..	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5	5		
Stockholm ..	5	September 22, 1905.	4 1/2	4 1/2		
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4 1/2	4 1/2		
Calcutta ..	5	September 29, 1905	—	—		
Bombay ..	4	August 10, 1905	—	—		
New York call money ..	6	—	—	—		

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs.	25'14	25'15	Antwerp ..	short	5'23	25'23 1/2
Brussels ..	chqs.	25'22 1/2	25'22 1/2	Italy ..	sight	25'10 1/2	25'1
Amsterdam ..	sight	12'13 1/2	12'13 1/2	Constantinople	3 mths	10'05	11'0'05
Berlin ..	chqs.	20'45 1/2	20'42 1/2	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	116'3/4	166'3/4
Do. ..	3 mths	20'24 1/2	20'21	Calcutta ..	90 dys	15'3/4	15'3/4
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20'44	20'41 1/2	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4 1/2	1/4 1/2
Frankfurt ..	short	24'02 1/2	24'02	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	1/11 1/2	2/0 1/2
Vienna ..	sight	24'03 1/2	24'02	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/9 1/2	2/9 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'80	93'70	Singapore ..	4 mths	2/11 1/2	2/11 1/2
New York ..	60 dys	4'82 1/2	4'82 1/2	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0 1/2	2/0 1/2
Lisbon ..	sight	50 1/2	50 1/2				
Madrid ..	sight	32'10	32'16				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Nov. 4.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
Customs ..	£ 749,000	National Debt Services ..	£ 600,000
Excise ..	604,000	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Estate, &c., Duties ..	257,000	Charges ..	9,166
Stamps ..	224,000	Payments to Local Taxa-	—
Land Tax and House Duty.	—	tion ..	—
Property and Income Tax..	123,000	Supply Services ..	2,287,000
Post Office ..	170,000	Bullion Advances ..	—
Telegraphs ..	—	Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Crown Lands ..	—	Advances for Interest on	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—	Exchequer Bonds ..	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	Exchequer Bonds ..	—
Miscellaneous ..	192	Uganda Railway ..	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	Military Works ..	—
Uganda Railway ..	—	Naval Works ..	820,000
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—	Telegraph Acts ..	150,000
count ..	—	Land Registry (New Build-	—
Telegraph Acts ..	—	ings) ..	—
Naval Works Acts ..	—	Public Buildings Expenses	—
Military Works Acts ..	—	Act ..	—
Land Registry Acts ..	—	Public Offices Site (Dublin)	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—	Act ..	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—	Suez Canal drawn Shares	—
Ways and Means ..	—	in reduction of debt ..	—
Deficiency ..	—	Cunard Agreement ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—	Deficiency Advances rep-	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	—	aid ..	—
Transvaal and Orange River	—	Ways and Means Advances	—
Colony. Repayment of	—	repaid ..	—
Temporary Advance ..	—	Increase in Exchequer	—
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—	balances ..	—
tion payments ..	—		
Decrease in Exchequer	—		
balances ..	£ 1,738,974		
	£ 3,866,166		£ 3,866,16

* Exclusive of £155,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £5,367,717.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 31.	Nov. 2.	Nov. 7.	Nov. 9.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2 1/2	12'2 1/2	12'2 1/2	12'2 1/2
Do. do.	3 months	12'4 1/2	12'4 1/2	12'4 1/2	12'4 1/2
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'4 1/2	25'4 1/2	25'4 1/2	25'4 1/2
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'7 1/2	20'7 1/2	20'7 1/2	20'7 1/2
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'7 1/2	20'7 1/2	20'7 1/2	20'7 1/2
Paris ..	cheques	25'15	25'15	25'16 1/2	25'16 1/2
Do. ..	3 months	25'37 1/2	25'37 1/2	25'37 1/2	25'38 1/2
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'37 1/2	25'37 1/2	25'37 1/2	25'38 1/2
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'51 1/2	25'51 1/2	25'51 1/2	25'51 1/2
Austria ..	3 months	24'34	24'34	24'35	24'36
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Moscow ..	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47 1/2	25'47 1/2	25'48 1/2	25'48 1/2
New York ..	60 days	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	36 1/2	36 1/2	36 1/2	36 1/2
Lisbon ..	3 months	50	50	50 1/2	50 1/2
Oporto ..	3 months	50	50	50 1/2	50 1/2
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'41
Christiania ..	3 months	18'42	18'42	18'42	18'42
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'42	18'42	18'42	18'42

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Nov. 4, 1905	Oct. 28, 1905	Oct. 21, 1905	Nov. 5, 1904.
Specie ..	£ 38,092,000	£ 39,212,000	£ 38,632,000	£ 46,260,000
Legal tenders ..	15,016,800	15,379,000	15,077,400	15,570,200
Loans and discounts ..	211,660,000	208,360,000	205,340,000	227,980,000
Circulation ..	10,871,800	10,978,000	10,936,200	8,517,200
Net deposits ..	210,560,000	208,420,000	204,780,000	239,240,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £468,800 against an excess last week of £2,486,000.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Nov. 7, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 23, 1905.	Nov. 7, 1904.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 45,113,833	£ 44,980,083	£ 45,541,000	£ 48,671,875
Silver reserve ..	11,903,708	11,975,541	12,054,916	11,973,958
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	2,298,541	2,344,833	2,002,416	2,026,083
Note circulation ..	74,249,025	76,294,833	72,888,916	72,458,916
Bills discounted ..	24,196,791	25,382,333	22,150,500	19,574,000

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 2, 1905.	Oct. 26, 1905.	Oct. 19, 1905	Nov. 3, 1904.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 4,933,040	£ 4,757,960	£ 4,865,560	£ 4,993,240
Other securities ..	23,046,560	23,688,920	23,373,600	22,502,560
Note circulation ..	27,732,520	27,188,960	26,841,040	25,984,000
Deposits ..	3,222,360	3,324,800	3,319,000	3,483,080

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 7, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 23, 1905.	Nov. 7, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£ 39,949,600	£ 39,708,700	£ 41,720,450	£ 45,846,100
Bills discounted ..	53,231,450	55,474,250	51,779,800	40,590,450
Advances on stocks ..	2,661,750	4,087,750	3,691,500	2,977,150
Note circulation ..	69,276,250	72,103,600	69,410,200	67,043,700
Public deposits ..	23,719,750	24,374,650	26,537,050	23,191,500

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 4, 1905	Oct. 28, 1905.	Oct. 21, 1905	Nov. 5, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 14,979,204	£ 14,973,044	£ 14,968,842	£ 14,847,889
Silver ..	22,422,135	22,568,518	22,428,561	19,011,923
Foreign Bills ..	2,528,041	2,501,426	2,477,782	1,573,498
Discount and Short Bills	45,750,184	45,792,978	45,712,036	38,755,588
Treasury Account ..	20,894,441	20,917,092	20,975,066	22,004,770
Notes in circulation ..	63,178,038	63,046,329	63,214,283	65,695,123
Current Account deposits	21,882,002	21,808,427	21,770,474	24,589,287
Dividends Interests ..	3,132,907	3,015,170	2,901,895	2,119,537
Government Securities	5,395,365	5,475,611	5,374,080	5,361,394

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 9, 1905.	Nov. 2, 1905.	Oct. 26, 1905.	Nov. 10, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£ 115,996,760	£ 116,058,760	£ 116,629,240	£ 104,703,800
Silver in hand ..	43,698,400	43,652,800	43,811,240	43,981,320
Bills discounted ..	30,345,040	38,381,600	29,243,600	25,308,520
Advances ..	19,330,120	19,147,400	18,979,280	20,389,020
Note circulation ..	181,094,680	184,710,720	179,068,440	173,140,680
Public deposits ..	12,849,080	13,178,720	12,905,200	7,453,560
Private deposits ..	21,143,320	22,544,800	22,479,560	20,657,160

Proportion between bullion and circulation 88 1/2 per cent. against 86 1/2 pe cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1905.	Sept. 20, 1905.	Sept. 10, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1904.
Reserve ..	£ 8,066,000	£ 28,045,560	£ 28,002,680	£ 25,441,080
State notes and small change	439,320	511,600	479,120	452,200
Discount and loans ..	14,281,000	11,709,760	11,221,240	11,942,760
Public stock and State loans..	8,407,640	8,408,000	8,411,800	8,429,120
Credits ..	7,026,120	6,282,800	6,602,840	6,844,440
Note Circulation ..	40,327,040	37,995,200	37,774,640	36,557,400
Current account ..	2,266,960	2,982,680	3,228,840	2,743,880
Deposits ..	4,629,080	3,939,640	3,782,680	3,282,600

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 8/21, 1905.	Oct. 1/14 1905.	Sep. 23/Oct. 6. 1905.	Oct. 8/21, 1904.
Gold	£ 89,198,652	£ 87,991,437	£ 89,811,583	£ 84,139,256
Silver and subsidiary coin	4,000,973	10,658,721	4,324,000	6,943,590
Advances and bills discounted ..	38,974,061	38,811,365	37,970,029	40,145,353
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	7,238,173	7,200,687	7,362,360	7,282,627
Notes in circulation ..	109,397,144	109,560,764	110,413,244	82,405,066
Deposits and current account	47,337,421	45,430,750	55,006,300	42,379,342
Treasury account ..	3,488,154	6,493,677	7,323,744	22,913,293

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	4-4½
Three months	3½-4
Four months	3½-4
Six months	3½-4
Three months fine inland bills	4½-4¾
Four months	4½-4¾
Six months	4½-4¾

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
Bankers' rate on deposits	4½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½
" for call loans ..	3

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

We have said so much elsewhere about the prospects of Stock markets that it is almost unnecessary to keep this heading alive in the present number. Not but what there is a great deal more to be said, but readers will probably think they have had enough of the sort for this occasion in the leader at the beginning of this number. However, there can be no harm, perhaps, in seizing the opportunity to point out once more how inimical to enterprises that may be in themselves good the habit of excessive capitalisation is shown to be directly money becomes dear. It might be said that when capital is fully paid up and business going on, the mere fact that floating bankers' balances may be 5 or 6 per cent. now as against 2, 3, or 4 per cent. in times past should make no appreciable difference in the position of a company. The curse, however, of over-capitalisation lies in the fact that it puts every corporation weighed down in this manner at a disadvantage in the conduct of its ordinary business. When excessive capital has to be provided with dividends a business is always hard up, and in proportion as it is impoverished by the greed of its founders is its distress accentuated when the floating credit necessary to the daily conduct of its affairs becomes dear and hard to come by. From this we infer that should money remain dear with us during the next few months, as at present looks most probable, indications of distress will become visible in a good many quarters where an appearance of prosperity is still in one way or another kept up.

We have an example of what is meant, of an extreme kind it may be granted, but still an impressive one, in the condition of the Gold Fields of South Africa Company, whose dividend announcement is dealt with elsewhere. Here is a structure of pure finance from beginning to end. It has emitted an insanely-inflated capital, and lives by borrowing and lending, borrowing at low figures ordinarily and lending at high, and where it is not making money in this way it tries to job in shares, many of them of its own creation, bits of paper always over-valued and sometimes worth nothing at all. How will it fare during the coming six months? Shareholders had better try and frame an intelligent answer for themselves to this question before it is too late.

But many industrial or trading companies of a better sort will find themselves pressed for means should the money of the market remain at high rates during the winter, and amongst companies thus circumstanced we may reckon whole groups of breweries and a good many magnificent hotels. Some of our railways also will suffer, and if we pass away from joint-stock enter-

prises to municipal corporations, those of them who have been great traders and developers of local industries upon quasi-Socialistic lines by help of borrowed money will find themselves in an unusually tight place for want of means this winter, by reason of the scarcity of floating capital or its dearness. Is it because it finds itself hard up that the corporation of Glasgow wants to emit paper money of its own?

How much more is the Stock Exchange itself likely to suffer if operators there have to pay rates for money 2 or 3 per cent. per annum higher than they have been used to? Such rates must mean the impoverishment of whole armies of speculators who in quiet times contrive to carry more or less substantial risks by being able to borrow at rates rather below the yield of the securities played with in interest or dividend. All that kind of business will be difficult if not quite impossible for months to come, and accordingly the probability is that we shall see a liquidation, rapid or slow according to the character of the account, in all speculative positions. It is not, therefore, a time to buy even Home Railway stocks, although these are much affected just now by the domestic speculator and speculative investor. But it is the Yankee market that really fascinates us—a mirage of Sahara in many of its aspects, capable even of finding comfort in the renowned "J. Pierp.'s" declaration that his shipping trust "don't intend to issue many more bonds." Bless its rubbish heaps.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Stock markets continue to bravely struggle against the many adverse influences tending to weigh them down, but, as might be expected, a very qualified success attends the good intentions, and during the greater part of the week prices have had a tendency to give way. Last Saturday's rise in the German Bank rate did not help matters, especially coming in conjunction with a bad New York Bank's statement, and when the stories of the dreadful happenings in Odessa began to filter through dealers became fretful, allowing quotations to slide away. The excellent Board of Trade returns for October brought about a temporary rally at one time, particularly, of course, in Home Railway stocks, and Yankees felt the benefit of the anticipated Tammany victory at the elections on Wednesday; but

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	—	88½	88½
91½	88½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	88½	88½
90½	86½	Do. Account (Dec. 1)	87½	87½
100½	99½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	99½	99½
95½	89	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	99½	99½
101½	96½	Irish Land (2½) ..	99½	99½
99½	97½	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98	98
99½	97½	Do. Account (Dec. 1)	98½	98½
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98	98½
308	297	Bk. of England Stock (5 p.c.) ..	294½	293½
109	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1931 ..	103½	104½
99½	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948 ..	95	96
85½	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	81	80½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66	65½

then came the rumour that Count Witte and the Italian Consul at Odessa had been assassinated to say nothing of tales of the fraudulent practices of Tammany to secure the election of its nominee, so when money rushed up to 14 per cent. in New York the tendency became heavy all round, helped, of course, by the nervousness of Continental bourses over the Russian atrocities. In all directions business has fallen off to an important extent, partly owing to the imminence of the 19-day account, which commenced to-day in the mining departments, and there is unhappily nothing in the outlook which gives hope of immediate revival. A slight relaxation of the monetary stringency had its influence on Consols which always went up when they moved, and other British Funds, such as Annuities, Irish Land stock, Transvaal Three per Cents., and India Sterling issues, the last being exceptionally strong, followed suit. In the Home County and Corporation list, Metropolitan

Water Board, Metropolitan Consolidated, and L.C.C. issues were harder, and Edinburgh Three per Cents. rose 1, but Derby and Stockport Three per Cents. each ended 1 lower. Very little trade went on in the Colonial Inscribed division, but the tendency was good, and some Cape, Natal, New Zealand, and Western Australian issues closed $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 better.

The weakest section was that for Foreign Government bonds, the terrible events in the Russian Empire causing that country's securities to lead a very general decline. The flatness may be said to have originated in Paris, where a good deal of nervousness naturally prevails as to the outcome of the revolution, for it is nothing less than that. Other Continental securities such as Spanish, Turkish, Greeks, Italian, and Portuguese all fell away to a less pronounced extent, the only exception to the general heaviness being German 3 per cent., which finished slightly better. Japanese bonds, after being held up in anticipation of the immediate issue of the new conversion loan, shared

source of strength was found in the weekly traffic figures, the majority being considered highly satisfactory, and it looked for a time as if the firmness were likely to continue. Business, however, gradually decreased in volume, and with the approach of the mid-monthly settlement speculators began to realise, but the declines were nowhere important until Thursday, when the uneasiness caused by the sinister reports from Russia, which had kept other markets more or less under a cloud, spread to this section. In spite of the losses then brought about, most quotations still show improvements on the week, and in the case of

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	99½	102½	102½	102½
102½	97½	100½	100½	100½
106½	100½	100½	100½	100½
104½	98½	101	101	101
93½	85½	92	92	92
93½	85½	89½	89½	89½
92½	85½	89½	89½	89½
104½	99½	101	101	101
92½	82½	88	88	88
101	94	98½	98½	98½
106	101½	104	104	104
91½	82	89½	89½	89½
102½	93½	101	101	101
97	87½	—	—	—
98½	89½	98	98	98
96½	88½	94	94	94
102½	96½	101½	101½	101½
98½	91½	98	98	98
107	100½	106½	106½	106½
106½	100½	102½	102½	102½
103	92½	99	99	99
106½	99½	104½	104½	104½
59½	28½	55½	55½	55½
51½	24½	45½	45½	45½
109½	104½	106	106	106
107	104½	106½	106½	106½
103½	95½	101	101	101
106½	102½	105	105	105
191½	88½	87½	87½	87½
54½	47	53	53	53
55½	48½	53½	53½	53½
44	38½	42	42	42
54½	47	—	—	—
100½	96½	96½	96½	96½
106	102½	104½	104½	104½
103	88½	100½	100½	100½
103½	88½	90½	90½	90½
106½	97	102	102	102
106½	102½	103½	103½	103½
70½	64½	69½	69½	69½
95½	86	93	93	93
83½	76	82	82	82
95½	89½	92	92	92
103	100	100½	100½	100½
105½	100½	103	103	103
92	86½	89½	89½	89½
74½	63½	72½	72½	72½
99	86½	95	95	95
51½	42½	49½	49½	49½

the prevailing heaviness, and Chinese things would probably have gone back had they moved. In the South American division Peruvian Corporation issues were heavily sold throughout the week, Berlin throwing out stock freely, apparently on a statement that the Peruvian Government has obtained a loan of £600,000 at 6 per cent. from a German bank. Should this be so, it is thought that a settlement with the corporation will be still further delayed, hopes of an arrangement having been based on the authorities' chronic want of money. At the reduced values Amsterdam took up a good deal of stock, but it was not possible to bring about much recovery. Brazilian issues were also flat on the disclosure of a Budget deficit of £3,000,000 and the news of a military revolt at Santa Cruz, and Argentines eased sympathetically, but Cedula issues still kept up well.

The Home Railway market was at first inclined to give way owing to a little pressure to sell Scotch stocks from Glasgow, and most stocks dropped back a fraction or two, but a smart rally followed the publication of the Board of Trade returns for October. Another

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	138	139
165	152½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157	157
131½	116½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	125½	127
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	117	118
83½	77½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78½	78½
40½	33½	Do. Def. (3 p.c.) ..	40	40½
94½	88½	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	93
86½	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84½	84½
17½	16½	Chatham Ordinary ..	17½	17½
47½	37½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	44	44
71	51	Furness (2½ p.c.) ..	70	67
39½	28½	Great Central Pref. ..	38½	39
19	15½	Do. Def. ..	18½	19
93½	80½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	86½	88½
108½	98½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	103	103½
44½	38½	Do. Def. (1) ..	43½	44½
145½	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	142½	144
50½	52	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	52½	52½
49½	41	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	47½	47½
112½	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	109½	110
100	88½	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	92	91½
42½	34½	Metropolitan District ..	38½	38
71	65½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	69½	69
72	62½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	71	72
83½	76½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78	78
49½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	46½	46
144½	134	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	143½	144½
160½	147	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	159	160
96	84½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	95	94
135	122½	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	134	134
60½	48½	Do. Def. ..	58½	58½
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	160½	163½
111½	105	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106	106
60½	52½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	59	59

the "heavy" stocks the gains were substantial. Great Eastern and Brighton ordinary and deferred were also decidedly higher, and a sharp recovery took place in South-Western ordinary. Great Northern deferred was exceptionally strong throughout, although there is no confirmation yet of the report that the company intends to buy up the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast line. Furness, on the other hand, has dropped steadily until it is now back to 67, and Metropolitan and District have both been weak.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	90½	89
108½	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	107	106
120½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	115½	113½
120	97½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	100	100
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	57½	55½
193½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	185	181
38	27½	Denver Shares ..	35½	34½
93½	85½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	90½	90
54½	38½	Erie Shares ..	49½	49½
87½	77½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	82½	82½
80½	58½	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	73½	74
187	156	Illinois Central (7) ..	183½	181
161½	140½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	157½	155½
36½	24½	Missouri and Texas ..	36½	35½
169½	140½	New York Central (5) ..	155½	153
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	88½	87½
90½	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	95	95
65½	41½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	55½	54½
76½	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	74½	73½
65½	40½	Reading Shares (14) ..	65½	71½
49½	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	48	48
51½	45½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	50½	51
74	59½	Southern Pacific ..	72½	70½
39½	28½	Southern ..	37½	35½
104½	97½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	102	102
142½	116½	Union Pacific (4) ..	136½	134½
102½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
24½	22	Wabash ..	22½	21½
49½	37½	Do. Pref. ..	43	41
86½	69½	Do. Income Debs. ..	77	76
182½	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	177½	177
109	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106½	106½
112	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110	109
26½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Sks. ..	22½	22½
104½	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	101½	101½
115½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	112	111½
107	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	102	101½
62½	49½	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	56½	56½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	107½	107½

Wall Street has been far from happy this week. For one thing, the return of the New York Associated

Banks on Saturday indicated very clearly that a period of monetary stringency was at hand, and for another, business was interfered with by the municipal elections in New York on Tuesday. The return of the Tammany candidate for Mayor was regarded as being in the nature of a "bull" point and a little buying followed on this side, but before New York could lend any important support to the upward movement all calculations were upset by the sudden hardening of money. Loan rates stiffened sharply until 8 and 8½ per cent. became quite a common charge, and the rate ran up at times to as much as 15 per cent., figures which have not been known since June, 1903. Quotations went tumbling downwards under the rush to sell caused by this heavy pressure, and losses of \$1 to \$2 were freely scattered throughout the list. In Milwaukee, Illinois Central, Louisville, and Union Pacific the declines reached still greater proportions, and the only shares which really resisted the current were Reading, where a "bear" hunt is in full cry.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10)	219	217½
321	144½	Do. Def. (15)	305	310
130½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	125xd	125xd
131	113½	Do. Pref. (5)	126xd	126xd
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Pref.	82	82
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	138½xd	138½xd
133½	127	Do. Pref. (5)	129xd	129xd
141	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	140	134
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	114
110½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	108
115	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	110	110
107½	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	104	104½
170½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	165
109½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	107
142½	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (6) ..	138xd	137½xd
93	79	Central Uruguay (3)	88xd	87xd
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	108	108
95½	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	93	93½
76½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	71	72
33½	23	Costa Rica (1)	28	28
78	59	Cuban Central	72	72
102½	103½	Do. Pref. (5½)	112½xd	112½xd
107½	104½	Do. Deb. (4½)	105	105
95½	72	East Argentine	93	93
74	62	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	63	6
197½	80½	Leopoldina (3)	80½	82
197½	94½	Do. Deb. (4)	95½	97
108	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	110	110
220½	104½	Do. "B" (6)	105	105
221½	198	Mexican Ord. Stk.	24½	23½
59	36½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	118½	116½
48½	47½	Do. 2nd Pref.	47½	45½
17	10½	Mexican Southern (2½)	54	54
108	16½	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	15½xd	15½
217½	178	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19½	19½
221½	122	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	214	217½
		United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	217½	221½

Canadian Pacific shares were lifted on the increase of \$394,000 in the weekly traffic return, and at one time were as high as 178½, but that was high-water mark, and from there the price gradually went back to 177. Grand Trunk stocks also advanced a fraction or two at first, but they have been comparatively neglected, and fluctuations were trifling. At the close the junior securities were if anything a shade better on the week, while the first and second preferences finished about 10s. down.

Argentine Railway stocks were left pretty much to themselves most of the time, and although a little stimulus was applied by the traffic returns the gains then established were largely neutralised by a relapse induced by the weakness in Government issues. The leading stocks as a rule finished without much change on the week, and it was only in such things as Argentine Great Western debentures, Transandine preference shares, and Entre Rios issues that the changes were important. Brazilian stocks have been in high favour owing to the strength of the exchange, and United Railways of the Havana ordinary also continues to be sought after with some keenness, but Antofagasta ordinary went back. The most sensational movement, however, was in Inter-oceanic of Mexico "B" debenture stock, owing to the disappointment experienced over the dividend announcement. It had been pretty confidently expected that the company would be able to improve upon last year's distribution and pay the full 7 per cent. on these bonds, but so far from that happening the dividend is cut down to 4½ per cent., and

the price slumped to 103 or thereabouts, dragging the securities of other Mexican railways back with it.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	Allsopp Ordinary	19	24
71	40	City of London Ord.	60½	60½
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	540
27½	21½	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23	23
27½	18½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	28	28
27½	3	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	33	33
60½	48	Watney, Combe, Ff. Or. St. (4) ..	59½	58½
105	25	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	22	21
78½	56½	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	101	101
63½	57	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	65	65
6	6	Aerated Bread (2½)	63	63
27½	5½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	63	63
27½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	64	64
17½	12½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	17½	17½
32	5	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	24	24
11½	9	Brunner Mond (35)	78	78
51½	11½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	114xd	114
51½	47½	Coats Ordinary (20)	57½	57½
502½	483½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	502½	500
17½	17½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	17½	17½
17½	23½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	17½	17½
17½	6½	Gordon House Ordinary (3)	6½	6½
17½	10½	Harley's Telegraph (15)	12½	12½
17½	4	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	4	4
11½	26½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	13½	13½
11½	108	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	107
17½	23½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	17½	17½
17½	67½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	67½	67½
17½	25½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	17½	17½
17½	18	Russian Petroleum (5)	18	18
17½	11½	Savoy Hotel (5)	7	7
17½	10½	Sweetmeat Automatic	10½	10½
17½	10½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	15	15
17½	10½	Weissbach Ordinary Stock	10½	10½
17½	17½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	17½	17½
17½	104	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	104	104
17½	79	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	79	79
17½	50	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) ..	49½	49½
17½	106	Do. Debentures (6)	106	105½
17½	106	National Discount (10)	92	92
17½	106	Union Discount (11)	112	112
17½	72	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	72	72
17½	128	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	122	122
17½	104	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½) ..	100	100
17½	128	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	128	130
17½	33½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15)	33½	33½
17½	38	Beacock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	38	38
17½	2	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	18	18
17½	13½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	18	18
17½	13½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	13½	13½
17½	107½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	107½	106½
17½	107½	Do. Preference (7)	107½	106½
17½	21½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	21½	21½
17½	15	Cunard Steam	15	14½
17½	244½	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	244½	240½
17½	46	Royal Mail	46	46
17½	8	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½xd	8½
17½	101½	Anglo-American Telegraph—		
17½	101½	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	108	108
17½	16½	Do. Def. Ord.	16	16½
17½	144½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	144½	144½
17½	14½	Eastern Extension (7)	14½	14½
17½	107½	National Telephone Def. (5)	107	107
17½	14½	Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
17½	10	Brush Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	10	10
17½	8½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	8½	8½
17½	123½	London General Omnibus (8) ..	123½	122½
17½	10	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	10	10

The principal incident in the Miscellaneous markets was the strength of Allsopp's stocks on statements that negotiations are going forward for an amalgamation with another brewery. The chairman of the advisory committee appointed at the last meeting is responsible for the news, and although it has met with the usual denial, few doubts are entertained that something of the kind is in progress. Other brewery issues did not follow the lead given, being, in fact, rather heavy, but amongst Catering shares Aerated Breads went up along with British Tea Tables. Some demand was experienced for Textiles, especially English Sewing Cotton, and without being specially prominent Iron and Steel things easily held their ground. Shipping shares, too, were good again, also Gas stocks and other investment issues, but Hudson's Bays were moderately offered and fell back. Pekin Syndicates moved within narrow limits, ending steady, and other Chinese Land and Exploration shares followed the same course. The excellent report recently issued by the Daimler Motor Company caused a considerable demand for both preference and ordinary shares, Nitrates were dull as a rule, several giving way ½ or ¼, and amongst the best class of industrials Telegraph Construction and Price's Candle shares each gave way £1. Wm. Griffiths ordinary shares continue weak, as do the

preference shares of Hope Brothers and Jones and Higgins fell a trifle after their recent rise, but Jays firmed up along with Maple ordinary. Gramophones also kept hard and Pears ordinary had a fractional rise. Russian Oils did not weaken to a pronounced extent, and we hope the optimism of holders will be justified. London General Omnibus stock went back £2, while B.E.T. ordinary rallied to 10.

All was stagnation on the Stock Exchange, with jerky fluctuations in some of the Yankee securities and a tendency on the part of emissions dependent on Paris to give way towards the close. From Paris we hear that the Japanese consolidation loan is likely to be issued about the end of the month. It is said that the French Government has withdrawn the embargo upon the issue which it imposed in favour of the Russian loans, and will now allow the Japanese agents to offer the bonds without reference to competition with Russia. That, if true, is really somewhat sinister news from several points of view, and we give it under reserve, but the firmness of Japanese stocks seems to point to a substantial foundation for the story. Kaffir shares were weak to-night on the gold return for the past month, which, every extenuating circumstance allowed for, is anything but encouraging to holders. It is analysed elsewhere. This was contango day in the Kaffir Circus, and in mining markets generally, and rates were mostly about 7 per cent., the range being from 6 to 8 per cent. on South African, with the exception of Gold Fields shares and some others on which money was lent at 5 to 5½ per cent. On Westralian money was also 7 to 8 per cent., and on Jungles and Egyptians 6 to 8 per cent.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT FOR OCTOBER.

The total amounted to 415,527 ozs. of fine gold, of which 17,659 ozs. came from districts outside the Witwatersrand. The gross value of this was £1,765,047, but in spite of these fine round figures the return is a poor one, for it shows a decrease of 960 ozs. in weight and of £4,077 in value compared with the month of September, which had one working day less. That working day should on the average mean 13,000 ozs. more for October, and consequently there is really a decline of about 14,000 ozs. in the yield for the past month as compared with September. Of this falling away, some 6,000 ozs. is said to be accounted for by upsets at the Ginsberg and Wemmer mines, whereby their mills were partially put out of operation during the month, but even so there remains some 8,000 ozs. of a decline which can only be accounted for by the steadily diminished yield per ton of ore. Compared with a year ago there is an increase of about 89,900 ozs. in weight and £382,000 in value, but we cannot tell what this implies without having the actual number of stamps at work for the two dates to complete the comparison. This the Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg does not supply.

Rand Mines and Yields: Van Ryn.

Though the Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate has been in existence since 1894—in which year it was reconstructed—the original and early shareholders have made nothing out of it. For until last year, when 10 per cent. was distributed, the only dividend paid was 4s. per share in 1896, and it is questionable whether those who bought at the high prices in the early nineties will be recouped if they hold on till the mine is exhausted. It is doubtful, however, if full justice was done to the property in the early days. The cyanide process was not then in use, and consequently the gold in the tailings was not recovered, and owing to the fact that the property was not properly developed, patchy reefs were worked instead of good payable ore bodies, the existence of some of which was not even known. Sorting was not practised either, and for these reasons the present officials claim that former returns gave no evidence of the true value of the mine. In February, 1898, Mr. George Albu was entrusted with the management of

the company's affairs in South Africa, since when it has been a member of the Albu group. From that date the value of the various ore bodies has been properly determined, the mine has been thoroughly re-developed and the whole equipment entirely overhauled and rearranged. In a little over twelve months—up to the time operations ceased in 1899—the monthly profits increased gradually from £3,150, with 80 stamps, to nearly £15,000, with 125 stamps. The mill has subsequently been enlarged to 160 stamps, and this will probably be its unchanged size to the end of the mine's existence. Judging by the value of present developments, it is anticipated that the average payable ore of the mine will yield a profit of approximately 15s. per ton, the gross profit depending upon the number of stamps fed. With better sorting facilities and a full complement of labour, the management expects to cut down working costs, with a proportionate increase in the profit. Assuming, however, that the profit per ton does not improve, but that the existing yield will be maintained, the future returns are estimated by the consulting engineer somewhat as follows:—160 stamps will crush, say, 24,000 tons per month. Profit, 15s. per ton or £18,000 per month. To this must be added the earnings from the slimes plant, estimated to yield a monthly profit of £1,200. It may be, however, some two or three years, if not longer, before the profits reach this figure, so we will estimate on the basis of monthly profits of £19,000 from the present date. Should this figure eventually be reached and maintained, the annual profits may amount to £228,000, equal to over 45 per cent. on the capital of £500,000. If we deduct about £30,000 for profits tax and depreciation and another £10,000 to carry forward and other purposes, there will be £188,000 left to divide should the directors set aside nothing to reserve. This would allow of annual distributions of from 35 to 40 per cent. If we take the lower figure as an average, and calculate the yield on the present low price of the share at 12 per cent., we shall have made fair allowance for many uncertainties. It is impossible at present to estimate the probable life of the mine, but it is generally assumed to be about sixteen years. This would give a return of £192 on the investment of £100, leaving £92 as the dividend profit, or £5 15s. per cent. per annum. As nearly £5 would have to be set aside annually at 3 per cent. compound interest to redeem the principal in sixteen years, the return in that case would be £7 per cent. per annum. Unless the official calculations go greatly astray, Van Ryn shares at their present price of a little over £3 look far more tempting than the majority of shares in the Kaffir Circus. Like all the companies in the Albu group, the Van Ryn is well managed, and we believe that full justice will be done to the mine, although we cannot agree with Mr. Albu that the mine will do better with Chinese labour than with Kaffir, unless the conditions of hiring are changed. The Van Ryn was the second mine on the field to employ coolies, but it has done nothing remarkable or exceptional with their help, and it has had considerable trouble with them.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * * *Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.*

There is again little or nothing to say about the condition of the Kaffir Circus, for nowhere are there any symptoms of improvement to be noted. No business is done on behalf of the great public, and the market is still in the hands of the professionals. But these are practically helpless, what with the state of the money market, the disruption in Russia, and the lack of support from those supposed to have a little cash. As the nineteen-day account approached its close—Friday being carry-over-day—the market became weaker, and quotations fell away all round. The Continent has been as inactive as the public on this side. Gold Fields have again fluctuated considerably, rising and falling in erratic fashion, as the strings have been worked by secret operators. Professionals have been impatiently awaiting the announcement of the dividend and the directorial re-

port, in the hope that both will make a favourable impression on the public and tempt them into the market. This is a ridiculous hope, for nothing the Gold Fields Company can do can restore public confidence in the honesty of the mine bosses, nor in the uprightness of professional speculators. This mighty concern is not earning profits from gold mining, but from its bucket-shop and money-lending business, and where is the evidence in this that shareholders in the host of other companies will receive remunerative dividends? It is as reasonable to argue that because a bucket-shop makes ends meet in these days so will the mining industry on the Rand flourish. Many years must pass before even shareholders in the Gold Fields can hope to be recouped for the losses they have suffered in this one concern. Anyway the actual dividend of 15 per cent. greatly disappointed the market gamblers, and the price of the share immediately fell as a result of the chagrin felt.

The report of the Executive Committee of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines for September gives the following returns of Chinese labour:—Number employed at August 31, 44,562, less 67 deaths to September 30, and seven discharged for repatriation, leaving the number at work at the end of September 44,488. The s.s. *Indravelli* sailed from Chefro on September 8 with 1,091 coolies to be allotted to the Village Deep, Modderfontein Extension, and East Rand Proprietary Mines.

Rhodesians have relapsed with Kaffirs. An effort was made in the early part of the week to push Bankets higher on a rumour of favourable developments in the Eldorado mine, but no response was made to it, and the manoeuvre failed.

West Australian shares have, on the whole, been well supported, and prices have strengthened in many instances, though in anticipation of the carry-over profit-taking brought about a reaction. Great Fingalls have improved on the news of encouraging developments at depth. A cable announces that the No. 12 level has encountered what appears to be the main chute of ore, adding that prospects look very promising. On the other hand, the market has expressed dissatisfaction with the monthly results of the Golden Horseshoe, though the latest cable from the mine records good developments at some points, such as the striking of one-ounce ore, for a width of 6 ft., in the bottom level. Working costs are also considered very high, and it is feared that unless there be a material reduction the company will have a difficulty in maintaining present dividends.

Elsewhere dulness has ruled in the West African and Egyptian sections. Shares in the Broken Hill group are likewise easier. Esperanzas and El Oros, in the Mexican group, have further hardened, a rumour stating that the Mexico Mines of El Oro lode has been cut in the property of the first-mentioned company. Camp Birds have eased off. Leading dealers in the American group have agreed that, in future, they will arrange no contangos until the official contango day.

In the copper group, Rio Tintos have receded, and Spasskys have relapsed, but Cape Coppers have hardened. Mount Lyells have also improved, a cable from the head office in Melbourne announcing the declaration of a dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, with a bonus of 9d. per share in respect of the half-year to September 30. Indian shares have been steady.

THE SUB-NIGEL.—The directors of this subsidiary of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa have little or nothing to say in their report for the twelve months to June 30. They refer shareholders to the report of the consulting engineer, about half-a-dozen lines in length, in which he says that the necessary surface work in connection with the equipment at "E" shaft, preparatory to starting underground work, was commenced in June last. The erection of the new compressor, compressor-house and boiler-house is proceeding, and the foundations of the boilers are completed, so we can only hope the boilers will not burst. We cannot see far enough into the future to predict when the company is likely to earn dividends. As the concern lends money to speculators it received £1,331 in interest in the twelve months, and as another large sum is locked up in shares not specified dividends gave £1,677, the revenue amounting to £3,067 with the addition of smaller sums from rent and transfer fees. Expenditure totalled £5,043, and a deficit of £1,976 is accordingly shown, reducing the balance to the credit of profit and loss account to £42,057. The company owes very little, and has a good display of liquid resources.

MOUNT LYLE MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY.—Cabled advice has just come from the head office at Melbourne giving a summary of the results for the half-year to September 30. Ore treated was: Mount Lyell mine, 152,829 tons; North Mount Lyell mine, 55,453 tons; total, 208,282 tons, averaging 2.37 per cent. of copper, 1.84 ozs. of silver, and .058 ozs. of gold per ton. The net profit was £188,578, or £42,800 in excess of the previous six months, after allowing for dividend and income-tax £3,750, depreciation £9,021, and mining exploration not charged to mine preparatory works over-burden account £12,588. There is a balance to the credit of profit and loss account of £315,341, and after transferring £25,000 to the reserve fund the directors declare a dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, with a bonus of 9d. per share, amounting to £120,000. This improvement is encouraging. The general manager reports that exploration work at the North Mount Lyell mine has established the downward continuation of the ore to a greater depth than was indicated by the main ore body at the 500 ft. level, and points to the existence of further practically separate reserves. "The half-year, therefore," says he, "has been characterised by important disclosures which considerably augment the reserves of ore of the mine."

PEAK HILL GOLDFIELDS.—Shareholders in this Westralian concern seem reluctant to put any more money into the mine,

and such reluctance is reasonable. The directors have pleaded with them to take up some of the unissued debentures, but shareholders will not look at them. Now they are asked to consent to a reduction of the capital from £300,000 in £1 shares to £60,000 in 300,000 shares of 4s. each, thus writing 16s. off each share to meet lost capital and valueless assets. After this has been assented to the directors propose to create 50,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, and to convert the 300,000 4s. shares into deferred shares, and will again offer the unissued debentures, £9,069. The new ordinary shares are to be entitled to 90 per cent. of the profits of any year, and the deferred shares to the remaining 10 per cent. Should this scheme fail there is no alternative, say the directors, but reconstruction. What about liquidation and ending the company's existence? Is not that likely to be a more profitable course for the shareholders?

OURO PRETO GOLD MINES OF BRAZIL.—Comparatively poor results are shown in the report of the directors of this company for the year to June 30. Although 75,660 tons, or 1,288 more, were crushed there was a considerable falling off in the average grade of the ore, the value per ton being only 20s. 6½d. against 25s. in 1903-4. The value of the gold produced was £77,725, and £1,161 was received from interest, rent, and transfer fees, making a gross income of £78,886. Expenditure amounted to £82,716, inclusive of £2,694 paid for export duty on gold, showing an excess expenditure of £3,829. After writing off £1,144 for depreciation, paying £140 for interest on debentures, and bringing forward the credit balance of £2,032, the nett debit is £3,082, which compares with a profit of £5,866 in the preceding year. Cash is only £507, but there is gold in stock worth £13,295, which with £748 owing by debtors covers £7,579 owing to creditors, and bills payable amounting to £6,000. The directors expect better ore to be found below the present poor zone. In fact, they say the returns so far advised show a substantial increase in value. In view of the poor results of the past year's working they have again decided to waive a portion of their fees.

DUFF DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.—Although this company came into existence as recently as 1903, with an authorised capital of £400,000, the directors have to confess that there is scarce a sou left in the treasury, which must therefore be replenished by some means or other. As this is possible only by appealing to the shareholders for more funds we do not think the inglorious career of the company will tempt them to speculate further hard cash in a very doubtful-looking venture. Only now do the shareholders receive the report for 1904, which states that the funds available at December 31 last amounted to £29,696. Since then a further sum of £3,750 has been got by realising 5,000 fully-paid shares in the Kelantan Gold Dredging Company. But all these funds have been practically exhausted, and the directors promise to set forth their scheme of raising money.

CHEROKEE GOLDFIELDS.—A report to be presented at the statutory meeting of this concern states that the whole of the 343,150 shares issued with 17s. paid have been subscribed, thus securing over £51,000 of working capital. In the opinion of Mr. J. D. Kendall, the consulting engineer, this is sufficient to carry out the development work he recommended, as well as to erect the mill now on the ground. In his report the engineer says: "The most promising part of the company's property at the present time is the mine called San Filipe, in the San Luis claim. Development should be pushed forward there with all speed, for if the vein maintains its present strength and value a good mine can soon be opened up. San Pantaleon should be developed at a depth of 100 ft. below the present level. At the same time San Julian mine could also be worked below the ground hitherto worked. This mine is reported to have yielded high-grade ore, and from the character of the works executed I am disposed to think it must have been above the average. Further work should be done at Santa Rita. Ore of payable value has been found there, and it is probable that more can soon be opened up. The developments at San Atanasio should be continued to prove the three known pay-shoots below the second level. The results obtained in the fourth and fifth levels were not satisfactory, but as the vein widens rapidly downwards it is an easy matter to miss pay-shoots like these without cross-cutting." From these opinions and statements it does not look as if prospects are other than very indefinite.

TYEE COPPER COMPANY.—The directors of this company recently commissioned Mr. Fred O. Harvey, M.I.M.M., to inspect the Tyee mine, and they have now received his preliminary report. Shareholders will find it very unfavourable, and it will not raise their hopes of getting much more money out of the mine. Mr. Harvey says the ore reserves cannot be estimated with safety at more than 10,000 or 12,000 tons; he sees nothing to substantiate the assertion that ore "has to be found" in depth. There is a possibility that this may be the case, but the conditions are not favourable. Explorations ought to be continued, and he recommends such work, adding: "But with the most favourable results which may accrue from any work in this direction many months would elapse before new ore could be sufficiently developed to justify output on a proper basis, and it is, therefore, evident that unless the present ore-body east opens out into something more than the position warrants us in estimating, the time must soon come when, for a period at least, the Tyee output will be entirely suspended." If the worst happens the company will have had a very brief life. It was formed in 1900, and paid its first dividend in 1904, the aggregate distribution amounting to 4s. per share.

QUEENSLAND GOLD RETURNS.—The following are the cabled gold returns of Queensland for October:—Charters Towers, tons crushed, 19,800, yielding 19,500 ozs.; Croydon, 5,300 tons, 1,700

ozs.; Gympie, 16,400 tons, 7,400 ozs.; Mount Morgan 21,100 tons, 10,800 ozs.; Ravenswood, 3,000 tons, 3,300 ozs.; other fields, 2,300 tons, 1,500 ozs.; alluvial, 1,600 ozs.; total, 45,800 ozs.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOLD YIELD.—The New South Wales gold yield for the month of October amounted to 37,187 ozs., valued at £130,341, compared with 15,719 ozs. of a value of £59,395 in the corresponding month of 1904. For the past ten months the yield totals 267,066 ozs., valued at £934,384, against 247,495 ozs. worth £899,512 in the first ten months of last year, showing a substantial improvement in the present year.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

** * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.*

CHICAGO ROCK ISLAND AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

The gross earnings of this road for the 12 months ended June 30 were \$44,051,509 or \$917,982 less than in the previous year, but as the operating expenses were lowered by \$716,684 to \$31,058,209 the decline in nett revenue is only \$201,298 at \$1,299,300. That is nearly all made good by an increase in other items of revenue of \$192,338 at \$1,526,172, making the total from all sources \$4,519,472, or a shrinkage of the trifle of \$8,960. As usual, however, with all American railways the charges for taxes, interest, and rentals went up, this time by \$1,286,129 at \$9,786,362, so that the surplus available for dividends is down \$1,295,089 at \$4,733,109. The decline is reflected in the distributions made, which aggregate 6½ per cent. only compared with 8 per cent., and even this payment cut things very fine, as the surplus remaining after providing it was only \$56,487. This with certain interest receipts raised the surplus existing a year ago to \$24,824,929, but against that there were deductions of no less than \$5,145,942 for discount and expenses in connection with bond issues, taxes accrued prior to July 1, 1904, depreciation of property, and sundry items not directly charged to revenue. After meeting these charges the surplus is \$19,678,987, and it needs to be emphasised that but for the existence of these accumulated surpluses the dividends paid must have been still further reduced or the property account made to carry a lot of additional deadweight. Details of the traffic show that the passenger earnings improved \$353,748 and express \$280,107, but revenue from miscellaneous sources went down \$55,714 and that from freight \$1,504,620. Principal decreases were in grain, flour, live-stock, bituminous coal, coke, products of the forest, and merchandise. It appears that Kansas and Oklahoma had a very light wheat crop, which not only affected the traffic in that cereal but was also the immediate cause of the decrease in flour, and the indirect cause of losses in other commodities. Against the shrinkages other articles showed improvement, but not sufficient to overcome the losses, and it is worthy of note that two-thirds of the entire decreased earnings for the year occurred in January and February last, owing to almost unprecedented weather of a bad kind. By pulling down the expenditure to the extent mentioned the ratio between outgo and income was reduced from 70.66 per cent. to 70.50 per cent., and we find some very important movements in the various items. For example, the outlay upon maintenance of way and structures went down \$1,029,145, while that on maintenance of equipment was larger by \$643,123. Conducting transportation or traffic expenses was less by \$261,752, cost of fuel decreased \$233,206, train supplies showed a saving of \$178,312, hire of equipment increased \$295,242, an additional \$171,749 went in car mileage, and other movements up or down occurred to a smaller extent, general expenses, for example, being smaller by \$68,910. There was only a trifling advance in the capital stock outstanding during the year, but the funded debt went up no less than \$22,490,000, raising the total to \$173,607,000, leading to the advance in interest charges already mentioned. Altogether a sum of \$2,070,019 was spent on additions, improvements, betterments, and equipments, but of this \$1,453,505 was charged either direct to operating charges or to the accumulated surpluses, so that the actual addition to capital was reduced to \$616,514. During the year the company acquired 44,700 shares of the preferred stock and 143,200 shares of the common stock of the Chicago and Alton Railway Company, and all the issued and outstanding capital stock of the Arkansas Southern Railroad Company, the former being taken over in exchange for gold bonds, while the latter appears for the present in the item of "advances for construction and equipment." The company has also on hand a large amount of new construction, and we do not suppose it will have much difficulty in utilising the huge amount of capital referred to in the last report.

ST. LOUIS AND SAN FRANCISCO RAILROAD COMPANY.

During the year ended June 30 this company increased its average mileage in operation by over 813 miles to a total of 5,030, and its gross earnings by \$3,061,508 to \$29,958,240. Operating expenses rose \$1,540,765 to \$19,297,017, leaving the nett earnings better by \$1,520,743 at \$10,661,223, and reducing the operating ratio by 1.6 per cent. to 64.4 per cent. A decrease in "other" revenue of \$50,999 to \$82,113 reduces the actual improvement in the total income to \$1,469,744 at \$11,493,336. All that advantage, however, and more, was swept away in an increase of \$1,787,787 to \$10,469,208 in the interest and other fixed charges, leaving the sum available for dividend down by

\$318,043 at \$1,024,128. So after providing dividends of 4 per cent. on the first and second preferred stocks there is a balance of \$184,386 to be carried to profit and loss compared with \$502,429 carried there or used for other purposes a year ago. Towards the increase in total revenue, freight contributed \$1,335,224, passengers \$1,665,494, mails \$58,405, and express \$109,367, a decline of \$106,983 in miscellaneous being due to a change in the method of keeping the accounts. Most of the increase in expenditure was in traffic expenses up \$853,517 followed by maintenance of way and structures \$461,033, maintenance of equipment \$116,030, and general expenses \$110,184. Issued capital stock of the company remains as before, but there was a reduction during the year of \$1,210,700 in the capital stock of auxiliary companies outstanding, that of the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railway, which was cancelled at the request of the Railroad Commission of Texas, but for what reason does not transpire. On the other hand, the company issued \$3,030,000 of its preferred 4 per cent. stock trust certificates to cover an additional 20,200 shares of Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad Company preferred stock acquired, and \$4,000,000 seven year 4½ per cent. gold notes to provide for the purchase of the capital stock and first mortgage bonds of the Arkansas Valley and Western Railway Company. The last issue included, the funded debt was raised \$21,273,187 to \$168,603,737 in the course of the twelve months, as the nett result of a large amount of additions and redemption. The total included extra equipment notes to the amount of \$501,739, but against that the company paid off all its floating indebtedness to the amount of \$9,080,000. Nevertheless, additional obligations are being piled up in a very rapid fashion, and although up to a certain point there is value received, we must not forget that frequently the company exchanges direct and fixed obligations for securities, which, although of extensive face value, are not of necessity revenue producing.

CHICAGO, BURLINGTON, AND QUINCY RAILROAD COMPANY.

Freight traffic during the year ended June 30 yielded \$788,104 less at \$43,863,893, but passenger earnings came to \$1,403,670 more at \$15,898,243, and with larger mail, express, and miscellaneous receipts the total income was \$744,853 higher at \$65,973,045. On the other hand, cost of conducting transportation was reduced by \$914,425 to \$19,352,056, and maintenance of road and structures took \$1,186,775 less at \$9,090,499, so that in spite of increases of \$1,411,592 to \$9,788,194 in maintenance of equipment and \$247,649 to \$3,999,584 in general expenses, a saving of \$441,960 at \$42,230,333 was effected in operating expenses. Deducting taxes the nett earnings came to \$21,872,713 or \$1,223,464 more, and after adding interest on securities owned and deducting interest on bonds, sinking funds, and other charges there was a balance of \$13,804,778 compared with \$12,814,916. During the year the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railway Company, which has leased this line, paid, as rental, dividends at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the stock of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Company. For convenience the dividends upon the stock deposited as collateral security for the Northern Pacific—Great Northern Railway Companies' joint C.B. and Q. collateral 4 per cent. bonds were applied directly to the payment of the interest on these bonds, leaving a surplus of \$4,069,925. No additions were made to the capital stock during the year, and as \$4,842,000 was paid off the funded debt against \$4,339,000 issued the nett result was a reduction of \$503,000 to \$170,512,100 in the amount outstanding.

ROHILKUND AND KUMAON RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the six months ended June 30 the gross receipts were Rs. 2,13,873 compared with Rs. 2,07,500 in the corresponding period of last year, while the working expenses, including Rs. 1,076 added to the provident fund, went up from Rs. 91,242 to Rs. 94,777. That left the nett receipts better by Rs. 2,838 at Rs. 1,19,006. Taken at an exchange of 1s. 4d. the nett revenue realised £7,940, to which is added the company's share of surplus profits for working the Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway £2,489, making £10,429 in all. After adding £1,045 brought forward, and making other adjustments, including £1,200 set aside on account of the Secretary's of State's share of profits, over 6 per cent., the sum available for dividend is £9,487. That is only a very small decline against the corresponding period, but on this occasion the bonus added to the usual 3 per cent. dividend will be ½ per cent. only instead of 1 per cent., as the directors transfer £2,000 to suspense account to partially provide for the charges in connection with relaying the main line with 50 lb. rails. The balance carried forward is £487. Number of passengers carried showed a small increase, with an improvement in receipts of Rs. 5,597, despite a decrease in third class revenue due to smaller pilgrim traffic and more short distance local business. Goods traffic went down 4,686 tons, and the income Rs. 1,028, traffic being affected by the damage done to the crops by frost, but the cart and tonga services improved by over Rs. 2,000. Capital expenditure during the half-year on extension works was £138,860, and on stores £60,178.

HUMBER, LIMITED.

This well-known business again failed to keep pace with its rivals during the twelve months ended August 31, but the directors seem to have fairly legitimate reasons to offer for the want of success, and from now on we shall expect the company to render a very different account of itself. If it does not most people will probably think the management to blame. Last year the sale of cycles largely increased, and notwithstanding the further reductions in prices the profits in this department show

marked improvement. A very fair measure of success also attended the operations of the Coventry Motor-Car department, but the Beeston works, unfortunately, proved a drag on the wheel. They had to be thoroughly reorganised by the new manager, and the cars built there redesigned, and as some months were occupied in the production and testing of the new cars, it was not until the month of May that they could be delivered in numbers. A considerable reduction in the output of these works was thus caused, and this fact, coupled with the initial cost of designing and testing the cars, accounts for a loss which apparently cut severely into the profits made in other departments. Still, the cars have given great satisfaction, the directors say, and there is every reason to believe that they will command a ready sale. We hope so, because the sufferings of shareholders in the past have been acute, and if good profits now begin to accrue it will be no more than they are entitled to. Profit on trading is returned at £10,708, an increase of £5,385 compared with the previous year, royalties gave £2,520 and transfer fees £55, making an aggregate of £13,284 against £8,108. From that, directors' remuneration again comes to £1,650, law costs and audit fee have risen by £695 to £1,409, a sum of £3,595 is allowed for depreciation, and £91 for interest and bank charges, leaving £6,538, an improvement of £5,313. This time, however, the balance brought forward is only £3,334 or £6,275 less, so that the actual available sum is down from £10,834 to £9,872, notwithstanding the increased profits. So preference shareholders must again be content with half their dividend, viz., 3 per cent., and even that was not quite earned, as the carry forward goes down about £1,000 to £2,372. If we could shut our eyes to the huge item of goodwill, trade marks, patents, &c., £271,300, against which not a penny of reserve is possessed, the financial position would not appear so bad, as a further big reduction to £59,921 has been made in the stocks, and cash is up £4,656 to £16,274. Some tip-top investments worth £27,690 are entered at £28,476, sundry debtors owe £52,938 against creditors £29,879, and the depreciation allowance on the tangible assets, if not generous, seems fair.

DAIMLER MOTOR CO. (1904), LIMITED.

This concern, as at present constituted, was formed about a year ago to take over the assets of the old company bearing a similar title, after its capital had been cut down, the capital of the new venture being fixed at £200,000 in equal amounts of preference and ordinary shares besides £60,000 in debenture stock. When a prospectus was issued in December last, offering some preference shares for subscription in order to provide working capital, the directors spoke of profits reaching £20,000 a year with the help of the fresh money then sought, but they were much too modest, failing to realise, perhaps, the great possibilities of the motor-car business. Anyhow, the gross profit for the twelve months ended September 30 was £106,313, which rents, interest, discount on debentures cancelled, and sundry receipts raised to £109,671. A large variety of charges, fully detailed in the profit and loss account, drew away £26,504, including £4,137 allowed for depreciation, leaving £83,167 as nett profit, a remarkable state of affairs. From that the preference dividend takes £1,926, a sum of £30,000 is transferred to reserve, £1,257 is used to write off the preliminary expenses, and a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares takes £3,737. A further £4,982 is divided between the shareholders as provided by the articles of association and £41,265 is carried forward. During the year the company purchased and cancelled £10,200 of debenture stock, reducing the amount outstanding to £49,800, and if business continues prosperous the company will do well to pursue this policy of freeing the undertaking from fixed debt, although such a thing is not imperative with a company whose goodwill is no more than £12,000, and which has a large quantity of solid assets. Additions during the year have been of some importance, but they are fully justified by the business done, and we frankly confess that already the financial position is better than we ever expected to see it. Leasehold land and buildings are now valued at £45,323, plant and machinery at £26,959, tools at £9,121, patterns and drawings at £1,819, and furniture, fittings, &c., at £4,795. Stocks of all kinds, including work in progress, to the amount of £46,164 less £4,586 received, are entered at £94,044, and although creditors are some way in front of debtors cash in hand and at bank is £40,684. In September last the negotiations which had been going on for some time with the Motor Manufacturing Company were brought to a conclusion. All the leases held by that concern were surrendered, and this company re-acquired the buildings and land, which were in 1897 sold by the Daimler Motor Company to the Great Horseless Carriage Company, one of Harry Lawson's masterpieces, and the predecessor of the Motor Manufacturing. The Daimler at the same time purchased the greater part of the plant and machinery belonging to the latter, and it is to be assumed that all these assets appear in the present balance-sheet.

TRIUMPH CYCLE CO., LIMITED.

This company improved its trading profit to the amount of £8,162 during the year ended August 31 last, the total being £19,233 compared with £11,071 in the preceding twelve months. Dividends and transfer fees raised the revenue to £21,227, and although considerably increased sums at £5,862 are written off for depreciation, including £483 used to extinguish patterns and patents, the nett balance, bad and doubtful debts, directors' fees, and income-tax provided for, is up by £7,903 at £13,739. Debenture interest takes £2,000, £750 is carried to debenture reserve fund as before, and £2,375 is required for the preference

dividend. Next a dividend of 2½ per cent. compared with nothing a year ago is declared on the ordinary shares, £1,750 is placed to general reserve, and £5,000 written off goodwill account against a single contribution of £750 to reserve a year ago, and £1,197 is carried forward, the sum brought in having been £1,333. Although some of the shareholders will no doubt consider themselves entitled to more than £2,000 out of the total profits, the directors are pursuing a proper policy in making the company's financial position a first consideration, because under the best conditions a long time must elapse before the finances can be considered in even tolerably good order. After the reduction now proposed the goodwill, trade marks, &c., will still stand at £75,000, and the reserves are not overpowering at £14,068. Moreover, the investments, although £9,500 has been written off, bringing their balance-sheet value down to £27,245, are still an uncertain quantity, so it seems to us. Sundry creditors are not oppressive at £10,246 as against them are debtors £24,412 and cash and bills £7,818, while stock represents a further amount of £20,439. Depreciation allowance looks very fair.

FREDERICK HOTELS, LIMITED.

This hotel venture did better in the year to June 30 last than might have been expected, but the result is still shockingly poor and it seems impossible that the business can ever become what we should call really profitable. Trade done was just a trifle less at £321,103 than in the preceding twelve months, but wines, spirits, provisions, &c., cost £2,890 less at £114,934, working expenses went down £2,978 to £107,553, and the directors' and trustees' fees, &c., were a little smaller at £5,307. Repairs and maintenance, however, cost an extra £7,459 at £27,032, and a sum of £1,307 was allowed for special alterations and improvements, so that after providing £552 for amortisation of leaseholds, and £36,000 for debenture interest, the net balance is £29,016, including £597 for interest and transfer fees. Compared with 1903-4 this profit is worse by £1,979, thanks to the much larger sum necessary for repairs and renewals, but £4,864 or £3,225 more was brought forward, so that the amount at the disposal of the directors is £33,880, against £32,364. Preference dividend takes £27,500, and the board again refrain from declaring a dividend on the preferred ordinary shares held by the vendors, thinking it wiser to increase the carry forward to £6,380. Having had our say in the past regarding the financial methods of the directors, we now intend to leave the company to work out its own destiny, merely remarking that not a penny of depreciation is allowed on the property item in the balance-sheet at £1,907,734. The board say quite frankly that they do not consider wastage allowance necessary, seeing that all repairs and renewals are charged to revenue, and on the same principle we suppose that no attempt will ever be made to start a reserve. Under the circumstances the company's securities should never be touched by the prudent because such a policy must inevitably lead to trouble one day. Creditors are important at £38,512, against debtors of only £13,482, but there are some good class investments, reaching £15,099, and cash comes to £38,199, besides bills receivable £806 and stock £36,491.

PAN DE AZUCAR NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

Although profit was taken on 493,316 quintals only compared with 519,683 in the preceding year, this company's profits for the twelve months ended June 20 increased by £1,909 to £36,055, transfer fees included, and after deducting the cost of raw material consumed and depreciation of plant. Administration charges, debenture, and other interest, income-tax, and statutory contributions to reserve altogether drew off £10,303, leaving £25,752 against £17,596 a year ago when considerable sums were applied to extinguish preliminary and debenture issue expenses. Add £7,571 brought in and the total for division is £33,323, and besides again paying a dividend of 12 per cent. the directors are able to add £15,000 to reserve at the cost of a moderate reduction in the carry forward to £5,123. The redemption of the debenture debt is proceeding steadily, £15,000 having been paid off on September 30, 1904, and a further similar sum in the current financial year, so that the original issue of £80,000 has now been reduced by one-half. Buildings, plant, and machinery, after making allowance for depreciation, are put in at £68,492, and the nitrate grounds, together with stores and stocks on hand at £132,020, which seems fair value, but the finances otherwise are not very strong, owing to the preponderance of floating liabilities over assets, and it seems that the repayment of the debentures is throwing some strain on the resources.

SANTA ELENA NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

The Nitrate Combine has not brought much material benefit to this company, and it drags along earning a most meagre return on the capital invested. Trading profits, including transfer fees and interest on deposits, it is true, were £1,173 higher at £2,808, but the directors take advantage of the increase to draw £1,000 of the £1,500 to which they are entitled against one-third of the amount a year ago. London office charges, therefore, required £685 more at £1,234, so that the nett profits, with £831 or £7 more brought in, were only £495 up at £2,405. The shareholders, therefore, have to be content with the interim dividend of 2s. per share paid in May, and even this distribution reduces the balance carried forward to £247. No attention has been given to the question of depreciation, but the company's property in Tarapaca has been sold for £23,000 nett, of which £4,600 has been received and deducted from property account, leaving it at £102,330. Sundry creditors are £468 higher at £731, against which sundry debtors come to £109 less at £18,

and stocks of iodine in London have disappeared from the balance-sheet, but the company has £5,434 in bills receivable and £2,271 in cash, so that it is pretty flush of funds.

SANTA CATALINA NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

Although the quota allotted to this company for the year ended June 30 was slightly smaller at 292,000 quintals, prices were better, and the trading profits rose by £3,023 to £26,994. London office expenses took £1,543, debenture redemption £2,800, and after meeting debenture interest and income-tax, and writing off £4,420 or £2,525 more for depreciation, the nett profits were only £1,777 larger at £16,818. Balance brought forward was only £2,850 compared with £6,860, giving £19,668 or £2,232 less to be dealt with; but the whole of the debentures have now been redeemed, so that the dividend can be maintained at 15 per cent. and £5,000 is placed to reserve against £3,000 put to that account and £4,200 additional of the debentures paid off a year ago, leaving £2,818 to be carried to the new account. Expenditure on capital account during the year came to £6,601, but, thanks to the repayment of the debenture debt and the more liberal provision for depreciation, this item has been reduced by £6,219 to £80,472. Liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable have risen by £1,341 to £15,902, but sundry debtors come to £1,189 more at £1,499, and although bills receivable, which last year stood at £2,727, have disappeared from the balance-sheet, and cash is £1,096 down at £1,021, these decreases are nearly balanced by an increase of £3,326 to £25,630 in stocks of caliche, iodine, and nitrate.

STUTTAFFORD AND CO., LIMITED.

When presenting their report a year ago the directors of this South African undertaking endeavoured to console their shareholders for a heavy reduction in the dividend by prophesying that 1905 would see a return to prosperity based largely on the custom of the coolies. So far from these predictions being realised the twelve months ended July 31 proved even more disastrous, but the directors are still believers in a speedy revival of business, as "the reports from the agricultural districts of Cape Colony are most reassuring, and the gold industry seems now to be working on a sound basis." In the meantime nett profits last year showed a further decrease of £15,232 at £35,826, and as £5,350 less at £10,867 was brought forward the amount available was £20,582 down at £10,867. The disposable balance came to no more than £46,693 compared with £67,275, and of this £2,758 went to meet sundry charges in connection with the new Johannesburg building. General manager's salaries, directors' fees, debenture interest, and preference dividend having been paid, £700 is again transferred to leases redemption fund, and the ordinary shares are given a dividend of 6 per cent. against 10 per cent. and 15 per cent. in the two preceding years. This leaves only £6,184, out of which Cape income-tax has to be paid, so the reserve on this occasion gets nothing compared with £8,393 transferred from profits last time, and the management shares have to go without any return. A year ago we were told that the directors had arranged to purchase these 100 £1 management shares for £17,778, and apparently the deal has been carried through, but the shares still appear in the balance-sheet. Capital expenditure amounted to £20,569, mainly on the new Johannesburg building, bringing the total up to £422,295 exclusive of £75,817 for goodwill, while the reserves stand at £53,797 all told or an increase of no more than £106 notwithstanding the transfer of £700 from revenue. Fixtures, fittings, &c., too, have gone up considerably and after deducting depreciation stand at £40,938 or £15,042 more. Trading accounts are decidedly adverse, trade creditors having increased by £8,062 to £12,455 and cash creditors by £20,134 to £24,527 against decreases of £613 to £12,524 in book debts and £16,095 to the trifle of £5,847 in cash.

SECOND EDINBURGH INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended September 30 this undertaking gathered a revenue of £27,519 from interest, dividends, &c., and £4,073 was brought forward, including the final preferred dividend for the preceding year, so that with a few pounds for transfer and confirmation fees the total for disposal is £31,604. Interest, management expenses, and auditors' fee reduce this to £20,786, which provides the preferred dividend with 5 per cent. or 3/4 per cent. more on the deferred stock, £1,429 retained for the preferred dividend to September 30, and £6,057 carried forward. In addition to the ordinary revenue the company made a profit on sale of securities of £15,234, and £1,990 was brought forward on the same account, while another £268 came in as premium on debenture stock, making £17,492 in all. Of that the directors propose to carry £15,000 to reserve and £2,492 to the current year. These are the only accumulations the trust possesses, and we are not told whether the investments standing in the balance-sheet at £564,884 are supported by actual values. The figure stated is the cost price. Nor is a list of the securities published, and shareholders must be content with the not very useful piece of information that the funds are distributed over 156 investments, being an average of about £3,620 each. Debenture stock at present issued amounts to £239,408, and the directors propose to issue shortly the balance required to make up the £300,000 authorised.

GAIETY THEATRE CO., LIMITED.

This company's performance for the twelve months ended June 30 was not quite so brilliantly successful as usual, and we are beginning to think that theatre building is being decidedly overdone. An impoverished public simply cannot afford to visit

them all, and as new ones spring up the older ventures are bound to suffer from transference of patronage. Although the Gaiety was opened for the full twelve months as against eight only in the previous year, the revenue was only slightly higher at £81,350, and as it cost £6,422 more to earn it at £73,499, the nett balance slumps away from £13,811 to £7,851. So the dividend must be dropped 5 per cent. to 15, and even this was not all earned as the carry forward is no more than £905 as against £2,054 brought in. Included in the expenses are £1,800 for depreciation and £2,800 for directors' fees and managing director's remuneration, which bear a big proportion to the nett profits. Cost of the new building with furniture, fixtures, fittings, &c., stands in the balance-sheet at £97,889 and stage properties at £12,506, not excessive sums perhaps, but the company is not very strong financially, as the sundry debtors and cash combined are smaller than the sum due to creditors with no less than £6,000 still to find for final dividend. The reserve of £12,017 is entirely in the business.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT WORSTED DYERS' AND FINISHERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The fifth annual statement of this enterprise, a small combine formed in November, 1900, shows that for the year ended September 30, the nett profit was £10,497, and as £2,834 was brought forward the sum for disposal is £13,331. From that debenture interest takes £2,835 and preference dividend £3,780, so that in order to provide a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares it is necessary to reduce the carry forward by a full £1,000 to £1,716. The display, therefore, is less satisfactory than that for the previous twelve months, when the dividend was 6 per cent., and the profits are, of course, terribly below those mentioned in the prospectus. Reserve being credited with the interest it earned now stands at £11,743, consisting of £8,162 in the debenture stock of the association, which, under a recent ruling in the Courts, may have to be cancelled, and £3,581 on deposit with bankers. This accumulation, however, is very slender when we remember the loading put on when the thing was being prepared for public consumption, goodwill standing, we believe, for about £89,000 out of the balance-sheet value of the assets of £195,211. Sundry creditors are £9,579 against debtors £24,802, cash £13,796, and stock and work in progress £5,985.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Unexpected advices of heavy Russian shipments caused much depression in Monday's markets, and sent speculative positions rapidly downwards. Later they recovered, but throughout the week have been subjected to mild fluctuations. Business has been of very moderate dimensions. English wheat ruled firm in most markets, though occasionally going in buyer's favour, and foreign remained unchanged. Farmers' deliveries for the week were 80,360 qrs. against 43,313 qrs., whilst imports were 379,983 qrs., compared with 520,147 qrs. The quantities of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom are again higher, 1,760,000 qrs., against 1,620,000 last week. American markets, like the English, opened easy, with a general downward tendency, but since, though interrupted by the elections, have been fairly lively, and strong under firm cables, buying by large houses, and a smaller Bradstreet's estimate of 43,745,000 bushels, against 47,841,000 last week; then weakening under larger receipts, a favourable "Prices Current," report and professional liquidation.

WOOL.—This is a waiting period for those concerned in Australian wools, and until the heavy imports already on their way arrive business is likely to hang fire. Merinos still maintain their prices, but crossbreds are gradually easing, except for those who need immediate supplies. Home-grown wools, on the other hand, remain firm, there being very little available supply in the country, and staplers maintain much confidence in the future. Piece goods show an all-round improvement. Most of the markets are doing a good trade with the colonies and the United States, and home demand is very satisfactory as a rule, not only in goods for present consumption, but for future delivery as well.

LINEN.—The railway strikes in Russia naturally caused uneasiness in flax markets over here, and though in the main they are over, the present upset state of the country is not likely to help shipments or lower prices. Foreign spinners have already issued such advanced lists as to be too high for any use at present, but Irish supplies of the flax are good, and with the varying quality prices have ranged from 5s. to 8s. 9d. per stone. Yarn and manufacturers' markets are to all intents and purposes unchanged from last week. New business among brown linens, &c., is a little quieter perhaps, but still of satisfactory proportions; and in bleached and finished goods the demand is a shade stronger, particularly among home buyers. The United States has been quieter, and other markets are without change.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The absorbing feature has been the strength of American cotton futures in Liverpool. On Monday last there was a rise of about 20 points. Since then fluctuations have occurred, but the tendency has been towards higher rates. The ginners' report, which led to a slump in New York on Wednesday, had scarcely any effect in Liverpool on Thursday. The fact is, Lancashire is "bullish," there being very few "bears" to be met with. Low crop estimates prevail for the most part. Users are buying more freely, and are going "long." It remains to be seen what may be the ultimate growth in the States. The weather is favourable, and Mr. Theodore Price may turn out to be right with his estimate

of 11,250,000 bales. Mr. Henry Neill, our leading crop authority, is still silent, which is rather significant. The supply of Egyptian cotton is likely to be large. The Alexandria General Produce Association has given its estimate as 6,750,000 cantars, which is about half a million more cantars than the yield of last year. Cotton piece goods for India and China have been rather quiet and disappointing to sellers. Shippers to our dependency have operated sparingly. They have had no response from the other side on present values. The nearer markets have also been generally quiet. Manufacturers are rather difficult to deal with as they have plenty of work to go on with. Home trade goods are more active than for some time back. The wholesale distributors are very busy, and retailers are pressing for deliveries. Home trade American yarns have lost ground in point of margin, owing to the rise in the raw material. The demand for cop-twist and weft has been slow, the turnover of the week being scarcely equal to the output. Shipping bundles have been active for Calcutta in 40's mule, most spinners being now well engaged up to March. Gassed yarns are well held, and so are extra hard descriptions. Bolton yarns remain strong, with an increasing business of a healthy character.

There has been considerable excitement in the New York market, a record price for this year being reached on Monday at 6.15d., compared with 6.12d. on July 11 last. Reduced crop estimates, bad weather reports, and larger takings by the trade greatly helped the sensational advance. Subsequently there was a reaction on the publication of the ginner's report, giving the amount ginned to November 1 as 6,483, 646 bales, counting round bales as half bales. Prices immediately broke away from 30 to 40 points, but there was a recovery later on shorts covering at the decline. Closing prices are:—November-December, 6.05d.; December-January, 6.09d.; January-February, 6.13d.; February-March, 6.16d.; March-April, 6.18d.; April-May, 6.19d.; May-June, 6.21d.; June-July, 6.22d.; July-August, 6.23d.

COAL.—Trade in the North of England is still unsatisfactory, and steam prospects are not in a very promising condition. Further south it is better. A contract for 12,000 tons which generally goes to the North has been given to South Yorkshire, and helped to keep the steam trade alive there. House coals, too, in spite of milder weather, is doing a very fair business with the southern and eastern counties, and prices have advanced a little here and there. Cardiff has received another large contract for 300,000 tons of semi-bituminous coal to go to Italian railways, and exports generally from the Welsh ports keep up very well, Swansea last week sending out nearly 67,000 tons and Newport 48,000. Closing prices for steams at both Cardiff and Swansea remain stationary, 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d. and 13s. being the latest quotations. In Scotland the shipping department has been weaker, but home demands, on the other hand, have increased.

COPPER.—Pronounced strength has characterised this market, and under the influence of active and influential support, prices have steadily risen. They opened firm on a strong demand for forward deliveries, which induced considerable "bear" covering, and further advanced on active speculative support. Supplies for prompt delivery seem to be greatly restricted, and although the high prices caused some irregularity towards the end final figures are substantially higher at £72 12s. 6d. for cash and £71 12s. 6d. for delivery three months forward.

TIN.—Bear repurchases, coupled with strong Eastern cables, were also responsible for a further improvement in prices for this metal, a well-sustained demand being experienced for all positions. America was reported a moderate buyer, and with sellers showing no disposition to trade at all freely, prices were easily held. This attitude, however, tended to restrict dealings, and the close was comparatively quiet at £150 17s. 6d. for spot and £150 7s. 6d. for future positions.

IRON AND STEEL.—Conditions in all branches of the iron and steel trade are still favourable for continued improvement, what with the bounding Board of Trade returns, increasing railway traffics, activity in the shipbuilding trade, &c. In the Midlands, business is active, and manufacturers have inquiries for delivery to the end of the year, which they refuse, as they cannot secure the necessary supplies of pig-iron. Shipping merchants offer larger orders at current quotations. The advance in prices does not check the demand, which is steadily expanding. A similar condition of things prevails in Scotland, where steel works are very busy, the reports being to the effect that in almost every case works are kept going to the full amount of their capacity. It is likely that this activity will be maintained for a considerable time to come, even should no fresh work come forward. A large number of fresh shipbuilding contracts has been announced with the past few days.

TEA.—The heavy offerings of Indian this week, 49,226 packages, and the largest since January, 1904, proved too much for the market, and prices gave way in almost all descriptions of tea. Medium Pekoes fell as much as ½d. per lb., and commoner sorts dropped another ¼d., leaf grades in particular. Nor was the quality quite as good as a few weeks back, but when a really fine grade was offered it was well competed for at a slight advance. The average obtained for the week was 7.43d. against 7.66d. last week and 6.90 a year ago. Ceylon supplies also were fairly heavy for the time of year, 26,138 packages, and auctions rather irregular, though steadier than Indian, for the average for the week was 7.69d. against 7.56d. last week and 7.51d. in 1904. The 2,315 packages of Java brought forward had a fairly steady market, though, in sympathy with the others, low-priced lots went easier.

SUGAR.—There is little change to note in the sugar market. Crop reports are favourable, and prices are a fraction easier.

Manufacturers are trying their best to stay further depreciation, as the losses are already considerable. So far, dearer money has not appreciably affected actual sugar, which refiners are still buying at 8s. They can get it only in limited quantity, though forward deliveries are temporarily quoted lower, as they are now being sold as a hedge against other sugars. Prompt sugars are tendered slowly, and premiums for forward remain moderate. Speculators, says Mr. Czarnikow, show no confidence yet in the future, but there is no pressure by fabricants to sell actual sugar, and one of the cheap countries (Austria) is now afraid of railway and factory strikes, and thus more reluctant to sell, which has caused a slight reaction. Trade is also apathetic in America, the market still being without support from refiners. Landings in the three ports were 33,000 tons, meltings 25,000 tons, increasing stocks to 222,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

Abosso Gold.—Crushed 3,483 tons, 2,612 ozs.; cyanide, 2,616 tons of tailings, 858 ozs; total, 3,470 ozs.

African Gold Dredging and Mining Concessions.—356 ozs., value, £1,400.

Alaska Mexican.—Crushed 20,797 tons ore, value, \$33,101; saved 400 tons sulphurets, value, \$33,396.

Alaska United.—Crushed 19,160 tons ore, value, \$26,043; saved 375 tons sulphurets, value, \$19,012.

Angelo.—Milled, 14,200 tons, 4,733 ozs.; sands, 10,274 tons, 3,087 ozs.; slimes, 2,535 tons, 397 ozs.; total output, 8,217 ozs.

Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development.—157 ozs. gold, value, £620.

Anterior (Matabele) Gold.—Crushed 1,040 tons, 825 ozs. cyanide 552 tons, 132 ozs.

Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary.—429 ozs., value £1,716.

Associated Northern Blocks (W.A.).—Milled 3,417 tons of ore, 605 tons of slimes; yield £15,320.

Ayrshire Gold.—Crushed 9,415 tons, 1,955 ozs.; cyanided 6,512 tons, 1,043 ozs.

Associated Gold.—Milled 8,040 tons of ore, treated 3,350 tons of slimes, yield £19,355.

Barrett Gold.—541 ozs. gold, value £2,150.

Bonanza.—Crushed 8,475 tons, 2,506 ozs.; cyanide and slimes 8,721 tons, 1,808 ozs.; total, 4,314 ozs.

Briseis Tin.—Black tin cleaned up 81 tons 5 cwt., in addition to New Brothers Home No. 1 Co., 25 tons 9 cwt. Proportion of total output, 96 tons.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—6,205 tons crude ore produced 1,041 tons concentrates, containing 625 tons lead and 29,148 ozs. silver.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—Treated 11,591 tons of ore, 1,680 tons of concentrates.

Broomassie.—Crushed 747 tons, 1,237 ozs., and 4 tons of concentrates.

Burbank's Birthday Gold.—Crushed 2,302 tons, 692 ozs.; cyanided 1,372 tons, 55 ozs.

Burma Ruby.—148,000 loads washed, producing rubies valued at Rs.1,38,000; royalties, Rs.12,000.

Cape Copper.—Ookiep 1,280 tons of 16 per cent. copper equal to 205 tons fine copper. Nababey's 4,563 tons of 4.4 per cent. copper, equal to 200 tons fine copper.

Chillagoe.—Mungana, 2,529 tons lead ore; purchased, 26 tons lead ore; total, 2,555 tons lead ore, producing 260 tons of lead bullion, containing 15,529 ozs. silver.

Consolidated Main Reef.—Crushed 18,092 tons, 6,511 ozs.

Crown Deep.—Crushed 29,140 tons, 7,984 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 21,200 tons, 3,586 ozs.; slimes 7,572 tons, 561 ozs.; total yield, 12,131 ozs.

Crown Reef.—Crushed, 18,691 tons; yield from mill, 5,699 ozs.; yield from sands and concentrates, 3,701 ozs.; yield from slimes (current and accumulated), 1,473 ozs.; yield from dump process, 598 ozs.; total, 11,471 ozs.

Driefontein Consolidated.—Milled 20,163 tons, 4,100 ozs.; sands 15,340 tons, 3,351 ozs.; slimes 4,815 tons, 614 ozs.; total output, 8,065 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort.—Quartz milled 11,550 tons, 4,030 ozs.; tailings 7,850 tons, 1,130 ozs.; total, 5,160 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Crushed 9,470 tons, 2,839 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 6,080 tons, 1,259 ozs.; slimes 3,170 tons, 256 ozs.; total yield 4,354 ozs.

Durham Prospect Gold.—New Prospect ore crushed 637 tons; rubble 456 tons, 329 ozs.

East Gwanda.—Mill crushed 4,425 tons, 1,481 ozs.; concentrates 131 tons, 340 ozs.; Geelong cyanide produced 245 ozs.; Geelong mine tributed, produced 516 ozs.; Eagle-Vulture, tailings tributed, 129 ozs.; West Nicholson, cyanide, 1,535 tons; total from all sources 2,713 ozs.

Ferreira Gold.—Crushed 20,400 tons, 8,199 ozs.; concentrates 1,400 tons, 568 ozs.; sands treated 12,880 tons, 2,701 ozs.; slimes 6,108 tons, 824 ozs.; from dump treated, 164 ozs.; total output 12,456 ozs.

Ferreira Deep.—Crushed 19,588 tons, 8,021 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 14,000 tons, 3,457 ozs.; slimes 5,678 tons, 624 ozs.; total 12,102 ozs.

Fraser Gold Reefs.—Crushed 315 tons, 80 ozs.

French Rand.—Crushed 17,800 tons, 3,489 ozs.; tailings 17,193 tons, 2,080 ozs.; total, 5,589 ozs.

Gaika.—Crushed 1,015 tons, 502 ozs.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Crushed 24,450 tons, 6,437 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 16,370 tons, 3,273 ozs.; slimes, 7,772 tons, 682 ozs.; total, 10,392 ozs.

Goldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 17,128 tons, 4,352 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide, 2,213 ozs.; from slimes, 707 ozs.; total, 7,272 ozs.

Glen Deep.—Crushed 15,660 tons, 3,587 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 10,390 tons, 1,937 ozs.; slimes, 5,144 tons, 492 ozs.; total, 5,926 ozs.

Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 6,515 tons, 3,583 ozs.; cyanide treated 4,200 tons, 502 ozs.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,240 tons, 671 ozs.; cyanide treated 1,490 tons, 634 ozs.; slimes 750 tons, 198 ozs.; old slimes 12 ozs.; total, 1,515 ozs.

Golden Blocks (Taitapu).—Crushed 145 tons, 121 ozs.

Golden Horse Shoe Estates.—Ore treated 19,720 tons, 13,434 ozs.

Golden Pole Gold.—Mill crushed 1,650 tons, 1,791 ozs.; sands (cyanided) 845 tons, 331 ozs.; slimes (cyanided), 739 tons, 187 ozs.; total, 1,650 tons for 2,309 ozs.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—12,004 tons, 13,407 ozs.; tailings (old) 1,575 tons, 325 ozs.; total yield 13,732 ozs.

Great Fingall.—Ore 18,150 tons, 7,697 ozs.; tailings by cyanide 17,792 tons, 2,743 ozs.; concentrates 358 tons, 2,119 ozs.; total £12,559.

Hainault.—Crushed 4,481 tons, 1,900 ozs.

Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Crushed 824 tons, 330 ozs. Royalties from tributors, £208.

Henry Nourse.—Crushed 12,030 tons, 3,782 ozs.; cyanide 7,612 tons, 1,749 ozs.; slimes 3,531 tons, 317 ozs.; dumps produced 30 ozs.; total 5,928 ozs.

Hutti (Nizam's) Gold.—Crushed 2,150 tons, 821 ozs.; tailings 1,600 tons, 183 ozs.; total 1,004 ozs.

Ida H.—Crushed 1,400 tons, 1,112 ozs.

Ivanhoe Gold.—Crushed 16,610 tons, 2,754 ozs.; sands 7,960 tons, 2,040 ozs.; slimes 7,540 tons, 3,628 ozs.; concentrates 1,110 tons, 2,103 ozs.; total 10,525 ozs.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—New Primrose, 15,890 tons, 7,277 ozs. New Rietfontein, 8,320 tons, 4,437 ozs. Glencairn Main Reef, 13,139 tons, 3,845 ozs. New Unified Main Reef, 8,907 tons, 2,772 ozs. Consolidated Langlaagte, 16,300 tons, 5,615 ozs. Buffelsdorn Estate, 2,402 tons of slimes, 472 ozs.

Jumpers.—Crushed 12,020 tons; from mill, 2,895 ozs.; from concentrates, 234 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide, 1,415 ozs.; total, 4,544 ozs.

Jumpers Deep.—Crushed 15,951 tons, 3,095 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 10,620 tons, 1,730 ozs.; slimes, 5,109 tons, 344 ozs.; total, 5,169 ozs.

Kalgarli.—8,290 short tons, 6,121 ozs.

Killarney Hibernia Gold.—Crushed 3,782 tons, 1,513 ozs.

Koffyfontein.—3,200 carats diamonds recovered.

Lace Diamond.—Blue ground flooded 41,377 loads; total, 617,840 loads.

Lake View Consols.—10,646 tons (of 2,000 lbs.), 3,359 ozs.; tailings (old) 3,380 tons, 630 ozs.; total, 3,989 ozs.

Lancaster.—Crushed 13,102 tons, 3,120 ozs.; cyanide 9,705 tons, 1,527 ozs.; total, 4,647 ozs.

Lancaster West Gold.—Crushed 6,660 tons, 1,586 ozs.; cyanide 5,445 tons, 754 ozs.; total, 2,340 ozs.

Langlaagte Deep.—Crushed 19,928 tons, 4,269 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 14,592 tons, 2,277 ozs.; slimes 5,403 tons, 288 ozs.; total, 6,834 ozs.; value, £28,707.

Langlaagte Estate and Gold.—Crushed 27,326 tons, 5,501 ozs.; concentrates, treated 480 tons, 717 ozs.; tailings, treated 18,040 tons, 2,025 ozs.; total, 8,243 ozs.

Le Roi.—Shipment, 8,223 tons, containing 2,950 ozs. gold, 3,750 ozs. silver, and 187,500 lbs. copper.

Le Roi No. 2.—Shipped 680 tons. The net receipts are \$17,950, being payment for 807 tons shipped, and \$1,633, being payment for 57 tons concentrates shipped, in all, \$19,583.

May Consolidated.—Crushed 13,840 tons, 3,808 ozs.; cyanide, 9,685 tons, 1,894 ozs.; slimes, 3,672 tons, 289 ozs.; total output, 5,991 ozs.

Merton's Reward Gold.—Crushed 2,829 tons, 777 ozs.; sands cyanided, 1,873 tons, 141 ozs.; slimes, 1,993 tons, 247 ozs.; total, 1,165 ozs.

Middleburg Steam Coal.—Sales, 7,800 ozs.

Mills' Day Dawn United.—Crushed 939 tons; value, £3,000.

Morven (Rhodesia).—Crushed 658 tons, 700 ozs.

Mount Boppy.—5,000 tons, 1,243 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 3,130 tons, 1,048 ozs.; slimes, 1,500 tons, 747 ozs.; concentrates, 27 tons, 175 ozs.; total, 3,213 ozs.

Mysore.—16,750 tons, 15,189 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 13,725 tons, 2,114 ozs.; total, 17,303 ozs.

Mysore West and Mysore-Wynaad.—Crushed 2,152 tons, 1,026 ozs.; cyanide 2,688 tons, 129 ozs.

Nerchinsk.—Crushed 643 tons, 311 ozs.

New Modderfontein.—Crushed 9,472 tons, 3,628 ozs.

New Rhodesia.—Crushed 645 tons, 303 ozs.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 2,081 tons, value £3,955.

North Broken Hill.—1,816 tons of crude ore, producing 320 tons concentrates, containing 222 tons 2 cwt. lead and 5,760 ozs. silver.

North Randfontein Gold.—Crushed 15,322 tons, 3,314 ozs.; concentrates treated 1,410 tons, 523 ozs.; tailings treated 8,460 tons, 1,662 ozs.; slimes treated 5,293 tons, 627 ozs.; total, 6,126 ozs.

Nourse Deep.—Crushed 14,900 tons, 4,162 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 10,355 tons, 2,282 ozs.; slimes, 4,212 tons, 440 ozs.; total, 6,884 ozs.

Oroville Dredging.—Output, \$25,000.

Oroya Brownhill.—Crushed 10,360 tons, 12,902 ozs.

Peak Hill Goldfield.—Crushed 5,485 tons ore, and 7,067 tons slimes and sands by cyanide; from battery 413 ozs.; from sands and slimes 466 ozs.; total 879 ozs.

Penhalonga Proprietary.—Crushed 5,100 tons, 621 ozs.; concentrates, 73 tons, 482 ozs.

Porges Randfontein Gold.—Crushed 13,523 tons, 4,166 ozs.; concentrates treated 1,278 tons, 350 ozs.; tailings treated 8,316 tons, 1,101 ozs.; slimes treated 3,663 tons, 225 ozs.; total, 5,842 ozs.

Princess Estate.—Crushed 5,788 tons, 836 ozs.; cyanide 4,605 tons, 1,065 ozs.; total 2,901 ozs.

Robinson Central Deep.—Crushed 13,980 tons, 6,072 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanides 10,000 tons, 2,928 ozs.; slimes 3,553 tons, 360 ozs.; total 9,360 ozs.

Robinson Gold.—Crushed 29,000 tons; 11,509 ozs.; tailings (by cyanide), 4,767 ozs.; from own concentrates (by chlorination), 732 ozs.; from slimes, 1,558 ozs.; total from own ore, 18,566 ozs.

Robinson Randfontein Gold.—Crushed 15,122 tons, 3,532 ozs. Concentrates treated 1,360 tons, 373 ozs. Tailings treated 7,980 tons, 1,350 ozs. Slimes treated 3,415 tons, 411 ozs.; total, 5,666 ozs.

Roodpoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,693 tons, 2,297 ozs.; cyanide 5,058 tons, 888 ozs.; total 3,185 ozs.

Rose Deep.—Crushed 26,500 tons, 5,433 ozs.; sand and concentrates by cyanide 18,000 tons, 3,034 ozs.; slimes, 8,429 tons, 696 ozs.; total 9,163 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produced £25,680; yield per ton .58 of an oz. Troy.

Selukwe Gold.—Crushed 6,126 tons, 1,527 ozs.; cyanide, 4,340 tons, 616 ozs.; total 2,143 ozs.

Sheba.—Output 3,246 ozs.

Sons of Gwalia.—Crushed 10,885 tons, 3,669 ozs.; tailings by cyanide 6,567, 1,041 ozs.; concentrates 183 tons, 511 ozs.; slags 84 ozs.; totals 5,305 ozs.

South Randfontein Gold.—Crushed 15,022 tons, 3,662 ozs.; concentrates treated 1,470 tons, 404 ozs.; tailings treated 8,650 tons, 1,413 ozs.; slimes treated 4,889 tons, 503 ozs.; total, 5,982 ozs.

Surprise Gold.—Crushed 2,902 tons, 1,068 ozs.; cyanide 575 ozs. from 3,303 tons.

Talisman Consolidated.—4,020 tons; value £12,918.

Tanganyika Concessions.—Ruwe mine: Output of gold by sluice boxes 408 ozs.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained 870 tons lead, 151,000 ozs. silver, 259 ozs. gold.

Tolima.—60 tons, value £3,000.

Tomboy.—Crushed 9,200 tons, value \$49,500; concentrates shipped 365 tons, estimated to realise \$27,000.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—Output 27,500 tons.

Treasury.—Crushed 7,400 tons, 2,916 ozs.

Tyee Copper.—Smelted Tyee ore, 2,975 tons; customs ore, 491 tons; total, 3,466 tons; matte produced, 385 tons.

Van Ryn.—Crushed 22,440 tons, 5,899 ozs.; cyanide 15,200 tons of tailings, 2,416 ozs.

Village Main Reef.—Crushed 25,250 tons, 6,140 ozs.; cyanide 18,005 tons sands and concentrates, 2,791 ozs.; slimes 6,700 tons, 379 ozs.; total ounces, 9,310.

Vivien Gold.—1,472 tons, 441 ozs.; 990 tons tailings, 114 ozs.; 482 tons current slimes, 127 ozs.; 93 tons accumulated slimes, 25 ozs.

Vogelstruis.—Quartz milled 5,150 tons, 1,608 ozs.; tailings 3,700 tons, 473 ozs.; total, 2,081 ozs.

Wankie (Rhodesia) Coal.—Output 9,301 tons; sales, 6,889 tons.

West Rand Central Gold.—Crushed 2,575 tons, 604 ozs.; treated by cyanide 2,075 tons, 540 ozs.

Wemmer Gold.—Crushed 4,980 tons, 1,360 ozs.; sands 4,940 tons, 535 ozs.; slimes 900 tons, 53 ozs.

Windsor Gold.—Crushed 4,701 tons, 630 ozs.; cyanide 3,736 tons, 742 ozs.; total, 1,372 ozs.

Witbank Colliery.—Output 24,375 tons.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Crushed 26,300 tons, 7,187 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 25,863 tons, 3,176 ozs.; total fine gold, 10,363 ozs.

Witwatersrand Gold.—Crushed 25,500 tons, 7,970 ozs.

Worcester Exploration.—Output 1,081 ozs.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13.

British Tea Table.—Winchester House, noon.

Cleveland Trust.—Middlesbrough, noon.

Rogers (R. H. and S.)—Guildhall Tavern, 2.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14.

Cherokee Goldfield.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Sweetmeat Automatic Delivery.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15.

Himan Concessions.—Institute Chartered Accountants, noon.

New Zealand and Australian Land.—Edinburgh.

Santiago Nitrate.—Winchester House, noon.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16.

Delta Metal.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

Edison and Swan United Electric Light.—Winchester House, noon.

Frederick Hotels.—Hotel Russell, noon.

Santa Catalina Nitrate.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Trafford Park Estates.—Manchester, noon.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17.

Idaho Exploring.—Winchester House, noon.

COMPANY MEETING.

J. AND P. COATS, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

STATEMENT REGARDING SEWING COTTON COMPANY.

The fifteenth annual ordinary general meeting of J. and P. Coats, Limited, was held in the Merchants' Hall, Glasgow, on Thursday last. There was a large attendance. Mr. Archibald Coats, the chairman of directors, presided, and there were also present Sir Thomas Glen-Coats, Bart., Sir James King, Bart., Sir William Arrol, M.P., and Messrs. Charles Lewis Brook, Stewart Clark, J. O. M. Clark, Peter Coats, George Coats, Peter Mackenzie Coats, William Hodge Coats, P. Herbert Coats, Ernest S. Coats, O. E. Philippi, W. P. Stewart, and Mr. Charles Money, assistant secretary.

The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting,

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, which has already been published. He said: Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts which are before you, I wish to offer a few observations. Taking a comprehensive view of the results of the past year, we have, in the opinion of the directors, good reason to congratulate ourselves on the continued prosperity of the company, notwithstanding a reduction in the profits of some £200,000. This falling off, I am happy to say, does not denote a diminished earning capacity of the business. When we met here some years ago, I pointed out that it would not be reasonable to assume that our profits, any more than those of other concerns, were likely to become larger year after year because they had done so in the past, or that they would be exempt from considerable fluctuations. A reduction in the profits of some £200,000, or about 8 per cent., cannot by any means be considered an important one, and it is almost entirely accounted for by an increase in the cost of production. Generally speaking, the business of the company is in a perfectly satisfactory condition, although the outlook in Russia is, no doubt, very serious. Last year's returns from that country were slightly less than in 1903, but we must expect a much larger falling-off in the current year, owing to a variety of adverse influences. In view of our large reserves, we have, however, not thought it requisite to make any special provision in respect of the risks we run in that country, beyond adding to our insurance fund.

CRITICS.

We have, as usual, been favoured by some communications from shareholders but, whilst we welcome criticism calculated to assist us in conducting the company's business more efficiently than our unaided efforts enable us to do, it is disappointing to find that the gentlemen who communicated with us fail to understand figures which are perfectly plain and speak for themselves. An Edinburgh shareholder thinks that there are no proper reserves at all—(laughter)—he says that it may have been necessary to put more money into the business, and that the three millions may be there, but he objects to their being styled a "reserve fund," which, in his opinion, it certainly is not, and he condemns the term as utterly misleading. I should have thought that the most cursory examination of the balance-sheet would make it apparent that, although our investments in outside securities do not correspond with the exact amount of the reserve fund, the aggregate value of such investments, together with loans, cash and bills, and bank balances, considerably exceed the amount of the reserve fund.

ENGLISH SEWING COTTON COMPANY.

You are probably aware that at every meeting of the shareholders of the English Sewing Cotton Company our relationship with that company has been referred to, and that in this connection the most extraordinary statements have been made regarding the claim which that company is supposed to have upon us. Heretofore we have not thought it worth while to take notice of these statements, but at the last shareholders' meeting the former vice-chairman, who was desirous of again joining the board, and asked for our support, which, however, we did not see our way to lend, charged us with having failed to fulfil our obligations, and insinuated that we were to blame for the falling off in the business of the English Sewing Cotton Company. This led to some correspondence with the directors of that company, and I propose to read to you a letter we addressed to them last month, which sums up the facts and will show you exactly where we stand. It is as follows:—

"We are obliged for your letter of September 21, which was discussed at the last meeting of our board. We note that your directors condemn the insinuation made by Mr. Lawton at your recent shareholders' meeting to the effect that we had not fulfilled our obligations towards your company, that they consider his statement as to what those obligations are to be untrue, and that they are of opinion that, knowing the facts of the case, he should have been the last individual to make such charges. As you know, we have heretofore passed over in silence many unjust imputations and improper remarks about our company at your shareholders' meetings because they were mostly due to ignorance, and in many cases so silly as not to deserve any notice, but the former vice-chairman of your company, who must be supposed to know the facts of the case, having made insinuations and brought accusations which impugn the good name and good faith of our company, we cannot remain silent any longer. We thank you for your offer to make the true facts

of the case known to your shareholders, but it may be better if we deal with the matter ourselves. Mr. Lawton stated that our company had, when the prospectus of yours was issued, come under an obligation to protect the sewing cotton interests of the English Sewing Cotton Company, whatever they were and wherever they were, and that, if there is any falling off in your trade, you must insist upon our doing that which we promised. He asked why the conditions and obligations of the prospectus should not be fulfilled by us, implying that we had failed to fulfil them. Our obligation and 'the true aim and nature' of the agreement—to use the words of the document itself—are sufficiently set forth in the following terms:—

'The parties to it shall preserve, maintain, and have protection for the trade they have done in the recent past, not interfering with each other's business;'

and there is nothing in the agreement which could possibly mean that we are under any obligation beyond that of not interfering with your business. This is the protection to which you are entitled, and our business is to have protection against interference by you in exactly the same manner. You agreed with us that the fault of your trade not having been preserved and maintained as it should have been rests with your company and not with ours, and that we have not only fulfilled our obligations under the original agreement, but we have done much more, and rendered valuable assistance to your company in many directions. You also express grateful appreciation of our services. Mr. Lawton himself, when he in 1902 resigned his seat on the board, said in his address to the shareholders:—

'I do not think that, during the history of the company, we have had a single case where, upon proper representations, the Messrs. Coats have not been perfectly fair, and even considerate to us.'

It is all the more astonishing that he should now make such baseless accusations, and ask what has become of the trade which the English Sewing Cotton Company did when it was formed in 1897. He, as vice-chairman of the old board, knows best how a considerable portion of that trade was lost through incompetence and negligence, and that the chief task of the present board is to recover it. Any business man knows that it is very much easier to maintain a business than to transform one working at a loss into a remunerative one, or to regain trade lost by carelessness and mismanagement, and how difficult it is to shake off the effects of failure, and of the distrust and disorganisation resulting therefrom. The task of the former board, to the accomplishment of which it proved equal, was therefore a much easier one than that which the present board has undertaken. It has been asserted that the English Sewing Cotton Company was formed at our instigation. The correspondence in our possession disproves this, and we see from your letter that the facts, as known to your board also, show the assertion to be untrue. We note that, in the opinion of your directors, there is no justification for the statement that, in addition to our obligations under the agreement, we have incurred a moral responsibility to your shareholders by subscribing for shares when your company was formed. When we agreed to apply for these shares we made it a condition that the prospectus should state in clear and definite terms the policy of your company, its relation to ours, and our reason for taking shares, so that the public should not be left in doubt with regard to any of these matters. The paragraph in the prospectus referring thereto reads as follows:—

'With regard to the future conduct of the company's business, the directors are of opinion that the interests of this company will be best served by maintaining friendly relations with other manufacturers. Their efforts will be directed to the preservation of the trade heretofore done by the various firms whose undertakings have been acquired by this company, and they will endeavour to make them more remunerative without pursuing an aggressive policy. In reference to this important matter they have, in particular, conferred with Messrs. J. and P. Coats, Limited, whose attitude is perfectly friendly to this company, and, as it is felt that the maintenance of such friendly relations will be greatly facilitated by Messrs. J. and P. Coats having a substantial interest in this company, it has been arranged that they shall apply on the terms of this prospectus for £200,000 of the Ordinary shares.'

This language is so definite and explicit that there is no foundation whatever for the insinuation that our responsibility is not strictly limited to adherence to the terms of the agreement."

There is another matter connected with the English Sewing Cotton Company upon which I should like to say a few words, as it has been freely commented upon in the Press. The directors of that company some time ago proposed to us that the Central Agency should undertake the sale of their sewing cotton in the home market, and we have agreed to this being done, provided that matters of detail can be satisfactorily arranged. Whether or not, or to what extent, such a selling arrangement will benefit the English Sewing Cotton Company I am not prepared to say. Although to us it means additional work and increased responsibility, we did not think it right to decline the proposal, as the arrangement unquestionably offers certain advantages to both companies, and has worked well in respect of the foreign trade of the English Sewing Cotton Company, which the Central Agency took over some five years ago. I now beg to move that the report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1905, as submitted to this meeting, be, and are hereby, adopted, and that the payment of the dividends stated therein and the appropriation to various funds are hereby confirmed.

Sir Thomas Glen-Coats seconded, and the report was unanimously approved.

DIRECTORS.

Sir James King moved: That Sir James Coats, Bart, and Messrs. Archibald Coats, Stewart Clark, Charles Lewis Brook, and P. H. Coats, who retire at this time, be re-elected directors of the company, and that the election of Messrs. J. O. M. Clark and W. P. Stewart as directors of the company be confirmed. The first name on the list was that of Sir James Coats, Bart., and he was sure the meeting unanimously accorded to Sir James hearty congratulations on the honour which has been conferred on him by the King. (Applause.) The next name was that of their worthy chairman, Mr. Archibald Coats, and then followed Mr. Stewart Clark, Mr. Charles Lewis Brook, and Mr. P. H. Coats. He moved also that the election of Messrs. J. O. M. Clark and Mr. W. P. Stewart as directors of the company be confirmed. Mr. Clark was a member of the well-known family of Clark, and was intimately associated with that prosperous concern. Mr. Stewart was their able and invaluable secretary, and they had thought him worthy of a seat on the board. (Applause.)

Sir Wm. Arrol seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Colonel Clark moved that Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co. and Mr. David W. Kidston be reappointed auditors of the company for the current year, and that it be remitted to the directors to fix their remuneration.

Mr. Swanson, Queenstown, seconded, and the motion was also unanimously approved.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED. BREWERIES.

Brampton.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

Gartsides (Brookside).—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

Hall's Oxford.—Further of 7½ per cent., making 10 per cent. for year ended Sept. 30.

Mappin's Masbro' Old Brewery.—Directors, after placing £3,000 to reserve and £2,000 to licences assurance fund, recommend a final dividend which, with the interim dividend paid, will make 12½ per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares. A balance of £1,086 will remain to carry forward.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Apollinaris and Johannis.—Interim for the six months ended Sept. 30 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Dec. 15.

Canary Islands.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum for the year ended May 31, carrying £1,262 to the debenture redemption fund.

Eastbourne Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings.—Further of 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30.

Imperial Continental Gas Association.—5 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30.

Interoceanic Railway of Mexico (Acapulco to Vera Cruz).—At the rate of £4 10s. per cent. on the 7 per cent. B debenture stock for the year ended June 30.

John Haslam and Co.—Further of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 2½ per cent., making 12½ per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30. In addition it is proposed to pay a special bonus of 10s per share, by making a distribution of 15,000 preference shares in the Haslam Spinning Company, in the proportion of one preference share for two ordinary shares in John Haslam and Co.

Lytham Pier and Pavilion.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the past year.

Morris Aiming Tube and Ammunition.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

New Pegamoid.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the year ended Sept. 30.

Real Estate of South Africa.—Interim of 5 per cent. on account of the current year.

Scottish Investment Trust.—On the deferred stock at the rate of 3½ per cent. for the year ended Nov. 1.

Transvaal Coal Trust.—1s. per share, payable 16th.

Venice Hotels.—At the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended June 30, carrying forward £1,276.

West India and Panama Telegraph.—6s. per share on account of arrears of dividend on the first preference shares.

SOCIÉTÉ DES PROCÉDÉS HARVEY.

HEAD OFFICE: 60, RUE DE LA VICTOIRE, PARIS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at the Ordinary General Meeting held on the 4th November, 1905, it was resolved to PAY a BALANCE DIVIDEND of Fcs. 12.60 per share, less
oo.50 4 per cent. Income Tax—

Fcs. 12.10 net per share on the 6,350 shares of the Company, whether registered or to bearer, the tax on the bearer shares having been retained at the time of payment of the two interim dividends.

This Balance Dividend will be payable on and after the 10th November on presentation of the Coupon No. 10 of the Actions de Jouissance at

PARIS, by Messrs. Mirabaud, Puerari and Co., Bankers, 56, Rue de Provence (between the hours of 10 and 3).

LONDON, by Messrs. A. Rüffer and Sons, 39, Lombard Street, E.C.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and November 4, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Nov. 4, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Nov. 5, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,999	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	20,280,000	21,388,000
Excise	30,200,000	17,935,000	18,374,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	7,571,000	6,708,000
Stamps	8,000,000	4,069,000	4,109,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	400,000	530,000
Property and Income Tax....	31,000,000	5,967,000	6,268,000
Post Office	16,500,000	8,690,000	8,340,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,480,000	2,320,000
Crown Lands	470,000	240,000	240,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans..	1,034,000	678,309	608,433
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	812,362	801,796
*Revenue	142,454,000	69,723,671	69,767,229

Total, including balance..... 77,153,949 74,931,071

OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	300,000	350,000	
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	100,000	670,000	
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	191,592		
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903	400,000	1,069,500	
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	760,408	1,400,000	
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900	13,000	—	
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	35,000	85,500	
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	25,000	
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	6,413,990	
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	4,790,000	
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	9,840,000	—	
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..	—	1,000,000	
Temporary Advances, Deficiency	—	5,600,000	
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)	2,500,000	20,000,000	

Total

*Revenue as above	142,454,000	69,723,671	69,767,229
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	82,027	89,761
Excise	5,291,000	2,774,851	2,657,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,510,839	2,457,242
Total	9,756,000	5,367,717	5,204,676
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	75,091,388	74,971,905

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Nov. 4, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Nov. 5, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 17,830,711	£ 17,437,521
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,060,759	1,057,377
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	60,215,719	64,809,370
Expenditure	142,084,000	79,762,155	83,959,195

OTHER ISSUES.

For Advances for Bullion	240,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	135,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	600,000	450,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903	2,483,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	105,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	294,458	20,000
Deficiency Advances repaid	—	5,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—	10,050,000

84,542,613 111,435,695

	1905. Nov. 4.	1904. Nov. 5.
Balances in Exchequer:—		
Bank of England	£ 6,350,389	£ 3,465,089
Bank of Ireland	400,947	534,277
	6,751,336	3,999,366

Total

Treasury, November 7, 1905.

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Its Advantages and Feasibility.

Compiled by

ERNEST DE RODAKOWSKI.

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4 MAPS, 6 CHARTS, 30 PLATES, AND 19 TABLES.

This work deals with the question of unbroken railroad communication between this country and France. A Train-Ferry across the Channel is selected as the best means of effecting the object in view.

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The Appendix contains extracts from the opinions of eminent men on the question of unbroken communication between this country and France.

HARRISON & SONS, 45, Pall Mall.

The Investors' Review.

"The Chartered" Company's Annual Report.

A year ago this amusing document made its appearance in the end of September, and gave details of what the board is pleased to call the progress and administration of the territory down to March 31, 1903. For the succeeding year the report has only just appeared in the middle of November, bringing us down to March 31, 1904, in the fine leisurely way which commends itself to a high and mighty board of directors presided over by his grace the Duke of Abercorn. In the report itself there is really nothing new, and we are tired of jeering at the flatulent pomposity of its style year after year. Secretaries may come and secretaries may go, but the resounding verbiage of this board goes on for ever. Can it be that the two Irishmen, his grace of Abercorn and Mr. Rochfort Maguire, expend their native literary skill in setting forth their dreary story after the manner of a grave state paper—and with the tongue in the cheek always? "Qua soldiers," the document tells us, "the police are an anachronism making for retrogression; as instruments of the civil administration the reverse is

true." Awfully wise that, is it not? And what is the "reverse"? There was trade depression in South Africa, it appears, during the year ended March 31, 1904, and it does not seem to be yet over, although, as usual, the administrator, Sir William Milton, and his costly board, estimate for a steady growth in the revenue of Southern Rhodesia. Its total was only £437,175 in the year ended March 31, 1904, and as the expenditure came to £736,571, it followed that the deficit exceeded £299,000. In the year ended March 31 last, however, it is claimed that this deficit was brought down to £137,000, and next year we are promised almost an equilibrium, a mere deficit of £13,000 being budgeted for. These figures, however, relate to Southern Rhodesia alone, and do not give the whole story. It is necessary to add in the losses upon those dreary territories called North-Western and North-Eastern Rhodesia in order to get at the truth or something approximating thereto. These figures added the deficit for the year whose accounts are given, viz., that ended March 31, 1904, exceeded £401,000, and that for the following year came to about £227,000, while the total deficit for the year ended March 31 next works out on the estimates at about £102,000.

Do these figures represent the entire shortcomings? Nothing in the accounts leads us to believe that they do, and the auditors, Messrs. Cooper Brothers, are extremely cautious in their certificate appended to the long rambling series of entries set forth as "balance-sheet." They say, "we have no information to enable us to form an opinion as to the value of the debtors in London, debtor balances in South Africa, and the balances of cattle accounts and of accounts relating to purchases of cattle, donkeys, and mules." They also state that certificates in respect of some of the cash balances in South Africa and certificates or documents of title in respect of some of the other assets in South Africa have not been available for production to us." No, we should think not. They, therefore, can only verify the London cash, bank balances, and shares and debentures held here. In all probability the real loss on mere administration is every year much greater than the accounts show. We know, furthermore, that the railways cannot be paying, and the debt incurred with the company by sundry enterprises initiated by its awe-inspiring board continues to increase, so that at the end of March, 1904, the Trans-Continental Telegraph, Mashonaland and Rhodesia Railways Company, the Beira Railway Company, and other affairs of the kind owed it £726,261, the total floating indebtedness of its dependents to it amounting to £963,187, an increase of about £23,000 on the year, and there seems small chance of 10 per cent. of the amount being paid back. The more we examine the accounts, indeed, the more evident does it become that the Chartered Company is hopelessly, one may say grotesquely and grandiloquently, insolvent, as we have always insisted it must be, the most stupendous fraud of our time. It has almost no realisable assets to show for an expenditure exceeding £10,000,000, quite exclusive of the large amounts raised by its dependent railway companies. Altogether we estimate that the capital of various kinds, and under various names, sunk in the enterprises of the British South Africa Company, the "Chartered" Company, exclusive of that of mining companies within its territories amounts to something between £15,000,000 and £20,000,000. In what is called the figures of the company's own general expenditure up to March 31, 1904, the nett deficit shown is £4,377,216, that is the clear loss on mere administration, after deducting all the receipts a good portion of which represents capital returned for land sold and things of that kind. But this is not nearly the whole of the dead loss incurred, for in addition the company has sunk £2,588,000 on its wars, has lost £68,000 on cattle accounts, about £5,000 on the Lobatsi ranching scheme, and £1,316,000 on "concessions." It has also spent £283,202 on buildings, roads, public works, &c., in South Africa, and has

£232,000 laid out in movable assets there, while in London about £39,000 has been squandered upon the new head offices in Beit's Folly, London Wall. Perhaps the roads, bridges, buildings, and so on may be worth something, so leaving these out of account we compute the total dead loss on the development, as it may be called, of this territory at £10,223,000 up to the date of the balance-sheet now published, that is to say, there is nothing except barren territory, the white inhabitants of which are probably between 12,000 and 15,000, to show for this expenditure of money, and our impression is that at the present time the board is again hard up, in spite of the recent issue of shares. It will want more money soon, for although it had at the date of the 1904 balance-sheet £254,725 in cash, it then owed £124,000 to various creditors, £102,000 of it to creditors in London, and its debt to its bankers had risen to £460,197. Why do the directors abstain from telling us what was done with the money, proceeds of the last sale of shares? They are unable to get away from the glittering increase in the gold production—something wonderful, £1,113,000 worth for the year under review, with a steady increase since. Yes, but the bullion yield per ton figures out at 7.83 dwts., or, if taken in fine gold, at 6.73 dwts. No wonder the directors are compelled to admit that only small workers can hope to make a profit on this scale of wealth; and if they do can they afford to hand anything over the Chartered Company to enable it to pay dividends on its bloated capital? We fear not.

Most of the remainder of the report is taken up with florid and pow-wow deliverances about the progress of agriculture. There is a long quotation from the report of Mr. Ross Townsend, the company's "secretary for agriculture," which actually brings things down to March 31 last, although the fatigued board is quite unable to give the shareholders the accounts for a date so recent. It is unnecessary to enter into these points since the report of the administrator indicated that the exports of general produce amounted to less than £14,000 worth in the year ended March 31, 1904. The total exports, to be sure, came to £1,274,000, but of this minerals alone yielded £1,144,000, and re-exports of goods imported another £116,000. What is the use of discussing the progress of agriculture, the increase in flocks and herds, in the wheat area, and things of that kind in the face of figures like these? But the directors and their officials must justify their existence somehow, and they are not cheap, any of them. The board alone, for example, took £6,800 in the year under review for fees and then another £739 for odds and ends of expenses, and the cost of the head office in the same year came to nearly £43,000. All we can say is that the public—that portion of it which has allowed itself to be beguiled by this stupendous hoax, for essentially it is nothing else, an aristocratically-concocted, fathered, and diligently-cultivated hoax—deserve all they get. But the "show" has proved expensive, has it not, oh, befooled ones? Never mind, you have still a duke with you, though his grace of Fife did meanly skulk off—a duke and A. Beit. Be happy, then, and pay up; therein lies the true utility of dupes.

Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa.

Once again have the directors of this glorious enterprise disappointed their shareholders, and been callous to the hunger of market "bulls." Not that they have done this wantonly, they but obeyed fate. They would have paid a higher dividend gladly, just to help the market, don't you know, if they had had real funds to pay it with. Lord Harris and his magnanimous band of stunningly imperial patriots who preside over the destinies of this aristocratic bucket-shop, yearn for a "boom" as ardently as any down-at-heel gambler, but poverty grips them in a vice and renders them helpless. For a fortnight past punters have prophesied for them,

pleaded with them, prayed to them, grovelled before them almost to "weeps," begging them to pay "at least a dividend of 25 per cent., with a little make-weight in the shape of Simmer and Jack scrip." "Noble Lordship and gentlemen all, have pity on us! This is the one hope left. We and the bosses have tried every dodge known to us to lure the public; we have sent prices sky-high, only to see them fall again like spent rockets. Trusts have been formed, with millions of capital—you have formed one yourselves—to act as store-bins for every scrap of paper that comes on the market, and still the public sell, still prices fall to depths to which they have never sunk before. What is more appalling, they do not seem to have reached bottom yet, and we have to gaze stupidly helpless on the descent, like the asses we are. Give us a lift, you beggars; hang it all, your fees are all right. The Beits and the Wernhers, the Barnatos and the Farrars the public simply ignores. It will have nothing whatever to do with them or with any of their amalgamation fakes. But you, Lord Harris of Seringapatam, a peer of the realm, a great authority on cricket, the mob might believe you, so give us a dividend that shines, old chap, and rescue the Kaffir market from its threatened fate. Pay a good, fat 50 per cent., and we will bless you." And lordship and pals could not; there was no money.

All experience to the contrary notwithstanding, the eager, hungry market cherished a confident hope that if only the Gold Fields Company would declare a dividend of 25 or more per cent., it would prove the longed-for bait to bring the public back to the Kaffir Circus, and inaugurate the "boom" in which the poor jobbers would find their deliverance. No sane man could believe anything of the kind, but the Kaffir Circus is not sane—has not been so these dozen years back. A paltry dividend of 15 per cent. is all the directors of this debt-laden show have, goad or no goad, been able to pay. No Simmer and Jack scrip is given therewith, and as the prayers of the speculators could not be answered, bang went the price, after it had been pushed higher and higher daily for a week before. There is, as usual, a magnificent display of wealth, and nearly £1,000,000 will be carried forward after the dividend has been paid, while another £1,000,000 has been placed to "reserve." But the wealth is an illusion; it has no solidity, beyond gas or wind, and how can dividends be paid out of that? Even as it is, the directors divide, with the preference interest, more than the company earned in the year, and the yield on the market price of the share is barely a miserable 2½ per cent. Why has that £1,000,000 out of the accumulated credit from the past been placed to reserve? It doesn't exist in cash, but is locked up in inflated assets of all sorts. The assignment is thus a mere fake, a disguise of the fact that the company has not been making money and does not possess the cash wherewith to give the shareholders more. Also it is a subterfuge intended to give greater solidity to the balance-sheet. In fact, even a 15 per cent. dividend, in spite of the £2,000,000 odd brought forward, seriously cripples the resources of a company that depends for a precarious existence on money-lending, and whose enormous-looking assets are all of a highly speculative character.

The actual financial results are, as usual, scantily and unintelligibly set forth in the profit and loss account, but we do gather that this tinsel-glittering concern, during a period when, to quote the directors' words, the mining industry has made "substantial progress," earned much less than in the two previous years, and 50 per cent. less than in 1901-02. Where, then, is the evidence that the company is benefiting from this alleged mining progress? It seems to be deriving the same kind of gain from the employment of Chinese coolies as individual shareholders are in individual companies. It is impossible to say where the company has done well or where badly, for the revenue from market speculation, money lending, dividends, commission, &c., is again given in the lump at £448,790, against £465,800 in 1904, £471,539 in 1903, and £984,604 in 1902. We can see though—any goose can see—that revenue steadily

shrinks as the gold output grows. With the addition of £1,410 from transfer fees, the total income was £450,200 last year, compared with £467,188, so the nett profit fell from £383,226 to £372,245, whilst in the two years preceding 1904 it was respectively £390,111 and £893,885. Out of this the preference dividend takes £75,000, income-tax £16,823, and the French Government duty £5,549, leaving £274,873, which, with £2,009,814 brought forward, gave the directors the magnificent disposable balance of £2,284,688. Instead of dividing the greater proportion of this they ear-mark £1,000,000 for "reserve"—a mere distillation of the market this—pay 15 per cent., requiring £300,000, and carry forward a paper balance of £984,687. To those uninitiated in South African finance, who cannot imagine the precarious state of such top-heavy structures as this Gold Fields Company, it must be amazing that it can do no more than pay, with a struggle, a miserable dividend of 3s. per share, despite the boast that it has a credit of nearly £1,000,000 left, and share assets "show on current market prices a further large unrealised profit." If that be so, why this stinginess? Why run the risk of further disgusting the public when this prodigious wealth is paraded? The answer is simple. "Prospects are very bright," cry the directors. If they conscientiously believed this, and believed, too, in the reality of the company's wealth they would not be such fools as to scare outsiders further away from the market at the very moment when they most urgently want our savings. But if the wealth is fictitious? Ah, then the lack of dividend enough can be understood. And the wealth is fictitious, a mere market-made sham for the most part. Whence could the directors get more without seriously endangering the position of the market, the company's own finances, and imperilling the futures of the "undeveloped" mines they must continue to help? Look what this magnificent enterprise has paid out to its dupes in the period of eight years! Only 15s. 6d. in the aggregate, or less than 2s. per annum, as the *Pall Mall* man points out. Yet the shares are valued at 6½, and even in the course of this year, whilst income has been dwindling, the price has been as high as 8½. From this manipulation you can infer the rest.

In the balance-sheet there are, as in past years, several interesting changes to note. On the asset side the book value of shares is now £4,860,397 against £4,617,240, whilst properties and ventures are £685 lower at £103,465. With last year's addition the reserve now looks imposing at £2,000,000, half of which has for years past been invested in Government securities, the value of which has dropped £12,489 to £938,399, but no provision has been made for this depreciation in the profit and loss account. Contango loans are nearly £300,000 less at £1,300,000, but debtors and dividends declared have risen from £439,531 to £458,136, mortgages and cash advances from £353,061 to £408,882, and real estate from £173,052 to £182,542. On the other hand there is a big drop in the cash, which is only £206,559 against £258,285, or considerably less than the sum the dividends will require, so the directors will either have to call in part of their Stock Exchange loans or pledge some of their marketable shares to raise the additional amount needed. Sundry creditors are owed £1,436,509 against £1,482,438—are the Government stocks pledged for these borrowings?—bills payable amount to £56,000, and £10,450 is due for dividend interest, making a total liability of £1,502,959. Adding the preference dividend for the second half of the year, £35,625, and the ordinary dividend of £300,000, and the directors practically owe £1,838,584 on current account, or nearly as much as the total of the company's own loans outstanding, debtors, and cash in hand. Then there are contingent liabilities in the shape of uncalled capital, likely soon to be needed, of £349,931, or, in all, obligations of much over £2,000,000. This analysis explains why the directors dare not pay a bigger dividend. In fact, had they been left to their own choice, could they have been indifferent to the clamours of the punting and caged crowd, they would probably have paid nothing at

all. Mere shareholders would not have counted; they never do count.

A year ago the directors promised to resume the practice of giving a detailed list of the company's principal shareholdings. This promise is redeemed, but the result is of little value, for it does not give the changes during the year, so we cannot follow the punting or dabbling. But, such as they are, here are the figures as at June 30 last:—

Company.	Shares.
African Land and Investment	63,557
Boksburg	12,444
Booyens Estate	17,107
Central Nigel Deep.. .. .	38,148
City Deep	61,083
Consolidated African Copper Trust	49,926
Consolidated Exploration and Development	88,640
East Rietfontein Syndicate	6,951
Elandsfontein Estate	11,753
Enterprise Gold	18,464
Giant Mines of Rhodesia	17,316
Glen Deep	75,620
Gold Mines Investment (£4)	54,080
Jupiter	221,734
Kleinfontein Deep	23,685
Klip Deep	40,171
Klipriversberg Estate	12,168
Knight's Deep	330,281
New Gold Coast Agency	63,651
New Vierfontein Mines	48,736
Nigel Deep	20,250
Rand Mines Deep	42,552
Rand Victoria	228,106
Robinson Deep	446,600
Simmer and Jack East	287,610
Simmer and Jack Proprietary	1,703,766
South City	39,392
South Deeps	57,292
South Geldenhuis Deep	177,971
South Nourse	91,360
South Rand	72,600
South Rose Deep	156,149
South Wolhuter	87,254
Sub-Nigel	143,946
Turffontein Estate	9,004
Turf Mines	116,993
Van Ryn Deep	61,234
Village Deep.. .. .	40,250
Wolhuter Deep	58,933

In addition to the above, the directors say the company holds shares and debentures in various companies, which, based on market quotations at June 30, represent a further £230,000. As already stated, the shares are given a book value of £4,860,397, and are said to show on current prices a further large unrealised profit. The cost price of each not being given, shareholders must accept the statement of the directors and leave the rest to the power of their individual imaginations. Anyway, it is probable that a great proportion of the paper is in pawn, and that the bulk will be considerably enlarged in the immediate future. It would be instructive to know what interest the company is paying for the large lump of money it borrows, as represented in the moneys it owes, and what is the average interest it earns by re-lending; but such secrets as these are never divulged. What would you give for this choice assortment of paper, good reader?

Space forbids us to deal with the language of the directors' report, further than to remark that it is more or less the usual optimistic claptrap, the stuff reeled off annually for the past seven or eight years. There is nothing new in it, nothing of the slightest value or importance to shareholders. Unhappily, the assertions made do not square with the facts, with the actual present state of things on the Rand, and the cheeriness of the opinions expressed cannot be reconciled with the company's own financial position. Bear with us while we deal with one typical argument as an illustration. "The substantial progress of the industry as a whole may be inferred from the results reported on two of the crushing mines in which the company is largely interested, viz., the Robinson Deep and the Simmer and Jack Proprietary." The first-named is a good mine undoubtedly, whilst the Simmer and Jack pays 5 per cent. dividends. But how on earth can two mines out of hundreds give evidence of all-round substantial progress? What of the output for October, the lowest for many months? What of the

Wemmer Company, which can pay no dividend? What of the Bonanza and other mines that will last only another year or two? If "substantial progress" has been made, why is not evidence of it shown in the accounts of the Gold Fields Company? Happily, however, the public are in these days more impressed by facts than by the word-play of the market hack and decoy, and if people will but examine critically the Gold Fields Company's share assets they will see that, with the exception of those of some half-dozen companies, all will have to be nursed, probably financed, for years to come before they can hope to earn profits. Many may never become dividend-payers at all. So the Gold Fields cannot hope to increase its earnings in the future to any appreciable extent. They are more likely to diminish. Who will prophecy, with any assurance, that the company will pay a dividend out of honest earnings a year hence?

The previous list of shareholdings was published in 1899, and a comparison of the two schedules reveals no important changes in the company's holdings in the following companies:—Booyens's Estate, East Rietfontein, Elandsfontein Estate, Klip Deep, Klipriversberg Estate, Knight's Deep, Simmer and Jack Proprietary, South Rand, South Deeps, South City, South Wolhuter, Turfontein Estate, and Wolhuter Deep. The Simmer and Jack holding was formerly 600,000 £5 shares, the later change practically representing the triplication of these into three £1 shares, so only a few have been sold in the six years. It is to be noted that the company holds nearly 1,704,000 shares out of 3,000,000 Simmer and Jack shares all told, and as other companies possess a goodly number there cannot be many in the hands of outsiders, fortunately for them. In the following the 1899 holdings were respectively:—Robinson Deep, 262,800 and 446,600; Rand Victoria, 150,000 and 228,106; and Sub-Nigel, 100,400 and 143,946. The capital of the first and last have been considerably increased since 1899, which probably accounts for the differences now shown. Among shares which have been sold to put the company in funds from time to time have evidently been the following:—

	1899.	1905.
Central Nigel Deep.....	67,200	38,148
City Deep	81,600	61,083
Consolidated Exploration and Development	101,500	88,640
Glen Deep.....	125,000	75,620
Jupiter	250,000	221,734
Nigel Deep	75,000	22,250
Rand Mines Deep	150,000	42,552
Simmer and Jack East	349,500	287,610
South Nourse	152,800	91,360
Village Deep	63,000	40,250

These do not appear at all in the new list:—Eton Gold, 25,000; Johannesburg Brick and Potteries, 28,000; Middlevlei Estate, 45,500; Midas Deep, 76,800; Robinson Central Deep, 35,100; Simmer and Jack West, 25,000; Trust Français, ordinary, 40,000, preference 120,000; Vierfontein Syndicate, 12,600; New Witkopje Estate, 2,800. Some of the above have been merged in other concerns. Finally, the new holdings are those in the African Land and Investment, 63,557; Boksburg, 12,444; Consolidated African Copper Trust, 49,926; Enterprise Gold, 18,464; Gold Mines Investment, 54,080; Giant Mines of Rhodesia, 17,316; Kleinfontein Deep, 23,685; New Gold Coast Agency, 63,651; New Vierfontein, 48,736; South Geldenhuis Deep, 177,971; South Rose Deep, 156,149; Turf Mines, 116,993; Van Ryn Deep, 61,234. A very engaging exhibit, is it not?

LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK.—The balance-sheet for October shows that current, deposit and other accounts were £47,751,783 and acceptances on account of customers £3,542,780, against which there were cash in hand and at the Bank of England £7,723,571, money at call and short notice £7,470,699, investments £6,939,671, bills of exchange £4,023,618, and advances on current accounts, loans on security, &c., £26,425,727.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE TIMES AND ITS BOOKS.

Subjoined is a copy of a letter which is being distributed through the penny post to subscribers to the *Times* newspaper. After each fresh outburst one is left wondering whether a lower depth may yet be left to plumb. Evidently the gentlemen who now play with the reputation and fortunes of this once majestic and dignified, if usually swelled-headed, organ of public opinion, fancy themselves as literary artists in the advertising tout line, and in the itch of their vanity are ever at work inventing for it a fresh humiliation. Either that or the men are spurred on by the failure of previous efforts to "draw" as required. On the whole, both kinds of motive are probably at work—the vanity of the insurance or quack remedy word-spinner, and the increasingly desperate straits of the players of a losing game. It is impossible that the *Times* book club can be other than a losing game, unless by its means the circulation of the newspaper could be raised to something between 75,000 and 100,000 *per diem*, and even then the discount on subscriptions the expenditure on the circulating library would represent might be more than the enlarged circulation was worth. But we should doubt whether 10,000 a day has been added to the circulation of the *Times* by all the efforts of the brilliant Yankee advertisement manufacturers or "fixers up." And, any way, they seem to us to confess that they are playing a losing game. Their latest escapade with the reputation and fate of the *Times* has already passed through three stages. First there was the flaming invitation to all and sundry to hurry up and get free books. Apparently too many old readers and buyers of the newspaper availed themselves of this boon—and it was a great boon—so the advertising gentlemen soon drew back, and began to put new subscribers off—next month, next year, next Easter you may get the books, not now. In other words, they could not afford to buy enough to satisfy the old subscribers and had to hocus the new the ardour among the crowd to subscribe damped by this sudden barring out? Perhaps, for now we have the third stage—the stage of the hard-up, at-wits'-end canvasser who becomes willing to share commissions with whoever is instrumental in getting him an order. What would the late John Walter have said had the following been put before him as a suggested device for expanding the circulation of the *Times*? We know what many of its old readers and supporters are saying. But after all, some of them add, does a journal which more than any other single influence brought the disgusting crime of the South African War upon the country, which has "taken up," more or less, with every financial and political knave or adventurer the nation has suffered by this generation back, from Cecil Rhodes outwards and downwards, which is always against the nation on any question of public right, and generally on questions of international policy, which follows the man of Birmingham as a dog his master, deserve a better fate? Time will decide, if this kind of thing goes on, and the time will not be long either.

November 8, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—You have no doubt heard that there will be a delay of some weeks in granting future subscribers to the *Times* the use of the Book Club, and you have probably remarked in the announcement only a proof that the *Times* will on no account jeopardise the interest of subscribers who have already started to use the Book Club. But there are circumstances in which this delay in granting the use of the Book Club may more directly affect you. I refer to the possibility that, in a month's time, it may occur to you that the best Christmas present you could make to a friend would be a subscription to "The Times," and I wish to point out that if you wait until then before applying for such a second subscription, it will probably not carry with it the use of the library before Easter.

I am the more inclined to bring the matter before your notice in good time because, while many of our subscribers have paid for the right to draw additional volumes at the rate of 16s. for each volume, comparatively few have yet realised what advantages can be gained by taking a double subscription. If you

were to subscribe for a second copy of "The Times" to be sent to the friend to whom you wish to make a Christmas present, your double subscription would place at your disposal a library privilege entitling you to draw *eight volumes* at a time for your own use. Or, if you wished to make your present still more valuable, you could obtain from the *Times* a card giving your friend a year's use of the library, and entitling him to draw three volumes at a time, while you reserve for yourself the use of *five volumes*. You will thus obtain for nothing an enlargement of your own privileges which would, if you held but one subscription, cost you 32s. We thus return you a commission of 40 per cent. on the expenditure you make for a Christmas present which would, even at its full price, be universally recognised as a very good bargain.

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Yours faithfully,

THE MANAGER.

A. W. C.

P.S.—In using the enclosed form of subscription, you are quite at liberty to post-date your cheque—which, as you will see, need only be for 20s., if you prefer to make quarterly payments. You will thus, while ensuring a favourable place on the "waiting list," be not one penny out of pocket in the meantime.

INDISCRIMINATE CHARITY.

It is feared that Her Majesty the Queen has not done much good to the unemployed by her generously impulsive suggestion that a national fund should be raised for their relief. Charitable doles are not what the unemployed in this country require. To begin with, their distress is not so great or so extensive as many agitators allege. The loudest outcry comes from West Ham and its neighbourhood, and West Ham, it must never be forgotten, in great part brought its misery upon itself. Disregarding considerations of prudence, the Corporation of that metropolitan borough set to work and borrowed money to the tune of more than £1,500,000 in order to execute public works which, while in course of construction, brought large numbers of workmen into the place. No sooner, however, were these works completed, and the borrowed money all spent, than a redundancy of labour made itself felt, involving sufferings which were accentuated by the additional dead weight of rates produced by the debt and other extravagances of the municipal authorities. Hence the unusual mass of misery and hunger in that part of the metropolis. But labour all over the country is not in a state of acute distress, not nearly so much so as we should have expected remembering the enormous mass of capital we have wasted in wars with the working man's loud approval, and the excessive amount of the current expenditure by imperial and local authorities alike. There is consequently no general urgency for measures of relief, and even if there were the method of public dole and charity is the very worst that could be fallen upon to cure social distress. What is wanted is a return to economy in all branches of the public service and the release thereby of money enough to provide the wages for hundreds of thousands of people now either without work or only partially employed, or miserably underpaid for the work they do. Nor is this all. The land will have to be opened up, not by experimental charity colonies, and devices of that kind, but by means similar to those adopted in dealing with Irish landlords. The nation will have to expropriate the big owners and sub-divide the land by means of honest sale and purchase amongst people willing to settle thereon. Only in this way can the congestion of our

cities, growing every year more painful, more deadly to the race, be relieved or permanently remedied. To distribute alms, to get up sham works called relief works, like so much of what is done in India during a famine, can only degrade the working population of this country, press it down further towards mere serfdom.

BOND INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

We hardly think the committee appointed by the Board of Trade has gone far enough in its recommendations with reference to these fleecing and gambling organisations, for most, if not all, of them are scarcely anything else. It recommends that no company of the kind should be allowed to start until £10,000 has been deposited in court, that those in existence should be obliged to render a revenue account and balance-sheet every year in the manner prescribed by the Life Assurance Companies Act of 1870, and that once in five years an actuarial investigation should be made, and the results held available for the public. It also suggests that the lottery dodge of redeeming bonds before they are due should be put a stop to, and that the Court should have power to order the wind up of any business of the kind which is proved to be insolvent. These are all very well, but we should go further and prohibit the starting of these companies, or alleged companies, altogether. The committee shows that the great bulk, if not all of them, cannot but be hurtful to a great proportion of those who are tempted by their schemes to part with money. They all live to a certain extent by the profit secured through lapses, and their expenses are without exception excessive. In the case of one company, the committee says, the expenses of management for the first five years were, in round figures, respectively 94, 41, 42, 31, and 27 per cent. of the total amount of the subscriptions received from the bondholders. Another company showed expenses for the first three years of respectively 67, 72, and 48 per cent. of the total amount of subscriptions, and a third company took the whole of the first year's subscriptions, together with 20 per cent. of the subscriptions on bonds issued in previous years as working expenses. That was its estimate, but it turned out that in each of the first five years of the company's existence these estimates were largely exceeded, and it was only in the sixth year that the amount of the subscriptions mentioned above commenced to be in excess of the amount actually expended on the management. How can anything but ruin attend businesses conducted after this fashion? The bulk of such organisations are in their very nature nothing but varieties of the old confidence trick so far as the majority of those who subscribe for their bonds are concerned. Accordingly it is not surprising to find that the proportion of lapses during the first year of the currency of bonds varies from about 12 to 54 per cent., falling off in later years, when, however, lapses begin to be replaced by surrenders. The whole basis of the business seems to us dishonest, as the committee also indicates. On this point, which was so fully and ably expounded by an actuarial correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, we cannot do better than quote the report:—

A simple actuarial calculation makes it clear that, in the case of companies which promise £50 in return for 120, 144, 147, or even 150 monthly subscriptions of 5s. each, 80 per cent. of the subscriptions after the first three, together with compound interest at 3, 4, or even 5 per cent., is insufficient to provide for payment of the bonds. On ten-year bonds the amount of an annual payment of £2 8s., payable for ten years, with compound interest at 3 per cent., is £28 8s. The amount payable on the bond at maturity is £50. There is, therefore, in this case, a deficiency of £21 12s. If interest be allowed at 4 per cent., the amount of the annual payments, with compound interest, is £30 1s. 5d., leaving a deficiency of £19 18s. 7d. If interest be allowed at 5 per cent., the deficiency is £18 1s. 7d.

Having regard to these figures, and to the difficulty of earning interest with safety at 5 or even 4 per cent. per annum, it is manifest that, in order to make up the deficiency and to provide for payment of the bonds in full, these companies must rely on some source or sources of income other than the subscriptions and the interest earned on them. The only available sources are uncalled capital, if any, and lapses and surrenders.

ANOTHER BRITISH TEA TABLE SQUABBLE.

This unfortunate enterprise is again in the throes of internal disturbance. The trouble seems to have begun in the early part of the present month, when Mr. N. Tapp, a director elected in April last on the retirement of Mr. John Pearce, the founder of the business, issued a circular to some of the principal shareholders, without the knowledge of the board, inviting them to meet him in order to discuss the company's affairs. In this circular Mr. Tapp stated that since he had been on the board he had made important suggestions to the directors which, if adopted, would bring back the profitable trade formerly carried on. But they had refused to entertain these proposals, so it is alleged, and Mr. Tapp could see nothing for it but further diminished profits and dividends reduced to a minimum. Instantly, on these facts becoming known, Mr. James P. Hurst, the chairman of the company, rushed into print, condemning the action of his co-director, and intimating the readiness of the board to meet the entire body of shareholders in order to lay before them details of the present position. So in due course two statements were issued from the offices of the company, one going to the large shareholders and the other to the small, emphasising this desire to satisfy proprietors' thirst for information, and calling a special meeting for that purpose. This gathering took place on Monday last, and afforded opportunity for the ventilation of grievances by respectively the board, Mr. Tapp, and the shareholders. In many ways the result was disappointing. So much time was occupied in personalities, some of them of a not very flattering character, that there was little chance to say anything substantially informative concerning the real condition of the business. A few details were given by the chairman which could hardly have gone far to cheer shareholders' minds, and practically the position taken up by either party was: "If you support us all will be well, but if you back up the other side look out for something devastating." In this dilemma the shareholders decided to rally to the directors other than Mr. Tapp, and as that gentleman intimated his intention of resigning, after relieving himself of some rather uncomplimentary remarks regarding the shops, it seems probable that peace will reign once more. That the business is in a rather bad way is, unfortunately, only too true, but these constant dissensions, which have to be ventilated in public to the accompaniment of such unwise language as Mr. Tapp saw fit to use, must be productive of still greater trouble, and we are disposed to think that the present moment was singularly inopportune for provoking further disturbance. Under the circumstances the shareholders were probably wise in deciding to dispense with the services of the dissentient director, but if matters do not mend from now on the remaining members of the board will have to be prepared to make way for others.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: SIMMER AND JACK PROPRIETARY.

This nursling of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa has the glory of being the largest individual gold producer on the Rand, and the unenviable distinction of being one of the tiniest dividend-payers. Where is the gain to the impoverished shareholder of seeing piles of gold turned out by the company's colossal mill, and of receiving an insufficient proportion of it to repay him for his outlay? There is no gain, not even to those who buy at the present slumped prices, whilst there will be an assured loss to those—and they must be by far the majority in number—who have bought at double and treble the figure in past years. Were the company reasonably capitalised—capitalised with even a "long spoon" respect for honesty—splendid dividends could be distributed, but look at the oceans of water in it! Ten years ago, in 1895, the capital stood at the comparatively moderate figure of £250,000. But in that year, when the last great gambling mania seized the public, the directors reconstructed the concern, and by a mere stroke

of the pen quadrupled the number of shares to one million, and converted them from £1 shares into £5 shares. Thus the holders at that time literally made their fortunes by a pen-stroke, for the extreme prices of the share in that memorable year were 8½ and 4½. Three £5 shares—or £15 nominal—were given for a single £1 share—and each new share could be sold on the market for £8 and more. What have those gained who bought at £8, or even at a much lower figure? Nothing; most of them have been ruined, all impoverished. Look at the dividends paid since the reconstruction:—1898, 3½ per cent., highest price of share, 5½; 1899, 4 per cent., highest quotation 6½; 1903, 5 per cent., 1904, 5 per cent. In 1902, the capital was reduced from £5,000,000 in £5 shares to £3,000,000 in £1 shares, so the last two dividends were paid on the smaller capital. By the reduction scheme £2 was returned on each share by a distribution of share assets, the directors thus recognising, so late in the day, that the capital had been outrageously inflated. It still stands at a preposterous figure, and unless it be further contracted by at least another £2,000,000, the shares will not be worth intrinsically more than 10s. each. Since the outbreak of the war the company has not been able to get its complete battery of 320 stamps at work until February last, so profits are likely to be higher in the future than they were in 1904, when an average of 250 stamps ran. These crushed 475,181 tons, for a yield of 121,794 ozs. from the mill. The cyanide works treated 341,809 tons, and the slimes plant, 88,171 tons, whilst by-products gave 435 ozs., making a total output from all sources of 180,637 ozs. Thus the average per ton was 7.60 dwts. and the value of the gold produced £760,323, equal to 32s. per ton. Expenditure amounted to £553,689, or £1 3s. 3d. per ton, leaving a gross profit of £206,633, or only 8s. 8d. per ton, a low figure for a great Rand mine. After writing off various sums and allowing for revenue from other sources, the nett profit was £199,239, to be added to a credit of £150,047 brought in. The two dividends took £150,000, £143,254 represented revenue appropriated for capital purposes during the last two years, £15,000 was put to reserve for additions and renewals to plant and machinery, and there was a credit of over £39,000 left. Now it is clear that if the company hopes to pay higher dividends profits must be considerably larger than they are likely to be. At £1½ the yield is only £3 6s. 8d. per cent., and no investor would be satisfied with this. If we give the mine a life of 20 years—some put it at less—this would be the sum that would have to be set aside annually at 3 per cent. compound interest to redeem each £100 sunk. If the price of the share were only 10s., the yield would be 10 per cent. on last year's dividend, hardly too much if prudent allowance be made for all the risks to be faced. So to justify present low market quotations future profits and dividends ought at the very least to be doubled, if not trebled. But is it possible for an extra 70 stamps running to do this? Of course not. At last year's rate of earning it would add between £50,000 and £60,000 only to the profits, and 2½ per cent. requires £75,000. Even should future distributions average 7½ per cent. per annum for 20 years the yield at current prices would be inadequate, and it would be more profitable to put the money in Consols. Simmer and Jacks, we repeat, are worth about 10s. apiece.

THE TRIUMPH OF PROTECTIONISM AT NEWCASTLE.

It was in accordance with the fitness of things that an out-at-elbows and in a manner derelict landowner like Mr. Chaplin should move the resolution in favour of cast-iron and curse-mankind protection which was carried triumphantly at the Newcastle Conference of Conservatives. Mr. Balfour, to do him justice, displayed no disposition to sympathise with this wholehog attitude of his party, and deserved more consideration and commiseration than he received at its hands. Obviously he cannot do as he would, and he submitted

to coercion while perfectly comprehending the mischief the triumph of the agrarians would bring about. As for the resolution itself, it was mainly nonsense. It babbled about closer union with the colonies. The greatest, most important, and, for reasons based mainly on colonial sentiment, the most urgent of all the great constructive problems which we have to deal with, this "union" was described as being. It is nothing of the kind, and these Tories do not really care two straws for the colonies. All they want is a reimposition of taxes upon food and a reconstruction of our Customs tariff so that ill-guided industries, crippled, bankrupt, or over-capitalised, beaten men and masters of all descriptions, landowners broken on the turf or by emulation of the millionaires, may have a chance of restoring their fallen fortunes at the expense of the nation at large. They might, if they had any sense or regard for their fellow men, take note of what is going on in Germany, where the agrarians have triumphed so completely as to have actually compelled the State railways to refuse to carry Danish milk into German territory. There is protectionism as the land owning class wish to see it in this country, in every country where they are allowed to be supreme.

But the mere refutation of the fallacies of a gentleman like Mr. Chaplin and of his leader, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, will not rescue the country from the danger which such a resolution as that passed at Newcastle foreshadows. The true strength of the protectionist party lies far less in the people's apathy and stupidity than in the monstrous expenditure of the national Government, an expenditure far greater than the garbled figures of the various official returns indicate. No more signal service to the nation has been done in recent years than that embodied in Mr. Gibson Bowles's two pamphlets upon this subject. The second one came out the other day, and is entitled "National Finance in 1905." In it Mr. Gibson Bowles, continuing his previous most luminous exposition, shows that instead of being £143,370,000, as set forth in the usual official figures, the gross expenditure of the Imperial Treasury in the past year amounted to £175,298,000, and the increase in this expenditure has been no less than £65,157,000 since 1894-5. At the same time, local authorities, under pressure of the communities they serve, have gone on adding to their annual budgets, and much of this expenditure, both national and local, has been provided for out of debt with the result that the total debt of the United Kingdom, imperial and local, is now estimated by Mr. Bowles at about £1,396,000,000, "surely a stupendous figure," he says, and we quite agree, especially as the national debt of the United Kingdom, actual and contingent, amounting to £969,470,000, is almost wholly debt unrepresented by assets of the slightest value to us. It is debt spent in powder and shot, in the murder trade to a great extent. Here then is the true direction in which reformers must work, and we hope a new Parliament, when it meets—and it will have to be elected soon, that is obvious enough—will at once adopt Mr. Bowles' valuable suggestion, and appoint a strong committee to overhaul the estimates before they are presented to the House as a whole. We must economise else protection will be laid upon our necks and nation and empire alike hurried to their ruin. What is the unemployed outcry, however well founded, however eloquent of economic distress, compared with a weighty national issue like this?

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

Events in Russia do not promise an early conclusion to the present turmoil, which tends rather to develop into widespread civil war. If we are to believe the telegrams, massacres and plunderings of the Jewish citizens continue all over the Empire, and throughout the rural districts the peasants are continuing to attack landowners, while in the cities confusion still reigns supreme. Another general strike has been declared by the leaders of the working classes in

Petersburg, and on Thursday morning we learned that the whole of the railways had ceased working, except the Finnish line, which, even if it continues open, will soon be almost useless as a source of supply, by reason of the closing of the Baltic to navigation. Race is against race all over the Empire, and class against class nearly everywhere, but perhaps the most sinister incident of the week has been the reversal of the liberal policy enunciated by the Tsar and his Ministers so far as Poland is concerned. Nothing has been clearer during the recent agitation than the friendly attitude of the Poles towards their Russian fellow citizens in other parts of the Russian Empire. There have been no passionate outbursts of hate; the old cry of independence, of severance from the Empire, has scarcely been heard—so far as we have observed, has not been heard at all in the gatherings of the people, the working classes, and their leaders. What they have asked for is autonomy, the right to control their internal affairs without bureaucratic interference. On these conditions the Poles are just as willing and ready to remain loyal members of the Russian federated State as the Finns, loyal subjects of the Tsar. Surely, then, it was a mistake on the part of Count Witte and his fellow ministers to allow the Tsar to again proclaim martial law in Poland, thus suspending all civil rights there, and driving the people back upon insurrection, rebellion, as their only chance of deliverance.

But perhaps it is not Count Witte's fault that this fatally retrogressive step has been taken. The Tsar continues to be pulled hither and thither by his *entourage*. One day Count Witte prevails and gets him to sanction liberal and enlightened half-measures calculated to pacify the country; the next reactionaries lay hold of him and he is ready to make a clean sweep of all who dare to lift a finger against the sacredness of his autocracy. It is in this see-saw of the nominal ruler of Russia that the greatest danger of the hour lies. Tsar Nicholas will wobble along to all appearance until he plunges Russia into inextricable confusion and loses his throne. The finances of the Empire must be in complete disorder now, and should that disorder become visible to Western Europe, should the Imperial Treasury be unable to finance the payment of interest upon its debts held in Western Europe, in the United States, all over the world, chaos must supervene throughout the Empire almost at once. For generations now the moneylenders of the West, headed by the Jewish houses, have furnished the Russian autocracy with the sinews of war, enabling it not only to wage great conflicts in Europe and Asia, to annex new provinces, and to indulge in extravagances of all descriptions, but to maintain unbroken the dominance of a bureaucratic and military system the like of which exists in no other country on earth, its maintenance involving among other cruel wrongs, abominable cruelty towards Russian Jews. What will these moneylenders do should this system of loan emission now break down under stress of revolution, and what will become of the autocrat and his machinery of oppression when the means to pay the human bloodhounds is no longer forthcoming? Answers to questions like these open up a vista of horrors upon which it is impossible to think without shuddering. Autocracy relies upon the army to slay and coerce, but if the army is not paid will it continue to kill? And are not both army and navy beginning to side with the democracy? What else can be the meaning of the mutinies reported in Cronstadt and Vladivostok, in Siberia, here and there all over Russia? But the hope of the people may come to rest in bankruptcy.

GREEK FINANCE.

Something resembling prosperity has been suggested by the recent movements of the Greek rate of exchange, but after reading Mr. H. P. Harvey's report on the finances of this poverty-stricken kingdom for the current year one may well have doubts about the reality of the improvement. Mr. Harvey is the British delegate on the International Commission sitting at Athens, whose

business it is to see that the foreign creditor gets his pound of flesh, bloodless or otherwise, whatever becomes of the miserable people of the country. Greece, however, possesses resources of a kind if they were intelligently handled, and if the people were educated and allowed some measure of freedom in dealing with the resources available. As it is, we fear their position is not likely to improve much under the existing *régime*. For the Government is perennially hard up, and the recent rise in the exchange value of Greek paper money as expressed by the fall in the gold exchange is due principally to the inflow of new capital from abroad. The good harvest of 1903 helped no doubt, and there was a sudden expansion of the remittances from Greek emigrants in America, but from July, 1904, Mr. Harvey tells us the Paris bourse turned its attention to Greek industrial and banking securities, absorbing in less than 12 months, according to M. E. Théry, the able editor of the *Economiste Européen*, no less than from 30,000,000 to 35,000,000 francs of this particular class of securities. Then a further portion of the Greek Railways loan was issued in December, 1904, and foreign capitalists contributed 5,000,000 drachmas to the capital of the Orient Bank, and a like sum to the Greek Industrial Bank, so that altogether the amount of foreign wealth poured into the little country had the effect of flooding it with capital, and the inflow of gold alone helped to stiffen up the exchange value of the paper money.

For all this the Government is not happy, and in addition to the ordinary embarrassments of deficits on the State expenditure has to cope with the drain produced by continual advances to local communes. It is estimated that these communal debts now amount to nearly 12,000,000 drachmas, and the nett budget deficit at the end of last year, after allowing for a surplus in 1899-1901 is brought out at 14,286,000 drachmas. There does not seem to be much hope of a reduction in this sum, which is not so large as it looks in one sense, but yet sufficiently so to keep the Government of Greece in a permanent state of impecuniosity, and the economic measures adopted to try and bring relief are not always of a very wise description. One troublesome source of the State Treasury hunger is the handling of the revenue from currants. This crop is subject to an export tax of 15 per cent., paid in kind. This mode of payment was substituted in 1904 for the money tax previously in force, and in conjunction with the retention of unsold or unsaleable currants amounted to an impost of 35 per cent. in all upon the exported currants. Our Government interfered, and said that such an arrangement was not consistent with the Convention of 1890, and in the end various changes in the tariff were made, under which Great Britain and her colonies and dependencies received the most favoured nation treatment, but the Greek Government was not thereby relieved of the embarrassment produced by accepting a tax in kind instead of in money. Stocks of unsaleable currants tend to accumulate in its hands, and the end of the business has been the creation of a holding syndicate, which is supported by foreign capital. This syndicate promises to pay the State 4,000,000 drachmas per annum under the head of export duty, and to pay the producer at the end of each year from 145 drachmas to 150 drachmas per 1,000 Ven. lbs. of currants, according to quality. The company further undertakes to pay to the State any profits it may make beyond 60 per cent. of its capital, up to 500,000 drachmas, and will take over such part of the stock of currants now held by the Government and the Currant Bank, estimated at 70,000,000 lbs., as may not otherwise be disposed of. This seems an extraordinary arrangement, and cannot possibly benefit either the Government or the grower in the long run. Indeed, the fixing of the price limit hits the producer of the fine quality currants most severely, and the system of damming up the surplus stock must end in being ruinous to all concerned; but this is the kind of political economy which finds favour in Greece and among the financiers who are endeavouring to nurse the country into some semblance of prosperity.

THE YEARNING FOR A KAFFIR BOOM.

The financial Press, financial journalists and shady bucket-shops yearn for a Kaffir boom with a longing comparable only to that of the mine bosses themselves. They desire it less in the interests of the public than in their own, for these are hard times, and penury and virtue find it hard to live together. Hence inventive brains are racked to conceive plausible reasons why Kaffirs should be bought now, and why investors should continue to buy them. Booms bring tons of grist to the empty mills of the financial Press, and insatiable greed-hunger must at last make men desperate. We all of us know that if only we could work up a boom in the Kaffir Circus, new South African companies by the score would be immediately promoted. Many, perhaps, without prospectuses, some with, but whether with or without, they would be advertised in some shape in the financial Press, were it only by payment for beguiling quotations, and empty treasuries would soon be filled. Lots of companies were to have been floated months and months ago, but, oh, Beelzebub, Mammon, or whoever it is, pity the poor promoter! We hear of no wonderful reef discoveries in these days of public indifference; they synchronise only with a market "on the feed," and are invented to whet appetites. What is being done on the properties that were ready to be floated a year or so ago we know not. We can only be certain that the bosses are spending no money on them, for where would the gain come in if the public refuse to play at "beggar myself"? So properties and bosses are alike waiting, and a devoted and worshipful Press has to eke out a living somehow. But we can forgive it much, it amuses us so. Just listen to that *Sunday Times* or *Sunday Punch* Solomon who speaks as a Magpie. "I wonder," says he, "whether my readers have ever realised the absurdly exaggerated importance that is attached to the fluctuations in South African shares. From some of the Press comments, it might be imagined that the entire capital engaged in the Rand industry totalled up to a fabulous figure, but nothing could be further from the truth." And the nimble-witted bird has had a summary made of all existing Transvaal companies, including issues only known in Johannesburg and capitals entirely nominal that have never left the dump heap of promoters, and the following is the result:—

	Nominal Capital.		Market Value.
	£		£
63 producing gold mines ..	33,052,120	..	85,632,047
69 non-producing gold mines	28,072,697	..	36,154,184
38 finance & land companies	38,169,020	..	95,851,485
	<u>99,293,837</u>	..	<u>217,637,716</u>

"A total of £217,000,000 is not terrifying if we remember that the capitalisation of our own North-Western amounts to £160,000,000, and that of the Pennsylvania to over £170,000,000." The Magpie means railroads in this final clause, and the confusion of ideas is as ludicrous as the language is sloppy. What conception must the feathered one have of the intelligence of the ordinary tailor-helped biped to attempt to persuade him that in such an absurd argument there is solid basis for a Kaffir boom? It is too grotesque to be even funny, but "boom-hunger" is a dreadful-malady to be sure! Look at the following in proof:—

A second list is furnished by the Magpie sage, consisting of the 146 Rand gold mining companies, whose shares are quoted in London. The market valuation of these on October 30 was £122,534,000, of which £50,948,000 applies to 28 companies that paid dividends during the half-year to June 30 last, and the balance of £71,586,000 to the 118, which declared no dividend for that period. "We have only to compare this total of £122,534,000 with the London and North-Western's £160,000,000 to see that it is *une quantité négligeable*, especially as the shares are spread over many countries, and if the whole were lost it would not be a very serious matter!" Not be a very serious matter? What say you to this, fleeced holders of

Kaffir shares, who have already lost in the aggregate scores of millions? Have previous losses so enriched you that you can view with indifference the complete extinction of paper values these puppets assured you were real? Not serious? Just note the kind of mind that puts forward an argument like this, nominally in your interests. And what a precious argument it is! The £122,534,000 is a mere trifle, because the North-Western is capitalised at £160,000,000. Yes, the moon must be made green cheese because a kind of Cheddar comes from Canada. It is really hobnobbing with Hanwellites to pause to point out that were the North-Western Railway property to become valueless and its £160,000,000 of capital to vanish into space, the business of the country could hardly survive the blow. It is because investors have already lost so much by the Rand fraudulent company promoting industry, and see the likelihood of losing much more, that they refuse to be charmed any more by persons like this "Magpie." They believe that further losses of but a million or two would be a very serious matter for them. "For heaven's sake, let's have a boom!" is what these writers really keep yelping, and to themselves they whisper, "Who cares a d— what the public lose so long as a few selected ones can 'make their piles' on the cheap." When the spoils are safe and securely locked up in North-Westerns these people, you may depend upon it, will never more care a cent. for the Rand industry. Where is now the zeal of a Rudd? "Of course, there is no likelihood," the market oracle, who has amused and tempted us, goes on to say, "of such a huge loss as this, for over fifty companies are actually earning profits, and some of them paying dividends." He omits to show, as we have been showing for months past, that investors have to pay through the nose for these profits and dividends. And investors now know it, hence the fall in Kaffir prices.

THE "DUKERIES" LINE AND THE GREAT CENTRAL.

There seems to have been very keen competition amongst some of the leading northern lines for the purchase of the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway. The Great Northern, the Midland, and the Great Central were all credited with being in negotiation with the "Dukeries" Railway, with the object of buying it out, and up to a few days ago the Great Northern was supposed to have offered the best terms and carried off the prize. It happens, however, that the early stories were wrong, as on Saturday last came the official intimation that the Great Central was the buyer. The terms of purchase were also made known, but the language used to convey them was so ambiguous that the market was as much in a fog as before. For every £100 of Lancashire, Derbyshire first debenture stock £117 of Great Central stock, and for every £100 of second debenture stock £110 of Great Central stock, were to be exchanged. Then each £100 of first preference shares was to get £109, each £100 of second preference shares £90, and each £100 of ordinary stock £50. What all this meant a Roman Augur could not have divined. But light was vouchsafed a day or two later, the two managers graciously making known the facts that the purchase will involve the issue by the Great Central Company of £1,000,000 3½ per cent. second debenture stock, £1,000,000 new 3 per cent. preference stock to rank after the 1879 issue, £557,500 preferred ordinary stock, and an equal amount of deferred ordinary stock. Furthermore, first debenture stockholders of the Lancashire, Derbyshire Company will receive Great Central debenture stock, valued at 103, to represent a cash value of £117 for every £100 held, while the second and terminable debenture stockholders are to get a cash value, at the same price of 103, of £110 for every £100 of old stock. Then the first preference holders will be tempted with debenture and preference stock at the prices of 103 and 88 to the amount of £10 18s. per preference share, and the second preference holders with preference stock valued at 88 sufficient to give a cash equivalent of £9 per share. Finally, the ordinary shareholders obtain 3 per

cent. preference, preferred and deferred ordinary stock to approximately represent, at the respective prices of 88, 40, and 20, a cash value of £5 for each ordinary share. The preference stock to be created is an entirely new issue, and as it ranks immediately after the 8179 issue some hardship would seem to be entailed upon the junior preference stocks—that is, those from 1881 to 1894—but in reality this is not the case. The new debenture and preference stocks will involve an annual charge of £65,000, but, singularly enough, the nett revenue of the Lancashire, Derbyshire for the year ended June 30 last was £64,942, or within £58 of the new annual interest. But are the Lancashire, Derbyshire proprietors satisfied with the terms? Some of them say they are not. The company is making such rapid headway, they assert, that the full dividend on the second preference share is in sight—the last distribution was at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum—and they want to know why they should take an exchange of stocks giving a much lower rate of dividend for all time. Much the same applies to the first preference shares, and a good deal of opposition is threatened from these quarters. This, however, will not be the only antagonism the fusion will have to face, as it is said that neither the Great Northern nor the Hull and Barnsley and Midland Companies will allow the amalgamation to go through without a struggle to prevent it. In some respects the terms to the Lancashire and Derbyshire people seem fair, particularly in the case of the ordinary stock and those who think this way point to the considerable rise that has taken place in the securities of the smaller system since the joining of hands was first whispered. Possibly in the case of the preference holders insufficient allowance has been made for the natural development of the system, but with the stiff opposition from other railways to be faced it does not follow that the business will go through, even though all parties to the contract come into line.

Passing Events.

The director of the United States Mint, Mr. George E. Roberts, has got together, a little late in the year, his annual exhibit of the world's gold production for 1904. It is quite startling; no less than 16,793,419 fine ozs. of the metal were turned out last year, valued at about £69,500,000. This is an increase of fully 1,000,000 ozs. on the output of 1903, notwithstanding the fact that the Australian output was somewhat less as well as the Canadian, Chinese, Colombian, Brazilian, and Austro-Hungarian. Australasia still leads as a producer, having contributed upwards of £17,500,000 worth to the total last year. Next came South Africa with a production of upwards of £17,000,000 worth, the United States coming third this time with rather more than £16,000,000 worth. Where the metal all goes is the puzzle, particularly at the present time, when every great centre of banking credit appears to be hungering for it, and some of them in no position to buy it.

The output of silver was slightly more last year than in 1903, and the value was also up about £145,000 to a total of nearly £44,000,000. Mexico and the United States contributed between them 118,595,000 ozs. out of a total of 168,494,000 ozs. produced all over the world. The Mexican output was nearly 10,000,000 ozs. down, but that of the United States 3,400,000 ozs. up, and the Australian output was also up nearly 5,000,000 ozs., so the world is in no danger of falling short of silver.

The Industrial and Commercial Economic Society of Paris is evidently labouring under the delusion, despite recent events, that there is a gold mining industry in Madagascar worth fostering. It has made a strong appeal to the Government to do its best to assist an industry which exists more in imagination than in reality. New Government regulations are expected to be issued shortly, and the Society urges "that the future of the industry would be seriously imperilled if

regulations, which would not be acceptable even in so highly developed a mining field as the Transvaal, were to be imposed on a mining territory whose value is as yet practically unknown." So the Society has unanimously passed a resolution declaring that the colony cannot bear such a burden as it fears the Government may impose upon it. It suggests that while the surface taxation should in no case exceed that in force in other French African colonies—viz., one franc per two and a-half acres—the total dues for the present, at all events, should be less than those levied on the Rand. But is Madagascar worth all this fuss?

There was an appalling disaster at the Driefontein Deep mine on the 11th inst. As the result of the collapse of a vertical shaft one white and 67 blacks were killed, whilst several whites are said to have had narrow escapes. As the pumps were carried away there was no hope of saving the victims, for if they were not killed by the *débris* they were drowned in the rising water. The accident is stated to be due to a fissure in the rock formation 60 ft. from the bottom of the shaft. The Driefontein Deep, which was formed in 1899, is still in the earliest stages of shaft sinking. On the northern boundary of the property the shaft is expected to reach the reef at a depth of about 4,000 ft., and on the southern boundary at about 6,000 ft. As at the end of 1904 the main shaft was sunk to a depth of only 370 ft., it will be many years before they can get to the reef. As a consequence of the recent accident, the time will be longer still and the work more expensive. The company, however, has still plenty of cash to spend, and is more than making ends meet meanwhile.

The latest bank amalgamation is of some importance. From December 31 next the London City and Midland Bank will take over the Nottingham Joint Stock on the basis of 1 1-7 of a London City and Midland £60 share £2 10s. paid up, and £2 in cash for every two £50 shares with £10 called of the Nottingham bank. For the purposes of negotiation the London, City and Midland shares have been taken at £49, which is slightly below the current quotation, and after the fusion this institution will have a paid-up capital of £3,142,850, with a reserve of similar amount. According to the last annual statement made up to December 31, 1904, the Nottingham Joint Stock had a paid-up capital of £200,000, a reserve fund of £176,000 and liabilities to the public of £2,003,891. Advances, loans and bills of exchange amounted to £1,529,004, cash in hand and at short notice to £344,335 and investments to £286,568, apart from those held on account of reserve, which will have to be written down as they consist of Consols at 90 and Local Loans at par. A savings bank department has been recently opened.

The noteworthy expansion in the business of John Barker and Co., the Kensington drapery and furnishing enterprise, rendered necessary the outlay of a good deal of capital because buildings like those lately erected cannot be put up for a trifle. On the whole, however, the money has been judiciously laid out, and we do not think the shareholders need have any misgiving in assenting to the proposals for raising further funds which the directors will lay before them at an extraordinary general meeting called for Tuesday week. At present the share capital is £330,000, and it is intended to increase it to £480,000 by the issue of 15,000 $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preference £5 shares and 75,000 ordinary £1 shares, to rank *pari passu* with those now existing. That means £150,000 nominal apart from any premiums which may be obtained, and the money should be sufficient to cover the needs of the business for some years to come. Shareholders will have the first right to take up the new shares, and the proposal will no doubt be readily agreed to. It is much better anyhow than further mortgaging the property by an increase in the debenture stock.

The attempt of the City of Rosario to raise fresh money so soon after fixing up an arrangement with its

external bondholders has apparently provoked Mr. Stanley Boulter, the chairman of the Argentine Municipal Loans Committee, into uttering one more protest against the attitude of the City of Cordoba towards its foreign creditors. Without doubt the behaviour of this municipality has been particularly discreditable, and although much which Mr. Boulter now tells us has been told before, and need not be repeated, it is always wise to keep the salient facts of cases like these in mind, so as to be on guard when the cry for more money follows closely behind any settlement, however inadequate, as it is pretty certain to do. The latest we hear from Cordoba is that it refuses to pay either the 14 years' arrears of interest or anything in future, but might repay by small instalments, spreading over 30 or more years, the portion of the principal actually received in cash. Maybe this is mere bluff, and one day acceptable terms might be offered, but, settlement or no, were we creditors no Argentine municipality would ever see the colour of our money again.

While on the subject of dishonesty, it is interesting to take note of a letter lately addressed to President Roosevelt by the North Carolina Bondholders Committee. Its effect is to tell the President that it is all very well to flourish a big stick and threaten to bring it down with a thump on the heads of defaulting Central American and other Republics, to which the Monroe doctrine is supposed to be applicable, but the time would probably be better spent in devising means whereby the defaulting States within the Union could be brought to recognise their obligations. We know that at present the Constitution forbids the acknowledgment of these debts, some of them raised during the Civil War, but the protest is instructive.

According to the Commissioner of *South Africa*, who has been interviewing him, Sir George Farrar is terribly wroth against all—especially all of the Liberal party—who have been mean enough to be so patriotic as to denounce the employment of Chinese on the Rand mines. "They have slandered us!" he cried out, in a white, or yellow, heat; "and they will have to pay the due penalties. I can assure you that the loyal colonists do not intend to take such slanders lying down"—or words to that effect. In fact, he threatens dire trouble if we don't keep our mouths shut, and if we refuse to let the mine bosses do exactly as they please with the British Empire. To go to war for the cosmopolites and make them masters of a brand-new British colony is all right, no matter what the cost be to us in blood and money, but to dictate to them whom they shall employ and not employ is an encroachment upon their individual liberty to be keenly resented. After all, we have paid, still pay, and must continue to pay; we have no business to criticise, no right to express an opinion. To do so, even from the purest, the most humanitarian and patriotic motives is a slander upon the German bosses. For whose benefit do the foreign potentates run the mining industry? Do they run it for the gain of Englishmen and the Empire, or for the glory of patriotism? Let the thousands of their ruined dupes the world over answer. But this man Farrar's impudence is sublime.

Some remarkable statistics exhibiting the progress of Chicago were published in a recent issue of the *Daily Tribune* of that city. According to these, we learn that the total value of its manufactures in 1895 was \$788,400,000, and this year, ended June 30 we presume, the total is \$1,576,800,000. This year, it adds, the volume of the wholesale trade of the city exceeds \$2,137,000,000 and ten years ago the total was only \$1,169,000,000. The paper goes on to point out that the city enjoys manifold advantages in being situated on the shore of a lake and in the fact that it is the most important railroad centre in the entire Union. It also has reasonable; and we suppose in many cases preferential, rates, so that it has long ceased to be a mere centre for cattle and pig sales and slaughtering. It is a great centre of iron and steel manufacture, and leads, the *Tribune* says, in the manufacture

of steel rails; so great things are prophesied for the future.

An Anglo-Indian of large experience and of tried sympathy with the Indian natives sends us the following suggestion for reform in the method by which that Indian dependency is now governed—or, it would be more accurate to say, held down. The idea, he says, adumbrated in this memorandum "seems Utopian to-day, but with extending education in India of the yearly growing number of her sons who are qualifying for the public service in all branches, this scheme or some scheme on similar lines will become inevitable, and at no distant day." In that opinion we quite agree, and think that there is much more hope for India in development along lines like these than in any such suggestion as that put forward by Mr. Gokhale. He, we gather, would like to see at least six men elected by the natives of India and sent here to represent them in the British Parliament. He does not know what that would mean. Under existing conditions such men would have no weight whatever. They would be voted a nuisance, and relegated to the same position as the far more numerous Nationalist representatives of Ireland. India must work out her own salvation, and by passive resistance and continual educative effort strive to win domestic self-government.

UNITED STATES OF INDIA.

A federation of autonomous, self-governing States, each with its own Governor and State capital.

A Federal Council, to which each self-governing State shall send two (or more) representatives.

The Federal Council to be presided over by a statesman nominated by the Crown. Race to be neither qualification nor bar to appointment either to this office or to Governorship of each State.

The State capital to be the chief city of each State. The Federal capital to be Delhi.

Each State to have sole legislative power as regards local laws; subject, however, to confirmation by the Federal Council in cases where such laws have more than local operation.

Posts, telegraphs, railways, Customs, and diplomatic relations, either with Great Britain or with foreign States, to be reserved to the domain of the Federal Council.

Each State to have its own military force, and to be a separate army corps unit, both as to financial control and command—but to be liable to be mobilised as a Federal army, under a specially appointed Commander-in-Chief, in case of a defensive war against attack by a common enemy.

The following might be the separate States contemplated in above memorandum:—

Mysore, Hyderabad, Central Provinces, Punjab (with Scind), Madras, Bengal (proper), Burmah (with Assam), Bombay, Rajputana (subject to regrouping, or contraction, or extension, as might be found advisable).

The franchise in the several States to be (for the present) limited to educational qualification. Election by ballot.

Last week's revenue returns were not of any importance so far as the Money market is concerned. Receipts and payments left the Treasury balances much where they were, down only £4,884. The revenue was considerable—no less than £2,617,000, including £783,000 from Customs, £699,000 from Excise, and £780,000 from the Post Office and Telegraph services. There was even a tiny £2,076 received from the April issue of Exchequer bonds, but supply services swept away £2,573,000, and the National Debt about £49,000.

Tuesday's *Financial Times*, on the authority of its Dublin correspondent, announced the completion of negotiations for the absorption of the Patriotic Assurance Company by the Sun Insurance Company. It was added that the shareholders in the Patriotic company would be paid off at the rate of about 70s. per share, the par paid-up value of such shares being 45s. It is a very small business altogether, as is proved by the fact that its life funds amount to barely £213,000 and its fire fund to little more than £30,000, notwithstanding the fact that the company was founded in 1824. What more, however, can be expected of a company of the kind, whose head office is in Dublin—the city which emphasises the decay of Ireland under "castle rule" more than any other place in that distressful isle?

There must be a public opinion possessed of some virtue in the United States. We judge so from the

fact that Mr. John A. McCall, president of the New York Life Insurance Company, has promised to pay back £47,000, part of the unexplained sums advanced to Mr. Andrew Hamilton for legislature-corrupting purposes, if that gentleman, now supposed to be in Europe, has not returned by the 13th of next month. The chief proprietor of the Equitable, Mr. James H. Hyde, has also undertaken to do a little refunding of this description in certain contingencies, and from these and other symptoms we are inclined to be hopeful. Morality is getting on in New York.

An able director of the Bank of England, Mr. A. C. Cole has been enlightening the Irish Bankers' Institute on the habits and requirements of English banking, and had much to say about the Bank of England reserve. It is insufficient, he declared, and he thinks the other joint-stock banks ought to help to make the total stock of gold in the Bank up to £40,000,000 as an average. Yes, we have heard that often before, but the other joint-stock banks naturally reply: "Why should we give the Bank of England our money to trade with in competition against us?" As Mr. Schuster pointed out in his address at the Victoria University, Manchester, the Bank of England would habitually use in its own business 60 per cent. of the extra balances kept with it by the joint-stock banks, and would be quite right in so doing, since it also is a joint-stock trading corporation, just as they are. The remedy for an insufficient gold reserve, as long as the constitution of the Bank of England remains what it is, must be taken by the joint-stock banks themselves. They must form their own gold reserve, either jointly or severally, and until they do the stability of our banking system, admirable, nearly perfect, in its smooth mechanism though it be, cannot be deemed outside the danger of occasional credit storms.

What is in many respects a very remarkable circular has just been addressed to the shareholders of the Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company by Mr. P. Dvorkovitz, who has been closely connected with the Russian oil industry since 1879. That this concern and the Baku Russian Petroleum Company, to which the statement equally applies, were somewhat heavily charged with capital is well known, but even we are surprised to learn, and until proof is furnished refuse to believe, that the promoting firms, in which Mr. H. N. Gladstone was the moving spirit, made profits of £900,000 out of launching the two. Not only so, but Mr. Dvorkovitz says that the Russian company has been exploited, if not solely, very largely in the interests of Mr. Gladstone's firm of Ogilvy, Gillanders Company, and adduces a lot of alleged facts and figures in support of his statement which we hope, for the sake of all concerned, can be refuted. If they cannot be, then the strongest case is made out for the strict investigation which Mr. Dvorkovitz demands, but we refuse to say anything until the directors have had an opportunity of replying to what at present appears to be a very grave indictment.

Rumour has associated a good many brewery firms with that of Allsopp's in an attempt to solve the amalgamation puzzle of which we have for long heard so much, but lately the jade has been lamentably wide of the mark judging by the denials which have invariably followed each suggestion. Persistent guessing, however, has at last met with reward, and when the Burton and Romford business of Ind, Coope and Company was fastened upon this week those whose vocation in life it is to elucidate these little mysteries were getting very warm indeed. Nothing must be said above a whisper just now, but Mr. C. Howard Tripp, the managing director of Ind, Coopes admitted that negotiations had been going on with Allsopp's, and were still pending. They may come to nothing, of course, and for that reason it would be waste of time to preach sermons as yet, but we doubt if it will be possible to construct anything stable out of two derelicts like Allsopp's and Ind, Coope.

The overcapitalised structure known as the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association contrived to do a little better in the six months to September 30, but its

existence is still a wretched one, and the concern will probably never bring much comfort to its shareholders. After deducting a trifling sum for what is called specific depreciation and £10,774 for repairs and renewals, the profit is returned at £47,732 compared with £22,713 in the corresponding period of last year. Administration charges, debenture interest and £12,500 transferred to the depreciation fund altogether take away £34,457, leaving a profit of £13,275 against a deficit of £11,990. It is added to the credit brought in making it £81,989, but if shareholders are wise they will not yet begin to dream of a first dividend, despite the fact that, according to the directors' story, the balance-sheet at September 30—we do not get a sight of it—shows a stronger financial position and there is a sufficient balance of cash in hand for all probable requirements. We know these combines of old, and think the directors have more sense than to pay away money which the business is pretty certain to need sooner or later. Besides, there is the reserve fund question to be considered.

The directors of Elmore's German and Austro-Hungarian Metal Company have just issued proposals for another clean-up of the capital account. This time it is intended to bring the nominal capital down from £162,981 to £115,745 by writing off 15s. from each ordinary share, so that when the trimming has been done the company will have issued 29,100 preference shares of £2 each and 62,981 ordinary shares of 5s. each. Altogether there are 50,000 preference shares, and the next move is to subdivide those issued and 8,400 of those unissued into £1 shares, the balance of 12,500 to be converted into 100,000 ordinary shares of 5s. each. When all this has been accomplished, the directors will write up the shares of the German "Metall" Company by 50 per cent. to what is considered their true value, and this little trick, together with the sum written off the ordinary shares, will extinguish a capital debit of £11,052 and bring the patents account down from £84,252 to £23,279. Delightfully simple, is it not? Naturally, the ordinary shares must not be allowed to suffer in dividend for their loss of capital, so that instead of being entitled to the next 20 per cent., after the preference receive their 7 per cent., they will in future receive 80 per cent., making their position just what it was before. Moreover, the preference share issue is to be restricted to £75,000 instead of £100,000, to the benefit of holders so the directors tell us, when the company is once more, in the misty by-and-bye, paying dividends.

Critical Index To New Investments.

NEW DEEP LEADS SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

Formed with a capital of £15,000 in 1s. shares, this company acquires the whole of the mining rights and machinery of the Hepburn Alluvial Mining Company, which owned over 1,443 acres on the Deep Leads, in the Colony of Victoria, but was forced by lack of funds to stop work in March last. According to the prospectus, "the extraordinary amount of development work that is now being accomplished in the Loddon Valley and other mines, the pumping arrangements being responsible in some cases for five million gallons per day, points to the fact that within a short period large profits will be earned by the various deep lead companies, and the attention of mining investors is strongly drawn towards properties of this description." If that be true it is curious that the shareholders of the Hepburn Company should be content to let their property go for a mere song rather than put up the trifle required to put them in possession of a portion of this great wealth. The existence of the "lead" on the property is said to have been proved by four Government boreholes, and so near was that company to its goal that it is estimated that no more than £200 will be required to carry the drive into the main alluvial channel, after which another £1,500 would have to be found for puddling machinery. Yet the whole of the assets, exclusive of cash, arrears of calls, and other

sums due to the company, are sold to the General Share and Investment Company for £1,500, and that concern promptly resells for £6,500, of which £1,500 is to be in cash and £5,000 in cash or shares. Far from being content with this handsome profit, the vendors take £450 for preliminary expenses and another £450, or 15 per cent., for underwriting 60,000 shares. In the unlikely event of the issue being over-subscribed, shareholders in the original undertaking will be given a preference in allotment—that is, if they are not sick of the whole thing, and choose to apply.

SUN GAS COMPANY, LIMITED.

This company owns the patent rights in the "Atkin's Dry Acetylene Process" of making gas for which the bold claim is made that it produces a light practically identical with sunlight. In order to put the company in a position to guarantee a large and regular supply of carbide, arrangements have been made to acquire the whole of the preference and 172 of the ordinary shares in the Alby Carbide Factory (Sweden), and in connection with this purchase the capital has been increased from £25,000 to £100,000. The price paid for the shares, including agents' commissions of £4,650, is £46,920. At present the capital of the Swedish company consists of 7,500 preference and 1,000 ordinary shares of 100 kroner, but it is intended to reorganise the company, increasing the capital to 1,100,000 kroner and making all the shares ordinary, and the Sun Gas Company proposes to subscribe for the whole of the new shares. When this company was floated in April last, 12,500 shares were offered for public subscription, 2,500 were handed to the vendors with £2,500 in cash in payment of the purchase price, and the remaining 10,000 went as underwriting commission, but the guarantors of the present issue are more moderate in their demands and the underwriting commission is only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. with an over-riding commission of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Last year the Swedish Company produced 6,458 tons of carbide, which enabled it to pay 8 per cent., and it is estimated that when the capacity of the factory is increased the profits should amount to about £19,000 per annum. No mention is made of any return having been earned by the Sun Gas, and investors who apply for shares will do so on the vague statements that as the British Government has exempted gas made by this process from being classed as an explosive and permitted it to be mixed with oil gas to the extent of 50 per cent., railway companies can light their carriages in a manner never before possible. But will the railway companies do it? The prospectus is silent on that point.

KENT ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.

This company was incorporated in 1902 for the purpose of supplying electrical energy in the administrative county of Kent, except the Isle of Thanet, and has an authorised capital of £750,000 in £1 shares, with power to borrow to the extent of one-third of the paid-up share capital. The undertaking of the Chatham, Rochester and District Electric Lighting Company was acquired as from December 31, 1904, by the Kent Electric Power Syndicate, and for this, together with an undertaking to construct a new generating station at Frindsbury, and to provide £25,500 cash for working capital, the syndicate receives £222,000 in shares and £75,000 in $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. irredeemable debenture stock. Of the debenture stock, £40,750 has already been sold by or on behalf of the syndicate, and it now offers the remaining £34,250 for subscription at $92\frac{1}{2}$, payable 10 per cent. on application and $82\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on allotment. The directors believe that the profit now being earned from the Chatham and Rochester lighting undertaking alone will be nearly sufficient to meet the interest charges, and confidently expect that so soon as the plant, mains, &c., are complete the nett yearly profit will be sufficient to pay the full interest on the present authorised issue with a surplus of over £4,000. According to the engineers the revenue available for interest, depreciation, and dividends, when the whole output from the works is taken up, should be about £18,000, and if

these expectations are realised the stock might prove a good enough investment for those to whom a free market is not one of the first considerations.

THE CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Messrs. Sperling and Co. offer for subscription £1,240,000 in 4 per cent. perpetual consolidated debenture stock of this company, part of an issue limited to a total of £2,000 per mile of line for the time being opened and operated, together with an amount not exceeding the cost price of securities of independent corporations from time to time deposited with the trustees and issued with their consent. The price asked is 99 per cent., payable £5 on application, £10 on allotment, £40 on January 5 and £44 on February 5, 1906; or the whole may be paid up on any instalment date under 4 per cent. discount. Particulars of the security will be found in the prospectus. The company is extending its mileage rapidly. It was 1,876 miles on June 30 last, and is now 2,099 miles with further extensions under construction, but after the experience of the Canadian Pacific, who shall say that this is rash expansion?

A. DARRACQ AND CO. (1905), LIMITED.

At present this well-known motor enterprise has a capital of £100,000 in preference and £275,000 in ordinary £1 shares, but the business has made such giant strides since taken over by the present company that further capital is required. So an issue is proposed of 371,500 preferred ordinary £1 shares, part of a total amount of £375,000, and £150,000 in 5 per cent. debenture bonds all at par. The company undertakes to provide £12,500 per annum for interest and redemption of these bonds, which may be repaid by annual drawings or by purchases in the open market at a price not exceeding £105 per cent. While the preferred ordinary shares, which will be utilised to the extent of £100,000 to repay the existing preference shares, will be entitled to a 7 per cent. cumulative preference dividend, and to a further 3 per cent. in any year when 10 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, on a winding-up they will have the right to repayment at 25s. per share. Including the proceeds of the new bonds, the assets, apart from goodwill, are valued at £383,577, while for the three years ended September 30 last the profits have risen from £100,276 to £152,664. Such figures render the issues decidedly attractive, and they will doubtless be readily taken up.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway.—100,000 ordinary shares of £10 each are offered to holders of ordinary capital at par in the proportion of one-third of the stock and shares held on November 3. After June 30, 1906, the shares will be converted into stock ranking *pari passu* with the existing ordinary capital.

Central Chili Copper.—Of the new shares recently created 30,000 are now offered to the shareholders at par in the proportion of one new for every 10 held.

Crisp and Co.—The balance of £5,000 5 per cent. 1st mortgage debenture stock not taken up is offered to shareholders at 90 per cent., preferential allotments to be made to those who apply on or before November 21.

Eastbourne Artisans' and Labourers' Improved Dwellings.—Shareholders are invited to subscribe for £5,000 additional capital.

Westminster Electric Supply.—It is proposed to make an issue of 50,000 5 per cent. cumulated preference shares of £5 each at a premium of 7s. 6d. per share to shareholders registered November 1 in the proportion of one new share for every three held.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—

This eminent steamship company issues a dainty booklet giving the names of the directors and other officials; the company's agents; its fleet; its services; its pleasure cruises; mail tables; table of distances; statistical tables; tide tables, together with a clock design, flags, in colours, carried by the merchant vessels of Great Britain, the colonies, and other countries; several maps, and calendar, diary and memoranda. It is exceedingly handy and useful.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING.—Liabilities on October 31, amounted to £43,619,511 on simple contracts and £3,948,665 on acceptances, against which the assets were £9,267,015 in investments, £9,058,773 in bills of exchange, £17,849,893 in loans and advances to customers, £7,396,793 in cash at the Bank of England and on hand, and £2,791,152 in money at call and notice.

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED **£5,500,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over £1,000,000.

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

NON-CONTENTIOUS POLICY CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

No fresh developments have taken place in the Money market this week. It is poor, as the weekly Bank return indicates, and Stock Exchange settlement payments caused a demand for help at the Bank of England on Tuesday and Wednesday. This, however, was not enough to cause the other securities to go back to the figure of the previous Wednesday, and although the price of short credits has remained easy ever since, with a strong demand yesterday afternoon and occasionally to-day, the market is likely to rest in its present condition until the next extra demand comes along. That is to say, it will be always on the verge of going to the Bank, and most days some little portion of the current business may have to be done there. To-day, for instance, the Bank did a fair business in bills up to 60 days, in spite of the fact that the open market continues to absorb longer dated paper at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. to a certain extent.

Most bill brokers quote 4 per cent. as their working rate for paper of all dates, but the market is unquestionably tending to weaken a little, as is proved by the fall in the rate for six months' bank bills. All the week it has been slipping downwards. At first the quotation was $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., then it came down to $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and to-night it was veering towards $3\frac{5}{8}$ per cent., although that cannot yet be called a working figure. Loans outside were easy to-day just at the start, but very soon the poverty of the market became accentuated,

and call money rose to 4 and $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Banks got $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for seven-day money without difficulty, and the India Council did a considerable business in loans and renewals at 4 per cent. for about a month.

Gold has come back from Scotland, and the banking reserve was accordingly better on Wednesday night by £983,000, but the market's supply of credit was reduced by £580,000 owing to a further increase of £508,000 in the public deposits and to the repayment of £1,035,000 due on other securities. The total stock of bullion in spite of the increase is still a good £6,000,000 or £8,000,000 below what it ought to be at this time of year, and we see no indication of substantial relief coming from any quarter other than those occasional millions of sovereigns consigned from India by the Government there for its own purposes, and one may say regardless of either Indian or British interests, one of which, it was alleged this week, the said Government was going to send straight to the Bank without reference to its own currency reserve. There has been no confirmation of that statement.

From other sources the Bank has not got much gold, and at any moment the competition for supplies of raw metal coming from the mines may be acute. When call money rose in New York to 20 and 25 per cent. and the New York exchange on London seemed about to sink to a figure that would have enabled the banks there to sweep gold out of the Bank of England, we began to be a little nervous, but the spasm went by, the exchange rallied, and our fears subsided. Any moment, however, they may be awakened again either through events in America or on the Continent, and our market is in no position to cope with any exceptional export demand for gold. It is therefore well that loan and discount rates should be kept firm, and credit jobbers may well be thankful for every week that passes without bringing a further advance in the Bank rate.

SILVER.

Tenders were invited this week by the French Government for 10,000 kilos. of silver for immediate delivery and at the same time the Indian inquiry has been good, while there was also a keen demand from "bears" covering. As supplies of the metal are not coming forward in any great volume, the market for spot metal has been exceedingly firm and the quotation advanced to $29\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. Dealings for future delivery were not so important as operators are disinclined to commit themselves so far ahead as the middle of January, but the price nevertheless has hardened considerably and closes at 29d. per oz. Applications for the Rs. 1,00,00,000 drafts on India offered by the Council on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 6,21,00,000 in bills and Rs. 1,50,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 82,09,000 were allotted in bills and Rs. 17,91,000 in transfers, tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. $4\frac{1}{8}$ d. per rupee receiving about 29 per cent. Next week the amount to be offered is further reduced to Rs. 80,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, November 15, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£	Government Debt	£
..	49,262,000	..	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	30,812,000
		Silver Bullion	—
	£49,262,000		£49,262,000

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government Securities	£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	..	17,039,131
Reserve	3,232,080	Other Securities	31,772,007
Public Deposits (including		Notes	20,676,275
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin	1,734,004
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts)	12,649,765		
Other Deposits	40,681,403		
Seven Day and other Bills	105,169		
	£71,221,417		£71,221,417

Dated November 16, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Nov. 16.		Nov. 8, 1905.	Nov. 15, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,202,235	Rest	3,213,176	3,232,080	18,904	—
7,173,774	Pub. Deposits ..	12,141,417	12,649,765	508,348	—
59,439,155	Other do. ..	41,261,064	40,681,403	—	579,661
114,620	7 Day Bills ..	103,968	105,169	1,201	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,160,005	Gov. Securities ..	17,039,131	17,039,131	—	—
24,706,825	Other do. ..	32,806,689	31,772,007	1,034,682	—
24,165,954	Total Reserve ..	21,426,805	22,410,279	—	983,474
				1,563,135	1,563,135
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
27,686,270	Note Circulation ..	28,911,880	28,585,725	326,155	—
33,402,224	Coin and Bullion ..	31,888,685	32,546,004	657,319	—
51½ p.c.	Proportion ..	40 p.c.	41½ p.c.	—	—
5	Bank Rate ..	4	4	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £88,000 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	751,883,000	244,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
Week ending				
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
" 27	187,852,000	164,860,000	22,992,000	—
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,726,000	27,856,000	—
" 18	270,692,000	226,552,000	44,140,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,631,000	15,589,000	—
Nov. 1	270,695,000	250,973,000	19,722,000	—
" 8	216,976,000	195,045,000	21,871,000	—
" 15	260,846,000	241,533,000	19,313,000	—
	10,834,519,000	9,210,872,000	1,623,647,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
11,200,000	—	Jan. 27	—
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
23,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.			WITHDRAWALS.		
Monday, Bars ..	£45,000		Monday, Continent ..	£50,000	
Tuesday, " ..	£46,000		Thursday, Continent ..	£50,000	
Wednesday, " ..	£178,000		" S. America ..	£50,000	
Thursday, " ..	£87,000				
Friday, " ..	£73,000		Net Influx ..	£279,000	
Total ..	£429,000		Total ..	£429,000	

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15	25'15	Antwerp	short	25'23½	25'23½
Brussels	chqs.	25'22½	25'22½	Italy	sight	25'1	25'10
Amsterdam	sight	12'13½	12'13½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'05	110'05
Berlin	chqs.	20'42	20'44	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	168½d.	168½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'21	20'22	Valparaiso	90 dys	158½d.	158½d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'41½	20'42½	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort	short	20'41	20'42	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna	sight	24'02	24'02	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/0½	2/1½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'70	93'70	Shanghai	T.T.	2/0½	2/10½
New York	60 dys	4'82½	4'83	Singapore	4 mths	2/1½	2/2
Lisbon	sight	50½	50½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	32'16	32'14				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market. Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2½	3
Berlin	5½	November 3, 1905	4½	4½
Hamburg ..	5½	November 3, 1905	4½	4½
Frankfort ..	5½	November 3, 1905	4½	4½
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3½	3½
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4½	4½
Rome	4½	September, 1904	4½	4½
St. Petersburg ..	5½	February, 1904	7½	7½
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm ..	5	September 22, 1905.	4½	4½
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	5	September 29, 1905	—	—
Bombay	4	August 10, 1905	—	—
New York call money ..	5½	—	—	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Nov. 11.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£		£
Customs	783,000	National Debt Services ..	48,750
Excise	699,000	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Estate, &c., Duties ..	193,000	Charges	—
Stamps	145,000	Payments to Local Taxa-	—
Land Tax and House Duty.	10,000	tion	—
Property and Income Tax ..	5,000	Supply Services	2,573,210
Post Office	620,000	Bullion Advances	—
Telegraphs	160,000	Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Crown Lands	—	Advances for Interest on	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—	Exchequer Bonds	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	Exchequer Bonds	—
Miscellaneous	—	Uganda Railway	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	Military Works	—
Uganda Railway	—	Naval Works	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—	Telegraph Acts	—
count	—	Land Registry (New Build-	—
Telegraph Acts	—	ings)	—
Naval Works Acts	—	Public Buildings Expenses	—
Military Works Acts	—	Act	—
Land Registry Acts	—	Public Offices Site (Dublin)	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—	Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—	Suez Canal drawn Shares	—
Ways and Means	—	in reduction of debt ..	—
Deficiency	—	Cunard Agreement	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—	Deficiency Advances re-	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	2,076	paid	—
Transvaal and Orange River	—	Ways and Means Advances	—
Colony. Repayment of	—	repaid	—
Temporary Advance	—	Increase in Exchequer	—
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—	balances	—
tion payments	—		
Decrease in Exchequer	—		
balances	4,884		
	£2,621,960		£2,621,960

* Exclusive of £131,797 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £5,499,514.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Nov. 7, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 23, 1905.	Nov. 7, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve	45,113,833	44,980,083	45,541,000	48,671,875
Silver reserve	11,903,708	11,975,541	12,054,916	11,973,958
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	2,298,541	2,344,833	2,002,416	2,026,083
Note circulation	74,249,625	76,294,833	72,888,916	72,458,916
Bills discounted	24,196,791	25,382,333	22,150,500	19,574,000

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 2, 1905.	Oct. 26, 1905.	Oct. 19, 1905	Nov. 3, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion	4,933,040	4,757,960	4,865,560	4,993,240
Other securities	23,946,560	23,688,920	23,373,600	22,502,560
Note circulation	27,732,520	27,188,960	26,841,040	25,984,000
Deposits	3,222,360	3,324,800	3,319,000	3,483,080

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 15, 1905.	Nov. 7, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1905.	Nov. 15, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand	41,872,900	39,949,600	39,708,700	48,124,050
Bills discounted	49,621,150	53,231,450	55,474,250	40,009,850
Advances on stocks	2,742,530	2,601,750	4,087,750	2,576,850
Note circulation	66,950,750	69,276,250	72,103,600	64,992,550
Public deposits	25,460,450	23,719,750	24,374,650	26,713,100

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 23/Nov. 5 1905.	Oct. 16/29, 1905.	Oct. 8/21, 1905.	Oct. 23/Nov. 5 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	81,565,971	88,589,722	89,198,652	83,667,297
Silver and subsidiary				
coin	3,764,488	3,885,196	4,000,973	6,741,463
Advances and bills				
discounted	40,823,044	39,938,627	38,974,061	40,390,467
securities belonging				
to the Bank	7,023,847	7,297,059	7,238,173	7,220,414
Notes in circulation ..	110,461,974	109,201,154	109,397,144	83,786,327
Deposits and current				
account	46,993,283	47,722,456	47,337,421	48,927,672
Treasury account	5,014,835	4,652,387	3,488,154	17,653,600

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 11, 1905.	Nov. 4, 1905.	Oct. 28, 1905.	Nov. 12, 1904.
Gold	£ 14,984,342	£ 14,979,204	£ 14,973,044	£ 14,856,685
Silver	22,429,075	22,422,135	22,568,518	19,745,382
Foreign Bills	2,702,224	2,528,941	2,501,426	1,591,575
Discount and Short Bills	45,902,184	45,750,184	45,792,978	39,529,513
Treasury Account	20,848,107	20,894,441	20,917,092	22,009,145
Notes in circulation	63,096,187	63,178,038	63,046,329	65,510,578
Current Account deposits	22,164,763	21,882,002	21,908,427	24,476,887
Dividends Interests	3,055,483	3,132,907	3,015,170	2,027,459
Government Securities	4,827,739	5,395,365	5,475,611	5,210,037

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 16, 1905.	Nov. 9, 1905.	Nov. 2, 1905.	Nov. 17, 1904.
Gold in hand	£ 115,975,280	£ 115,996,760	£ 116,058,760	£ 105,878,640
Silver in hand	43,828,240	43,698,400	43,652,800	44,013,560
Bills discounted	29,497,600	30,345,040	38,381,600	25,303,040
Advances	18,985,040	19,380,120	19,147,400	20,021,840
Note circulation	180,617,280	181,094,680	184,710,720	172,045,200
Public deposits	13,845,400	12,849,030	13,178,720	8,322,200
Private deposits	19,678,520	21,141,320	22,544,800	21,028,280

Proportion between bullion and circulation 88½ per cent. against 88½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Oct. 20, 1905.	Oct. 10, 1905.	Sept. 30, 1905.	Oct. 20, 1904.
Reserve	£ 28,310,680	£ 28,147,240	£ 8,066,000	£ 25,228,160
State notes and small changed	518,600	425,240	439,320	58,840
Discount and loans	14,177,480	13,896,840	14,281,000	11,246,440
Public stock and State loans	8,395,360	8,403,080	8,407,640	8,459,960
Credits	6,620,720	6,678,560	7,026,120	6,484,920
Note Circulation	40,306,440	40,476,920	40,327,040	36,301,000
Current account	2,660,640	2,478,080	2,266,960	4,289,600
Deposits	4,290,840	4,153,800	4,629,080	3,643,360

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 7.	Nov. 9.	Nov. 14.	Nov. 16.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12½	12½	12½	12½
Do.	3 months	12½	12½	12½	12½
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25½	25½	25½	25½
Hamburg	3 months	20½	20½	20½	20½
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20½	20½	20½	20½
Paris	cheques	25½	25½	25½	25½
Do.	3 months	25½	25½	25½	25½
Marseilles	3 months	25½	25½	25½	25½
Switzerland	3 months	25½	25½	25½	25½
Austria	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25½	25½	25½	25½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	36½	36½	36½	36½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18½	18½	18½	18½
Christiania	3 months	18½	18½	18½	18½
Stockholm	3 months	18½	18½	18½	18½

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Nov. 11, 1905.	Nov. 4, 1905.	Oct. 28, 1905.	Nov. 12, 1904.
Specie	£ 36,454,000	£ 38,092,000	£ 39,212,000	£ 45,312,000
Legal tenders	14,377,000	15,016,800	15,379,000	15,269,400
Loans and discounts	208,860,000	211,660,000	208,360,000	225,020,000
Circulation	10,862,400	10,871,800	10,978,000	8,462,800
Net deposits	205,660,000	210,560,000	208,420,000	235,200,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £484,600 against an excess last week of £468,800.

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	4
Three months	3½—4
Four months	3½—4
Six months	3½—4
Three months fine inland bills	4½—5
Four months	4½—5
Six months	4½—5

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½—3¾
" for call loans	3½—4

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Some people wagged their heads this week and expressed doubts whether the nineteen-day account settlement would go through without mischief. There was no special reason why it should not, and certainly a real breakdown is not to be looked for as long as the semblance of solvency can be maintained upon the

various great stock markets now illuminating this twentieth century civilisation. Why should the Yankee market break down merely because day-to-day loans happen to go up to 20 or 25 per cent.? If they went to 50 or 150 per cent., nothing need happen so long as fresh credit can be created *ad libitum*, and, without reference to what it may represent, be treated with the utmost gravity as if it were solid wealth. The banks fell short of their statutory reserve last week by about £500,000, but that is nothing to be alarmed at so long as the banks can continue to treat each other as solvent by accepting specially created certificates of indebtedness emitted by the weaker or more impecunious banks in lieu of cash. At the worst they may certify each other's solvency, when all alike are unable to pay, and go on just as before until the public comes to the rescue by buying. And the railway and other corporations always obligingly come to the market's assistance by creating new securities, finding pretexts therefor in the growing necessities of their businesses, in absorptions, extensions, improvements, and so on. This very week, for example, it is announced that the New York Central Railroad is going to issue \$18,000,000 of new ordinary share capital at par, the actual price of the old stock being about 155. Handsome bonuses of this sort facilitate the placing of new capital, and the game goes merrily on.

It will continue to go on until credit smashes or bursts somewhere, and really unless Russia obliges we cannot at present see where the dreaded explosion or collapse is to occur. Our market is considered all right and able to cope with any disaster which might threaten it. The mere failures which from time to time occur on the Stock Exchange and the increasing multitude of the impoverished throughout the country do not visibly affect the stability of our credit institutions, and even the weakest of them can always amalgamate with the strong when the worst threatens. Therefore we surely have no cause to be alarmed, and directly a pinch threatens at any point we, too, can get a fresh loan or series of loans out, just as the Australian colonies are about to do once more, just as our municipalities do when they outrun discretion and execute improvements which the ground landlords may have ultimately to pay for through extinction of rent, thereby enlarging the available material out of which to distil credit money.

But Russia, what is going to happen in Russia? Ah, we wish we could tell you that. If all that comes to us by post and over the wires from that unhappy empire were true, it would be reasonable to expect default upon the Russian debt within the next six months, to give the revolutionists a fair amount of rope. We cannot, however, believe half what comes to us from Russia; probably the good is neither so wholly good nor the evil so abominable the empire through as we are led to believe it to be. Still, it is in the direction of Russia where the greatest danger now threatens the smooth functioning of stock gambling everywhere. The Government of the Tsar, such as it is, has been compelled to forego the issue of a loan of £50,000,000 or more because of the disturbed state of the country, and without the help of a loan it will soon become impossible for the Russian Treasury to find means to support the market against the selling of timid investors and bold speculators. The Government is compelled to utilise the revenue it may still be able to collect in keeping things sweet for the rank and file of the bureaucracy, with their gruesome following of "hooligans," and the portions of the army still willing to shoot, and probably finds the amount insufficient for this purpose and for the payment of the coupons on the foreign debt as well. Without the help of outside credit, in short, Russia cannot go on maintaining the appearance of dignified solvency and a perfect ability to honour all demands. We are consequently threatened with a real exhibition of the hollowness of things in that quarter, and should it occur we shall have the whole credit system of the world thrown into disorder. Beginning with Paris, every market will feel the shock, and for a time a test of real potency will be applied to the current quotations for public securities. Skilful manipulators

can make these quotations anything they like so long as credit can be generated and inflated to any height commensurate with the growing necessities of players or Treasury, but when the power of generating is broken or curtailed the inevitable consequence is a decline in the inflated quotations to a point which may approximate their intrinsic value. It is a crisis of this kind which stock markets have to dread this winter, and until we see how events shape in Russia, and whether the democracy, encouraged by the Russian example, is not stirred up to make unheard of demands and stipulations all over Europe, we cannot count upon "quiet times," "steady markets," "improving prices," "growing investment demands," "great speculative activity," or any of the usual symptoms and conditions described in such linguistic small change of the market reporter.

Do you expect Russia to default, then? Really, you are indiscreet, and that is not the question. It should rather be: How long will the French and German banks, the great finance firms of Paris, Berlin, Frankfurt, Vienna, London, and New York, continue to supply the credit in virtue of whose provision Russian autocracy has so beautifully played the part of the solvent, if insatiable, borrower?

The Week's Stock Markets.

Russian affairs continue to keep the Stock Exchange in a state of unrest, inducing public and professionals alike to act with a maximum of caution, and at the moment of writing the outlook in that distressed country seems black as ever, despite the piteous appeal of Count Witte to the workmen to return to their labours and endeavour to avert further disorder. The issue of a ukase proclaiming martial law throughout Poland was the signal for a fresh general strike, and this induced a good deal of selling of favourite counters from Berlin. At the same time many in New York took another jump to 19 per cent., and on the first day of the week prices were decidedly wobbly. In some sections, however, a strong resistance was shown to the prevailing pessimism, Home Railways and gilt-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	88½	88½
91½	87½	Do. Account (Dec. 1) ..	88½	88½
91½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	87½	87½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	99½	99½
95½	89	Irish Land (2½) ..	90½	91
101½	96½	Local Loans (3) ..	99	99½
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98	98½
99½	98	Do. Account (Dec. 1) ..	98½	98½
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98½	98½
308	297	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.) ..	293½	294½
109	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stck. red. 1931 ..	104½	104½
99½	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1948 ..	96	96½
85½	80½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	80½	80½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65½	65½

edged stocks generally showing up pretty well, and when the sales from the Continent ceased and rates in Wall Street assumed a more normal level there was a disposition to put a brighter complexion on things. Help came from the smooth process of the settlement, promised assistance from Secretary Shaw to Wall Street, a more comfortable looking Bank of England return and a story that the next £1,000,000 of gold to be shipped from India would not be earmarked, but would go to swell the Bank reserve. Some even said that the £1,000,000 now on the way would be available for market purposes, and thus stimulated markets promised to finish up fairly well, but near the end a fresh break in Russians—bringing the 4 per cent. almost to the lowest point touched during the war—upset things again, and the close was weak and nervous with business reduced to the smallest possible proportions. It seems that a rumour got afloat that French banks—whether in St. Petersburg or Paris was not very clear—had refused to make further advances on Russian bonds, and a panic was said to have broken out on the St. Petersburg bourse. The story is highly improbable, because such action would have the worst possible results, but fright is easily created just now,

and prices quickly moved down. The settlement of the 19-day account, which was commenced in the mining departments on the previous Friday, was continued on Monday, and, as anticipated, fortnightly loans again cost 4½ per cent. as a minimum with 5 per cent. very frequently paid. The account proved to be a very big one both for investment business and speculative transactions, entailing an enormous amount of detail work, but everything was arranged comfortably enough with not even a suspicion of difficulty. Consols never attracted a very brisk business, and lost an early fractional rise before the close, but other British Funds, such as Annuities, Irish Land stock, War Loan, Exchequer bonds, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per cent. and India Sterling issues all had a tendency to go up. Bank of England stock recovered 1, while Bank of Ireland stock was exceptionally 2 lower. Prices were also disposed to harden in the Home County and Corporation list, where about 20 improvements of ½ to 2 were noticeable, but Colonial stocks were inert and rarely changed.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	99½	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102½	102½
102½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100½	100½
106½	100½	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	100½	100½
104½	98½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101	101
93½	85	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	92	92
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89½	89½
92½	85	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89½	89½
104½	99½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres ..	100	100
92½	82½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	87	87
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail ..	98½	98½
106	101½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104	104
91½	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees ..	88	88½
102½	92½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101½	102
97	87	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	96	96
98½	89	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	98	99
96½	88	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	94	94
102½	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101½	101½
98½	91½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	95	95
107	100½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106½	106½
106½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103	103
102½	92½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99½	99½
106½	93½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104½	105
59½	54	Costa Rica A ..	54	53
51½	44	Do. B ..	44	43
46½	43	Colombian External ..	43½	43
102½	104	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106	105½
107	104½	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	104½	104½
103½	95½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	101	101½
106½	102½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
94½	88½	German 3 p.c. ..	87½	87½
54½	47	Greek, 1884 ..	53	52½
55½	48½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53½	53
44	38½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41½	41½
54½	47	Do. Funding ..	52	52
100½	96½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96	96
106	102½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104½	104½
103	88½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	103	103½
103½	88½	Do. 1901-2 ..	100½	101
91½	76½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	92	93½
106½	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102	102½
106½	102½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103½	103½
70½	64½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	69½	69½
95½	86	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	90½	89½
83½	76	Servian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
95½	89½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	91½	91½
103	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	101	101
92½	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103	103
74½	63½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	72	72½
99	86½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	94½	94½
51½	42½	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	49½	49½

Although naturally dull in tendency, the Foreign bond market managed to sustain itself pretty well, apart from the weakness in Russian bonds and a violent tumble in the issues of the Peruvian Corporation. The last were subjected to heavy selling from Berlin, apparently on pessimistic forecasts regarding the forthcoming dividend which may be announced any day. Estimates vary from 1 per cent. to 2, with 1½ per cent. considered the most likely rate, and as this alone hardly justified the big prices lately ruling, "bulls" decided to let go. Nothing of a very cheering character is looked for in the report regarding the negotiations with the Peruvian Government, especially if it be true that a German bank has advanced it a loan of £600,000. Other South American securities were a little dull, although very rarely changed, and Cedulas had a jump when it was found that the Government had decided to meet the Provincial Bank claims in full, but some Central American issues like Costa Ricas, Colombians, Guatemalans, and Honduras were lower. Cubans were also a little dull,

as were leading Continental issues, such as Greeks, Portuguese, Turkish and Spanish, but Japanese continue well supported in view of the forthcoming conversion loan, and Chinese kept steady. Carry-over charges were much the same as at the previous settlement, with a rather lighter rate prevailing here and there. All leading South Americans, along with Chinese, were continued at 4 to 6 per cent., with 5 to 7 per cent. paid on Peruvian ordinary and preference, and on the Central American things. Japanese 4 per cent. were a little scarce, and could be borrowed on at 1 to 3 per cent., but on the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first series the rate was 3 to 5 per cent., and on the other issues 4 to 6 per cent. Italians were also in small supply, along with Russians, the carry-over charges being no more than 1 to 3 per cent., while Turkish were done as low as "even" to 2 per cent., but 4 to 6 per cent. was paid on Portuguese and 4 to 5 per cent. on Spanish. Making-up prices were nearly all lower, the only notable exceptions being Chinese Shanghai Nanking Railway loan 1 better, and Japanese issues $\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ higher as a rule. On the other hand, Argentines showed losses of $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$. Brazilians dropped $\frac{3}{8}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ dividend deductions included; Chinese Silver loan fell 3, the half-yearly interest being taken off. Egyptian Unified was down 2 for the same reason, Costa Ricas fell $1\frac{1}{2}$, Greeks $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, Guatemala 1, Honduras $\frac{3}{4}$, Russians 3 to 7, Peruvian ordinary 2, the preference $3\frac{1}{2}$ and the mortgage bonds 1.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	139	140
165	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157	157
131 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	127	128
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	118	118 $\frac{1}{2}$
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (3 p.c.) ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	93	93
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
17 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	44	45
71	51	Furness (3 p.c.) ..	67	67
39 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	39	39
19	15	Do. Def. ..	19	19
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
45	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1) ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	45
145 $\frac{1}{2}$	139 $\frac{1}{2}$	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	144	144
56 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	110	110 $\frac{1}{2}$
112 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	38	38
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	69	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
71	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	72	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
73 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78	78
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	46	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Eastern (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	146 $\frac{1}{2}$
116 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	North-Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	160	161
161	147	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	94	94
96	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	134	133
135	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	163 $\frac{1}{2}$	163 $\frac{1}{2}$
171	156	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106	107
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	59	59 $\frac{1}{2}$
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$			

It was announced on Saturday morning that the Great Central, and not the Great Northern, had acquired the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway, and the news at first had the effect of sending Great Northern deferred down to 44. Very little stock, however, came out, and as the prospects of the line are considered favourable, the weakness proved only temporary and the early loss was more than wiped out. Great Central issues hardened at first, but went back when the terms of the arrangement were published, because these were regarded as not altogether fair to the Lancashire, Derbyshire shareholders, and the market doubted whether they would be accepted without a strong protest. In other directions there seemed to be evidence of good public support, and quotations improved in vigorous fashion for a time; but the nervousness regarding the developments in Russia induced a good deal of profit-taking, and, so far from the best figures being held to the end, the market finished flat. South-Eastern preferred and deferred were exceptionally heavy throughout, and in spite of a little rally brought about by Continental buying, were lower at the end, while Chatham eased off a trifle in sympathy. Hull and Barnsley and Metropolitan also closed lower. Furness, after a sharp

set-back recovered on a revival of the amalgamation rumours. Contangos were, if anything, a shade easier on Monday, the average rate being round about 6 per cent. On Brighton deferred the charge was sometimes 5 per cent. or less, but on North-Western, Great Western, and Metropolitan it rose to 7-8 per cent., and on Dover "A" it touched 9 per cent. Throughout the whole of the nineteen-day account this market was firm and fairly active, and making-up prices in most instances consequently show good improvements. Great Northern issues were largely helped by the reports of a deal between that company and the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Company, and finished from 2 to 4 higher; Great Western rose $4\frac{1}{2}$, North-Western 3, Midland deferred $2\frac{1}{2}$, and North-Eastern $2\frac{1}{2}$. Lancashire and Yorkshire was $3\frac{1}{2}$ up, South-Western ordinary and deferred put on 2 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Brighton ordinary and deferred 1 and 3. Caledonian ordinary and deferred advanced $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{3}{8}$, and North British stocks were fractionally better in spite of the selling from Glasgow which took place early in the account, and the only declines of any importance were in Furness, which fell $4\frac{1}{2}$ on the lack of confirmation of the sale of the line, and South-Eastern issues, which dropped $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	89	86 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106	106
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
102	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	100	100
61 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
193 $\frac{1}{2}$	173 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	181	181 $\frac{1}{2}$
38	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	90	90
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie Shares ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
87 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	74	74
187	156	Illinois Central (7) ..	181	181 $\frac{1}{2}$
161 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	154
39 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
169 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	New York Central (5) ..	153	155 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	95	95
65 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ontario Shares (3) ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
76 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (6) ..	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
71 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reading Shares (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	Do. 1st Prefd. (4) ..	48	48
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Prefd. (4) ..	51	51
74	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
39 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	102	102
142 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (4) ..	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	99	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Wabash ..	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	22
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. ..	41	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Debs. ..	76	79
182 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	177	176 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
112	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	110 $\frac{1}{2}$
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
115 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	112
107	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
62 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Yankee market seemed dazed by the return of the New York Associated Banks showing that the reserve had fallen below the legal minimum, and although it opened to all appearances steady that simply indicated that dealers here were waiting to see what Wall Street would do. When New York opened there was a rush to sell, as it was recognised that the banks would be forced to take drastic measures to bring their resources into good shape again. The liquidation was hastened by the advance in call loan rates to 20 and even 25 per cent., and prices tumbled rapidly in all directions with Union Pacific leading the way. Wall Street, however, made a desperate effort to stem the tide and reports were spread about that gold was to be engaged in London within 24 hours. Later came a story that Mr. Shaw, in spite of his expressed refusal to help the gamblers out of their trouble, would come to the relief of the market in an indirect way by depositing \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000 of Government Funds with Western banks. No confirmation of the story was forthcoming, but it served its purpose, especially as it was supplemented by the announcement that \$1,000,000 in gold had been received from Montreal, and that bankers in Boston, Philadelphia, and other cities had also been attracted to New York by the high rates ruling. Money soon eased off to 10 per cent.

and less, and operators began not only to talk of there being no necessity for help from the Treasury, but to act as if they believed it. The Continent ostensibly came in to buy on Thursday, and New York followed on the same tack, selecting Missouri as the chief favourite, and then giving a little attention to Norfolk, Ontario, Reading, and Union Pacific. Erie, too, were taken in hand, and the old story was revived of an early redemption of the second preferred. Notwithstanding the dear money troubles which afflicted Wall Street throughout the whole of the past account, Reading common were lifted by as much as \$8, and Missouri advanced 2. Apart from these, however, and a trifling rise in Denver common, the movements in the making-up list were adverse, and in some cases seriously so. Milwaukee, for one, were $6\frac{1}{2}$ down, Illinois Central, Louisville, and Union Pacific all fell $4\frac{1}{2}$, and Chesapeake, New York Central, and Southern Pacific 4. Atchison ordinary dropped $3\frac{1}{2}$, Southern common 3, Baltimore and Norfolk common $2\frac{1}{2}$, and losses of $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ were recorded in Erie common, Pennsylvania, and Atchison preference. The account carried here on New York account is still huge, but money was comparatively easy at 6 per cent. as a maximum, while some borrowers were able to arrange their loans at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week
222 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	Antofagasta (10)	217 $\frac{1}{2}$	217 $\frac{1}{2}$
321	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (15)	310	310
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	125xd	126
131	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prfd. (5)	126xd	126
84 $\frac{1}{2}$	77	Bahia Blanca Prfd.	82	82
148 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	138 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	137 $\frac{1}{2}$
133 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	Do. Prefce (5)	129xd	128
141	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	134	130xd
118 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	114	114
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108	106xd
115	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	110	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
170 $\frac{1}{2}$	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	164
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	107
142 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	137 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	137
93	79	Central Uruguay (3)	87xd	87
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	108	108
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
76 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	72	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica (1)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuban Central	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7xd
12 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	105	105
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	East Argentine (4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	93	94
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6	6
84 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina (3)	82	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4)	97	97
109	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	110	110
108	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. "B" (6)	105	106
20 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Ord. Stk.	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
221 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
57	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref.	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	54	52
17	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nitrato Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
220	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	217 $\frac{1}{2}$	208xd
223	122	United of Havana Ord. Stock ..	221 $\frac{1}{2}$	220xd

A spurt of about \$1 in Canadian Pacific shares at the end of last week was followed by a relapse of double that amount under the influence of events in Wall Street, and after that they faithfully reflected the mood of the moment in that market, closing with a small loss on balance. Grand Trunk stocks were less affected, but fluctuated in a sluggish manner from day to day and in the end showed very little alteration. On the account, however, the ordinary and second preference were $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lower, and the third preference fell $2\frac{1}{2}$, while Canadian Pacific shares dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$. Carrying over charges ranged from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 per cent. In the Foreign Railway section Argentine issues were inclined to give way during the early part of the week, but Cordoba and Rosario first preference stock was the only one in which the decline assumed anything like importance. The market stiffened a little on the traffic returns, but before the recovery made any real headway it was checked by realisations on advices of injury to crops by frost and rain. Uruguay stocks were also heavy, and Brazilian were at best quiet, but interest in United Railways of Havana ordinary stock continues keen and a further substantial improvement was recorded, while Antofagasta deferred ordinary was marked up 5 on very slender impulses. With the exception of Interoceanic "B" debenture

stock, Mexican things were heavy and Southern ordinary declined 2, but of the old company's stocks the ordinary alone was lower. Russian Railway issues went back along with Government issues, and Grand Russian Nicolai bonds lost as much as 3. Changes on the account in Argentine stocks were mostly downwards, the heaviest losses being $5\frac{1}{2}$ in Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary and 5 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in Buenos Ayres Great Southern ordinary and preference. Argentine Great Western ordinary and preference fell $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2, North-Eastern preference stock and debentures 1 each, and Entre Rios ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$. Argentine Great Western second debentures, however, improved $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Buenos Ayres and Rosario, Rosario debenture stock, together with Buenos Ayres Western debentures, were 1 higher, while Cordova and North-Western debentures advanced $1\frac{1}{2}$. In Brazilian issues San Paulo ordinary stock was 8 up, and Leopoldina ordinary and

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	Allsopp Ordinary	24	24
71	40	City of London Ord.	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540	540
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23	23
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
35	15	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	21	21
105	99	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	101	101
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. Stk. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	65	64
61 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aerated Bread (32 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6xd
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	Brunner Mond (35)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Callender's Cable Ord. (12 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Calico Printers Ordinary (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
502 $\frac{1}{2}$	483 $\frac{1}{2}$	Coats Ordinary (20)	500	500
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1719	1719	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll) ..	1719	1719
233	233	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Henley's Telegraph (15)	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
111	106	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	107	107
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Debenture (4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian Petroleum (5)	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Savoy Hotel (5)	7	7
103	103	Sweetmeat Automatic	103	103xd
1719	1719	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
105	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	104	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
89	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	79	79
51	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hudson's Bay Co. (58-1)	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
98	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Debentures (6)	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Discount (10)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Discount (11)	12	12
134 $\frac{1}{2}$	126 $\frac{1}{2}$	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	100	101
35 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	130	131
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
15	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
246 $\frac{1}{2}$	214 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	246 $\frac{1}{2}$	246 $\frac{1}{2}$
46	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	United States Steel Ordinary ..	46	46
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	Do. Preference (7)	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers Ordinary (12 $\frac{1}{2}$)	108	109
17 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	Cunard Steam	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Mail	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	107	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. Ord.	10	10
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
129	110	Eastern Extension (7)	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	124 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	10	10
		Western Telegraph (7)	10	10
		British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	10	10
		Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	10	10
		London General Omnibus (8) ..	10	10
		London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	10	10

debenture stocks rose $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$, while amongst Uruguayan things gains of $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 in Midland Uruguay ordinary stock and debentures were accompanied by a decline of $3\frac{1}{2}$ in Central Uruguay. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock finished $14\frac{1}{2}$ higher, carrying the 5 per cent. debenture stock up $1\frac{1}{2}$. Mexican Railways were heavy throughout, the ordinary of the old company receding $1\frac{1}{2}$ and the two preferences $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$, Mexican Southern ordinary and second debenture stocks falling $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2, and Inter-oceanic "B" debenture stock went back 7 on the

disappointment with regard to the dividend. Money on South American Railways cost 6 per cent. as a rule, but occasionally the charge rose to $6\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 per cent.

Miscellaneous markets were again fairly active, and presented a few interesting features. Weakness in London General Omnibus stock was specially noteworthy, the price going down several pounds in the course of the week, due apparently to the success which is attending the operations of rival motor-'bus companies. The London Motor Omnibus Company, for example, has just declared a dividend at 10 per cent. per annum, and its £1 shares have steadily advanced to $2\frac{1}{2}$, the capital at present being very modest. Road Car shares were also depressed, and unless these older companies make haste to meet the growing competition they will find their business badly cut into. Daimler Motor shares had a further rise. Anglo-American Telegraph deferred stock was briskly gambled in causing a sharp advance which spread to the other issues of the company, and Eastern Telegraph ordinary and National Telephone preferred and deferred were all higher. Hudson's Bays kept steady, but Pekin Syndicates and allied shares were knocked down heavily by weak "bull" realisations. Docks were weak, including Millwall preference, Surrey Commercial ordinary and London deferred. P. and O. deferred stock likewise gave way, but Gas Light stock was better, and in the Brewery division Allsopps had a big jump on a statement that negotiations were going on for an amalgamation with Ind. Coopes. The Iron and Steel list was good, also Textile things, but John Barkers went back a trifle on the proposed new issue of capital. Nitrate shares met with some inquiry, Apollinaris ordinary gained a few shillings, and Sweetmeats further rallied despite a decrease of £754 in the October takings. Aerated Breads were heavy in the Catering division, but Lyons showed steadiness on the declaration of an interim dividend at 25 per cent. per annum, and B.T.T. picked up a fraction, lost immediately after Monday's meeting. Mazawattee Tea shares displayed weakness, and Russian Oil shares were usually unchanged. Harmsworth's Amalgamated Press ordinary shares went up almost £1 on talk of a 40 per cent. dividend for the past year. Continuation charges were much the same as before allowing for the shorter account, 5 to 7 per cent. covering most things with 6 to 8 per cent. paid on Pekin Syndicates and other Chinese Land and Exploration shares. Allsopps were carried over "even." Aerated Bread shares made up $\frac{3}{16}$ better, as did California Oilfields, and there was a rise of \$4 in Eastman Kodak common shares. Westminster Electric Supply ordinary were up $\frac{5}{8}$, Allsopp ordinary and preferred $4\frac{1}{2}$ and the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stock 1, Railway Investment deferred $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Direct United States Cable 1. Against these improvements Charing Cross and City of London Electric ordinary fell $\frac{5}{8}$, Coats ordinary $\frac{7}{16}$ and the preferred $2\frac{1}{2}$, Eastman's $\frac{3}{16}$, Wm. Griffiths preference $\frac{5}{8}$, Hope Bros. preference $\frac{5}{16}$, Lagunas Syndicate $\frac{3}{8}$, Watney, Combe first preference and debenture stock $2\frac{1}{2}$, Pekin Syndicate ordinary and deferred 2 and Commercial Union Assurance 1.

Russian affairs continue to dominate stock exchanges everywhere. Markets kept firm here to-day, taken altogether, but business is quite paralysed and seems likely to remain so until something happens to generate speculative energy in one direction or another. The French bought back some of their Russian bonds to-day—that is to say, operators for the fall bought back, but there was no elasticity in the market, and the story put round to account for this buying, to the effect that the French banks have guaranteed the next due Russian coupons only raised a smile. What have these banks been doing this long while except "guarantee" the payment of Russian debt coupons? As a matter of fact the French small holder is struggling to get out of his Russian investments. He will not succeed, and therein perhaps lies the salvation of our market.

Kaffir shares were steadier to-night, without reason assigned. It is said to-night that the South-Western Railway is buying up the Waterloo and City and the Axminster and Lyme Regis lines. Waterloo and City stock accordingly has risen $6\frac{1}{2}$ and Axminster $4\frac{1}{2}$ on the report.

Notes on Books.

"The Channel Ferry." *The Advantages of a Train Ferry between England and France.* Compiled by Ernest de Rodakowski. (London: Harrison and Sons. Price 10s. 6d.)

We have been quite fascinated by this book, and it has made us a convert to the Channel Train Ferry method of uniting England to the Continent. Mr. Ernest de Rodakowski has done his work thoroughly, and wherever one dips into this volume one finds it full of carefully accumulated and digested information, not only regarding existing train ferries, of which there are a far greater number than we had any previous idea, but about the character, magnitude, and revenue of the existing traffic between this country and the Continent. Naturally most attention is given to the Dover-Calais and Folkestone-Boulogne section of this traffic, but the whole field is reviewed, and the estimates of train ferry profits, founded upon the facts collected and analysed, appear to us to be moderate. At present, as everyone roughly knows, the Dover-Calais route, by reason of the short sea passage, enjoys the lion's share of all the passenger traffic not only between England and France, but between England and the whole of Southern Europe. Although this is so, it is hardly possible to regard this traffic as fully developed, or as receiving fair treatment at the hands of the monopoly railway company in whose hands it is. Passengers are heavily fined by it for travelling by the shortest sea route, and nothing is more suggestive than the array of different fares levied by the various companies according to the length of the sea journey. The instructive table will be found on page 76 of this volume, and it at once suggests estimates of ferry profits, the product of enlightened treatment, quite beyond anything Mr. de Rodakowski has ventured upon. Even on his figures, however, there seems no reason whatever to doubt that a channel train ferry, if adequately equipped with a sufficient number of boats and landing appliances at either end, would prove a remunerative enterprise. We hope, therefore, that the channel ferry Bill laid before Parliament last session will again be brought forward and promptly passed into law. Meanwhile, the people interested in anything relating to the creation of means of closer intercourse between this country and the Continent cannot do better than get this volume and study it.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Neither the publication of the Gold Fields report nor that of our most sagacious Chartered directors has sufficed to stimulate the South African market into activity. On the contrary, business has been quieter than ever and prices have continued to dwindle. For a week or so prior to the issue of the above documents the subsidised Press announced in large-type articles that they would be highly satisfactory; especially that the Chartered report would show equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. These have been so misleading that it is no wonder they have further disgusted the public, for the statements are the reverse of actual facts. Again, the Chartered board boast, in the most flamboyant language, of the wonderful and solid progress of the Rhodesian mining industry, in defiance of the fact that the October output was the lowest since last May and shows a decrease of no less than 2,400 ozs. compared with September, which was a shorter month. Is this progress? And do we ever hear of a Rhodesian company joining the dividend-payers? On the contrary, despite the alleged progress, are not the majority of them accumulating losses, reconstructing, amalgamating, reducing their capitals, and resorting to all kinds of dodges to get rid of heavy deficits? Spread over the scores of Rhodesian companies, the monthly output of 33,000 ozs. or 34,000 ozs., most of which is the result of tributary operations, and how much profit would go to each company? Is there any profit at all?

To get one pound's worth of gold may entail the outlay and loss of two or three pounds. And shareholders are grievously aware of this fact, and cannot, therefore, be deluded by Chartered clap-net.

In spite of the report, therefore, and all its falsehoods, the Rhodesian market has been very sick, Chartered shares and the rest tumbling daily. Though no trouble came to light on pay-day, it is a matter of general knowledge that many speculators are in serious difficulties and have had to be helped considerably. Bankets have fallen heavily on the cable which the insiders thought would surely put them up. It states that the reef has been struck in the third level; that the appearance is quite satisfactory; that the mining development is good, but that the value from pannings is only 10 dwts.

Paris has again been a seller of Kaffirs, and holders on this side are also getting rid of their stuff in despair of better opportunities coming. And they used to despise our advice!

In the West Australian section, Great Fingalls were at first very strong on the cable reporting good values at the north end of the bottom of the 12th level, but they went back later in the week, probably on profit-taking. Other shares in this group have remained mostly firm. In the American department, El Oros and Esperanzas have been weak; Stratton's have been offered on the report, chiefly because statements as to the probable life of the mine are vague and because future profits may decline. Egyptians and West Africans have again moved against holders, Rio Tintos, Mount Lyells and Capes have hardened amongst coppers, for the French investor is sweet on this class of share.

GLYNN'S LYDENBURG.—In the financial year to July 31 this mining company crushed a total of 23,584 tons, whilst the cyanide plant treated 16,141 tons of sands, and 7,260 tons of current slimes and 2,667 tons of stored slimes. The bullion produced from these sources had a value of £63,271, equal to nearly 53s. 8d. per ton. Working costs amounted to £23,006, averaging 18s. 10d. per ton, a creditable figure, so the nett profit was £46,667, equivalent to 34s. 9d. per ton, a much higher figure than the majority of outcrop mines can show. Only £1,810 is allowed for depreciation, an inadequate sum. Other revenue consisted of £5,644 from old slimes, £2,437 from claims, £320 from interest and £100 from other sources, and after providing for the profits tax and head office expenses £40,655 is taken to the appropriation account, to which is added £9,018 from 1904. Two dividends were declared, of 10 per cent. and 15 per cent. each, 25 per cent. in all, which leaves £7,835 to take to the next accounts. There is no criticism to offer on the balance-sheet, which is tolerably good. According to the report of the manager, prospects look promising. He anticipates that an appreciable body of payable ore will be opened up in the middle section of South Hill. "On the lower or westerly end of South Hill the lode," he says, "indicates a poor zone, but with the great width of the spur at the western end the possibilities of that part cannot, in view of general workings in the immediate vicinity, on Mill Hill, be taken as a final estimate of the values in that section. There is every chance of locating a chute of payable ore when the section has been further exploited by means of drives and cross-drives. Ore reserves are estimated at 81,100 tons developed and in sight against 77,500 tons on July 31, 1904.

ESTATE, FINANCE AND MINES CORPORATION.—What we have long foreseen has come to pass, and the directors have now asked their shareholders boldly and without weeping to face the position. They give the unhappy ones the choice of wiping out heavy losses by reducing the capital, or reconstruction. At the end of 1904 the accumulated deficit amounted to £110,567. It was hoped, say the directors, that other depreciations were temporary, but they have convinced themselves that the losses are permanent. The proposal is to cut down the issued capital from £675,469 in £1 shares to £422,168 2s. 6d., divided into 675,469 shares of 12s. 6d. each, so £253,301 disappears slap-bang. "Ah, but then," say the directors, with an affable smile, "it will put the company in a sound financial position." How cheerful this to those who have lost their money! The alternative plan is to sell the undertaking to a new company with a capital of £500,000 for £405,281 shares of £1 each, at the rate of six shares for ten. The better scheme is probably the reduction one, and our principal doubt is that the cutting down will hardly be drastic enough if the directors hope to pay respectable dividends in the future.

RHODESIA CONSOLIDATED.—This company is the result of an amalgamation in July, 1903, of five unsuccessful Rhodesian companies—viz., Colenbrander's Matabeleland, Consolidated Belingwe, Holton Consolidated, Nelly and Pioneer Reefs, and Sabi (Rhodesia). The directors have just plucked up courage to issue a report for a period of seventeen months and bring it no nearer to the present date than December 31, 1904. This is not the surest way to restore public confidence in Rhodesian mining. There is no evidence in the report supporting the assertion of the Chartered directors that the industry is making rapid and solid progress, but much to the contrary. For instance, out of the 4,008 claims acquired from the old companies no less than 2,379 have been abandoned, which is no striking testimony to the richness of the country. The Nelly and Sabi Mines have, it is declared, been brought to the producing stage, "and though the result obtained is not so thoroughly satisfactory as was originally anticipated, they are both now earning considerable profits." On the other hand, work has been discontinued on a couple of properties in which the company acquired an interest—on the Kameel owing to the disappointing results obtained, and on the Falcon because the consulting engineer considered that sufficient work had been done to justify its flotation as an independent concern. The company possesses a landed interest

nearly 700,000 acres in area, and the directors are experimenting with crop growing. Why not try and grow gold? Tobacco is also to be cultivated, so we may buy it cheaply before the millennium comes. As agents and managers, the concern earned £1,291 in the period under review and received £1,495 from rents. What it will get from gold remains to be seen, but shareholders mustn't become impatient.

STRATTON'S INDEPENDENCE.—A good year's work was done by this company in the financial period to June 30. The revenue account shows the sales of ore to have realised £418,957, of which £10,811 was on the company's own account and the balance on lessees' account, the total output of shipping ore having amounted to 49,914 tons. From the lessees' account of £408,146 the charge of freight and treatment is deducted, £90,147, leaving a nett value of £317,998, of which £213,431 was paid to the lessees as their proportion, the difference of £104,567 being the total of the royalties retained by the company, nearly one-third. Adding to this the nett value of the sales of ore on the company's account, £8,864, and the profit on stores sold to the lessees £9,045, bank interest £686, and sundry rents £209, and deducting stock of ore on hand at June 30, 1904, together with mining and general expenses, the balance remaining to the credit of the revenue account is £97,284. After providing out of this the London expenditure the nett profit for the year was £94,246. Three dividends of 6d. per share were paid and there have been two similar payments since the closing of the accounts, a good balance being carried forward. A creditable balance-sheet is issued, displaying an excellent financial position. Some weeks ago we announced that the directors intend to adopt the Cassel process for treating the company's dump ore, but it is too early yet to say if it will be a success.

ATTASI MINES.—During the greater part of the year ending May 31 development of the ore bodies was suspended, the directors deeming it prudent not to incur further outlay on development until the Government had agreed to give the company the right to build a light railway to the property. In February last this privilege was granted the company. Payable ore, the report says, has been exposed to the 400 ft. level. Nett administrative expenditure in West Africa amounted to £8,505 and in London to £20,184, increasing the total to date to £66,999. Cash was £2,319 against creditors for £4,430, and more funds are needed. In order to get them, the directors propose to form a new company by the amalgamation of the Attasi Mines with the Attasi and Bokitsi Development Company and the Attasi Goldfields. The new concern is to have a capital of £300,000 in 600,000 10s. shares, which compares with an aggregate issued capital of £500,000 in the three companies, but each company is a large holder of shares in the others. Rights are accordingly surrendered by them, with the result that there will eventually be available for distribution among the shareholders 128 fully-paid 10s. shares in the new company for each 100 shares of the Attasi Mines.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

During the twelve months ended June 30 the gross revenue of this progressive system came to \$4,190,212 or an improvement of \$947,509 compared with the previous year, to which passengers contributed \$147,128, freight \$649,147, mails \$7,014, express \$6,482 and miscellaneous \$137,738. That points to a very even development in all kinds of traffic, and the advance in expenditure of \$523,957 to \$2,644,729 is neither too small nor too large. On maintenance of way and structures the outlay went up \$80,331, maintenance of equipment cost \$114,372 more, and conducting transportation or traffic expenses increased by \$340,367 to \$1,515,299. General expenses showed a decline of rather over \$11,000, and the proportion of expenditure to gross receipts works out at 63.12 per cent. compared with 65.40 per cent. Nett earnings of \$1,545,482 are larger by \$423,552, and after meeting fixed charges of \$1,128,779 there is a surplus of \$416,703, so that the bonded debt is pretty well secured. During the year 4 per cent. consolidated debenture stock to the amount of £600,000 was sold, and the proceeds applied to the general purposes of the railway, and we note that the directors have taken steps to consolidate the various bond issues secured on separate sections of the railway by securing the necessary legislation authorising the issue of a new 4 per cent. consolidated debenture bond, guaranteed both as to principal and interest by the Province of Manitoba. Provision is made for the exchange of bonds issued in respect of existing mileage for bonds of the consolidated issue at par, and also for the guarantee of principal and interest of further issues of bonds at the rate of \$10,000 per mile in respect to additional construction which the Legislature of Manitoba may approve. Already a substantial amount of bonds has been exchanged, and other holders are likely to follow the example set as their bonds, instead of being secured on a portion of the line only, will be charged on the whole of the company's system within the Province of Manitoba. Prospects on the whole seem encouraging, as the harvest lately gathered promises to be the largest in the history of Western Canada, and the railway is so situated that it will enjoy a substantial share in the movement of the grain to the Lake Port. Moreover, a careful inspection of the country adjacent to the lines referred to has recently been made under the instructions of the directors, and the report re-

ceived not only sustains previous statements in respect to the high quality and extent of land from which the railway will draw profitable traffic when settled upon, but confirms the information that the number of settlers already located on lands tributary to the lines is very large and is increasing daily.

WABASH RAILROAD COMPANY.

The number of passengers carried during the year ended June 30 increased by 431,985 to 6,615,459, but the distances travelled seem to have been much longer and the earnings from this source rose by no less than \$1,872,303 to \$8,917,829. Freight earnings, on the other hand, showed a decrease of \$414,471, despite heavier train loads and 568,441 tons more carried, and with small improvements in receipts from mail, express, &c., the gross revenue was \$1,672,973 up at \$2,469,600. Expenses, however, increased by \$2,819,936 to \$20,503,444, or 83.02 per cent. of the earnings, compared with 76.81 per cent. a year ago, of which maintenance of equipment accounted for \$1,102,147 more and transportation costs for \$1,277,043, and the net income was consequently \$1,146,962 smaller at \$4,103,155. Including miscellaneous receipts, the total income from all sources was \$25,434,940, and after providing for taxes and interest on bonds a deficit of \$123,573 was left, which was increased to \$1,459,372 by the addition of \$656,863 charged for additions to property, and \$678,936 for sinking fund charges on account of new equipment. The "A" debenture bonds consequently receive nothing at all this time, and, of course, the "B" issue is further off a return than ever.

SOUTH BEHAR RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This company's accounts cover the year to June 30, but the figures for the first and second half are stated separately. In the opening portion of the year the gross receipts were Rs. 2,76,223, or an improvement against the corresponding period of Rs. 27,689, and in the final six months Rs. 2,82,332 a decrease of Rs. 11,802, so that for the complete twelve months there was an actual gain of Rs. 15,886. The East Indian Railway Company works the system for 45 per cent. of the gross receipts. Net earnings, including the rebate allowed by this company were £31,931 against £29,659, to which must be added miscellaneous revenue of £162 and £3,344 brought in making £35,436. From that, debenture interest, sundry other charges and an interim dividend of 2 per cent. have been already paid, and the directors now propose a final dividend of a similar amount, making 4 per cent. in all, and leaving £6,447 to be carried forward.

ALGECIRAS (GIBRALTAR) RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This rather forlorn undertaking had a bad experience during the year ended June 30, as although the gross receipts expanded by £486 to £65,149 the working expenses went up £3,446 to £56,596, so that the net earnings were less by nearly £3,000 at £8,552. With £45 for interest the available sum is £8,598, but interest on prior lien bonds takes £7,500, and difference in exchange £1,303, while £625 goes in taxes and depreciation of stores, a total of £9,428, or £830 less than the profit. This makes the deficiency to date £3,563. All the increased gross revenue was in the steamboat business, the railway showing a decline of £57, and in explanation the directors say that the districts served by the line suffered severely from the drought which was general in the south of Spain last spring, the crops in most cases being ruined and business seriously affected. Consequently the traffic fell off to a considerable extent towards the close of the year, and is only now showing signs of revival. In keeping with an order of the Minister of Public Works the company was obliged to line one of the tunnels with masonry, and this, coupled with provision for heavy repairs and depreciation of steamers, accounts for the increase in expenditure.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

The business and profits of this well-conducted institution have made such notable headway during the past half-dozen years, fully reflecting the prosperity of the country in which it operates, that we are tempted to reproduce a few figures just to show what has been achieved. The balance-sheet is made up to August 31, and if we run back to 1899, six years ago, we find that the current deposit and other accounts have steadily risen from £1,390,022 to their present amount of £3,274,364 as disclosed in the accounts for last year just issued. In bills payable the advance has been £1,350,560 to £2,845,260, and on the other side we naturally find a big increase of £2,177,261 to £4,713,364 in the advances and other accounts. Bills receivable have likewise expanded over £1,000,000 to £1,422,533, and the cash in hand has very nearly doubled at £711,413. When, however, we come to the question of profits, the progress is more remarkable still, for whereas in the year to August 31, 1899, the company earned £59,659 nett, in the twelve months recently closed the revenue was £115,108, a gain of £55,449. So besides making excellent contributions to reserve, the directors have been able to raise the dividend from 8 to 12½ per cent., and shareholders are to be heartily congratulated on the position obtained. Last year's nett profit of £115,108 was an increase on that of the previous twelve months of £15,677, the gross profit being up from £146,330 to £168,576 and the expenditure from £46,899 to £53,468. Credit brought in was £2,000 less at £15,000, making the total for disposal £130,108 against £116,430 from which the 12½ per cent. dividend again proposed takes £62,500. Ordinary reserve having been brought level with the paid-up capital, £500,000, by last year's contribution of £50,000 and the premiums received on the new share issue made in July, 1904, the directors now transfer £30,000 to what they call the pension reserve, add £1,608 to the staff provident fund, and increase the carry forward by £21,000 to £36,000. The brilliancy of this

display is heightened by the fact that the dividend of 12½ per cent. required an extra £12,500, thanks to the new issue just mentioned, and there can be no doubt that the position all round is a very solid one. Items in the balance-sheet other than those mentioned in making the six-year comparison are not very important, the liabilities on the bills negotiated of £1,345,589 having a per contra entry, while the investments of £352,423 show an advance of £50,237. The freehold premises in Egypt stand at £25,000, which must be quite a nominal figure, and altogether the balance-sheet adds up to £8,570,322 compared with £6,953,625.

A. DARRACQ AND CO., LIMITED.

Remarkable success continues to attend the operations of this ably conducted undertaking, and in addition to again providing a dividend of 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the directors are able to add the splendid sum of £100,000 to the reserve fund; which only goes to show what a profitable business motor manufacturing can be when turpitude and fraud, which have hitherto weighed so heavily upon the enterprise, are absent, and the management is capable and efficient, as it is with this concern. In the twelve months to September 30 the company reaped a profit of £168,837, or about £50,000 more than in the preceding year, commissions and depreciation provided for, and after allowing £16,173 for general charges, the nett balance is £152,664 compared with £112,313, the administration expenses being naturally larger as business grows. With £35,511 brought in, the disposable credit is £188,175, and after paying the preference dividend and 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, as mentioned, £100,000 goes to reserve against £50,000 placed to new works reserve account a year ago, and £27,174 is carried to next account. Naturally enough large additions have been made to the company's works and plant at Suresnes, the full benefit of which will be felt in the season of 1906, and extensive premises have been acquired at Lambeth in order to provide for the increasing requirements of the business in England. So it is that the land, buildings, fixtures, &c., are now worth £78,853 compared with £33,459, and the machinery, plant, and tools £58,909 against £38,751, practically the entire additions being provided from the special sum reserved a year ago. Liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors come to £91,830 against debtors and bills receivable £41,351, but materials and stock reach £66,115, and cash stands at the magnificent total of £194,007. The goodwill of such a business is undoubtedly worth the £204,152 at which it stands in the balance, but, like sensible men, the directors do not intend to have a lot of deadweight amongst the assets without accumulating reserves against it, and have already in effect brought this figure down by 50 per cent. by this year's allocation to the savings.

"ARGYLL MOTORS," LIMITED.

Although this company is still working with the Hozier works, and therefore at a disadvantage, it managed to earn a nett profit during the year ended September 30 of £32,532, or £11,470 more than in the last year of the old undertaking. Of this £3,976 has been appropriated towards depreciation on these works, £1,921, or 20 per cent., written off preliminary expenses, and £8,878 is paid over to the liquidator of the Hozier Engineering Company in accordance with the terms of the prospectus, leaving £17,756 available. A special preference shareholders' reserve fund is commenced with £3,000, and a general reserve fund with £4,000, and after meeting the preference dividend the ordinary shares receive 10 per cent., and £2,852 is carried forward subject to directors' commissions, amounting to 12½ per cent. of the nett profits, auditors' fee, and balance of income-tax. The new works at Alexandria have cost, so far, £122,174, making the total capital outlay less the depreciation now written off, and including £68,474 for goodwill, £229,815. Trading balances are decidedly adverse, £49,629 being due to sundry creditors against £23,517 to come in, but stock finished and in process is valued at £53,874, and cash and bills amount to £7,968. There is a heritable bond over the Hozier Works for £5,000, and a suspense account of £2,207; but, on the other hand, the company owns investments taken at cost of £5,512. Most of the departments of the new works at Alexandria are expected to be working within the next two months, and the directors appear to be highly optimistic with regard to the prospects of the company.

DRAKE AND GORHAM, LIMITED.

This business of electrical engineers did very fairly in the year to June 30 last, not a brisk period for trade of the class, the nett profit of £10,822 showing an increase of £2,173 against the preceding twelve months. Add £1,722 brought forward and there is £12,544 to dispose of, so the directors pay a dividend of 6 per cent., add £3,000 to reserve, and carry forward £2,044. It may be mentioned that the gross profit was £28,734 raised to £29,145 by interest and transfer fees, the nett income being arrived at after providing all expenses, depreciation of furniture and patents, directors' fees, bad debts, income-tax, &c. Reserve will now be £12,000, and the directors will no doubt steadily build up this fund, as the principal asset is the goodwill, patents, and designs standing at £74,667. Less than £20,000 is owing to sundry creditors against which debtors and bills receivable alone reach £43,153. Investments, no details given, come to £14,017. Cash is £6,280, and stocks, furniture, fixtures, plant, and tools are valued at £12,128. Work in progress, less the amount reserved on account, appears at £14,017, and the directors tell us that the orders on hand are greater than at the corresponding period of last year.

LIVERPOOL WAREHOUSING CO., LIMITED.

Without comment of any kind concerning the course of business during the year, the directors of this undertaking lay a much better report and statement of accounts for the twelve months to September 30 before their shareholders. It is to be assumed, however, that the flourishing condition of the cotton industry led to a greater use of the company's premises, notwithstanding that during the season five warehouses were seriously damaged by fire. Of these four have since been rebuilt and re-occupied, the loss being fully covered by insurance. Storage rents, profits on portage, cartage and other receipts reached £105,466 or over £25,000 in excess of the preceding year, and as this was earned with an increase in expenditure of £1,322 only at £58,810, the nett balance jumps from £22,853 to £46,655. With £4,600 brought in, the total for disposal is £51,255, and after providing debenture and mortgage interest, manager's and secretary's salaries, directors' fees, &c., the sum still for disposal is £32,362. So the directors provide a dividend of 8 per cent. on the 5½ per cent. preference shares, catching up the arrears from October 17, 1900, to March 31, 1902, allowing £525 for leasehold redemption, £2,000 for depreciation on machinery, plant, &c., and carrying forward £5,137. A sum of £12,618 added during the year brings the property and goodwill account well over £1,000,000, against which the general reserve reaches £4,605, and the fire insurance reserve £8,545. Comment is needless. On the other side there are certain investments of £29,375 for fire insurance account and £21,945 for leases renewal, but these really represent capital and are not real revenue accumulations. After providing for depreciation the machinery, plant, horses, wagons, &c., will be valued at £31,524, not an excessive figure perhaps, and we note debtors moderately in advance of creditors, but although £15,100 has been raised on mortgage, cash in bank and in hand is not very startling at £3,195.

LAGUNAS SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

Shareholders of this important enterprise should derive a good deal of pleasure from a perusal of the annual report made up to June 30 last, because it marks a check to the heavy and disturbing set back in profits experienced during the preceding two years. From the £144,407 earned in 1901-2, the company's revenue was down to £98,999 by the twelve months ended June, 1904, and any further shrinkage could not have been regarded as otherwise than alarming. Happily, however, there is now a recovery to £115,468, and the outlook can again be contemplated without serious misgiving. After providing for debenture interest, premium on drawn bonds, income-tax, London expenses, and other charges, and once more carrying £3,000 to reserve, the nett balance is £98,765, which the smaller sum brought forward increases to £101,865. From that a further £32,000 is set aside, being £15,000 for debenture redemption and £17,000 towards purchase of new grounds, while £33,000 has already been absorbed in an interim dividend of 3 per cent., leaving £36,865. So the directors bring the total distribution for the year up to 6 per cent., being 1 per cent. more than last year, but still 2 per cent. less than in 1902-3 and 4 per cent. smaller than in 1901-2, and carry forward the moderately larger sum of £3,865. Including the latest sum applied, the debenture debt has now been brought down by £135,000, leaving it at £15,000 only, and a similar sum written off the works and properties, which now stand at £1,110,460, taking in the cost of the new grounds. In addition the reserve fund reaches £55,000, but all told we doubt if the sums written off each year are sufficient to provide for depreciation and exhaustion of grounds. Floating liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors amount to £81,914, against which there are bills receivable £63,815, sundry debtors £20,143, stocks, stores, and nitrate sold but not delivered £82,729, and cash £10,386, giving a very fair margin of free resources.

SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

Shareholders of this rapidly recovering enterprise will contemplate the half-yearly report to June 30 with a good deal of satisfaction, but also with a measure of disappointment. Business continues to pick up in gratifying fashion, but the directors are unable to carry out the policy enunciated in the last report of applying revenue partly to dividend purposes and partly to liquidating the balance of drought losses. Counsel has advised that the law is too uncertain to permit of dividend payments while deficiencies incurred in previous years remain unprovided for, and the directors are reluctantly obliged to set aside the entire nett income against the debit brought into the accounts. Profits in Australia and London were £51,624 compared with £24,606 in the previous half-year, and £52,907 in the corresponding period of 1904. Administration and other small charges having been met, the credit remaining is £45,786 reduced to £39,389 by the payment of debenture interest, and this sum is written off the deficiency existing six months ago, bringing it down to £59,443. Should the seasons in Australia remain fairly good the directors consider this debit should be covered by the profits earned in the current year, and the way will be opened for the resumption of dividends. Even then the company will have a stiff uphill task before it, because already the arrears of preference dividend run up to £160,000, and must, we fear, be somewhat increased before the business of overtaking them can be begun. Moreover, we dare not forget that although, on the whole, the pastoral property and loans are said to be supported by actual values, on four of the stations there is a deficiency of £56,773. Altogether the freehold and leasehold property is valued at £571,651 and the pastoral property at £641,821, other important assets being loans on land, crops, &c., £42,447, loans secured on pastoral properties £18,653, "other" securities £14,359, debtors and bills payable £26,870, and cash £57,273.

Floating liabilities being quite small at £6,550, this position gives the company command of a good supply of free resources which, if judiciously used, as we believe they have been in the past, should be of material benefit in helping the recovery. Last six months the season, take it altogether, was a favourable one on most of the stations. Some unduly dry weather was experienced in portions of Queensland and New South Wales which interfered with work at three stations, but on the others food and water have been plentiful, and the natural increase satisfactory. From June 30, 1904, to the same date of the current year the number of sheep increased 74,184, cattle 2,247, horses 32, pigs 371, and goats 71, the total number of sheep owned being 457,538 and cattle 17,569. There was also a good wheat crop from the land belonging to the company under cultivation, about 25,000 acres, the greater part of which was worked by farmers under the "shares" or co-operative system, and it is good to learn that the prices received for this commodity, as also for the wool, butter, and stock disposed of, were satisfactory. Prospects, therefore, seem encouraging, which is gratifying to all concerned, because the business was always honestly conducted, and the existence of a reserve of £170,000 at the time of calamity probably saved the thing from capital reorganisation.

ST. PAULI BREWERIES CO., LIMITED.

The export trade in the twelve months ended September 30 showed a distinct recovery, with the result that the sales of beer went up from 65,194 hectolitres to 73,100 and the trading profits rose by £2,972 to £17,818. A much smaller balance of £168 was brought forward, but, on the other hand, outgoings were reduced and the nett profits came to £13,212 or £3,506 more. Instead of reverting, however, to the old policy of making a fair allowance for depreciation, the directors content themselves with a moderate increase of £582 at £3,820 in the amount written off, and after paying the preference dividend give the ordinary shareholders 3 per cent. against nothing a year ago and carry forward £92. The repayment of £2,536 worth of mortgage bonds, bringing the amount outstanding down to £82,732, was offset by increases of £707 to £17,707 in the indebtedness on mortgages and to bankers and £3,926 to £16,550 in the liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable, while a decline of £12,370 to £35,954 in stocks was only partially compensated by advances of £3,286 to £44,935 in sundry debtors and loans and £1,235 to £16,906 in cash. Capital expenditure during the year amounted to £5,728, making a total of £235,280, on which the allowance for depreciation comes to little more than 1½ per cent.

HENRY BULL AND CO., LIMITED.

Nett profits for the year ended July 31 fell off by £1,683 to £18,591, and as the amount brought in was also considerably smaller the disposable balance showed a decrease of £3,959 at £27,162, but by reducing the allocation to reserve from £10,000 to £5,000 the dividend is maintained at 7 per cent. and £1,041 more at £9,612 is carried forward. Although sundry creditors have risen by £18,103 to £50,809, trading balances are still favourable as sundry debtors are £10,023 up at £58,242, but an increase of £10,060 to £15,258 in cash is largely offset by a reduction of £7,282 at £166,630 in stocks on hand and in transit. Expenditure on capital account amounts to £73,721, of which £23,000 is in freehold property, and in order to meet this outlay £20,000 has been raised by a mortgage and £20,450 by loans from the bankers, while there is a further liability not brought into the balance-sheet of £54,536 for bills discounted. Goodwill is valued at £40,000, against which the reserve has now been brought up to the same figure.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The week has been a quiet not to say dull one over here. A little excitement was raised in Liverpool market on receipt of a private wire from Argentine, giving bad accounts of the weather. Speculative positions advanced to a higher level on the strength of it, and spot parcels moved a little, though at a decline in price. But the slight improvement soon disappeared. English wheat everywhere has been sparingly offered, and even so last week's prices were barely held, while foreign went a little easier as a rule. Farmers' deliveries for last week were 78,276 qrs., averaging 28s. 3d. per quarter, against 80,360 qrs. last week. Imports were 363,697 qrs. against 70,083 last week, and 544,227 a year ago, and the estimated quantity of wheat and flour to the United Kingdom are this week 1,885,000 qrs., or 125,000 qrs. more than last week. Unfavourable statistics upset American markets in the early part of the week, but after one or two rather wild fluctuations they quieted down to a fairly steady business. Reports from interior markets showed a good demand for milling wheat, the North-Western position continued strong, and export trade generally was better, though traders here and there complained of its slackness. Bradstreet's estimate of the quantities in sight east of the Rockies puts them at 56,235,000 bushels against 53,745,000 last week.

WOOL.—The tendency at present is to hold off as much as possible from buying wool until the new clip arrives. Not so much with the hope that any concessions will be made when it does come, but wools are so scarce at present that no selection is possible. There is always a chance that prices may fall, but no one seems to anticipate it in the case of merinos and fine crossbreds. Merinos at present tend the other way. Seldom have stocks of home-grown wool been so small as they are at present. Manufacturers complain that they cannot get sup-

plies sufficient for their immediate wants, while all large contracts are practically impossible. The piece trade continues fairly active, home merchants continue to give repeat orders for winter goods, and orders for next spring are coming to hand fairly rapidly. Colonial and foreign demand might be better. The United States markets are dull, and the Continental trade cannot be called brisk; but Australian and Canadian are taking more freely of medium and better class goods, and even South Africa has shown an improvement lately.

LINEN.—Russian advices continue to cause uneasiness as to the probability of early shipments from that country, and holders are demanding 40s. per ton advance for any flax they have in stock. Supplies generally are very short, and it will be ten days or a fortnight yet before they arrive in any bulk. Moderate quantities have been offered in home markets, from 200 to 300 tons altogether, and have been readily taken at prices up to late rates, and sometimes higher. Stocks of yarns get less and less each week, and business, though quieter, has shown a distinct hardening in values of foreign yarns. Woven goods show no great change in their position, and everywhere business is of satisfactory dimensions. Home market certainly shows an improvement, and if one or two foreign might be a little better they also, on the whole, keep up a very fair average demand.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—It has been an irregular week again in our market, owing to the rather violent fluctuations in raw cotton in Liverpool and the States. On Thursday, the 9th inst., spot American in Liverpool was 6.07, but it rose to 6.16 the following day. On Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday there was a decline altogether of 25 points, bringing the quotation on Tuesday down to 5.91. Yesterday brought a rise of three points, to be taken off to-day, Thursday, the quotation being now 5.91, or 25 points lower than on Friday, the 10th inst. Lancashire spinners have bought rather less during the last few days. Crop estimates are now about 11 millions of bales. Mr. Henry Neill, however, has pinned his faith to 11,500,000 bales, or 250,000 bales more than Mr. Theodore Price. Manchester hardly knows what to think of the probable supply. It looks as if it would take some time for the market to settle down. In the meantime there is not much trade going on in piece goods. Shippers to India and China are operating only in sorting up lots. There is no free buying. The nearer markets are healthy, notably the Levant. The total sales of the week, however, for export are below the production, and order lists are lighter than seven days ago. Lancashire manufacturers have plenty of work to go on with, and are, as a rule, not pressing for orders. Home trade American yarns are losing ground again. The business done has not equalled the production of the spindles. Some little irregularity has shown itself. Spinners are getting more concerned about business coming round. Shipping yarns have been active again, but are quieter to-day. Spinners of export bundles are undoubtedly strongly fortified with contracts, not only for India, but for Japan, China, and the Continent. Bolton yarns continue strong owing to deep engagements. We repeat that fine counts are in a better position to-day than perhaps at any time this year.

Irregularity has characterised the American market during the week. Heavy selling has set in, and the daily transactions have reached a high figure. The movement of the crop has been on an increased sale, whilst weather conditions have continued favourable. Closing prices are:—November-December, 5.78d.; December-January, 5.81d.; January-February, 5.85d.; February-March, 5.88d.; March-April, 5.91d.; April-May, 5.93d.; May-June, 5.94d.; June-July, 5.95d.; July-August, 5.96d.

COAL.—Steam coal trade remains in much the same position as last week. In the North of England it is depressed, partly because this is the dull season for it; but partly also on account of Russian disturbances, all orders from that market being stopped for the time being. Best steam, which a week or two ago realised 9s. 6d. and 10s., f.o.b., can now be had for 8s. 6d. Welsh trade also is slack, and prices have dropped about 3d., but the slackness is only regarded as temporary, necessary with November fogs, and hope is expressed that next month will see more briskness both inland and at the ports. A fairly heavy delivery of steams is still made to the Humber and Grimsby ports for South Yorkshire, and in this district the trade generally is in a good condition. House coal stocks are small, and prices going higher with the naturally increasing sales. Gas coals also are in good request, and the output very heavy.

COPPER.—The bears are still being badly squeezed in this market, and there is now a "back" on future positions of no less than £2 15s. Under the influence of strong American advices, the opening was quite excited, covering by shorts and speculative purchases quickly establishing a considerable rise in quotations. Business was on a considerable scale, the transactions at some sessions reaching as much as 1,000 tons, and although at times the big advance caused some irregularity prices never fell back and finished £3 higher at £75 12s. 6d. for cash and £1 5s. up at £72 17s. 6d. for three months' forward. Sulphate of copper makers appear to be big buyers, and so strong is the inquiry for Chile bars that the entire stock on the way from the country has been disposed of to consumers. The demand for refined is equally brisk, and a large business is being done in electrolytic for January-February delivery, dealings for December having been restricted owing to the difficulty of supplying the necessary materials, and it is even said that the Amalgamated Company has been obliged to raise prices against buyers. Stocks in England and France fell off by another 912 tons during the past fortnight, and at 6,085 tons are now 2,246 tons below the figures of October 14, but the quantities on passage from Chili and Australia have risen considerably, so that

visible supplies now stand at 16,185 tons against 15,772 tons, and 15,331 tons respectively a fortnight and a month ago. According to Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co.'s circular the total supplies during the first half of the current month were 12,179 tons, and deliveries came to 11,716 tons, exclusive of 50 tons of standard shipped to America.

TIN.—The opening was strong on the receipt of large buying orders from consumers, especially on Continental account, and some inquiry from America. Prices were further helped by firm Eastern cables, and a rise in quotations was quickly brought about, large lines of near delivery metal being absorbed by the leading brokers. Sellers, moreover, maintain an attitude of reserve, and with "bears" covering freely towards the last, the close was strong at £152 17s. 6d. for spot, and £152 for future positions.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business in the iron trade is still brisk, and the recently advanced prices are maintained. For most descriptions of iron the demand is very strong, and new business is done subject only to the higher prices, and the possibilities of delivery. In fact, some lines cannot be accepted for delivery during the present year. The enquiry for hematite is as active as ever, and the price hardens as a result of it. In Scotland, however, the demand for pig-iron is not so strong as it has been, and manufacturers are truly thankful for this, as it gives them a little breathing time. They had sold far ahead, and have no great desire to further commit themselves in this direction. Business has been good in Middlesbrough and the North of England, and the outlook is regarded as much brighter than a week ago. Cleveland warrants have advanced, and Cleveland iron is more active at higher quotations. There are inquiries for East-Coast hematite a long way ahead.

TEA.—Indian offerings were again heavy this week—47,898 packages—and the market once more gave way a little under the severe strain. The average price for the week came up to much the same as last, 7.46d. against 7.43d. Helped by these lower rates demand at the opening ruled fairly steady. Later the market grew more irregular, and common teas especially were weak, according to Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's circular, 4d. being the best bid for fair black Pekoe Souchongs. Ceylon offerings comprised 21,225 packages, which met with fairly good competition and without much change in prices. Common sorts fell, and the average for the week was 7.56d. against 7.69d. last week. The quality, as often occurs at this time of the year, shows some signs of falling off. Medium and good Javas sold in some instances at good prices, but common teas went easier, sometimes to the extent of ¼d. per lb. The auction consisted of 2,765 packages.

SUGAR.—The past week, as Mr. Czarnikow points out, has clearly demonstrated that statistics do not count for much when a level has been reached low enough to develop sufficient resistance on the part of producers, and when operators begin to see the absurdity of being "bulls" at 15s. or 16s. and "bears" for summer deliveries at 8s. 6d. To this must be added a strong consumers' demand in Germany, induced by the syndicate rumours; at the same time a premature improvement would act on sowings, and it is to be hoped that this will be avoided. When stocks at the end of December get near four millions in Europe alone, against 2,700,000 tons, the fabricants will be sufficiently weighted with old sugars to be careful about root contracts, unless manufacturers are relieved by speculation, which, however, cannot carry such quantities. The supplies this season, if we add new estimates to last week's, are 1,815,000 tons, whilst consumption last season was only 7½ millions. We must, therefore, adds Mr. Czarnikow, reduce sowings, or we shall have to carry excessive supplies for several years, even with the expected large increase in consumption. The American market has remained lifeless. Landing in the three ports for the week were 27,000 tons and meltings 32,000 tons, leaving stocks at 217,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

Akrokerri (Ashanti).—Crushed 1,560 tons, 1,513 ozs.; assay of tailings, 4 dwts.; sand, 950 tons, 128 ozs.; total, 1,641 ozs.

Bibiani Gold Fields.—Crushed, 3,314 tons, 2,124 ozs., value, £8,121; value of tailings, £5,340; 3,110 tons of tailings treated, value, £2,090; total, £10,811.

Brilliant Block Gold.—Crushed 670 tons, 308 ozs.; value of cyanide bullion, £1,200; total, £2,250.

Brilliant Central Gold.—Crushed 2,400 tons, 1,406 ozs.; value of cyanide bullion, £386; concentrates, value £1,210; total, £5,506.

Burbank's Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 630 tons, 576 ozs.; by cyanide, 720 tons, 106 ozs.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal for the past week, 19,000 tons; sales, 19,500 tons; consumption, 1,400 tons.

City and Suburban Gold.—Crushed 19,200 tons, 7,392 ozs.

Clitters United.—Ore treated, 1,553 tons; mineral sold and on hand, value, £1,627.

Cobar Gold.—Mill 1,321 tons, 144 ozs.; tailings 784 tons, 202 ozs.; slimes 426 tons, 188 ozs.; total, 534 ozs.

Consolidated Gold Fields of New Zealand.—Progress Mines, 5,146 tons, value £8,205; Golden Fleece, 1,170 tons, value £2,160; Wealth of Nations, 945 tons, value £1,639.

Copiapo.—Copper ores 900 tons, averaging 12 per cent.

El Oro.—Crushed 18,400 tons of ore, producing U.S.\$178,514; product from the old cyanide plant, U.S.\$3,167.

Elandslaagte Gold.—Milled 2,000 tons, cyanided 1,800 tons; total, 384 ozs.

Great Boulder Perseverance.—Sulphide plant, treated 14,160 tons for 7,621 ozs. gold and 1,151 ozs. silver; tailings and slimes

treated, 7,361 tons for 748 ozs. gold and 607 ozs. silver; total, 8,369 ozs. gold and 1,758 ozs. silver.

Jubilee Gold.—Crushed 5,321 tons, 1,303 ozs.; cyanide, 699 ozs. from 3,940 tons treated.

Knight's Deep.—20,566 tons, 7,233 ozs.

Komata Reefs.—Crushed 1,350 tons, £3,250.

Lancefield Gold.—6,813 tons, 366 ozs.; sands 2,998 tons, 358 ozs.; slimes 3,219 tons, 321 ozs.; concentrates 254 tons, 143 ozs.; total, 1,188 ozs.

Lachlan Gold Fields.—Crushed 730 tons, £1,240.

Langlaagte Estate.—Crushed 27,326 tons, 5,501 ozs.; concentrates 480 tons, 717 ozs.; tailings, 18,040 tons, 2,025 ozs.; total, 8,243 ozs.

Maryborough Leviathan.—Crushed 685 tons, 168 ozs.

Meyer and Charlton.—Crushed 11,040 tons, 2,720 ozs.; from cyanide 1,827 ozs.; total, 4,547 ozs.

Mitchell's Creek.—Crushed 664 tons, 295 ozs.; 25 tons concentrates, value £275.

Montana.—Drumlunnon Mine, Montana: Shipping ore in course of treatment estimated to realise \$700; treating 10,610 tons of tailings and fines, 830 ozs. gold and 10,950 ozs. silver, profit \$4,400. Lucky Girl Group, Nevada: Crushing 1,600 tons, 520 ozs. gold and 450 ozs. silver, profit \$3,000.

Mount Lyell.—Treated 31,604 tons; in addition, 1,899 tons purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes; the converters produced 673 tons blister copper containing, copper, 664 tons; silver, 56,900 ozs.; gold, 1,877 ozs.

Mount Morgan (Queensland).—Chlorinated 20,932 tons, 11,364 ozs.

Mount Zeehan (Tasmania).—Silver-lead: output, 600 tons silver-lead ore, containing 250 tons lead and 48,000 ozs. silver.

New Queen Gold.—Crushed 510 tons, 561 ozs.; £490 obtained from 540 tons by cyanide; concentrates, £625.

North Broken Hill.—1,820 tons crude ore treated, producing 345 tons concentrates, containing 238 tons 1 cwt. lead and 5,900 ozs. silver.

Palmarejo and Mexican Gold Fields.—"Zapote" Works crushed 4,120 tons; treated 3,100 tons, producing \$14,130 gold, \$38,670 silver.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produced Nov. 1 to 10:—£7,750, yield per ton '61 of an oz. troy.

Salisbury.—Crushed 5,300 tons, 1,820 ozs.

San Francisco Del Oro.—Shipped 1,712 tons, value £6,503.

San Miguel.—Copper ore, 36 tons; 2,600 tons; washed ore, 2,860 tons.

Theta Gold.—Crushed 1,404 tons, 445 ozs.; treated by cyanide, 574 tons, 97 ozs.

Tyne Valley Colliery.—Output, 8,048 tons.

Um Rus Gold of Egypt.—Crushed 680 tons, 398 ozs.; tailings stored 510 tons, of an average assay value of 3 dwts. per ton.

Wanderer (Seluke) Gold.—Treated by cyanide 15,810 tons, 2,062 ozs.

Waihi Gold.—Crushed 25,067 tons for £59,170.

Ymir Gold.—Crushed 1,900 tons, 242 ozs., value \$2,690; shipped 115 tons concentrates, value \$2,700; tailings treated 1,330 tons, value \$800; loss, \$3,270.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

BREWERIES.

Frank Jones.—On Dec. 1, interim on the preference shares for the six months ended Aug. 31, at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum.

St. Louis.—8s. per share on the preference shares (making 8 per cent. for the year) and 6s. per share (or 3 per cent.) on account of arrears, payable Jan. 1.

MINES.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—Interim of 9d. per share on account of 1905.

Oriental Consolidated.—50 cents. per share.

Talisman Consolidated.—Second interim at the rate of 1s. per share, payable Dec. 1.

Wemmer.—40 per cent. (8s. per share).

MISCELLANEOUS.

British and Benington's Tea Trading Association.—6d. per share on the ordinary shares, payable 30th inst.

British Aluminium Company.—Interim for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. on the "A" preference shares and 7 per cent. on the 7 per cent. preference shares.

Broken Hill Water Supply.—6d. per share, payable on January 5.

Burma Railways.—£2 per £100 stock as surplus profit for the year ended June 30, over and above the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest guaranteed by the Secretary of State for India, already paid.

Chargola Tea.—Interim on the ordinary shares of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Chubwa Tea.—Interim of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

East India and Ceylon Tea.—6 per cent. on the cumulative preference shares for the season ended Nov. 30, payable 30th inst.

Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

J. Lyons and Company.—Interim payable Dec. 1, at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

John Bland and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Oct. 31.

John Hunter Wiltshire and Company.—Usual interim of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended Sept. 30.

John Rowell and Son.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Kellner-Partington Paper Pulp.—20 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

London Motor Omnibus.—Interim at the rate of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the six months ended 31st ult.

Marston, Thomson, and Evershed.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

Matthew Brown and Co.—Final of 10s. per share, making 10 per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30.

Nantyglo and Blaina Ironworks.—£2 10s. per share, equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., on account of arrears on the preference shares.

Nedem Tea.—Interim of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the preference shares on account of 1905.

Richard Hornsby and Sons.—For the year ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 6s. per share on the ordinary shares, placing £2,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £1,476.

Sephinjuri Bheel Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent.

South Blackpool Jetty.—At the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the year ended October 20, placing £250 to reserve, and carrying forward £215.

Star Paper Mill.—5s. per share on the ordinary shares for the year ended Oct. 31, placing £6,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £8,423.

Thomas Allan and Sons.—At the rate of 5 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended Sept. 30, carrying forward £225.

Union Steamship of New Zealand.—8s. per share for the six months to Sept. 30, with a bonus of 4s. per share from the insurance fund.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ANSELLS BREWERY, LIMITED.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Ansell's Brewery, Limited, was held on November 10, at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham. Mr. E. Ansell (chairman of directors) presided, and the other directors—Messrs. P. Waltho, J. A. Fairhurst, and H. C. Ansell—were also present.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the shareholders on another successful year's trading. The nett profit, after making full provision for depreciations and bad and doubtful debts, was £74,614, which, with the addition of £13,679 brought forward from last year, produced £88,294. After the payment of interest on debentures and directors' salaries they proposed to pay dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. on the preference shares and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares. Of the balance, which amounted to £36,568, they proposed to place £20,000 to reserve, bringing that account up to £90,000, and to carry forward £16,568. (Applause.) Turning to the assets side, he reminded them that the total assets of the company at its reconstruction were £800,000, to-day the amount, inclusive of cash in hand, was £956,898. There was no item of goodwill; in other words, the total assets of the company, after full and ample depreciation, were of the most tangible and satisfactory character. The reserve fund had been invested in the purchase of new properties and in converting leaseholds into freeholds, and generally in strengthening and consolidating the company's assets. That policy the directors were still pursuing. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the amount brought forward, and to the compensation clauses under the new Licensing Act, the directors were aware that a very substantial sum would this year have to be set on one side in order to meet the charge for increased taxation upon licensed properties for compensation purposes. Some people were apt to term that the brewers' endowment fund. He could, however, only say that the charge was a direct tax upon licensed property paid out of the profits of the licensee, brewer, or owner of such property. It was held by many that a reduction in the number of licences would result in an increase of temperance, and bring about that reform which they all so much desired. (Hear, hear.) He trusted that the new Licensing Act, the administration of which they must watch with zealous care, would prove a step in that direction, and at the same time a just and equitable measure to all concerned. (Hear, hear.) In their surrender scheme the Birmingham brewers had given tangible proof of their desire to take part in the great movement for the moral and social elevation of the masses. He did not hesitate to say that such a movement would receive from "the trade" that support and sympathy which it so richly deserved. In conclusion, he hoped the shareholders were satisfied that the business was well organised and managed, and was in every way exceptionally sound. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was seconded by Mr. James Fairhurst, and unanimously adopted.

On the proposition of Mr. Rudkin (a shareholder), Mr. J. A. Fairhurst was re-elected a director. Messrs. Fisher, Randle, and Fisher were also reappointed auditors. The Chairman took the opportunity of congratulating the senior member of that firm upon the great honour which His Majesty the King had conferred upon him. Having regard to his many years of devoted and ungrudging work in the public service the honour was richly deserved. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Randle, in reply, thanked them on behalf of Sir Walter Fisher for their kindly references. He stated that the firm with which he was identified had been the auditors of the company since its incorporation. That was a strong mark of the good feeling which had always existed. (Hear, hear.) He congratulated them on the continued success of the company. Each year saw an advance in its position, which he thought reflected great credit on the directors and management. Every item in the balance-sheet had been carefully examined and analysed. Proper provision for depreciation had been made so far as the condition of the houses was concerned. If they were to be valued they would be valued at a higher figure than appeared in the financial statement. The stock, which had also been carefully examined, was taken on a very low basis. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Seal moved a resolution of thanks to the chairman and the directors.

Mr. Joseph Ansell, in seconding, pointed out that the business had grown enormously since the inception of the company. As brewery investors he did not think they had anything of which to complain in their association with Ansell's brewery. (Hear, hear.) During the past 18 months times had been difficult for the brewing trade, but notwithstanding that they had been able to hold their own position and to improve it somewhat. In regard to the operation of the Licensing Act, and the question of surrender, he was one of those who believed that when the Government were successful in passing the measure, they did what was the merest common act of justice to those who had invested their money in licensed property and brewery undertakings. (Hear, hear.) Whether the surrender of licences was going to decrease drunkenness remained to be seen. He was bound to say that that was not the view he had of it when originally he conceived the notion of bringing about the surrender scheme, which was subsequently acted upon. What he believed could be accomplished by an adaptation of the surrender scheme was that they would have better conducted houses, which would give less trouble to the police, and would be in the interest of good government. He believed that the spread of education and the example set by others were more likely to decrease intemperance in Birmingham and elsewhere than the mere closing of public-houses. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was adopted, and after a brief reply by the Chairman, the meeting terminated.

A. DARRACQ AND CO.

The third annual meeting of A. Darracq and Co., Limited, was held yesterday at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Mr. J. S. Smith-Winby, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. A. Yeatman) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, said that last year he was able to tell them that the whole of the six speed records in the automobile world were held by Darracq cars, and though one of the six had since been equalled, they were still so held, and they had added another by Mr. A. Lee Guinness for the standing kilometer. That was a record of records, and to-day he was able to make an announcement which was no less satisfactory, namely, that the company had made a record advance in the amount of its business for the season 1905 in comparison with any previous season. Over and above the large increase in the turnover, the position and reputation of the company had been greatly enhanced, and with respect to the question of competition, they felt assured that so long as the demand for motor-cars existed, whether for pleasure or business, they would always secure their fair share. Last year the business suffered from inability to meet the extraordinary rush of orders, but this year the work was very much ahead, and they hoped to be in a vastly better position. Last year they did not reap the full benefit of the additions to the work at Suresnes, which were not completed until the spring; but, this year, they had the advantage of these additions. Last year they could have disposed of hundreds more of their 15 h.p. cars if they had had them ready. This car was again most successful in touring contests in this country and abroad, and cleared the board in all competitions for cars of £500 or under, whether for speed, hill-climbing, or reliability, and defeating a vast number of cars of considerably higher price. The three great events of the year were the Gordon-Bennett Race, the Circuit des Ardennes, and the Vanderbilt Cup, and Mr. Darracq had set the seal upon his fame, and at the same time emphasised the pre-eminence of French manufactures by winning two out of the three events. They were disappointed in the eliminating trials for the Gordon-Bennett Race, where their leading car was looked upon as a certain winner until the last round. Unluckily, in the final round their representative encountered a perfectly extraordinary series of tyre troubles, and the car, from that cause alone, was only placed fourth. In the long distance race, in Italy, an event of only secondary importance to the three he had mentioned, their car started first and finished first, and they were simple enough to believe it had won; but, by a process of reckoning which they had been unable to follow, and which was probably an extraordinary error on the part of the time-keepers, an Italian car was stated to be the winner. This was disappointing to their representative, Hemery; but he made no mistake in the Circuit des Ardennes, a race of 370 miles without a stop, and consequently a serious test upon car and driver. After a hard struggle with two Panhards of higher power he had won in record time. The same driver had finished up a brilliant season by winning the Vanderbilt Cup Race in America, an event of the highest importance. After announcing that in future they were going to use Dunlop tyres, the chairman stated that Mr. Darracq had designed two new models for next season. One was a two-cylinder 10 h.p., at £265. It would be one of the features for 1906, and its simplicity made it especially suitable for ladies. The other model was the 20-32 h.p., an enlarged and improved 15 h.p., designed to meet the prevailing fashion for heavy covered bodies carrying five or six passengers, with luggage, and weighing four or five cwt. more than the 15 h.p. was designed to bear. The Chairman concluded by outlining the new scheme for replacing the present ordinary capital, viz., £375,000 preferred ordinary and £275,000 ordinary shares; the former having 7 per cent. preference dividend, and after 10 per cent. had been paid on the ordinary shares, a further 3 per cent. Debentures to the amount of £150,000 would be issued for working capital, and the present 6 per cent. preference shares would be redeemed or exchanged.

The report was adopted, and the new issue of shares was approved at an extraordinary general meeting held subsequently.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and November 11, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Nov. 11, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Nov. 12, 1904.
Balances, April 1:—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	6,352,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	21,061,000	22,204,000
Excise	30,200,000	18,635,000	19,149,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	7,764,000	6,959,000
Stamps	8,000,000	4,811,000	4,236,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	410,000	530,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	5,972,000	6,283,000
Post Office	16,500,000	9,310,000	8,960,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,640,000	2,460,000
Crown Lands	470,000	240,000	240,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	678,309	608,433
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	812,362	801,796
*Revenue	142,454,000	72,338,671	72,431,229
Total, including balance		79,768,949	76,695,071
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		300,000	350,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	670,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		400,000	1,069,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		760,408	1,400,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		13,000	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	25,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	4,855,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,842,076	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	5,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		2,500,000	20,000,000
Total		93,911,025	118,164,061
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	72,338,671	72,431,229
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	99,824	106,027
Excise	5,291,000	2,774,851	2,657,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,624,839	2,586,242
Total	9,756,000	5,499,514	5,349,942
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	77,888,185	77,781,171
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Nov. 11, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Nov. 12, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	28,000,000	17,879,461	17,437,521
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,060,759	1,057,377
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	62,783,929	67,503,805
Expenditure	142,084,000	82,384,115	86,655,630
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		240,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		135,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		600,000	450,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		2,483,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Building Expenses Act, 1903 ..		105,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		294,458	20,000
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	5,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	10,050,000
		87,164,573	114,134,130
Balances in Exchequer:—	1905. Nov. 11. £	1904. Nov. 12. £	
Bank of England	6,154,505	3,292,654	
Bank of Ireland	591,947	739,777	
		6,746,452	4,031,931
Total		93,911,025	118,164,061

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended November 14, \$3,894, decrease \$426.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 6, \$18,467, increase \$391; aggregate from January 1, \$714,012, increase \$152,852.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 14, Rs. 78,116, increase Rs. 488; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 10,39,501, increase Rs. 1,45,885.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 7, \$114,500, increase \$16,100; total from July 1, \$1,803,100, increase \$401,200.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 7, Rs. 21,419, increase Rs. 48; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 3,50,631, increase Rs. 26,844.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 21, £546, decrease £119.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 1st week of November, \$12,890, increase \$1,795; aggregate from January 1, \$686,671, increase \$915.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 7, Rs. 15,224, increase Rs. 4,264; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 1,77,418, increase Rs. 28,673.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended October 31 amounted to \$8,300.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending November 11, £1,249, increase £72; aggregate from July 1, £22,644, decrease £202.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending November 11, £772, increase £108; aggregate from July 1, £17,959, decrease £1,291.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for August, £4,243, decrease £354.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending November 11, £395, increase £53; aggregate from July 1, £6,383, decrease £428.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 10, £1,317, increase £403; aggregate from July 1, £26,458, increase £9,316.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 12, £7; aggregate from July 1, £486, increase £17.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 10, £4,643, increase £9; aggregate from July 1, £97,257, decrease £1,952.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending November 3, £27,345, increase £4,450; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,189,597, increase £118,874 434½ miles, against 413½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 11, £1,021, increase £18; aggregate from July 2, £21,521, increase £990.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 12, £93, decrease £5; aggregate from July 1, £2,994, decrease £69.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 10, £77, decrease £18; aggregate from July 1, £2,530, decrease £31.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 10, £4,372, decrease £174; aggregate from July 1, £98,627, decrease £1,124.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 11, £4,542, increase £244; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £219,456, increase £16,430.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 10, £216, decrease £26; aggregate from July 1, £4,944, decrease £371.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 9, £388.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 11, £289, decrease £32; aggregate from October 1, £1,904, decrease £444.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 4, £14,038, increase £1,136; aggregate from April 1, £469,617, increase £66,588. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 11, £21,322, decrease £1,173; aggregate from July 2, £448,117, decrease £10,710.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 14, £77,318, decrease £29; aggregate from July 1, £150,056, increase £1,019.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 10, £195, decrease £10; aggregate from July 1, £3,849, increase £173.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 11, £14,993, increase £1,697; aggregate from January 1, £600,392, increase £38,029.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of October, £10,350, decrease £411.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to September 30, \$287,231, increase \$75,624. Net earnings from July 1 to September 30, \$131,841, increase \$52,363.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending November 12, £3,667, increase £165; aggregate from January 1, £156,151, increase £7,548.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month October, \$236,900.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 11, Rs. 43,627, increase Rs. 5,752; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 8,09,549, increase Rs. 1,02,395.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of October, £3,155, decrease £83. Total to October 31, £37,763, increase £6,130.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of September, \$454,061, increase \$80,118; aggregate from January 1, \$3,482,687, increase \$274,516. Net traffic receipts, \$278,030, increase \$70,104; aggregate from January 1, \$1,904,537, increase \$206,534.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.			
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.		
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Nov. 12	£ 2,091	—	71	19	39,399	— 2,016	
Cambrian	" 12	5,281	—	130	19	146,509	— 7,065	
Central London ..	" 11	7,112	+	110	19	116,763	— 1,098	
City and South London ..	" 12	3,061	+	220	19	47,450	+	149
Furness	" 12	9,870	+	1,888	19	206,237	+	19,227
G. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 12	66,238	+	7,435	19	1,379,105	+	89,111
Great Eastern	" 12	101,200	+	2,100	19	2,190,500	—	26,500
Great Northern and City ..	" 11	1,730	+	302	19	28,748	+	6,780
Great Northern	" 11	108,300	+	5,253	†	2,275,188	+	18,668
Great Western	" 12	221,500	+	8,300	19	4,810,600	+	70,300
Hull and Barnsley	" 12	9,172	+	241	19	186,551	—	1,018
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 12	103,656	+	4,526	19	2,244,179	+	54,257
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 11	53,974	—	580	19	1,329,280	—	4,353
London & North Western ..	" 12	269,000	—	16,000	19	5,682,000	+	107,000
London & South Western ..	" 12	84,300	+	800	19	1,901,500	+	12,700
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 12	7,803	—	342	19	211,963	+	1,957
Metropolitan	" 12	17,466	+	325	19	325,923	+	874
Metropolitan District ..	" 12	7,953	+	727	19	130,468	+	1,057
Midland	" 11	218,603	+	11,808	19	4,411,189	+	127,274
North Eastern	" 11	172,624	+	3,515	19	3,599,052	+	21,788
North London	" 12	8,867	—	82	19	168,788	—	4,468
North Staffordshire	" 12	18,243	+	1,702	19	338,757	+	6,364
Rhymney	" 12	5,148	—	675	19	107,884	—	338
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 11	76,153	+	316	†	1,957,917	+	24,725
Taff Vale	" 12	16,536	—	1,331	19	347,252	—	4,726

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Nov. 12	80,802	+	4,614	15	1,337,990	+	12,846
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 11	29,566	+	566	15	561,594	—	323
Great North of Scotland ..	" 11	8,471	—	103	15	153,008	—	1,820
Highland	" 12	7,359	—	122	15	177,657	+	13
North British	" 12	86,102	+	3,382	15	1,441,104	—	2,513

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Nov. 10	2,607	+	135	19	65,302	+	2,171
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 10	1,543	—	74	19	36,249	+	2
Great Northern	" 10	17,950	—	83	19	398,002	—	2,266
Midland Great Western ..	" 10	10,741	—	745	19	220,920	—	8,865

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Nov. 10.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Nov. 10.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
12 1/2	Angelo	5 1/2	5 1/2	3 1/2	May Consolidated	3 1/2	3 1/2
12 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Apex	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Modderfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Aurora West	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Do B.	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Bantjes	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	New Goch	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Barnato Consolidated ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	New Primrose	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Block B.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Nigel	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	North Randfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Comet (New)	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Do. Pref. 23/6	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Crown Reef	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Randfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Drietfontein	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Do. Randfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	East Rand	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Roodepoort United	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	East Rand Extension ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Salsbury	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Ferreira	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Sheba (New)	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	French Rand	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Geduld	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Steyn Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Ginsburg	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Transvaal Development ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Glencarn	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Harmony Proprietary ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Treasury	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Van Ryn	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Henry Nourse	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Heriot	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Verg. Istruis	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In. ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Welgedacht	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Jubilee	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Wemmer	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Jumpers	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	West Rand Consols	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Kleinfontein	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Knight's	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Worcester	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Lancaster	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2			
12 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2			
DEEP LEVELS.							
12 1/2	Angelo Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Nourse Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Bonanza	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Cinderella Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Rand Victoria	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Crown Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Deep (new) ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	South Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Knight's Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Nigel Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
RHODESIANS.							
12 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Northern Copper	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Rhodesia, Ltd. (s/pd.) ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Charter Trust and	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Do. Exploration	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Agency	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Rice Hamilton	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Selukwe	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Lomagunda Develop- ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	ment	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Wankie Coal	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Mashonaland Agency ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Willoughby	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	4 1/2	4 1/2
DIAMONDS.							
12 1/2	De Beers Deferred	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Koffyfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Do. Preferred	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Lace Diamond	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Orange Free State	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Diamond	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Premier Diamond Def. ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Do. Preferred	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Kamfersdam	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2			
WEST AFRICAN.							
12 1/2	Abbottiakoon	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Abosso	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Akinassi (New)	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau) ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Ankobra	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Goldfields East'n Akim ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Do. Goldfields	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Himan Concessions	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Ashanti Sansu	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Obbua Syndicate	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Prestea	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	British Gold Coast	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Bromassie	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Taqua and Abosso	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Effueta (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Wassau	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	W.A. Gold Trust	4 1/2	4 1/2
AUSTRALIAN.							
12 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Ilda H.	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Associated	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Ivanhoe South	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Kalgurli	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Lake View Cons.	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Brownhill Extended	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Lancefield	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Chaffers	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	London & W.A. Explor- ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Cosmopl'n Pr'p'ty	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	ation	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Mount Boppy	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	North Kalgurli	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Golden Links	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Golden Pole	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Peak Hill	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	South Kalgurli	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Do. Perseverance	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Great Fingall	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	W.A. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Hainault	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	W'str lia Mt. Morgans ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Hampton Plains	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf. ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Hannan's Star	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2			
MISCELLANEOUS.							
12 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Ballaghat, full paid	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Mount Lyell	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Brilliant and St. George ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	M't. Morgan	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Camp Bird	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6 ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Do. West, 19/	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Champion Reef, 10s.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Do. Wynaard, 19/	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Copiapu, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Nile Valley	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	N'ndydrong, 10/ shares ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Esperanza	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Oceguem	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Exploration	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Do Pref.	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Le Roi	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	St. John del Rey	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Tharsis	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Libiola, £5	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Waiki	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Linares, £3	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Ymir	4 1/2	4 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	
Alcoy and Gandia	Nov. 11	£ Ps.14,000	+ Ps.2,000	** Ps.625,100	+ P.11,900	
Antofagasta (Chill) and Bolivia	Oct. *	\$1,200,000	+ \$296,000	** \$9,695,000	+ \$218,000	
Argentine Gt. Western	Nov. 10	10,652	+ 1,116	235,342	+ 38,280	
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	" 11	Ps. 29,169	- Ps. 4,360	Ps. 599,851	- Ps.81,487	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 11	28,730	+ 8,472	492,254	+ 138,005	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine ..	" 11	78,328	+ 16,148	3,455,696	+ 143,070	
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 12	78,286	+ 6,857	1,210,642	+ 202,038	
Do. Western	" 12	37,092	+ 7,003	559,542	+ 97,595	
Do. Ensenada	" 12	300	- 142	5,630	- 412	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 11	8,495	- 845	131,766	+ 2,475	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 11	1,867	- 547	25,866	- 5,324	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 11	991	- 404	18,940	- 6,210	
Do. Western Ex.	" 11	1,553	+ 313	19,150	+ 4,172	
Cordoba Central	" 12	2,886	+ 880	134,055	+ 3,540	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 12	6,200	+ 1,670	296,490	+ 21,080	
Do. N. W. Argtn. Ex.	" 12	2,100	+ 875	86,835	+ 9,495	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 12	4,365	+ 1,125	83,115	+ 2,150	
Costa Rica	" 11	4,000	- 142	73,391	- 3,016	
Cuban Central	" 11	4,632	+ 1,093	90,483	+ 20,643	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 11	13,683	+ 4,930	360,987	+ 149,843	
Entre Rios	" 11	3,175	+ 642	55,328	+ 12,703	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico ..	" 7	\$106,600	- \$20,280	\$2,063,100	- \$60,270	
Leopoldina	" 11	28,391	+ 12,930	962,182	+ 282,520	
Mexican	Sept. *	\$469,500	- \$5,400	\$1,557,500	- \$143,060	
Mexican	Nov. 11	\$123,000	- \$5,000	\$2,262,500	- \$101,500	
Do. Southern	" 14	\$20,499	+ \$1,358	\$1,019,922	+ \$19,866	
Do. Central	Sept. *	\$2,178,651	+ \$257,229	\$3,662,576	+ \$83,445	
Do. Do.	Sept. *	\$651,508	+ \$120,275	\$2,002,940	+ \$341,110	
Manila	Nov. 11	\$26,196	+ \$89	\$1,337,223	+ \$268,461	
Nitrate	Oct. 31	32,483	+ 8,520	149,217	+ 92,060	
Ottoman	Nov. 11	9,211	+ 939	660,458	- 15,563	
Peruvian Corporation	Oct. *	\$616,650	+ \$42,250	\$3,447,975	+ \$334,575	
San Paulo.	Nov. 5	29,170	+ 8,912	661,248	+ 97,105	
Salvador	" 11	\$13,200	- \$2,000	\$236,926	+ \$16,816	
United of Havana	" 11	8,863	+ 1,197	161,873	+ 28,362	
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 11	1,055	+ 205	50,139	+ 6,475	
Western of Havana	" 11	4,555	+ 655	87,272	+ 4,490	

The Investors' Review

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NOW READY.

THE CHANNEL FERRY BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE:

Its Advantages and Feasibility.

Compiled by

ERNEST DE RODAKOWSKI.

250 pp., 10/6. Super Royal 8vo.

4 MAPS, 6 CHARTS, 30 PLATES, AND 19 TABLES.

This work deals with the question of unbroken railroad communication between this country and France. A Train-Ferry across the Channel is selected as the best means of effecting the object in view.

It is claimed that unbroken railroad communication

Will enable travellers to journey in through carriages from London to the principal centres of the Continent.

Will materially increase the trade with Continental Europe, and especially the British exports, by obviating the double handling of goods, and by cheapening rates for the transport of merchandise.

THE PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THE BOOK ARE:—

- (1.) A detailed account of all previous attempts at effecting unbroken railroad communication between England and the Continent.
- (2.) Details and Information concerning 35 Train-Ferry lines at present in existence.
- (3.) Statistics giving the weight of the whole trade of the United Kingdom. (Whilst in all Blue Books and official publications trade statistics are given according to the value of the trade, in this book the weight or the total trade is given in tons.)

The Appendix contains extracts from the opinions of eminent men on the question of unbroken communication between this country and France.

HARRISON & SONS, 45, Pall Mall.

The Investors' Review.

American Life Office Balance-sheets
and Investments.

Every day's evidence before the New York Senate commission of inquiry adds to the distrust felt amongst policyholders regarding the position of these monster jobbers and jugglers in policies of life insurance. We shall not, however, follow the evidence this week except with a note or two; it is more interesting to look at the official figures presented by the companies to the State Insurance Department at Albany, and published by Mr. Francis Hendricks, the State Superintendent of Insurance, in his annual report. These figures relate to the year 1904, and as the scandals now engaging public attention on both sides of the Atlantic did not begin to emerge until some time on in the present year, no attempt has been made to shape the figures so as to give a more misleading colour than usual to results. In continuation of last week's notes on the Equitable, it may consequently be interesting to note that the Mutual last year claims to have issued 109,165 new policies, and yet at the end of the year the total number of policies in force was

increased by only 60,372. No less than 49,395 policies insuring \$129,125,000 had in the meantime disappeared, 33,215 of them, covering nearly \$75,000,000 of insurance, being policies lapsed. This concern, however, did not do such a profitable trade in surrenders as seems to be the habit with the Equitable, for only 7,011 policies were surrendered, representing \$16,897,000 insured, and holders of these policies received in cash about 19 per cent. of the nominal amount of their policies. If the amount set aside to pay new or renewal premiums on other policies be added in they got back altogether about 22 per cent. This must have been good business for the Mutual, and that it did proportionately so little of it may be taken to represent a self-denying virtue.

The New York Life, as has been explained in previous years, does a huge trade in short term policies, or policies taken out for special purposes, policies, that is, resembling annual fire insurance contracts in their nature, and consequently its returns show a decrease of 51,666 policies, due to "expiry" alone, in the past year, while the policies disappeared by lapse came to only 2,546, and by surrender to 11,415. Probably the short term policies which expired in such numbers were extremely profitable to the company or its agents, as in all probability nothing whatever became payable at the expiry of the liability. Be that as it may, the company, or office, graciously bestowed nearly 26 per cent. of the amount written up on those who accepted surrender values, and policyholders whose ordinary contracts expired, for one reason or another, actually got nearly 32 per cent. of the year's premium income in the shape of death and endowment claims with bonus additions. Said additions, however, were extremely minute, as might be supposed, the staff naturally pocketing most of the profits. Still the New York Life did better for its policyholders whose contracts became claims in the ordinary way than the Mutual, for it handed only about 18½ per cent. of its premium income to claimants at death or maturity in the past year.

In view of the fact that the Equitable, and probably the other offices as well, are doing their best to prove that they are careful stewards of such monies as may be entrusted to them and left unspent, it will be interesting now to take a glance at the investment lists contained in the official returns, but before doing so it may be well to mention the fact that the Equitable Life office has advanced \$23,544,000 on the security of its own policies, the Mutual \$23,278,000, and the New York Life \$35,867,000. This last concern had also running on December 31 last \$3,332,000 of premium notes, so that it is obviously doing a highly speculative kind of business. Altogether the three companies had about \$83,000,000 of their assets advanced in this fashion, and the security may perhaps be adequate. Of that we have no means of judging. Also, they had amongst them upwards of \$20,000,000 of uncollected and deferred premiums, which they entered amongst their assets at the close of the year. All these items, however, are small compared with the magnificent array of investments shown by them. Thus the Equitable parades \$225,669,000 as the market value of its investments in stocks and bonds, while the Mutual shows a total of \$243,191,000, and the New York Life one of \$294,310,000. In order to swell out their surpluses two of the offices, the Equitable and the Mutual, also display a fine total of market value of bonds and stocks over book value. For the Equitable this total is put at \$17,321,000, and for the Mutual at \$25,811,000, but the New York Life does not appear to have fallen back upon this device, perhaps because the market value of its possessions is brought out, after cooking, as we shall see, at little more than \$7,000,000 in excess of the book value on the aggregate of \$294,310,000.

Let us turn now to the general investment lists of these offices. They are full of suggestion, and the broad inference to be drawn from a study of the names

and amounts is that these offices are engaged in all the financial combines, amalgamations, and rings of which Wall Street is the centre. Thus the Equitable Life on December 31 last held nearly \$6,000,000 of various Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé railroad securities, and was deep in Baltimore and Ohio, Chicago and North-Western, Erie, Louisville and Nashville, Missouri Pacific, Pennsylvania, and St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railway securities. It also continued to hold large masses of Foreign Government stocks of all descriptions, being notably loaded up with Russian securities and very fairly committed to French Government stocks, Japanese Government bonds, and Italian Government bonds. These investments may be all well enough, but many of the items held by the company are not of a marketable description, especially the minor loans, of which it and all these offices hold great numbers, such things as the bonds of the City of St. Henri and similar small local issues. In the same category we find the Mutual Life Insurance Company not only deeply committed to the fortunes of Austrian Government rentes, Italian Government rentes, Cuban bonds, various Australian loans, Mexican Government issues, and the usual array of Canadian and State bonds on the North American Continent, but loaded up with some £2,000,000 worth of Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé issues, upwards of £1,300,000 of Central Pacific bonds, over £1,600,000 of Baltimore and Ohio bonds, £600,000 of Erie Railroad Pennsylvania Coal Company's bonds, large slices of Louisville and Nashville issues, Wabash bonds, Pennsylvania Company's issues—not the railroad but the coal company—lumps of Norfolk and Western bonds, and so on. In like manner the New York Life has invested in nearly \$6,000,000 worth of British Consols, which it apparently got about 86, surely a most fortunate purchase, for the total seems not to have been written down. It also holds a large slice of Austrian rentes in various forms, and of Italian, Japanese, and Mexican bonds, with smaller amounts in German Imperial rente and French debt. It also holds an unusually large mass of Russian Government rentes, the book value of its holding being put at about £500,000, but this is nothing to its curious investments in some of the Russian railway issues, notably in a line called the Wladikawkas Railway. The place Wladikawkas is a fortified Russian post in the Caucasus, and one cannot help wondering how the New York Life Insurance Company came to hold upwards of £600,000 worth of bonds issued by a railway in that out of the way, poverty-stricken region. Has it anything to do with Standard Oil enterprise in competition with the Rothschilds out Baku way? Another interesting New York Life investment is \$3,200,000 in the Morgan Shipping combine syndicate. This we notice is entered at the same price throughout—book value, par value, and market value—but surely that can hardly represent accurate book-keeping. Be that as it may, exactly the same figures appeared in the official return for the preceding year, and the fact that it did so leads us to doubt the parade of market value over book value, a parade, however, of what the New York Life, as has been stated, is not guilty. Therein it shows prudence, but who values the securities? In other respects the lists of investments emphasise the commitments of this company in all manner of speculative deals on the New York Stock Exchange. It holds upwards of \$7,000,000 of Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé securities, nearly \$6,500,000 in Atlantic Coast Line issues, nearly \$5,000,000 in various Erie issues, over \$9,000,000 in Louisville and Nashville emissions, and plenty of other things of the same kind, winding up with that mysterious railway in the Caucasus.

After all, however, it is in their remarkable commitments with banks and trust companies that the peculiar methods of finance indulged in by these companies is most vividly displayed. They are all in this line, and we find that in bank shares alone the Mutual office makes a wonderful display. It is a shareholder,

sometimes a small one, in seven different banks, especially in the National Bank of Commerce of New York, and the par value of the shares held by it in these banks is only about \$4,155,000, but this figure has a "market" value of \$10,709,000. Then in trusts it is a shareholder to the extent measured by the par value of \$3,676,000 in no less than 14 different companies, three of which it practically owns or controls, but the market value of this investment is put at \$21,288,000, so that altogether shares in banks and trusts of the par value of less than \$8,000,000 figure in the balance-sheet of the Mutual at about \$32,000,000, and this is exclusive of \$5,552,000 in various bond issues made by the United States Mortgage and Trust Company, of which the Mutual is the controlling shareholder. We have already given particulars of the Equitable Company's holding in various trusts, and the ever virtuous New York Life professes to steer clear of that kind of investment, but the evidence brought out before the New York State Commission indicates that in this and other respects its accounts filed with the Superintendent of Insurance are entirely misleading.

The moral of the facts here recited must again be insisted upon. It is imperatively necessary that British policyholders should take effective steps to procure an independent and thorough examination of the whole position. Just look at the farce of that circular sent out by the new trustees, as they call themselves, of the Equitable policyholders. This Equitable Company, it must never be forgotten, is a proprietary one, and although there has been a great deal of reshuffling and turnings out and up in connection with the higher officials of the company these shareholders, or rather James H. Hyde and his associates, remain masters of the company to this day. How shocking, then, it is to find a man like Mr. Grover Cleveland, twice President of the United States, signing a beguiling circular which invites policyholders here to take a share in the election of new directors, names and qualifications unknown. The election will take place on the first Wednesday of December, that is to say, on the 6th of next month, and seven of the thirteen directors for whom these trustees, Messrs. Grover Cleveland, Morgan, J. O'Brien, and George Westinghouse, will vote are to be taken from the policyholders. What good will that do the policyholders here? They know nothing of the names—no names are submitted to them, nor have they any means of arriving at a judgment as to who would be best to put into this office. Doubtless the circular is only meant to be paraded before the public at a future date as an example of the fairness and zeal of the new trustees in furthering policyholders' interests. Something much more drastic is required than this if creditors of these offices in Europe are to be reassured and for the future protected.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

INTERNATIONAL LOAN MONGERING AND WAR.

We are delighted to find Mr. James Speyer, head of the New York house of Speyer and Co., raising the question of international financial responsibility for war. In a very interesting communication from him, which appeared in Monday's *Financial Times*, the point was raised for the first time by a man of his standing and class. After advocating the value of international investments as a help to guarantee peace, the participation of one country in the industrial development of another, he goes on to say that the wars of the last 50 years have shown what heavy financial burdens these conflicts impose even on the victorious nation, and that financial considerations play a greater part in modern wars than they did of old. "How much weight such considerations may have had in inducing Russia and Japan to make

peace must be left to the future historian to decide, but it is surely a very important matter to consider whether this war would have been commenced, or how long it would have lasted, or how soon it would have ended if neither of the belligerents had received financial assistance from neutral Powers. These Powers, who so scrupulously preserved neutrality as laid down by international law, and who saw to it that such neutrality was maintained, did not hesitate to assist the belligerents in the most efficient way—with funds to carry on the conflict. Both belligerents had counted on their friends, and it was under the prevailing rules of international law and comity right and proper that such financial assistance should be extended." We cannot quite subscribe to this last sentence. It may be true that the prevailing usages, not rules, of international law allow neutral nations to thus sustain great conflicts between belligerents, but it is certainly contrary to all ideas of what is internationally equitable and to enlightened "rules of comity," that financial assistance should thus be accorded.

But the suggestion with which Mr. James Speyer concludes is an excellent one. He thinks that when the second International Peace Conference at the Hague assembles the signatory Powers might be asked to agree to maintain in future what, for want of a better term, might be called "financial neutrality." "In case two Powers went to war without first submitting their grievances and differences to arbitration as provided by the Hague protocol, why should not the other Powers bind themselves not to assist either of the belligerents financially, but to see to it that strict neutrality was preserved by their citizens? Rich nations," he goes on, "with extended commerce are vitally concerned in maintaining peace, and if no financial assistance could be obtained from the outside few nations would, in the face of the most effective neutrality of the other Powers, incur the perils of bankruptcy, and the inevitable wars of the future would at least be shorter." All this is excellent, and it is to be hoped the suggestion thus thrown out will not be allowed to drop out of sight. There can be no question at all that neutral nations incur grievous moral responsibility in supplying funds to belligerents to enable them to carry on the murder game. It seems a matter of no importance to the average premium hunter and unreflecting investor in new securities that their money should go in directions of that kind. All runs smoothly according to established rules of finance; loans are subscribed, and quoted at a premium and dealt in the world over by gentle and simple as a matter of course; but underneath all these market operations there lies the gravest possible moral responsibility. What right has the citizen of a neutral nation with money in his hand to go and give that money on terms to a nation at war in order that it may equip itself and proceed to a wholesale slaughter of the children of another nation? The proceeding will not bear looking at from any humane point of view, and although Mr. James Speyer does not raise this vital moral aspect of the subject at all, we hope it will not be forgotten when the subject of war loans from neutrals comes up for discussion at the next International Peace Congress. All investors in war loans of whatever description are participants in the blood-guiltiness of wars, and creators of the ruin which follows wars. International blood-shedding is becoming an anachronism in this modern world; it is also threatening to bring about the destruction of the loan monger.

ALLIANCE ASSURANCE AMALGAMATIONS AND DIS- POSSESSED DIRECTORS.

Next Wednesday an extraordinary general meeting, or court, of the members of the Alliance Assurance Company will be held to confirm the resolutions recently laid before a first meeting providing for an increase in its capital in order that it might absorb the Westminster Fire Office and the Alliance Marine and General Assurance Co., Limited. Also the share-

holders are to be asked to sanction a change in the laws and regulations of the company so as to permit it "to act as and undertake the duties of executor of wills and trustee of wills or settlements, to act as trustees of deeds or documents securing debentures, debenture stock, or the like, and to act as trustees for charitable and other institutions, and generally to execute and undertake trusts of all kinds, with or without remuneration in all or any of the above cases." Doubtless all the resolutions to be proposed will be adopted with something approaching to enthusiasm, and we have not a word to say against them. It is impossible, however, to abstain from a note of admiration with regard to the careful solicitude displayed towards the group of men who might but for this solicitude be described as dispossessed directors. By the absorption of the two offices two boards should in natural course lose their fees, but nothing of the kind will happen in this case. For it is provided in the agreement with the Alliance Marine and General Assurance Company that each head office director of that company who is on the board of the Alliance Assurance Company itself shall be entitled to be paid by this Alliance Company such sum as would be the commuted value of an annuity for his life equal to the amount of his salary as director of the Alliance Marine Company. Or he may take it out in an actual annuity, paid half-yearly during his life, and in order that there may be no suspicion of unfairness Mr. William Dourou Hoare, a head office director of the Alliance Marine Company, is to be treated in exactly the same manner, although not at present on the board of the Alliance Company. Moreover, each head office director who is not on the board of the Alliance Company would have the option of joining that board or of retiring, and on retiring to get either the commuted value of a life annuity equal to the amount of his salary or the annuity itself paid half-yearly. Equal solicitude is displayed towards the directors of the Westminster office, of whom there appear to be 18 in all. These gentlemen are to be respectively entitled to hold office for life under the new arrangement at a salary of £300 per annum each; but should one or more of the board not desire to be connected with the business after its absorption by the Alliance Company, or should he within one month after this agreement shall have become absolute, die, or give notice in writing that he or they do not desire such appointment, he or they respectively, or his or their representatives, shall thereupon be paid by the Alliance £2,500 in cash less any fees received by such director or directors in respect of his or their services after this agreement shall have become absolute. Further, in case such director would be one of the six treasurers of the Westminster he or his representatives shall be paid by the Alliance the additional sum of £500, so that retiring ordinary directors of the Westminster get £2,500 and the retiring treasurers £3,000 apiece. This seems to exhibit most praiseworthy solicitude for the comfort and prosperity of the dispossessed boards, and inspires the feeling that there can be no better occupation in life than that of an insurance director. We have missed our vocation.

THE BEIRA RAILWAY.

A third report upon the affairs of this unfortunate company has been issued by the debenture holders' committee, and it is not very pleasant reading. If the Mashonaland Railway Company conducts all its business in the way this committee alleges that it handles the affairs of the Beira Railway, then the position of the Chartered Company's railways is altogether worse even than we have alleged. Discrepancies in the accounts are alleged, and an investigation was made which showed that the directors' report, when carefully compared with the audited accounts, over-stated the nett receipts of the railway from Beira to Salisbury by some £82,000. That might be a mere muddle of book-keeping, but it is otherwise with the assertion of the ninth paragraph in the report to the effect that the Mashonaland Railway Company has overcharged the

Beira Company £60,000 for the repair of rolling stock, which rolling stock the Mashonaland Company had agreed to furnish and maintain for the use of the Beira Company in return for 5 per cent. of that company's gross receipts. The fact that this £60,000 overcharge has been made is not disclosed in either the report or the accounts presented to the shareholders at the recent meeting. That seems tolerably bad, although quite in accordance with the principles we have always found governing this branch of South African finance, but there is in some respects even worse to follow. One of the most glaring anomalies, say the committee, which have come to light is the fact that out of the 600,000 shares of the Beira Company in existence, upon which nothing has been paid to the company, 305,000 stand in the name of the Chartered Company, which has issued scrip against them while retaining the voting power ascribed to the shareholders. "Therefore," it goes on, "the debenture holders' interests are at the mercy of a body of shareholders who have contributed nothing in the way of capital to the concern, and the voting power of these shareholders is absolutely controlled by the Chartered Company, whose interests may at times be diametrically opposed to those of the debenture holders." Still another grievance relates to the transit dues on goods landed at Beira in passing over the company's railways. These, the committee says, are not charged with the Mashonaland Company's rent-charge, which amounts partly to a non-cumulative annual payment of £42,500, but are charged in favour of the debentures and debenture stock, and your committee therefore contends that whatever may be the earnings of the railway the debenture holders are entitled to these transit dues, and the directors cannot legally apply them directly or indirectly for the benefit of the Mashonaland Company." But the Mashonaland Company is master of the situation in virtue of this very non-cumulative rent-charge, for if the holders of the debentures of the Beira Railway now in default were to press for the appointment of a receiver the Mashonaland Company's lien would at once be converted into a prior lien debenture of £850,000, which could be enforced against the Beira Railway by foreclosure or sale. Altogether a very nice display of Chartered finance in its most libertine aspects.

TUBES, LIMITED.

Competition for orders during the twelve months ended September 30 reduced prices by more than 25 per cent. without any corresponding reduction in the cost of materials, and the directors of this unfortunate concern found themselves on the horns of a dilemma. Either they had to accept work at prices which provided no contribution to dead expenses or to refuse orders and still lose money by the dead expenses. The former alternative was adopted, and as this involved the company in a loss of £12,255, it is little wonder that the directors are pessimistic in their views as to the future, and see no salvation unless those who are least fitted to compete or are best fitted to turn their industry in other directions withdraw from the trade. To combine so as to enable all who are now in the trade to make a profit without raising prices to a point which would attract fresh competitors is considered quite out of the question, and if all the undertakings were capitalised on the scale of this one we are inclined to agree. Even, however, if the persuasive eloquence of the board induced a large number of the present manufacturers to withdraw from the field, it is highly improbable that this company would succeed in earning an adequate return on its present capital, weighted down as it is with dead assets. For one thing, patent rights and goodwill, which represent no less than £757,641 of the share and debenture capital amounting to £1,066,289, would obviously be very much overvalued at one-tenth of that amount, while plant, machinery, and tools at the Climax, Credenda, and Star works stand in the books at their old figure of £145,179, and it does not appear from the accounts presented that any allowance for wastage has been

made since September, 1902. Freehold and leasehold land and buildings at these works stand at £56,360, or £1,000 less than a year ago, but that is merely because the company had a windfall of that amount in the shape of a premium on a sub-lease of part of the unoccupied land at the Climax works, and the St. Helens property remains at £7,365. Liabilities to sundry creditors, "including reserves," are down £1,747 to £13,520, but another £971 at £10,661 has been advanced by present and former directors. On the other hand, sundry debtors have been reduced by £1,507 to £10,114, and cash has shrunk to the pitifully small sum of £90, while stocks are £839 larger at £30,666. Including the losses of £43,503 in stocks and £10,000 on the St. Helens property which were recognised as far back as 1902, but are not yet provided for, the debit balance on revenue account comes to £97,134. Altogether the outlook is about as hopeless as it can be, and reconstruction of a very drastic description would seem to be the only way out of the muddle.

HOPE, BROS.

The latest display made by this tailoring and general outfitting business almost creates a doubt whether the profits previously shown were ever really earned. We do not question that the directors conscientiously believed the figures brought out to be right and proper, but it seems inconceivable that trade and revenue could, without any apparent cause, so persistently fall away, and probably enough a far too sanguine view was formerly taken of the value of the stock. This is an item which has always bulked largely in the company's balance-sheet, the latest valuation being £165,856 compared with £170,646 at the end of the previous twelve months, and shareholders would doubtless like to be assured that the goods are really saleable at such figure. It was during the year ended in August, 1903, that income first began to fall away, and we now find it something like £30,000 less than the earnings for 1902. Can trade depression alone be responsible for such a collapse? Assuredly not, and we doubt if the dividendless shareholders will be much appeased by the directorial belief, as stated in the report, that the worst has now passed and there are indications of better times. Why has Mr. E. T. Hargraves resigned? Is his dissent from the proposal to take £1,000 from the reserve in order to pay the preference dividend alone responsible for the step? This gentleman only joined the board in February last, and far from his resignation being mentioned in the report shareholders are actually asked to confirm his appointment. The decision to depart again was conveyed to the Press in a private letter. Nor is this the only remarkable thing about the directorate. Two of the managing directors, Mr. Albert Edward Peacock and Mr. Wm. Leeland Headley, have resigned. What is the cause? Was not Mr. Peacock one of the vendors? We do not like the look of things at all, and hope the shareholders are preparing to force the remaining directors to throw a lot more light on these changes. They create a most uncomfortable feeling. Two new men are proposed for the directorate, but we know nothing of their qualifications, and we fancy it is time proprietors took a general look into things to see what is the matter. Remember that the goodwill of this rapidly diminishing business is in the balance-sheet at the scandalous—we can use no other word—figure of £275,073, and with things as they are that money must be considered gone—into the pockets of the vendors, without value received—and the reserves all told are only £31,875, including that for leasehold redemption, to be depleted by £1,000 in order that the preference dividends shall not fall into arrear. Moreover, these so-called savings are all in the business. Sundry alterations and additions to the company's properties have been made during the year, raising their book value from £181,131 to £189,032, and as the remaining assets consist of £38,229 held in cash and £4,190 due by debtors, against sundry creditors of £27,675, it is clear that the business is terribly pinched for liquid resources.

After providing all expenses, depreciation, and lease redemption, the profits for the twelve months ended August 31 were £24,588, a further decline of almost £14,000, from which the managing directors' salaries alone require the heavy sum of £5,125, a decrease against the preceding year of £1,375, owing to the mentioned resignations, but still a very burdensome figure. Then £3,098 or £2,236 more went in advertising—clearly with the poorest possible results—directors' and auditors' fees absorb £838, a further £500 is written off Ludgate Hill expenditure required by the L.C.C., and income-tax drew away £1,280. That left the nett balance at £13,747, a drop of over £16,000, and it becomes necessary to take £1,000 from reserve besides using all but £452 of the £1,792 brought forward in order to pay the full preference dividend. Naturally the ordinary shareholders receive nothing against 4 and 7 per cent. in the two preceding years, and, unless we are much mistaken, it will be some time before this part of the capital gets back to the dividend list. How has the venture into the sale of sports and games turned out—success or failure? That is another question for Tuesday's meeting.

LORD HARRIS AND "PROGRESS."

Lord Harris quite surpassed himself at the Gold Fields meeting on Tuesday last, and we trust he will not be denied a step in the peerage at an early date. He might be elevated as Viscount Syndicate of the Jupiter Mine, or something of that sort, so as to give him a loftier status amongst the financial conjurers of the City. But really, and joking apart, his speech was a marvellous performance marked by much adroitness and no small cunning of the humbugging sort. When a man can brag of giving away £50,000 more in dividend, although £35,000 of it was taken out of previous balances, and call this progress, in the face, too, of the shamed and belied boastings of previous years, he is well worthy of being an ardent follower of the war-maker of Birmingham and his gospel of hatred and ruin. We cannot follow his speech, which is of very little substantial interest; but one suggestion he threw out deserves to be taken hold of and given practical shape to. After a great deal of the usual rather degrading special pleading about Chinese labour his lordship proceeded to suggest that the Liberal party, before withdrawing the liberty to import Chinese, as he evidently expects it to do when it comes into power, should appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the whole subject—an impartial commission. We quite agree. Let us have the truth out, and if a Royal Commission can do good anywhere, a strong one inquiring into the facts on the spot in South Africa and faithfully reporting thereon would do no small service. So let us have a Royal Commission to see what Chinese "slavery" means, not only to the Chinese themselves in South Africa, but to the white population gathered there, and in large numbers starving.

A "TRUST" IN INDIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

PLEASE NOTE.—To prevent misconception about these trusts we have to state that they are never drawn up to further private or personal interests. When this Review was started in 1892, we gave a pledge that it would never be used to "work the market" in any sense, and that pledge has been faithfully kept; therefore neither the conductors nor any brokers or speculators in the City have any interest in the stocks named in our "model trusts" the stocks in which are selected week by week wholly on their intrinsic qualities as far as known, and we publish the selections solely as a guide to serious investors in using their own judgment, not as a means of working off upon the public stocks bought and held for the rise.

Of the two Indian Railways included in the under-noted selection the West of India Portuguese was not always successful in earning enough to cover its working charges, but interest at the rate of 5 per cent. is guaranteed by the Portuguese Government, and has been regularly paid. Since July 1, 1902, however, the line has been worked by the Southern Mahratta Railway with such satisfactory results that the traffic receipts should soon provide a good portion of the interest. The Bengal-Dooars has no monetary

guarantee from the Government, but although its working expenses amounted to over 60 per cent., it managed to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for its last completed year, and there seems every prospect of an improvement in the future, as the company can call upon the Secretary of State to take over and work the line through the Eastern Bengal State Railway for 40 per cent. of the gross receipts, and negotiations for putting this arrangement into force are now proceeding. The Government may buy up the line on December 31, 1919, or on December 31 of any succeeding seventh year, at the price of 1.25 of the invested capital for the original line, and 25 years' purchase of the average nett earnings of the preceding five years for the extensions, provided that the total does not exceed the capital by more than 20 per cent. Like all other Cuban railways, the Central is making very steady progress, and the ordinary capital has just re-entered the dividend list after an absence of four years, while the report, dealt with elsewhere in this issue, speaks enthusiastically of the prospects of the undertaking. The San Paulo Railway can be bought by the Brazilian Government in 1927 for such an amount of stock as will secure a return equal to the average dividends of the previous five years, with a minimum of 7 per cent., and as since the working agreement with the Huanchaca Company ceased the company has been able to pay 12 per cent. on its ordinary stock and show large surpluses besides, the security for the preference shares seems exceptionally good. All four stocks, in fact, are very favourable examples of their kind, and with an average yield of about £4 11s. 3d. per cent. the investment should prove sufficiently attractive.

	Nominal Amount.	Price.	Dividend.
£200 West of India Portuguese stock	£ 200	£ 211	£ s. d. 10 0 0
£100 Bengal-Doors ordinary stock..	100	90½	3 10 0
20 Cuban Central preference shares	200	225	11 0 0
£100 San Paulo preference stock....	100	119	5 0 0
	600	645½	29 10 0

WALL PAPER MANUFACTURERS.

Despite its burdensome capitalisation this combination continues in some measure to justify its creation, as the profits earned are still a long way in front of prospectus promises, and for the twelve months ending August 31 were moving upward again after showing a trifling set-back in the previous year. Their total was £243,227 compared with £241,712, and as the sum brought forward was £33,527 larger at £115,514 the actual credit for disposal is £358,741 against £323,779. Before arriving at the nett profits £30,000 is allowed for depreciation, but as we shall presently show, this sum must be altogether insufficient. From the balance mentioned debenture interest, interim preference dividend, and income-tax have been already provided, leaving £290,728, and the directors now propose to meet the final preference dividend and repeat the dividend of 8 per cent. paid last year—and, indeed, in every year since the thing was brought into being—on the ordinary shares. This done, £50,000 or £20,000 more is added to reserve and £128,385 carried forward. On the face of it the display looks pretty well, but those unacquainted with the history of the venture must not run away with the idea that because a good dividend is paid on the ordinary shares the concern is flourishing. These ordinary shares are really preferred ordinary shares, carrying a non-cumulative dividend of 10 per cent., if ever the earnings justify its payment, and after them come over a million deferred shares of £1 each, which have never yet received a dividend of any sort. What a pity this million or more, pure water, was ever added to the capital, because without it the undertaking might have been a really strong one. Let us suppose for a moment that these deferred shares, which represent nothing more tangible than the goodwill of the business, had never been created, and the capital

allowed to stop short at the ordinary shares, what would have been the real position? Of the last year's earnings as brought out 10 per cent. might easily have been distributed on the ordinary shares, placing, say, £50,000 to reserve and carrying forward a highly respectable balance. Now £50,000 a year added to reserve, with the assets unencumbered with imponderable gas, represents a very fair contribution, meaning such a steady strengthening of the finances that the ordinary shares, we may be sure, would have had a market value in excess of the combined worth of the ordinary and deferred shares as at present existing. There we have one advantage from moderate capitalisation, another would have been the possibility of paying a higher dividend without endangering the financial stability of the agglomeration, and a third the existence of a solid backing of real reserves constituting actual additional assets instead of each sum set aside being nothing better than so much put by to offset the goodwill. With this concern the share and debenture capital is £4,141,408, against which the capital expenditure on land, buildings, plant, machinery, and goodwill amounted to £3,221,861 at August 31, 1904. Additions for the year were £89,578, and the allowance for depreciation a mere £30,000, leaving the total at £3,281,439, of which we estimate that quite £1,000,000 is goodwill. Deducting that, the actual assets to be written down are valued at £2,281,439, and the sum allowed is little more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., which must be hopelessly inadequate. The extra money laid out on capital account was largely due to the purchase as from January 1 last of the lincresta business of Fredk. Walton and Co., but we are not told the actual price paid nor whether the investment is revenue earning. With the sum now added the reserve fund will reach £180,000, accumulated in the course of six years, and the concern is very well supplied with liquid assets, creditors being no more than £92,654 and debtors alone reaching £300,685. Then there are bills receivable £132,748 and cash £82,913, besides £341,328 invested in Local Loans and other securities, or loaned to municipal authorities, while stock-in-trade is valued at £512,238.

THE CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY'S MEETING.

All interested in this society and many others in the City will be sorry to learn that the chairman, Mr. John Coles, has been too ill to be able to preside at the annual meeting. His intimate knowledge of insurance business and faculty of clear exposition make his addresses always well worth reading. Happily he was able to prepare his speech, which was kindly read to the assembled shareholders by Sir Richard Douglas Powell, and shareholders and the reading public did not suffer. As usual with this society Mr. Coles had a fine story to tell of prosperity, growing business, increased wealth, and steady efforts to enlarge the business in the best possible way, by giving tempting terms to those who insure and by faithfully carrying out to the uttermost the contracts entered into. Very few insurance companies can boast of a better investment list than that of the Clerical and Medical. As the chairman says, "All its investments are choice and almost all good enough for trustees." The society has never invested a penny in breweries, and so carefully are its finances managed that its investments are to-day worth far more than the cost price at which they stand in the books. Mr. Coles gives as an example the British railway debentures held, which stand in the balance-sheet at £552,000 and are to-day worth £700,000. What a glorious opportunity a fact of this kind would give the Yankee insurance canvasser and balance-sheet "faker" to make a great splash.

The mention of Yankee insurance brings to mind one complaint we have to make against the chairman of the Clerical, Medical and General. Why does he fight shy of speaking frankly about the recent disclosures regarding the practices of the large American life offices that have done so much business here—rotten business, as we have always contended, and

business most injurious to the interests of honest life insurance offices who treat the funds committed to their care as strictly trust money? The Yankee offices will not be mealy mouthed in pouncing upon any weakness shown by a British office, why should the British offices neglect opportunities such as these annual meetings afford to set forth frankly and clearly the defects and dishonesties of their American competitors, for there is no softer word than dishonesty available for many of their practices? This grumble made, we turn to matters more pleasant. "All in this room understand," says Mr. Coles, "that the strength of a life office depends not on the number of policies invested, but on the balance that remains after making ample provision for all liabilities," and he went on to contend that measured thus by the highest standard the Clerical, Medical and General Office stands in a foremost position, "very near the top." We quite agree in that view, as might be inferred from what has already been said.

Much of the speech is occupied with details regarding the characteristics of the non-forfeitable and other special policies recommended by this office, and these particulars will be found very interesting by those in quest of life insurance, but we cannot go into them here, and the balance-sheet is dealt with in another column. But we should like to note Mr. Coles's statement that the interest profit upon the company's investments last year came to nearly £54,000 after deducting income-tax. This profit is arrived at by comparing the rate of interest yielded, nearly 4 per cent., with the rate at which the company values its accumulations, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. We also note with much regret that the eminent actuary who presides over the working staff of this life office, Mr. Whittall, is again laid aside by illness, and cordially join in the hope of the board that rest and change may ensure his recovery, for there can be no doubt that the great prosperity of the Clerical, Medical and General in recent years has been largely due to Mr. Whittall's zeal and devotion in its interests. Happily in Mr. Besant, the secretary, the board has a most efficient deputy.

CAPE ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.

An extraordinary number of discreditable incidents were packed into this company's financial year ended June 30 last, and those who took our advice and cleared out of such an undesirable enterprise—advice tendered when the directors the other day rushed out a debenture issue as though their very lives depended upon getting hold of some money—have no reason to regret the action. The company has had a very bad year, just as we hinted was possible, and although we are genuinely sorry for the powerless legitimate shareholders, it is only crocodiles' tears that we can shed over the sufferings of the Breitmeyers, Robinows, Beits, Rommels, Phillipps and other "Britons" connected with the undertaking. Among their escapades of the period under review was the shunting of Mr. A. Parrish from the board because he exposed and prevented a little game whereby the company might have been saddled for all time with a rotten and semi-bankrupt venture known as the Camps Bay tram line at present leased from the Cape Town Consolidated Tramways and Land Company. It made a loss last year of £13,225, but against this, say the directors, must be set the considerable revenue derived by the Cape Town system through the operations of the Camp Bays system. If we had to convert that story into something easily understood we should use the word "bunkum." A company making a loss of over £13,000 is bound to prove a valuable adjunct to another line, is it not? Such a simple truth is immediately illustrated by the decline of £17,558 in the gross revenue of the Cape Electric system—due to depression of business of course—in consequence of a drop in the number of passengers carried of 1,164,705. As a result the dividends declared by the Cape Town and Port Elizabeth companies went down from £110,162 to £89,111 at the same time as the loss on working the Camp Bay lines jumped from £9,938 to

£13,225, so that, including transfer fees, the revenue came out at £75,939 or a shrinkage of almost £25,000. Administration and sundry other charges bring the income down to £66,382, and after providing £32,832 for debenture interest, redemption and premium, the directors add £8,000 to reserve and pay 5 per cent., or just half as much, on the share capital. What a pleasant position for those unfortunate people who subscribed for £1 shares at 15s. premium as recently as August, 1904. The present price is par. A glance at the accounts instantly reveals the reason for the violent hurry to get that debenture issue placed of which we have already spoken. The company is simply "broke," to use a slang term, so far as liquid resources are concerned. There are certain unremitted dividends to come in which we will place against the balance of profit and loss, and examine the position outside these items. Well, the company's actual available assets consist of debtors £1,407, remittances in transit £895 and cash £183, a total of £2,485, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is only £1,244,511. How about the liabilities? That is where the pinch comes in. A sum of £96,375 is owing to Wernher, Beits, including £35,506 secured on Consols, worth £35,900 at the date of the balance-sheet and entered at £37,841, and even £100,000 would come in useful to help prop up a diseased Kaffir market. Other liabilities add up to £37,773, and we wonder how much of the debenture money went in liquidating debts and how much to relaying and reconstruction of the tramways, work which ought to be charged to revenue. Altogether the capital outlay seems to be £1,133,180, against which there are reserves of £178,989, including £28,200 held for redemption of debentures, but none of the savings can now be applied to the relief of capital, simply because they are entirely in the business. All of which goes to prove that if you put faith in a South African magnate, be the investment Kaffirs or a commercial venture, you are certain to lose your money.

THE STOCK BROKING CASE.

Most people were more or less surprised at the verdict given in the case of Clarkson v. Drucker and Morris, but there seemed to be only one opinion as to the substantial equity of the verdict given. What people were doubtful about was whether the conduct of the brokers, Drucker and Morris, could be deemed sufficiently far apart from the usages of Stock Exchange business to ensure a verdict for the plaintiff. Of the moral aspect of the case nobody had any doubt whatever, and the language used towards the brokers by their fellow members of the Stock Exchange, as all round the City, was sometimes sulphurous, always depreciatory or denunciatory. It is indeed this moral aspect of the case which disgusted people and made the story in some respects look worse than if the brokers had actually pocketed the money, or part of the money, the young pigeon lost by his gambling. They apparently only made their commissions, nothing remarkable whatever in amount; but that a firm of standing in the Stock Exchange should have allowed a fledgling of wealth to play and plunge upon the markets as this firm of brokers allowed Clarkson to do was felt to be at the very mildest "bad form," and we are quite sure no self-respecting stockbrokers would have allowed "a friend" to play the fool as this youth did. They would have told the young man to go elsewhere if he insisted upon gambling his substance away, or if he had been amenable to reason, and on the terms on intimate friendship Clarkson for a long time was with Drucker, they would have persuaded him to stop long before his losses reached such magnitude. From some points of view the case will do the Stock Exchange a good deal of mischief and almost incline the speculator, the small speculator in particular, to go to the "bucket shop" instead of to the regularly authorised broker, member of the Exchange. This would be a pity, for although there are peculiar people of various types amongst the members of the Stock Exchange, that body as a whole is one of

the most honourable in the country, and in the world, and the general run of stockbrokers must be held to be quite above the loose, free-and-easy, it's-your-affair-not-mine style of doing business which seems to have characterised Messrs. Drucker and Morris.

A point has been raised as to whether brokers should be held liable for the consequences of advice given to their clients, and it is alleged that Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K.C., the eminent counsel for the plaintiff, laid down the doctrine that they were so. If he did he was wrong. Except where the broker's motives can be otherwise shown to be dishonest, he cannot be held responsible for advice given. It would stop all business if he were. He can only to the best of his ability give the facts, and draw the inferences from the facts known or ascertainable at the time the advice is asked. It is for the client then to act on that advice or otherwise, as he thinks fit. To go beyond this, and saddle the stockbroker with the consequences of honestly given advice, simply because he happens to have made a mistake, or because the client has acted rashly on that advice, would be to paralyse honest trading of all kinds, and to injure the Stock Exchange to an irreparable extent. The moral of this Clarkson-Drucker history is quite other than this, and so obvious as to need no elucidation.

"CHARTERED" KING ABERCORN THE FIRST.

The Duke was great at the "Chartered" meeting, and is quite entitled to be described as a monarch when speaking on Rhodesia and its grandeur. "The keynote of much of the work accomplished," he said, "has been co-operation between the people and the company"—said people numbering how many, 12,000 or 13,000? For no doubt he speaks merely of the whites, the blacks being good only for hut tax, or for lash or lead—and the country is making great progress. It is a good grain country, tobacco has left the experimental stage, and will doubtless appear in the exports of the State; exports, as we pointed out last week, worth about £14,000 per annum, exclusive of gold. The company has money, too, actually "cash and liquid securities," to the amount of about £939,000, and exclusive of £694,000 in loans, "which, though not liquid, we regard as good, and of which the bulk, of course, consists of loans to the railway companies." Yes, and how are these railway loans to be got back, and why, if the Duke was able to say all this about the actual position of the company, is it impossible to provide a balance-sheet of a sort down to a later date than March 31, 1904, about a year and a-half after date? The Duke naturally paraded vaguely hopeful estimates for the future, but omitted to mention that all similar estimates made in the past have been falsified. He was also unable to tell the listening and admiring shareholders of any Rhodesian company which was in the position to pay a dividend to its shareholders, and made no allusion to the millions which have been lost by those who ventured into companies, many of them promoted by this eminent board, in order to, if possible, bring grist to the Chartered mill, with whose spent and lost capital Rhodesia has been manured.

These things are best left discreetly out of sight, and energies devoted to trumpeting the advantages of the territory for settlement, for crops of all kinds, for cattle rearing, for game preserving, too, now that minerals have proved such a miserable frost or fraud. We may judge of the desperate extremities the Duke and his associates are reduced to when they seize upon an alleged project for bringing electric power over some 700 miles of country, all the way from the Victoria Falls on the Zambesi River to the Witwatersrand, as something likely to boom this miserable territory and its finances, finances, as we also said last week, involving to date a loss of at least £15,000,000 to the investing and speculative classes, and whose return so far has been considerably less than nothing, a harvest of impoverishment, disillusionment, and chicane. We would only ask one question in relation

to this electricity story, one which the Chartered Company will doubtless be careful not to answer—Is there any invention known which would permit the transmission of electric power over such a distance without a loss so great as to make it either valueless or excessively costly, as against coal, at the far end of the line? If that question is satisfactorily answered we shall then be able to say more about the prospects of a scheme of this description, and what the unit of electric power could be sold at in order to recoup the projectors for the capital spent in cutting the canals, laying down the turbines, and the necessary transmitting cables—or will it be "wireless" current? "I must not," said the Duke, "leave the subject of the Victoria Falls, which are bridged"—to whose advantage?—"without making some reference to the great project of the African Concessions Syndicate to transmit power from the Falls to the Witwatersrand Mines. I am informed that the highest engineering authority has been obtained in support of the immediate realisation of this enterprise," and so forth—mere gibble-gabble, excellent, apparently, for use with the gullible. Is there no coal near the Witwatersrand, no water power nearer than the Zambesi? What a miserable illusionist the man is and his company!

THE INTERNATIONAL BANK OF LONDON SCANDAL.

It did not surprise us to gather from a paragraph in the *Financial News* that the Board of Trade has declined to intervene to help in the elucidation of the mystery surrounding the failure of this bank. As a director of it remarked to a friend when the collapse occurred, "what a lucky circumstance that this sudden stoppage did not happen in Germany." The German Parliament has not yet come so completely under the control of the company promoter and needy landlord in quest of directorships as our decrepit House of Commons, and the German authorities have rather a summary way of dealing with company directors when anything goes wrong. They clap them in gaol first and allow them to prove their innocence afterwards. Our methods are entirely different, except when some paltry infamy like that disclosed in the story of the so-called "Economic Bank" gives opportunity for a display of official righteousness and zeal. Then, indeed, we have things sifted with great displays of legal acumen, to the edification of the multitude. We must not, however, blame Board of Trade officials for their apathy towards the International Bank of London scandal. It is Parliament that is to blame in passing Acts which, as in the case of the Unemployed Act, while establishing a machinery for doing all sorts of fine things, are carefully drawn so as to provide no motive power. The Board of Trade could do much had it the means or the liberty to act. It has neither.

None the less is this International Bank scandal something which ought not to be allowed to pass into oblivion unnoticed. Everything we have heard about it confirms the feeling that its shareholders have been heartlessly robbed. One has only to put a date or two together to realise that this must be so. The bank had been in existence for 30 years before it suddenly collapsed, and as recently as February 25 last year, at the general meeting of shareholders then held, the chairman, Mr. Carl Meyer, gave a glowing report of its affairs. The balance-sheet, too, disclosed profits sufficient to enable the directors to pay a 5 per cent. dividend on the share capital for the previous half-year, and to add £3,000 to the reserve, raising the total thereof to £31,000. Within five months, viz., on July 19 of the same year, a circular was issued by the board informing shareholders that "a guarantee fund" of £270,000 had been formed to take up the bills and acceptances of the North German Pit Wood Company, and so allow the bank to continue its regular business without interruption. This was like a bomb-shell amongst the proprietors and financiers in the City, but had this been all, or the worst, there might not have been much to be said. It was just

within the bounds of possibility that the directors did not know in February that the German Pit Wood Company was an empty husk trading on accommodation paper. Worse followed, however, for while declaring their resolution or intention to carry on the "regular business" of the bank, the directors were busy negotiating with the Disconto Gesellschaft of Berlin to transfer said business to its keeping at a price never disclosed. Naturally independent shareholders made an effort to get behind the scenes and find out why this sudden collapse had taken place—who had stolen their money. It was, therefore, necessary to circumvent them, and one of the means employed to do so was to buy in the shares, principally of foreign holders, at £2 10s. apiece in order to clear out of the way any formidable body of opponents to voluntary liquidation or hushing up. The shareholders consequently now find themselves minus the whole of their capital, including the calls necessary to liquidate the mysterious losses, and they are this without having had the opportunity to investigate the origin of these losses. When did the bank begin to be involved with the Pit Wood Company? Has its money been used to cover up losses incurred by members of the board on their own responsibility? Who assisted in cooking the accounts so as to show a profit for the second half of 1904, and how far back has the cooking gone? Did it begin five years ago, ten years ago, or when? We do not know, and the shareholders never will know. They were condescended to by a board of eminent financiers and members of society whose carriages may still be seen trundling round Rotten Row in the season, some of whom hobnob with royalty and move in the highest circles of society. How can any humble provider of share capital be expected to get a moment's consideration from gentlemen thus high placed, or from the Government of the country? The scandal remains—and a very foul one it is—just the same, but the British public likes to be humbugged, or seems to, and the great players it trusts its money to are immune and sacred. "But we can prosecute them ourselves." Well, plank your money down and see what comes of it. Ah, no, shareholders prefer that somebody else should do that.

THE AUSTRALASIAN MORTGAGE AND AGENCY CO., LIMITED.

There is one great comfort still about the affairs of this company; enough money seems to be on hand, if carefully husbanded, to provide directors' and trustees' fees for a few years to come. There is even a little in hand for travelling expenses, which last year absorbed £786. Altogether directors' fees came to £2,093, and the general expenses of carrying on the losing and vanishing business came to nearly £10,000, but there was a "profit," the directors say, after all these necessary outgoings had been met, together with £12,849, representing interest on debentures and prepaid capital "less interest received"—a mocking sort of entry—and £17,235 used to reduce bank overdraft and pay off prior mortgages. All this accomplished £6,666 5s. 3d. remained as aforesaid profit, and we hope the directors will look after the 3d. What substance may otherwise be left in this imposing-looking structure we dare not venture to guess, but the board tells us that in the past year it realised properties, &c., other than calls and small amounts to the extent of over £250,000, and that the whole realisations thus summed up show a loss on the value as stated in the accounts of £159,115. Moreover, since the end of the company's fiscal year, which closed on May 26 last, the board has realised other properties, which, "subject to prior charges," will produce approximately £240,000, and in this case also there is a loss which amounts to about £190,000, so that in little more than twelve months the nominal assets of the company have disappeared to the tune of nearly £350,000. What is left? The directors themselves probably could not tell us, they are going to bring Mr. Davies, the station

manager, home to tell them; but why cannot they meantime do something to give the shareholders and the debenture holders an honest balance-sheet? To show property and assets of a nominal value of £1,250,828 when each fresh piece of property disposed of realises an overwhelming loss is simply to mock at the intelligence of their constituents. The whole thing seems to be a mockery, the only solid item about the balance-sheet being £585,502 of debt, of liabilities due by the company against remaining assets which no one has the slightest means of valuing, but there is still £69,000 of cash in hand, so the farce will probably be continued for a few months longer. How are the wise men going to "satisfactorily consider the future policy of the company"?

WATNEY, COMBES CAPITAL REORGANISATION.

Unable to burke the situation any longer, the directors of the bloated and fashionably promoted brewery structure known as Watney, Combe, Reid and Co. have just confessed to their stockholders that there is a deficiency in the assets of £3,209,000. Without the slightest expression of regret at the ghastly story they have to tell, and as though the smash up were nothing more than might have been expected, the board calmly proceeds to relate that the company has suffered in three ways from the depression in brewery business—from the diminution in the sales of its beers, the inability of its customers and tenants to meet their obligations, and the great decrease in the capital value of its licensed houses. What a world of meaning is conveyed in these few deftly chosen phrases. But who would dare to say that the glorified venture was capitalised on the very pinnacle of a boom basis or that the company's unfortunate human dependants had loans and other burdens showered—forced—upon them in order to tie them hand and foot until they finally broke down beneath the strain? It is but a melancholy satisfaction to us to have time and again predicted the collapse which has now come about—a prediction based on the unassailable fact that an enterprise reared as this one was, its assets corruptly and, we fear, fraudulently swollen and distended until they became unrecognisable, could not live and flourish, be drunkenness never so rampant. The thing has been crushed with a share and debenture capital of almost £15,000,000, and we do not believe that the £3,209,000 now admitted to be lost represents anything near the truth. Who can conscientiously say that the goodwill has any value at all? The directors think that its worth has gone down by not less than £1,139,000, but we do not think the total figure has ever been mentioned. What is it? On loans to customers the loss is put down at the huge sum of £1,700,315 and on freeholds and leaseholds at another £370,094, making, with the goodwill reduction, an aggregate of £3,209,000, as already mentioned. How is it to be met? First of all reserves to the amount of £820,352 are utilised—capital reserves chiefly and not genuine accumulations from profits—and the balance comes by writing 75 per cent. off the deferred stock, bringing it down from £3,185,410 to £796,353. Not so bad, perhaps, for a "beginning."

THOUGHTS ON THE UNEMPLOYED.

By the time this note reaches the eyes of readers the Queen's fund for the unemployed may have reached £100,000. What are the managers going to do with it? How will it be applied? A moderate percentage is already disappearing in advertisements to the various newspapers showing the names of those who have subscribed—thanking God, perhaps, as they wrote their cheques that they were done with it. Where is the rest of the money to go? Is there any scheme being constructed for the purpose of dealing courageously and wisely with the unemployed problem among the suppressed masses, a problem certain to grow more menacing? For our working classes, unfortunately for their masters, can read now, and they are daily noting what is going on in Russia—the effectiveness of passive

resistance there, the power of the universal strike, the ominous determination of the peasantry in various provinces of the empire to take for themselves what is denied to them by the laws and usages of their country, and to slay and burn while so doing. Mere money subscriptions, however magnificent, however sympathetically generous, will not settle this problem, and surely it is one pathetic in many of its aspects, as well as ominous for the constituted order of society. We have seen few sadder sights in the whole course of our life than that tramp of workless men through the streets of London last Monday. They were peaceable men, orderly, the great majority of them obviously accustomed to work with their hands, and they had nothing to do. Next time they demonstrate, their mood may be much less pacific. What will the landowners do should our working-men decide that they must give up game preserves, deer forests, and pleasure parks and sell to those willing to work the right to cultivate the places now kept waste.

In the meantime, another class of citizen is about to be workless. The unemployed man of Birmingham has been busy again trailing the red herring across the scent, endeavouring by his blatant and unspeakably dishonest advocacy of a system of protection, retaliation, preference with the colonies and rubbish of that description—quite impracticable but none the less dishonest because impracticable—to keep people from brooding over the excessive load of their taxation and from demanding that the public expenditure shall be reduced to a figure within the means of the needy to meet. It is no doubt excellent party tactics from Mr. Chamberlain's point of view, and gives occupation to a number of speakers to refute his fantastic assertions, assertions made not only without any attempt to demonstrate their truth but with a kind of leering mockery at those who should really for a moment dream of treating them as serious. Lord Rosebery though does that, another of the "out o' works." He is busy down in the south-west of England pounding away at the Chamberlainites and making great play with Free Trade sentiments. Is it true that his Lordship is determined to hustle Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman out of the leadership of the Liberal party? That is the story going round, and it will be one of the meanest incidents in current politics should it prove true. Sir Henry has borne the brunt of the fight during all these lean and barren years when Lord Rosebery was sulking in his tent, or "ploughing his lonely furrow," or in other ways demonstrating that he did not care a shekel for current political events or for his country, so long as he was not a leading figure therein. Now he is all zeal, and the nation really does not care very much whether his arguments are magnificent or not. It wants its taxes reduced, but his lordship says nothing about that, nor does his henchman, Mr. Asquith, say very much, the serene, cool man. Most of our sympathy must after all be reserved for poor Mr. Balfour and his colleagues, for they are soon to be numbered among the unemployed. As workers they have not been very trustworthy, and assuredly never cheap, but it is hard on them for all that to be turned out of their berths by an ex-colleague, our chief political Hooligan—thanks *Edinburgh Evening News* for this apt phrase—just because they refused to go on strike when he did. "I'll kick you out" he has been threatening, and, as the mob of the brainless shout in chorus, the unhappy family will have to go—taking their Kaffir shares, their Chinese slaves, their Chartered Company, their blood-stained African records with them. Poor bedraggled ones, it must be bitter for them to see all their double-dealing, their subterfuge and guileful phrase making—as witness Mr. Balfour's on the Transvaal "Legislative Council" and the "white people" of that ruined country in yesterday's papers—coming to naught. Not much longer will salaries come in handy every month or quarter to enable a diligent minister to pay the butcher and baker, the tailor, motor man, and caddy, with a little to spare for the Stock Exchange, whose ever-recurring settlements do worry the unhappy "Chartered" or "Rand" shareholder so. Will these men also—so soon to be among the unemployed—get up their street demonstration and form a procession, say, from Buckingham

Palace to London Wall? The effect would be a thrilling novelty, if the dislodged ones would only dress themselves up in the rags of their lost reputations.

Passing Events.

Complaint is made by a Calcutta correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* about the apathy of British merchants there. Instead of scouring the country by their travellers and opening depôts wherever the facilities for distribution or the density of population might suggest, they sit still in their Calcutta offices and trust the distribution of their goods to the *marwaris*, or native brokers. This, apparently, is not the German fashion, and the correspondent says that our Bengal firms must change their method if they are to retain the trade. "Not 5 per cent.," he says, "of the Calcutta merchants or their European assistants know anything of the country or the people's requirements outside the City." He also adds that the boycott, or *swadeshi* movement, is already dying, and that is not to be wondered at when we see that the amount subscribed to the fund for sustaining this movement had not, at the date of his writing, reached Rs.4,000. "It is all nonsense to expect native mills to produce the cotton required by the Indian people, and if the Manchester trade is suffering, it is because of the supineness with which it is looked after." All this seems to us sound common-sense.

The business of Cammell, Laird, and Co. is already a very big one, but its scope will be greatly extended by the acquisition, announced on Wednesday, of half the ordinary shares of the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, a Glasgow enterprise having a share and debenture capital of about £850,000. A certain number of Cammell's ordinary shares have been allotted to some of the Fairfield company's ordinary shareholders, and the latter undertaking purchases a substantial interest in the Coventry Ordnance Works, Limited, the remainder of its capital being in the hands of Cammell, Laird, and Co. and John Brown and Co. An extensive community of interests would thus appear to be established, to become fruitful of good results to all concerned let us hope, not even forgetting the negligible consumer.

A very careful discrimination will have to be exercised by the investing public in its selection of motor 'bus securities, the shares of some of the companies so far promoted being anything but desirable acquisitions, but this truism does not detract in the slightest from the value of an educative article contributed to the columns of the *Pall Mall Gazette* on the future of the motor omnibus. During the past week or so the securities of what may be called the leading horse companies, the London General and the Road Car, have suffered severely in market value, and quite apart from the fearful burden which the capital accounts of these undertakings must for all time bear in the shape of abandoned vehicles and horse stock, we are beginning to fear they are being badly beaten in the race to provide London and its suburbs with a decent means of surface transit. It is difficult to go into any busy street nowadays without meeting a certain number of motor 'buses, but how many are London Generals or Road Cars? We should like to know the exact figures, and meanwhile can point to a few significant facts which the shareholders of the horse enterprises would do well to ponder over. Traffic returns are beginning to show most disturbing decreases, but they are absolutely insignificant compared with the collapse certain to ensue unless these companies wake up. Several important and reliable ventures have already fiercely attacked the business of the horse-drawn vehicles with great success, so it is said, and according to the writer of the article arrangements are now nearing completion for such an onslaught on London's traffic that within three years motor vehicles sufficient in number to cope with the 600,000,000 'bus passengers per annum will be running. This may be an over-sanguine view—doubtless is—but the fight is going to be a particularly keen one, and it will be a case of the

survival of the fittest. Can that be Pound's company? Not unless some enterprising and up-to-date men take the affairs in hand and make a bold effort to drag the company's wheels out of the rut.

We are very pleased to learn that the directors of the Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company have taken immediate steps to meet the charges brought against them in the circular letter issued by Mr. Dvorkovitz, referred to in these columns last week. A meeting has been called for December 6 next, irrespective of the requisition which Mr. Dvorkovitz is seeking from the shareholders, and the board earnestly requests all proprietors to make every effort to attend personally, but, failing that, naturally follows the example set by the opposition, and asks for proxies. The appointment of any committee upon the nomination of Mr. P. Dvorkovitz or his friends will be strenuously resisted, and we trust the directors will be able to justify their hostile attitude. Without doubt the acquisition by Mr. Dvorkovitz of 10 preference shares for the purposes of this agitation will tell in their favour, as this fact alone creates a doubt whether the gentleman's motives are entirely disinterested. Was it really necessary for him to interfere at all in the affairs of the Russian Petroleum Company?

The British Mutoscope and Biograph Company is not a very important enterprise, but it has done badly enough to make its affairs interesting. No dividend has been paid since 1900, when a first and last 10 per cent. was distributed, and those of a mind to lose a little money could pick up the £1 shares at 6d. apiece. Under the circumstances, the directors have evidently come to the conclusion that proprietors have no further interest in the way things are going on, and lately removed the company's offices from 18, Great Windmill Street to 10, Bucknall Street, Holborn, without intimating the change. Apparently the move was a good one, as the secretary says the expenses are now only a fifth of their previous amount, and, moreover, every effort is being made to instil some life into the venture. The business, we are assured, is now being run at a profit, and when, after the accounts now being prepared are published, the directors meet the shareholders, a pleasanter story will be told than at one time seemed likely.

The latest Japanese Government Loan, and we hope the last for many a long day, will be out on Tuesday morning. Nominally it is for £50,000,000, but half the amount will be reserved against the outstanding short term 6 per cent. bonds. The other £25,000,000 will be split up thus: £12,000,000 for Paris, issued by the French Rothschilds, £6,500,000 for London, offered through the usual channels, and £3,250,000 each for Berlin and New York. Ninety per cent. is to be the price asked, and the bonds will bear 4 per cent. interest. That Japan needs all the money she can get we have no doubt at all, for the war must have exhausted her to a degree greater than we can form any idea of. But the vigour of the Japanese race is great, and we shall hope the best, sad though it be to see a fine people coming so much under the grasp of the international usurer.

As we foreshadowed twelve months ago there is a further appreciable falling off in the profits earned by the glorious De Beers in the past financial year, despite which the directors declare that the market has been buoyant. Sales of diamonds realised only £4,802,844, against £4,918,568 and £5,241,173 in the two preceding years. Nett profits fell from £1,981,769 to £1,865,355, and the deferred shares receive 20s. per share only compared with 27s. 6d. in 1903-4 and 1902-3. There was a further ominous decline in the value of the "blue" ground, the average per load being as low as .46 carats, or 24s. 2.7d., against 26s. 7.1d. and 29s. 9.8d., respectively, in the two previous years. In face of this steady and, we fear, inevitable depreciation, together with the appearance in the market of formidable rivals, with better diamonds, the outlook for the deferred shareholders is becoming unpleasant. Naturally, the directors assume their old cheeriness, but the public can see through such grinning masks. Owing to the

pressure on space, we cannot deal with the report more fully in the present issue, and must defer an extended analysis until next week.

At the last annual meeting of the United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses the chairman referred to a projected fusion of the undertaking with the Cardenas and Jucaro Railway, and this scheme now appears to have taken definite shape. The absorption of the Cardenas system will involve the issue of £1,000,000 in ordinary shares to be subsequently converted into stock, and £1,200,000 5 per cent. debenture stock, £940,000 of each class, besides £200,000 in cash, being used for the purposes of the acquisition, the balance of the money raised being available for general purposes. Certain assets possessed by the two companies will not be included in the amalgamation, and those belonging to the United Company, together with sundry profits which will accrue when the deal has been completed, will be used to provide a special bonus for the stock holders.

Critical Index To New Investments.

LONDON MOTOR OMNIBUS CO., LIMITED.

This company put its first "Vanguard" motor 'bus on the streets in March last, and is now seeking further capital to increase the number to at least 300, as well as to pay for the extension of the garage accommodation which has been secured by an issue of 40,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £5 each offered through the British Motor 'Bus Trust at par. The auditors certify that from January 7 to October 31 the nett profit from all sources after charging repairs and renewals and providing for depreciation exceeded 2d. per 'bus mile run, and that for October the profit exceeded 3d. per mile, and it is estimated that with 240 'buses running on an average 109 miles per 'bus per day, an annual profit of £79,570 should be earned. This statement, however, is too vague to be satisfactory, and it would have been better if actual profits had been shown together with the percentage for depreciation considered adequate, and as such figures must have been compiled for the purposes of the interim dividend which was declared so opportunely with the issue of the prospectus, they might easily have been given. An agreement is proposed between this company, the London and District Motor Bus Co., Limited, and another London company to avoid competition amongst themselves, as far as possible, and to take joint action to meet competition from outside sources, and this may be in the company's favour. On the other hand, we should like to know if it is true that the undertakings are finding it increasingly difficult to procure drivers and conductors owing to the injurious results from the petrol, and if so what is the probable effect on the figures paraded in the prospectus?

LONDON AND SOUTH COAST MOTOR SERVICE, LIMITED.

The proposals put forward in this prospectus would appear to be somewhat impudent, and the map of routes enclosed therewith would lead one to suppose that the promoters of the concern have a firm belief in the gullibility of the public. Two motor coaches, one licensed to hold eight and the other eleven passengers, which ran between Folkestone and Hythe, are said to have yielded in the period from June 5, 1902, and September 10, 1905, a profit of £2,374, and for these and for two patents in connection with driving, spragging, and braking apparatus, and fastening solid tyres to motor wheels, the vendors take one-third of the share capital and £15,000 in cash. Out of the £100,000 in £5 shares forming the capital 13,334 shares are offered for subscription to provide the cash portion of the purchase price and the funds for acquiring 31 additional coaches to carry 20 persons each, which are estimated to cost, with the necessary land and buildings for garages, machinery, tools, &c., no more than £38,950. It is calculated that by working 300 days per year with ten passengers per car for each journey in the summer and five passengers in the winter, and reducing the winter fares by 25 per cent.,

sufficient patronage will be attracted to yield a gross revenue of £39,807, of which expenses, including 15 per cent. depreciation on cars and 5 per cent. on buildings, will absorb £22,805 leaving a profit of £17,002. This means a profit of about 3½d. per mile run, which is more than even the London Motor Omnibus Company looks for. The promoters' case can hardly be considered strengthened by the lifting of the figures of the production of motors in France from the prospectus of "Argyll Motors," which is a manufacturing concern, and not interested in the plying of cars for hire.

BUCHANAN AND FRENCH, LIMITED.

This company takes over a Glasgow business of timber exporters and saw-millers founded in 1888, which seems to have relied too freely on borrowed money to extend its trade, and now wishes to adjust its finances by conversion into a limited liability company. The actual property acquired consists of saw-mills and machinery valued at £13,663, and stocks of timber, &c., considered to be worth £36,023, but the excess of trade liabilities and loans over book debts, cash advances, and bills receivable comes to £29,686. This leaves the nett surplus of assets at £20,000, which sum is paid to the vendors in 20,000 deferred shares of £1 each, while fresh funds needed are to be raised by an issue of 50,000 preferred ordinary shares of £1 each. The preferred shares are to be entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend of 6 per cent. and to 20 per cent. of the balance of the profits which it shall be determined to distribute in each year. For the five years to December 31, 1904, profits are stated to have varied between £7,478 and £7,022, the average being £7,258. But how much of this was locked up in stocks each year—and was therefore not readily realisable for dividend? The shares offered have been underwritten for a commission of 5 per cent. by the British Industrial Trust, and a firm of the name of Mitchell, Hain, and Co. receives £3,500 for the preliminary expenses together with £1,500 in cash from the company, and £500 in deferred shares from each of the two vendors for services rendered, so that the intermediaries' pickings seem fairly liberal.

BONMAHON COPPER MINES DEVELOPMENT SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

This is a proposal to acquire, free of all royalties and charges, the Knockmahon and Tankardstown Copper Mines in County Waterford, to reopen them, and then, if necessary, to form a larger company to develop the property on an adequate scale. Apparently the mines were worked from 1824 to 1865 with a fair measure of success, as it is claimed that during that period the authenticated sales of ore in Swansea alone realised £1,399,232, of which working costs took £855,621 and profits and royalties came to £543,011. Why the properties should have been abandoned is a point not dwelt upon, but the reason was evidently not because they were worked out, as the estimates of experts put the ore reserves at from two to three million tons. On the lower figure it is calculated that with an output of 100 tons per day for 300 working days, and taking copper at £60 per ton a nett annual profit of £23,000 could be earned after setting aside £5,000 for depreciation. The total capital is only £30,000 in £1 shares, of which 11,250 go to the vendors with £5,000 in cash, and 12,500 are offered for subscription, so that it is altogether a very small affair.

KANSAI RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Messrs. M. Samuel and Co. invite subscriptions for £1,000,000 4½ per cent. first mortgage debentures of the above railway at 97½ payable 5 per cent. on application, 22½ per cent. on allotment, 20 per cent. on January 16, and 25 per cent. each on February 20 and March 20. The company was formed in 1888 with a share capital of 3,000,000 yen (£300,000) with the object of building railways between Yokkaichi and Kusatsu, and in 1893 the capital was increased to 6,500,000 yen. Since 1897 the line has been extended by purchase or amalgamation with five other undertakings, until it reaches about 210 miles, and the share capital now amounts to 22,545,560 yen (£2,254,556).

In the five years ended March 31 the gross earnings have risen from £202,538 to £241,151, and the nett profits from £118,526 to £149,330, the passengers carried in the last year having been 9,859,712, and the goods traffic 594,250 tons. The debentures are repayable on March 20, 1926, and are secured by a first mortgage, created under Japanese law and approved by the Government on all the property now owned. The security should thus be good of its kind.

MOTOR BUS CO., LIMITED.

This is the third company mentioned in the prospectus of the London Motor Omnibus Company issued this week as having entered into the defensive alliance, but surely a little ingenuity might have found a more distinctive title for it. The capital has been fixed at £305,000, divided into 300,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 100,000 deferred shares of 1s. each, which are entitled to half the surplus profits after 10 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary. At present 150,000 ordinary shares are offered for subscription by the British Motor Bus Trust, and it is considered that this number, if fully subscribed, should enable the directors to acquire at least 150 vehicles and provide for the necessary garages, working capital, &c. The deferred shares go to the Motor Transit Trust, with £5,000 in cash as promoters' profits, and if the estimated profits of £39,785 are realised, that concern stands to make a very good thing out of the transaction. These figures, of course, are based on the experience of the London Motor Omnibus Company, and with the coalition above mentioned the new company stands as fair a chance of success as its co-workers. But the shares, nevertheless, can only be regarded as a speculative investment at best.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY.—Ordinary £10 shares, to the number of 170,157, will be offered at par to holders of ordinary stock registered on November 17 in the proportion of one new share for every £40 held.

DAIMLER MOTOR (1904).—The directors have decided to issue 15,400 preference shares (to be 10s. called up) and 20,092 ordinary shares to holders of ordinary and preference registered on October 31 in the proportion of about one new share for every three held. The shares are offered at a premium of 7s. 6d. each.

LAND AND HOUSE PROPERTY.—Subscriptions are invited for the unissued balance of 6,060 4½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £5 each and for certain 4 per cent. debentures.

Answers to Correspondents.

Lins.—(1) The debentures have lately been converted to 5 per cent., and considering the general position of the undertaking do not look particularly attractive. (2) A fairly good undertaking for a small amount. Do not forget, though, that business was last year abnormally swollen by the Far Eastern war. (3) Not a very strong company, the reserves and insurance fund being small compared with the capital. Something better, we think, might be found. (4) The company may be able to continue its present rate of dividend, but its business has sunk most alarmingly during the past few years, thanks to the depression in the country which it serves, and the future is rather clouded. (5) This journal is quite wrong concerning the company's reserves, which are probably not more than £15,000. Not a desirable investment.

R. G. C.—(1) This affair is by no means a good one, and so far from recommending a purchase we think you would do better to clear out. (2) Even the contingency you mention would not make the stock a good investment in any sense of the word.

Cherry.—The business is thoroughly sound, and although it has suffered from severe competition, we still think you should hold your shares.

H. Bayley.—(1) We do not like the outlook for this company at all, as we doubt whether its process can ever be worked as a commercial success. (2) Last year's report was certainly more encouraging and the shares would seem a fair speculative purchase. (3) Business is so good in the iron and steel trades just now that this company's shares may have a further rise, justified perhaps by the profits immediately gained, but on the "long view" we do not much like the position. The company's capital during the past few years has been enormous, and many years of great activity will be required to justify it. Reserves too are very slender. No. 2 is the best.

Fletcher.—Beyond sales indicated elsewhere in this number, we know of no important cause for the recent drop in price; it is not the effect evidently of serious news from the mine. A moderate purchase may turn out well.

M. B.—No. 4 in your list seems to give better chances than the others. At your request we are sending you a copy of the issue dealing with this company.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended November 14, \$3,894, decrease \$426.
 Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 20, \$20,092, increase \$61; aggregate from January 1, \$755,424, increase \$161,470.
 Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 21, Rs. 76,434, increase Rs. 11,101; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 11,15,748, increase Rs. 1,56,878.
 Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 7, \$114,500, increase \$16,100; total from July 1, \$1,803,100, increase \$401,200.
 Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 21, Rs. 25,434, increase Rs. 1,602; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 3,97,799, increase Rs. 27,090.
 Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 4, £540, decrease £11.
 Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 1st week of November, \$12,890, increase \$1,795; aggregate from January 1, \$686,671, increase \$915.
 Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 21, Rs. 14,289, decrease Rs. 1,007; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,06,909, increase Rs. 28,920.
 White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended November 7 amounted to \$3,825.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending November 18, £1,200, increase £8; aggregate from July 1, £23,844, decrease £194.
 Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending November 18, £806, increase £62; aggregate from July 1, £18,764, decrease £1,229.
 East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for September, £4,376, decrease £335.
 East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending November 18, £364, increase £14; aggregate from July 1, £6,761, decrease £413.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 17, £1,320, increase £447; aggregate from July 1, £27,779, increase £9,764.
 Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 19, £5, decrease £3; aggregate from July 1, £491, increase £13.
 Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 17, £4,579, decrease £52; aggregate from July 1, £101,836, decrease £2,004.
 British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending November 17 £26,600, increase £4,371; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,242,932, increase £126,587; 432½ miles, against 414.
 Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 18, £998, decrease £17; aggregate from July 2, £22,519, increase £9,973.
 Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 21, £85, decrease £17; aggregate from July 1, £3,079, decrease £85.
 Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 17, £97, increase £1; aggregate from July 1, £2,627, decrease £30.
 Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 17, £4,575, increase £26; aggregate from July 1, £103,202, decrease £1,122.
 Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 18, £4,598, decrease £19; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £224,055, increase £16,411.
 Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 17, £215, decrease £12; aggregate from July 1, £5,159, decrease £382.
 Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 16, £316.
 Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 18, £251, decrease £20; aggregate from October 1, £2,155, decrease £464.
 London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 11, £13,671, increase £834; aggregate from April 1, £483,288, increase £67,421. Miles 51½ against 46½.
 London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 18, £20,240, decrease £961; aggregate from July 2, £468,357, decrease £11,670.
 London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 21, £7,002, increase £51; aggregate from July 1, £157,058, increase £995.
 Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 17, £197, decrease £12; aggregate from July 1, £4,046, increase £185.
 Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 19, £642, increase £201.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 18° £14,571, increase £1,105; aggregate from January 1, £614,963' increase £39,134.
 Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.
 Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.
 Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.
 Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of October, £10,330, decrease £411.
 British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to September 30, \$287,231, increase \$75,624. Net earnings from July 1 to September 30, \$131,841, increase \$52,363.
 Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending November 19, £3,518, decrease £142; aggregate from January 1, £159,669, increase £7,723.
 Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 21, £1,270.
 Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month October, \$236,900.
 Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 11, Rs. 46,074, increase Rs. 8,282; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 8,55,623, increase Rs. 1,10,677.
 Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.
 Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of October, £3,155, decrease £83. Total to October 31, £37,763, increase £6,130.
 Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.
 Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of September, \$454,061, increase \$80,118; aggregate from January 1, \$3,482,687, increase \$274,516. Net traffic receipts, \$278,030, increase \$70,104; aggregate from January 1, \$1,904,537, increase \$206,534.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	£		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	£
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Nov. 19	2,113	—	119	20	41,512	—	2,136
Cambrian	" 19	4,605	+	15	20	151,114	—	7,050
Central London ..	" 18	7,215	+	158	20	123,978	—	940
City and South London ..	" 19	3,095	+	132	20	50,545	+	281
Furness	" 19	9,810	+	1,653	20	216,047	+	20,880
G. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 19	69,188	+	5,196	20	1,448,293	+	94,307
Great Eastern	" 19	100,100	+	1,700	20	2,290,600	—	24,800
Great Northern and City ..	" 18	1,783	+	318	20	30,531	+	7,098
Great Northern	" 18	109,000	+	50,069	+	2,384,188	+	23,737
Great Western	" 19	221,800	+	5,600	20	5,032,400	+	75,900
Hull and Barnsley	" 19	9,962	+	707	20	196,513	—	311
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 19	99,823	+	5,210	20	2,344,002	+	50,467
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 18	51,821	+	609	20	1,381,101	—	3,744
London & North Western ..	" 19	267,000	+	12,000	20	5,949,000	+	119,000
London & South Western ..	" 19	82,300	+	400	20	1,983,800	+	13,100
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 19	7,387	—	315	20	219,350	+	1,642
Metropolitan	" 19	17,404	+	237	20	343,327	+	1,111
Metropolitan District ..	" 19	7,945	+	716	20	138,413	+	1,773
Midland	" 18	220,322	+	6,956	20	4,631,511	+	134,230
North Eastern	" 18	173,004	+	7,857	20	3,772,056	+	29,645
North London	" 19	8,777	—	149	20	177,565	—	4,617
North Staffordshire	" 19	18,264	+	1,443	20	357,021	+	3,307
Rhymney	" 19	5,308	—	914	20	113,192	—	1,252
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 18	72,980	—	175	+	2,030,897	+	24,550
Taff Vale	" 19	16,313	—	1,303	20	365,585	—	6,119

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Nov. 19	82,618	+	4,144	16	1,420,609	+	16,390
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 18	30,455	+	473	16	592,049	+	150
Great North of Scotland ..	" 18	8,497	—	154	16	101,505	—	1,974
Highland	" 19	7,719	+	41	16	185,376	+	174
North British	" 19	86,079	+	2,265	16	1,527,183	—	248

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Nov. 17	2,493	+	1	20	67,795	+	2,172
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 17	1,565	—	315	20	37,814	+	17
Great Northern	" 17	17,920	—	288	20	415,922	—	2,554
Midland Great Western ..	" 17	10,721	+	478	20	231,641	—	8,387

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000

TOTAL INCOME over £940,000

LARGE BONUSES.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Until Thursday money was in short supply, and discount rates kept up pretty well, so that 4 per cent. was sufficiently the minimum for bills of short or moderate usance to send a considerable portion of the discount business to the Bank of England. On Wednesday, however, the Japanese Government began to let out some of its balances lying in the Bank of England, and this process was continued yesterday, with the result that both loans and discounts have fallen back until $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. has become the best rate obtainable on seven days' advances, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent. the range of quotations for call money, while the discount rate for three and four months remitted bills is weak tonight at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. One or two houses called the three months rate $3\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 per cent., but nothing was done at the higher figure, and, on the other hand, business was not difficult to do at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. We may call the rates, indeed, $3\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for three months, and $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for four months Bank bills. Yet a little business in short bills was done at the Bank this morning.

How long will this ease continue? Probably until after the Japanese loan has been successfully floated. Towards the end of the month, however, Japanese money or none, credits are bound to be scarce, and even with the help of these released Japanese balances the market has had to lean heavily upon the Bank of England, which most days has done a good business at its minimum in short-dated bills, or bills running up to the end of January. Large additional borrowings at the Bank are certain to take place at the end of the month in connection with the Stock Exchange settlement, and unless our own Treasury releases freely the scarcity will continue well into next month, simply because the requirements of the market are extensive and pressing at the same time that the reserve upon which it rests all its commitments is too small.

The last consigned £1,000,000 of Indian gold is due here to-morrow, and will fully make up the £5,000,000 which the Simla Government laid itself out to keep here as a cash reserve against its growing paper money circulation in India. Some, however, think that part of this last £1,000,000 may be used to pay for some of the silver lately bought here on Simla Government account. The amount thus withdrawn from stock could be made good later, but nobody really knows anything about it.

This week's Bank return has only one point of interest, the increase of £1,806,000 in the other securities, now up to £33,578,000. Thanks to an increase of £472,000 in the reserve the market was able to retain £1,576,000 of the credit thus created at the Bank, and still to pay over £697,000 more to the Treasury, whose balances called public deposits are now £13,347,000. From this we judge that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is not getting in the Exchequer bonds due for redemption on December 7 with that readiness he may have hoped for. It is in the highest degree inconvenient to the market to be thus deprived of balances at the present time.

SILVER.

The market for bars has witnessed a very keen inquiry for the metal, especially for shipment to India this week, and the quotation advanced by leaps and bounds until it touched $29\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. Various reasons were put forward to account for this rapid rise, and amongst others it was said that while the Japanese were buying in Shanghai, China was endeavouring to procure supplies in India, which was about as poorly provided with the metal as the market here. The Indian with the metal as the market here. The Indian Government, too, has been steadily absorbing silver, and at the same time "bears" were forced to cover, and altogether holders had much the best of it. For delivery two months forward the demand has been much quieter, but with the activity in the spot market the price naturally hardened, and at one time it was as high as $29\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. These values, however, proved attractive to sellers and a good deal of silver was thrown on the market on Tuesday and Wednesday, chiefly from Mexico, with the result that prices dropped back $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Thursday, however, saw a renewal of the inquiries on account of the Indian Government and the bazaars, and the loss was gradually wiped out, leaving closing quotations at $29\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 29 d. per oz., or the highest levels touched since November, 1900. Bullion brokers announced this week that, in order to render the method of dealing with silver in London uniform with other countries, after January 1 next dealings would be arranged on the assay as expressed in millièmes instead of in pennyweights, better or worse, as is now the custom. One effect of the scarcity of bar silver has been to revive the trade in Mexican dollars, a trade which had practically died out since the adoption by the Government of a so-called gold standard. The price fixed by the Mexican Government made the dollar work out at about $28\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., a figure much too high for profitable business in ordinary circumstances, but when quotations for bars went up in the fashion above described Chinese traders seem to have considered dollars a good purchase, and bought pretty freely at $28\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $28\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 80,00,000 Council drafts on India offered this week amounted to Rs. 5,51,30,000 in bills and Rs. 45,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Tenders were accepted for Rs. 74,59,000 in bills and Rs. 5,41,000 in transfers, applicants at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. $4\frac{1}{16}$ d. per rupee receiving about 13 per cent. Next Wednesday another Rs. 80,00,000 will be offered.

The expected issue of Treasury bills was announced in last night's *Gazette*, tenders being invited for £2,000,000 at three months' date, to be paid for on December 7.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 22, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 49,744,660	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 31,294,660
		Silver Bullion	—
	£ 49,744,660		£ 49,744,660

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 17,039,131
Reserve	£ 3,257,414	Other Securities	£ 33,578,440
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 13,346,971	Notes	£ 21,202,325
Other Deposits	£ 42,257,151	Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 1,679,664
Seven Day and other Bills ..	£ 85,044		
	£ 73,499,580		£ 73,499,580

Dated November 23, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE Chief Cashier

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Monday, Bars	£ 32,000	Saturday, Copenhagen ..	£ 30,000
Tuesday, "	£ 29,000	Friday, Ecuador	£ 5,000
Wednesday, "	£ 165,000		
Thursday, "	£ 20,000	Nett Influx	£ 197,000
Friday, "	£ 6,000		
Total	£ 252,000	Total	£ 252,000

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Nov. 23.		Nov. 15, 1905.	Nov. 22, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,213,478	Rest	3,232,080	3,257,414	25,334	—
8,700,648	Pub. Deposits ..	12,649,765	13,346,971	697,206	—
38,334,621	Other do. ..	40,681,403	42,257,151	1,575,748	—
110,318	7 Day Bills ..	105,169	85,044	—	20,125
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,610,005	Gov. Securities ..	17,039,131	17,039,131	—	—
25,486,217	Other do. ..	31,772,007	33,578,440	—	1,806,433
23,815,843	Total Reserve ..	22,410,279	22,882,009	—	471,730
				2,298,288	2,298,288
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
27,489,810	Note Circulation ..	28,585,725	28,542,335	—	43,390
32,855,653	Coin and Bullion ..	32,546,040	32,974,344	428,304	—
50½ p.c.	Proportion ..	41½ p.c.	41½ p.c.	—	—
3 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £236,000 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,865,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,568,000	778,984,000	43,584,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
Week ending				
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
" 27	187,852,000	164,860,000	22,992,000	—
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,726,000	27,856,000	—
" 18	270,692,000	226,552,000	44,140,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,631,000	15,589,000	—
Nov. 1	270,695,000	250,973,000	19,722,000	—
" 8	216,916,000	195,045,000	21,871,000	—
" 15	260,846,000	241,533,000	19,313,000	—
" 22	222,090,000	176,593,000	45,497,000	—
	11,056,609,000	9,387,465,000	1,669,144,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	—	Jan. 2	—
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
23,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15	25'14½	Antwerp	short	25'23½	25'23½
Brussels	chqs.	25'22½	25'22½	Italy	sight	25'10	25'10½
Amsterdam	sight	12'13½	12'13½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'05	110'05
Berlin	chqs.	20'44	20'43½	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	16½d.	16½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'22	20'22½	Valparaiso	90 dys	15d.	14½d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'42½	20'42½	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort	short	20'42	20'42	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna	sight	24'02	24'03½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/1½	2/1½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'70	93'70	Shanghai	T.T.	2/10½	2/11
New York	60 dys	4 81	4 82½	Singapore	4 mths	2/2	2/1½
Lisbon	sight	50½	50½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	32'14	32				

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Nov. 15, 1905.	Nov. 7, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1905.	Nov. 15, 1904.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 45,308,458	£ 45,173,833	£ 44,980,083	£ 48,743,541
Silver reserve ..	11,950,750	11,903,708	11,975,541	11,995,791
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	2,152,416	2,298,541	2,344,833	1,928,708
Note circulation ..	72,886,583	74,249,625	76,294,833	70,482,416
Bills discounted ..	22,746,000	24,196,791	25,382,333	17,847,958

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market. Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	3	3½
Berlin	5½	November 3, 1905	4½	4½
Hamburg	5½	November 3, 1905	4½	4½
Frankfort	5½	November 3, 1905	4½	4½
Amsterdam	3	November, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3½	3½
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4½	4½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4½	5
St. Petersburg ..	5½	February, 1904	7½	7½
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	September 22, 1905.	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	5	September 29, 1905	—	—
Bombay	5	November 23, 1905	—	—
New York call money ..	5½	—	—	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Nov. 18.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
Customs	£ 752,000	National Debt Services ..	£ 333,831
Excise	761,000	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Estate, &c., Duties ..	233,000	Charges	25,477
Stamps	73,000	Payments to Local Taxa-	—
Land Tax and House Duty.	—	tion	—
Property and Income Tax..	39,000	Supply Services	2,018,000
Post Office	200,000	Bullion Advances	—
Telegraphs	140,000	Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Crown Lands	—	Advances for Interest on	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	896	Exchequer Bonds	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	Exchequer Bonds	—
Miscellaneous	79,093	Uganda Railway	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	Military Works	—
Uganda Railway	—	Naval Works	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—	Telegraph Acts	—
count	—	Land Registry (New Build-	—
Telegraph Acts	—	ings)	—
Naval Works Acts	—	Public Buildings Expenses	—
Military Works Acts ..	—	Act	—
Land Registry Acts	—	Public Offices Site (Dublin)	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—	Act	10,000
Public Offices Site (Dublin)	—	Suez Canal drawn Shares	—
Ways and Means	—	in reduction of debt ..	—
Deficiency	—	Canard Agreement	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—	Deficiency Advances re-	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	12,528	paid	—
Transvaal and Orange River	—	Ways and Means Advances	—
Colony. Repayment of	—	repaid	—
Temporary Advance	—	Increase in Exchequer	—
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—	balances	—
tion payments	—		
Decrease in Exchequer	—		
balances	96,791		
	£2,387,308		£2,387,308

* Exclusive of £470,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £5,969,514.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 16, 1905	Nov. 9, 1905.	Nov. 2, 1905.	Nov. 17, 1904.
Coin and bullion	£ 4,899,520	£ 4,870,880	£ 4,933,040	£ 4,943,920
Other securities	23,043,840	23,287,760	23,946,560	22,113,480
Note circulation	27,379,120	27,392,840	27,732,520	25,801,680
Deposits	2,522,880	2,813,600	3,222,360	2,976,240

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 15, 1905.	Nov. 7, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1905.	Nov. 15, 1904.
Cash in hand	£ 41,872,900	£ 39,949,600	£ 39,708,700	£ 48,124,050
Bills discounted	49,621,150	53,231,450	55,474,250	40,009,850
Advances on stocks ..	2,742,250	2,661,750	4,087,750	2,576,850
Note circulation	66,950,750	69,276,250	72,103,600	64,992,550
Public deposits	25,460,450	23,719,750	24,374,650	26,713,100

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 23/Nov. 5 1905.	Oct. 16/29, 1905.	Oct. 8/21, 1905.	Oct. 23/Nov. 5 1904.
Gold	£ 81,565,971	£ 88,589,722	£ 89,198,652	£ 83,607,297
Silver and subsidiary	—	—	—	—
coin	3,764,488	3,885,196	4,000,973	6,741,463
Advances and bills	—	—	—	—
discounted	40,823,044	39,938,£27	38,974,061	40,390,467
Securities belonging	—	—	—	—
to the Bank	7,023,847	7,297,059	7,238,173	7,220,414
Notes in circulation ..	110,461,974	109,401,154	109,397,144	83,786,327
Deposits and current	—	—	—	—
account	46,993,283	47,722,456	47,337,421	48,927,672
Treasury account	5,014,835	4,652,387	3,488,154	17,653,600

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 18, 1905	Nov. 11, 1905	Nov. 4, 1905	Nov. 19, 1904
Gold	£ 14,889,805	£ 14,984,342	£ 14,979,204	£ 14,862,737
Silver	22,587,259	22,429,075	22,422,135	19,824,617
Foreign Bills	2,942,484	2,702,224	2,528,941	1,605,249
Discount and Short Bills	45,993,103	45,902,184	45,750,184	40,141,563
Treasury Account	20,810,108	20,848,107	20,894,441	22,025,859
Notes in circulation ..	62,708,286	63,096,187	63,178,038	64,212,858
Current Account deposits	22,254,590	22,164,763	21,882,002	24,641,432
Dividends Interests ..	2,909,080	3,055,483	3,132,907	2,488,394
Government Securities ..	5,249,807	4,887,739	5,395,365	5,719,155

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 23, 1905.	Nov. 16, 1905.	Nov. 9, 1905.	Nov. 24, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£ 115,976,000	£ 115,975,280	£ 115,996,760	£ 106,111,080
Silver in hand ..	43,680,720	43,828,240	43,698,400	44,208,480
Bills discounted ..	29,641,560	29,497,600	30,345,040	25,420,800
Advances ..	18,821,800	18,985,640	19,330,120	19,811,400
Note circulation ..	178,471,280	180,617,280	181,094,680	170,111,720
Public deposits ..	15,918,200	13,845,400	12,849,080	11,400,440
Private deposits ..	20,653,153	19,678,520	21,143,320	20,629,680

Proportion between bullion and circulation 89½ per cent. against 88½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 20, 1905.	Oct. 10, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1904.
Reserve ..	£ 28,902,240	£ 28,310,680	£ 28,147,240	£ 25,210,640
State notes and small changed	486,920	518,600	425,240	459,800
Discount and loans ..	15,537,840	14,177,480	13,896,840	12,036,800
Public stock and State loans..	8,309,960	8,395,360	8,403,080	8,415,440
Credits ..	7,423,400	6,620,720	6,678,560	7,273,680
Note Circulation ..	41,058,760	40,306,440	40,476,920	36,943,600
Current account ..	2,633,040	2,660,640	2,478,080	4,251,280
Deposits ..	4,402,680	4,299,840	4,153,800	3,539,200

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Nov. 18, 1905	Nov. 11, 1905	Nov. 4, 1905	Nov. 19, 1904.
Specie ..	£ 35,922,000	£ 36,454,000	£ 38,092,000	£ 44,764,000
Legal tenders ..	14,615,000	14,477,000	15,016,800	15,128,200
Loans and discounts ..	203,420,000	208,860,000	211,660,000	225,540,000
Circulation ..	10,938,000	10,862,400	10,871,800	8,437,800
Net deposits ..	199,814,000	205,660,000	210,560,000	231,980,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £583,500 against an excess last week of £484,000.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 14.	Nov. 16.	Nov. 21.	Nov. 23.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'5	12'4½	12'5	12'5
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'48½	25'48½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'71	20'71	20'71	20'71
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'71	20'71
Paris ..	cheques	25'16½	25'16½	25'16½	25'15
Do. do.	3 months	25'37½	25'38½	25'38½	25'38½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'38½	25'38½	25'38½	25'38½
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'31½	25'31½	25'31½	25'31½
Austria ..	3 months	24'34	24'34	24'34	20'36
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47½	25'48½	25'47½	25'48½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P...	3 months	36½	36½	36½	36½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'41
Christiania ..	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'42
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'42

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-4
Three months ..	3½-3¾
Four months ..	3½-3¾
Six months ..	3½-3¾
Three months fine inland bills	4-4½
Four months ..	4-4½
Six months ..	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½
" for call loans ..	2½-3

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Politics seem likely to interfere with the Stock markets for some little time, and if the turmoil of a General Election is added to the disturbing influence of dearer money during the next two or three months the strain put upon the Stock Exchange will be anything but easy to bear. A rise in prices will, during the earlier part of the time at all events, be the last thing to look for. At the moment, therefore, we think it better just to let markets alone, and shall not inflict any homily on readers this week. There is another reason for abstaining to be found in the crowded state of our columns, which is so great, owing chiefly to the rush of South African reports and balance-sheets, as to unfairly squeeze many interesting subjects into a corner. We should have liked very well to have discussed the meaning of the strenuous efforts made by

the Morgan party on Wall Street to create a semblance of a boom there, and to inquire into the effect upon the French market of the growing impecuniosity of the Russian Treasury, but these subjects can wait. The public need be in no hurry to have our deliverances upon them, especially of it has taken our advice and kept clear of the gambling tables.

The Week's Stock Markets.

A rather more cheerful mood prevailed on the Stock Exchange during the early days of the week, induced in some measure by the breakdown of the strike in Russia and an improvement in the weekly return of the New York Associated Banks, which led many to express the view that the period of monetary stringency on Wall Street was at an end. It would be well, however, not to become too sanguine on that point, and it will also be useful to bear in mind that some of the principal players on the other side seem inclined to give the market a rest. A pause is certainly due. In other directions prices held pretty steady until a succession of more or less sensational incidents began to press them back again, and the close is dull and uncertain, just as it was at the end of the previous week. The domestic political crisis was supposed to be the principal cause of the heaviness, a rumour getting about that the Ministry would immediately resign,

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week	
91½	87½	—	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	88½	89
91½	87½	88½	Do. Account (Dec. 1) ..	88½	89½
90½	86½	87½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	87½	88
100½	99½	—	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	99½	99½
95½	89	90	Irish Land (2½) ..	91	91½
101½	96½	98½	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
99½	97½	—	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98½	98½
99½	98	97½	Do. Account (Dec. 1) ..	98½	98½
101½	97½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98½	98½
308	297	—	Bk. of England Stock (9 p.c.) ..	294½	294½
109	104½	103½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1931 ..	104½	105½
99½	95	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948 ..	96½	96½
85½	80½	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	80½	81
66½	65½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65½	65½

but at the time of writing the Government is still in existence. The obduracy of the Sultan in regard to the Macedonian reforms was also an unsettling influence, and once more a story got afloat that Count Witte was seriously ill. No confirmation came to hand, but it was impossible to bring about much rally, and with the fortnightly settlement commencing on Monday dealing sank to very minute proportions. The gilt-edged market stood out prominently in the initial improvement, and although there was a slight reaction before the end, Consols finish substantially higher. Irish Land stock was also very strong, and Annuities, War Loans, Exchequer bonds, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per cent. Bank stock, and India sterling issues all followed the lead. So did a large number of Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks, quite three dozen improvements of ½ to 1½ being visible at the close.

A sharp rally in Russian issues imparted a firm tendency to the Foreign bond market, and although business was far from active in them all the leading interbourse things marked a moderate advance. Japanese securities, too, were strong and well supported in preparation for the new loan looked for on Tuesday next. It will be for £25,000,000 only, no conversion of the external 6 per cent. issues being contemplated at present, and the price of issue is expected to be 90. As already announced, the rate of interest will be 4 per cent., and a big success is anticipated. Peruvian Corporation issues fluctuated wildly, a fierce contest going on between bulls and bears, but other South American issues kept steady even when the Turkish stocks and Japanese. Colombians were better in the Central American group, but Guatemalas showed dulness.

After sagging a little in the end of last week Home Railway stocks were at first inclined to improve under

Interest in United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock continues very keen, and the large business done resulted in a further substantial improvement in the price. Dealings in Argentine things have been somewhat spasmodic, considerable activity one day being succeeded by a pause the next, but quotations on the whole were decidedly harder. Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary stock was perhaps most consistently

sought after, and it improved a couple of pounds or so, lifting the deferred with it, while Argentine North-Eastern issues and Cordoba Rosario first preferred and Entre Rios showed fair gains. The Entre Rios directors announce that the Inland Revenue had decided to withdraw its claim for income-tax on the second preference stock issued in satisfaction of arrears of dividend on the first preference, and that the company was therefore returning to the original allottees the amounts deposited and held in suspense. Uruguayan stocks were inclined to ease off, and Brazilian things were irregular, but Paraguay Central debenture stock came into prominence on the announce-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week
222½	128	Antofagasta (10)	217½	217½
321	144½	Do. Def. (15)	310	310
130½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	126	126
131	113½	Do. Prfd. (5)	82	82
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Prefd.	137½	138
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	128	127
133½	127	Do. Pref. (5)	130xd	130xd
142	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	114	114
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	106xd	105xd
110½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109½	109½
115	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	104	105½
107½	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	104	104
170½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	107	107
109½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	137	132xd
142½	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	87	86
93	79	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	108	108
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. ..	91½	93
95½	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	71½	72
76½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	28	3
38½	28	Costa Rica (1)	7xd	7xd
7½	5½	Cuban Central	11½	11½
12½	10½	Do. Pref. (5½)	105	105
107½	104½	Do. Deb. (4½)	94	94
95½	72	East Argentine (4½)	81½	81½
7½	5½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	97	98
84½	50½	Leopoldina (3)	110	110
97½	80½	Do. Deb. (4)	106	106
110½	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	22½	22½
108	104½	Do. "B" (6)	113½xd	113½xd
29½	16½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	44½	44½
21½	16½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	52	52
57	36½	Do. 2nd Pref.	16½	15½
69½	46½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	10½	19
17	10½	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	208½	208½xd
19½	16½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	220xd	222xd
220	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..		
223½	122	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10)		

ment that the differences with the Government had been settled on the basis that the company surrenders its claim for arrears of the guarantee in exchange for £210,000 preference shares now held by the Government, and the promise of new concessions on favourable terms for extensions southward. Manila 6 per cent. debentures also received a good deal of attention, and were dealt in as high as 117. Mexican Railway preference stocks were a fraction or two harder, but Interoceanic preference shares and "B" debenture stocks fell back. The only important movement amongst Russian securities was a decline of 5 in Grand Russian Railway Nicolai bonds, bringing them down to 82.

Miscellaneous markets were still very quiet, and the tendency can best be described as irregular. Pekin Syndicates, after being better on bear covering, fell back again, and Hudson's Bays lost part of an early advance. Investment stocks on the whole were good, and a big run took place on Imperial Continental Gas stock, causing it to rise many pounds. Other gas securities were also higher, as were National Telephone issues, but P. and O. deferred were down, and the solid Telegraph things showed no improvement. Anglo-American Telegraph deferred fell away after the recent rise. Nitrates were good, and Iron and Steel things frequently marked small advances, including those Furness companies whose reports were issued this week. London Docks deferred was disposed to improve. Catering shares usually held their prices, and Sweetments were better, but Breweries were dull, and particular weakness in Watney, Combe deferred foreshadowed the reorganisation scheme dealt with elsewhere. Nothing worth noting happened in the Textile group, but amongst Drapery and kindred companies John Barkers recovered a trifle, while Hope Bros. preference fell away on the ghastly report. London General Omnibus did not further decline, but

Road Cars continue heavy, and London Motor Omnibus lost a fraction or so on the new capital issue.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	Allsopp Ordinary	24	24
71	40	City of London Ord.	60½	60½
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540	540
27½	21½	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23	23
28½	18½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	28	28
38½	3	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	37	38
68½	48	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	57½	56½
35	15	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	21	17
105	99	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	101	100
78½	56½	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	64	62
61½	37½	Aerated Bread (32½)	6xd	6 xd
7½	6	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	7½
6½	5½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	6½
1½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	12	12
3½	28	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	27½	27½
11½	5	Brunner Mond (35)	7½ xd	7½ xd
11½	9½	Callender's Cable Ord. (2½) ..	11½	11½
58½	47½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	7½	7½
502½	483½	Coats Ordinary (20)	57½	57½
8	4½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	500	500
179	179	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	179	179
1½	1	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	6½	6½
6½	5½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (5) ..	12½	13
13½	10½	Henley's Telegraph (15)	4	4
4½	3½	Harrold's Stores Ord. (20) ..	1½	1½
1½	1½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	107	108
111	106	Do. Debenture (42)	12	12½
14	14	Lipton Ordinary (7)	6½	6
6½	5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	1½	1½
18	18	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	7½	7½
18½	18½	Russian Petroleum (5)	7½	7½
7½	5½	Savoy Hotel (5)	7½	7½
12½	12½	Sweetmeat Automatic	15½ xd	15½ xd
15½	15½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15½ xd	15½ xd
10½	10½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	179	179
105	102½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	104½	104½
89	49½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	79	78
51½	36½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-) ..	45½	45
108½	99½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	105½	104½
9½	8½	Do. Debentures (6)	9	9
11½	10½	National Discount (10)	11½	11½
8½	7½	Union Discount (11)	78	6½
13½	10½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	12	12
104½	95½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	101	101½
134½	120½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	131	133
3½	3½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	37½	38
5½	5½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	36	36
12½	12½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	17½	17½
14½	14½	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	18	18
13½	13½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	13½	13½
37½	37½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	106½ xd	106½ xd
106½	106½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	2½	2½
2½	2½	Do. Preference (7)	14½	14½
24½	24½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	240½	243½
15	15	Cunard Steam	46	46
249	214½	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	8½	8½
47	38½	Royal Mail	10	10
9½	8	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	109	110
109½	101½	Anglo-American Telegraph—	172	172
17½	10	Do. Def. Ord.	145½	145½
147½	134½	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	142	142
147½	133	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	107½	108
113½	100	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	144	144
147½	133	Western Telegraph (7)	10	10
108	8½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	8½	8½
9½	7½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	112½	112½
129	110	London General Omnibus (8)	10	10
10½	9½	London United Trams Pref. (5)		

Politics have given another nasty shiver to stock markets, and they were dull to-day almost to the close, when Consols recovered slightly, some interpreting the reported resignation of Lord Londonderry as a sign that Mr. Balfour does not mean to forsake office even yet. It is just as well that he should stick to it for a little while longer. Interest centres in the market on the fate of the Japanese loan, and that looks promising. It was quoted to-night at 1½-8 premium in London for the special settlement, and owing to the difference in the stamp duties at 1½ premium in Paris, where the public is being persuaded to deal in the scrip. The price of the Japanese Railway scrip has not yet taken definite shape, and it closed to-night ½ to 1½ premium, after having been up to 2 premium nominal. The Canadian Northern issue of debenture stock fell to-day to 1 discount. To-night the Kaffir Circus was flat, with a marked depression in Gold Trust shares, and a passing scare on the Paris market. To-morrow is the preliminary day of the mine share settlement, and it is not going to be a very cheerful one.

Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son have sent us an example of their system of three-colour printing. It is the largest block ever made for printing by this process, and the result is a wonderfully effective picture of an ocean liner surrounded by other craft. The sea perhaps fails in colouring, but the general effect strikes us as most artistic and effective.

Notes on Books.

Monopolies, Trusts, and Kartells. By Francis W. Hirst, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law. Late lecturer to the London School of Economics. (London: Methuen and Co. Price 2s. 6d. nett.)

In some respects we are a little disappointed with this book, but the cause may be in us not in the writer. We have such a horror of the monopoly fashion of conducting the commerce of this modern world that strong language seems to us a necessity in dealing with the subject. Mr. Hirst is therefore much too mild to our taste, but he has written a scholarly, enlightened, and conscientious account of monopolies, old and new, distinguishing the different characteristics of monopolies in the United States, on the Continent, and here. His view is—and it is the accurate one—that tariffs are the great buttress of the monopolies established in the United States and of the kartells and such-like organised on the Continent to regulate prices and reduce competition to a mockery. Trusts therefore do not flourish in the United Kingdom, and most of those tried here have sooner or later come to grief. It is doubtful even if the screw monopoly established by the old firm of Nettlefold and Chamberlain is now what it was; that branch of the Guest, Keen, Nettlefold business certainly has competitors, and the only great industry whose roots are in this country which seems to defy all competition in its own line is that of the great Coats firm of Paisley, but it controls an industry whose position appears to depend much less upon the ordinary elements going to make up a monopoly than upon the judicious planting of mills in various parts of the world, all working in unison and controlled by the same master minds. A very interesting chapter is that on "Monopolies of Transport," and another, which may be commended to people of an inquiring or somewhat antiquarian turn of mind, follows it on "Monopolies in English Law," but space does not permit us to enter into details. We are glad, however, to note that in dealing with State monopolies Mr. Hirst shows himself by no means so penetrated with unqualified admiration for our postal, telegraph, and telephone services conducted by the State, as writers generally are.

An Outlander in England. Being Some Impressions of an Australian Abroad. By J. H. M. Abbott. (Methuen and Co. Price 6s.)

"Tommy Cornstalk" won his way to the hearts of the reading British public, and this new book of his will not lessen the esteem in which he is held. It is a pleasant, chatty, sketchy, superficial often, but kindly appraisal of the old country by a native of Australia. Necessarily one so unfamiliar with the inner springs of English life often makes mistakes, and his judgments of men and things are seldom marked by profundity, but the book is most pleasant to read for all that. As an example of the haste with which conclusions have been come to, we might point to the writer's assertion that the soil of England has been cultivated until its exhaustion is such as to compel farmers to spend twice as much each year in manure as they pay in rent. That is just the kind of view we should expect from a colonial who never does anything whatever to restore fertility to the soil, of which he has a great deal too much; but it is not the truth; the soil of England is not being exhausted by this kind of farming. It is continually reinvigorated, and the proof is surely to be found in the fact that the yield of wheat per acre reaches a higher average in England than in almost any other country in the world. London fascinates Mr. Abbott, and he continually comes back to it, looking at it in all aspects, under skies of every hue, but his best chapter is probably that dealing with the poverties of the place. An appalling picture is presented by the writer with no mean literary skill, and unhappily it is a picture which cannot be overdrawn. Get the book and read it.

The Banks in the Clearing House. William Howarth. (London: Effingham Wilson. 3s. 6d. net.)

This modest little book only requires a word from us just to indicate its scope and character. It is a brief

history of the various banks which are members of the London Clearing House, and gives the facts about them in a handy form. Much of the information here conveyed is not readily accessible elsewhere, and the little book accordingly deserves its place on the reference shelves. Mr. Howarth seems to us to have taken great pains to be accurate in his facts.

Investors' and Trustees' Register. (London: Marchant, Singer and Co., 47, St. Mary Axe, E.C. Price 5s. nett 50 folios; 6s. 6d. nett 100 folios.)

This is a register just published, which trustees, investors, and others will find exceedingly convenient for duly registering their investments. Columns are provided whereby complete particulars of the bonds or stocks purchased can be seen at a glance—such, for instance as the date, cost, numbers on certificates or bonds, date of sale and profit or loss on realisation. There are other columns for dividends received, for rights of allotment, and for "remarks." Useful tables are added for working out Stock Exchange fractions on stocks and shares, another gives the stamp duties, whilst another is for ascertaining the price to be given for stocks bearing a fixed rate of interest, to give any required yield per cent.

The Tragedy of South Africa. By A. M. S. Methuen. (London: Methuen and Co. Price 2s. nett.)

This is not a re-issue of the famous pamphlet, "Peace or War in South Africa," but it embodies a good deal of the contents of that admirable production, and on that account alone was well worth reprinting. Mr. Methuen, however, has cut out, as he candidly explains in his preface, much of the matter in the earlier book, added the Canadian parallel, revised and enlarged the story of the campaign, and inserted the new chapter which may explain, to some extent, the protraction of the war. In its present shape, therefore, this book is not only a brief history of the war, with notes and illustration from contemporary documents, but a summing up of the present state of South Africa, an account of the costly extravagance of our administration thereof, and a warning against allowing the existing chaos to continue. His plea for the substitution of mercy and generosity for waste and violence is opportune and weighty. "Let us cultivate," he says, "an historic detachment, and endeavour to review this decade with something of the cool reasonableness with which our sons and grandsons will regard it; with which we can now criticise the folly of the Crimea and the blindness of 1775." It need hardly be said that we cordially endorse this sentiment, but have little hope of seeing any change for the better in our treatment of South Africa until another catastrophe there, probably an economic one, wakes us up to actualities.

The Cotton Industry and Trade. By S. J. Chapman. (London: Methuen and Co. Price 2s. 6d.)

This is another of the "Books on Business" series, and one quite worthy to rank with the best thereof. Space forbids any detailed review here, and we can only say that Mr. Chapman's essay appears to us to be an honest piece of work, dealing not only with the cotton industry as it exists in this country, but with the trade all over the world. A chapter of special interest to us is the fourth, dealing with British trade and tariffs, in which some analysis is also given of the effects produced by the fall in the price of silver. It is cheering to note that the Lancashire cotton industry has not permanently suffered from any adverse legislation or from the catastrophe of cheap silver. In 1874 there were 41,882 spindles running and 463 looms. In 1903 the number of spindles had risen to 47,858 and of looms to 684. That our export trade is checked here and there by the action of foreign nations in raising their tariffs against it is unquestionably true, but it grows and flourishes all the same, finding new markets when the old are blocked, and we see no reason to doubt the continuance of this prosperity. Every nation that aims at high civilisation is developing a cotton

manufacturing industry of its own, and in the near future it is probable that Lancashire will have to encounter most formidable opposition from Japan in the markets of China, but the population of China is so great, its wealth capable of such incalculable development, that we are sure there is room enough for us both. And the more other nations progress the larger become the international markets. A number of interesting illustrations are included in this volume and enhance its value. We trust it will have a large sale.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * *Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor, Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.*

Lord Harris has not been able to manage it. With all his optimism and gaiety and his inability to comprehend the forces at work making for depression, prices continue to dwindle. Prior to the meeting of the Consolidated Gold Fields prices were put up in the hope that his lordship's speech thereat would arouse the inert public into energy, if not enthusiasm. Insiders declared that it was the great relief they felt over the collapse of the strike in Russia that encouraged them to mark quotations up, but their tacit expectation was that the public would rush in and buy the moment our mine-boss peer finished his soul-stirring harangue. Two years ago, when the bosses were agitating for their Chinese labour, Lord Harris was a pessimist; now no one could be more optimistic—with his lips. Unhappily for him and his cosmopolite brethren, his tongue is impotent to charm. The public have listened with frigid coldness to his perfunctory oration and have gazed unmoved on his imaginative pictures of coming prosperity for the Rand. Facts and experience have taught them weighty lessons. They prefer guidance by these; they are no longer spellbound by empty rhetoric. So on the very afternoon of the speech prices fell and closed at the worst figures of the day. If anything, the condition of the Kafir Circus is more depressed than a week ago, despite the fact also that the Wemmer directors have declared a dividend of 40 per cent. For the first half of the year, it will be remembered, they paid no dividend.

Nor did the holding of the Chartered meeting, where sanguine speeches were also delivered, help to lift the gloom in the Rhodesian market. Bankets were manipulated on a cable announcing that by a fire assay the reef at the third level averages 33 dwts. over 5 ft., whilst at the No. 1 level east a development is reported which is thought "likely to increase the length of pay chute considerably." Perhaps it is just as likely to reach to the moon. Anyway, only the "lunatic" would buy banket shares at any price; better give the money to the unemployed fund. The West Rhodesian Banket Company has now been registered, and it is said there will be no public issue. Perhaps the bosses know it would be futile to appeal to the public.

Westralians have been quiet on the whole. An exception has been Kalgurli. There is a rumour that the shares are to be split on the basis of five for one. We hope it is not true, for we do not like these dodges to create an artificial market. Are there not more shares on the market now than the public wish to buy?

There is, as usual, nothing to be said of Egyptians and West Africans. But Broken Hill shares of all sorts were at first quite buoyant, followed by a relapse later in the week. Esperanzas have weakened latterly, after improving on the largely increased profit for October. A feeling of distrust has reasonably been created by the warning of the directors that shareholders must not be too highly elated nor too greatly depressed by any abnormal increase or decrease in the monthly profits. Is it not possible for the officials to avoid any such fluctuations?

In the Indian section, Champion Reefs have moved lower, principally as the result of the liquidation of a large decreased account. The market does not expect any reduction in the dividend due next month.

Of the copper group the principal movement has been a substantial rise in Anacondas, as the result of New York manipulation and of a report current there that a large vein has been struck in the property. Rio Tintos, Tharsis, Capes and Mount Lyells have also perceptibly strengthened.

TRANVAAL ESTATES AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.—The period to September 30, say the directors, was not characterised by developments of moment in regard to any of this company's properties. Acting on the advice of the local committee and the consulting engineer, operations on Zonderwater and Goede Hoop have been suspended and the further prosecution of the work of inspection and research, for which purpose a special exploratory party had been employed during the two preceding years, has not been proceeded with. They confess also that the year was not favourable for the realisation of shares. Interest received and accrued amounted to £16,949, rents produced £5,513, profit on sales of property and shares was £4,191, transfer fees gave £407 and commissions £75, making a total of £27,136, which exceeded the ordinary expenditure by £16,116. A balance of £37,788 was brought from 1904, and £15,689 out of this has been written off prospecting and development work on three properties—which is practically all loss—£4,000 has

been set aside to meet a possible loss on mortgages, whilst £3,578 represents a claim on the Government for damage done during the war. This leaves £30,637 to be taken to the current accounts.

OCEANA CONSOLIDATED COMPANY.—This finance company received an income of £35,400 from dividends and interest and made a profit of £50,131, after allowing for an unspecified loss, on the realisation of shares in the year to June 30. With £576 from transfer fees, the entire revenue was £86,108. Expenses absorbed £17,641 and £1,362 was allowed for depreciation on furniture, buildings and other assets, leaving a nett profit of £67,105, to which the directors have £21,776 to add from 1904. They propose to pay a dividend of 2½ per cent. making 7½ per cent. with the interim distribution of December last. This will absorb £43,348 and allow £45,532 to be carried forward. As far as one can see, despite the company's array of investments, which cost £1,370,886, profits are not likely to grow appreciably in the immediate future.

WEST RHODESIAN BANKET CO., LIMITED.—A company with this title has been incorporated with a capital of £400,000 in £1 shares, of which 250,000 have been allotted to the vendors and 100,507 subscribed to provide for the payment of £50,000 to the vendors and for working capital, leaving 49,493 shares in reserve. The Rhodesian Banket Company, in addition to receiving 100,000 of the shares issued as fully paid up, subscribed for 50,000 on which they paid 2s. 6d., and now offers these to its shareholders at par, payable "on the nail" in the proportion of one share in respect of each six held. All shares not applied for by November 30 will be taken by Mr. John Hall Ryan, of Johannesburg, who, as one of the vendors, received the £50,000 in cash with £30,000 in shares for the 150 claims sold by him. No development work has been carried out on the properties, and in fixing the price for the different claims taken over the only guide appears to have been the progress reported by the Eldorado mine and Rowdy Boys claims, which is a somewhat slender basis for a valuation.

TATI CONCESSIONS.—In the twelve months ending June 30 the revenue amounted to £11,366, consisting of £3,478 gross profit on trading, £1,368 gross profit on the hotel, and £6,520 from rents, waterworks, and miscellaneous sources. After deducting expenditure and depreciation the nett profit was £2,284, carried to the profit and loss account, which is further credited with £2,451 interest on investments, £573 accrued interest, £1,998 accrued interest on the debentures of the Premier Tati Monarch Reef Company, with smaller sums from transfer fees, discounts, &c. On the other side London office expenses absorb £2,200, miscellaneous charges £365, debenture interest £5,000, loss on realisation of investments £1,483, and insurance on buildings and stock £365, so the profit is reduced to £1,871. With the previous year's debit of £5,196 deducted the company now has a balance of £3,325 on the right side. The assets of the Premier Tati Monarch are still in the hands of a receiver on behalf of the debenture holders, and the company does not look as if it will ever get its accrued interest on the debentures, which ought not, therefore, to have been dealt with as income in the profit and loss account. In the balance-sheet the debentures are valued at £31,554, and fully-paid shares in the same insolvent concern are taken at 1s. per share (£9,000). Shareholders should understand, say the directors, that the values are problematical, as, of course, they are. If the property were pressed for sale the result might be calamitous. To whom? Some suggestions for restarting the mine have been made, but nothing practical has resulted.

MENZIES CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINES.—In the twelve months to July 31 this company managed to improve upon the past, a profit of £5,655 being earned, which enabled it to write off its adverse balance, as well as to discharge its liabilities in Western Australia and London. Cost of development work was met out of revenue and £617 is carried forward. During the year 16,846 tons of ore were crushed for a yield of 6,663 ozs. of gold. In the cyanide plant 15,151 tons of tailings and slimes were treated, producing 2,508 ozs. of gold, whilst 1,645 ozs. were obtained from concentrates, making a total recovery of 10,816 ozs. In estimating the ore reserves, the manager says he has included only the ore which has been opened up on three sides, and he calculates they are two years ahead of the mill at the present rate of reduction. Present appearances of the mine are declared officially to be satisfactory and to promise continued improvement in depth. The vein is said to be going down strongly underfoot for a distance of at least 800 ft. and practically showing an improvement in value on the ore worked out in driving the levels. The general manager recommends that a new vertical shaft should be sunk, which would cost about £12,350, and the directors say they are now in correspondence with him with a view to ascertain to what extent the mine can, after allowing for contingencies, provide the funds required, and, in the event of the reply being satisfactory, they strongly urge the shareholders to act upon the advice of the manager and sink the shaft. Such an outlay would, of course, involve an indefinite postponement of dividends.

BELLEVUE PROPRIETARY.—Shareholders recently have been anxious about the position and prospects of this mine, fearing reconstruction or the provision of fresh working capital in other ways. According to the report for the year to June 30 there is a possibility that this may be avoided, though the outlook is anything but cheerful. The gold won amounted to 22,353 ozs. of bullion, or 16,994 ozs. fine, realising £70,249, whilst sundry receipts brought in £1,542. Expenditure, however, topped this by £5,466, to which has to be added income-tax of £181. Deducting last year's credit of £352, there is now a debit of £5,295. Cash and debtors are slightly in excess of creditors. The com-

pany needs another water supply, an up-to-date tailings plant and further development work vigorously pushed on, but "the directors are pleased to be able to report that the managers advise by cable that the position is steadily improving and that, although the output should be restricted to 3,500 tons per month, they contemplate being able to pay for the above out of revenue."

BRITISH BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—On the whole a satisfactory and promising report is issued for the half-year to June 30. In addition to 1,569 tons of carbonate ore, 59,337 tons of sulphide ore were raised, and of the latter 57,552 tons were concentrated, the cost of stoping being 10s. 3¼d. per ton, and concentrating 4s. 7½d. per ton, against 9s. 1d. and 4s. 6d. respectively in the preceding half-year. There were produced 10,318 tons of concentrates, yielding 6,264 tons of lead and 305,548 ozs. of silver. The revenue from concentrates and ore amounted to £85,471, and the working profit was £33,357. Interest on investments gave £576 and transfer fees £103, and after paying all administration expenses and charging £1,827 for depreciation, the nett profit was £28,484, which, with the balance from the previous half-year gives £35,366 for disposal. The directors will declare an interim dividend of 2s. per share, compared with 1s. 6d. per share paid last May. An excellent balance-sheet is issued. According to the reports of the general manager and the mine manager considerable exploratory work has been done with encouraging results, ore reserves for more than three years' output being estimated as in sight on June 30.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY BLOCK 10.—The London secretary of this company announces that he has received by cable from the head office in Melbourne the following summary of the report and accounts for the half-year to September 30. There were milled 79,073 tons, producing 12,235 tons of concentrates. By-products on hand amount to 768,600 tons, out of which there were sold in the half-year 100,000 tons for £31,250, less 2½ per cent. £5,000 has already been paid, balance due November 23; 59,600 tons at 10s. per ton, £5,960 has been paid and the balance is due in four quarterly instalments, commencing April 23 next. 3,000 tons from new plant for £1,000, in addition to 520,000 tons placed under an option till August 23, 1906, at 5s. per ton, less 2½ per cent. Should the option be exercised payment is to be made in five years in equal quarterly instalments. Balance of by-products on hand is 606,000 tons, valued in the balance-sheet at £36,000, whereas, should the above option be exercised, the company will receive £130,000, less 2½ per cent., and then have remaining on hand 86,000 tons and be adding 2,400 tons weekly. Nett profit, after allowing £7,651 for alterations, repairs, &c., amounts to £114,339, to which has to be added £70,190 from the previous half-year. After allowing £15,000 for dividends paid during the half-year and £9,650 for depreciation, there is left a credit balance of £159,870. Mine and mill are said to be satisfactory.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY BLOCK 14.—A cable from the head office in Melbourne announces that the meeting is to be held there on the 27th inst. It is added that the stopes down to the 500 ft. level can supply 2,000 tons of ore weekly. The lode at this level is 30 ft. wide, and the ore is of high grade. Prospecting with the diamond drill at the 500 ft. level has proved the continuation of the West lode. There have been sold 2,860 tons of carbonate ore, and fair quantities are said to be available. The Zinc process has been abandoned owing to the satisfactory sale of dumps. Gross profit for the half-year ending September 30 was £23,912, and the nett profit £21,633 after deducting previous debit balance, office expenses, depreciation, &c. Interest on the preference shares is to be paid out of this. Depreciation allowance was very tiny—only £619—but a promise is given to write off a "fair" amount in the next six months.

QUEENSLAND COPPER COMPANY.—The quantity of ore treated by this company in the year ending July 31, including about 2,000 tons purchased, was 10,388 tons, for a production of 1,318 tons of copper, 74,395 ozs. of silver and 2,055 ozs. of gold. The smelting cost was £1 13s. 8d. per ton compared with £1 15s. 4d. in the previous year, when 9,767 tons were treated. Sales of products realised £95,629 less the value of the products in transit at August 31, 1904. Stocks of ore at July 31 are valued at £3,286, whilst ground rents, tributes and incidental receipts gave £964. After deducting all expenditure, including ample allowance for depreciation and mine development redemption, the nett profit was £12,756, making, with £2,686 brought forward a total of £15,442. This is appropriated in paying the interest on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, in allowing £3,000 as a special sum for redemption of development, and writing off £1,000 for preliminary expenses, leaving £2,441 to be carried forward. Cash is not ample at £4,176, but there are products in transit of a value of £43,583 against which are drafts for £12,500. Bills payable amount to £10,000 and creditors are owed £23,123. The position and prospects of the company appear to be slowly improving.

NORTH WHITE FEATHER GOLD MINES.—There was a substantial increase in this company's gold output in the 15 months ending June 30, and at the same time there has been a sensible reduction in the working costs. As in future the company's financial year is to end on June 30 two sets of accounts are presented—one for the twelve months to March 31 and the other for the three additional months to June 30. According to the first the gold won, including £4,316 recovered from cyanide realised £35,577, the entire income amounting to £35,723 with revenue from transfer fees, royalty, &c. Expenditure, depreciation, interest, mine development redemption, &c., took £34,236, so the nett profit was only £1,487. As regards its finances the company is in a fairly comfortable position. The directors recommend that a dividend of 6d. per share be paid on December 15

on account of the profits to date, and we hope they are not too hasty in paying it.

NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY.—In past years we have strongly criticised the financial methods of the directors of this company, and we are pleased to see that heed has been paid to our advice. The report and accounts now issued cover a period of eighteen months, the directors explaining that as the active business season at Cairo runs from October to April it has been found that a balance-sheet made up to December 31 does not adequately show the result of the work of the year. They also announce, with an air of having done a laudable thing, that in order to exhibit clearly the actual results achieved they have decided to alter the principle upon which the accounts have hitherto been made up—this is the principle we have especially criticised—by eliminating from them all appreciation of value and showing the assets at cost. Profit on land sales came to £64,380 and on the realisations of shares and debentures to £6,073, a total of £5,365. Interest—chiefly on loans—gave £5,365, nett revenue from the company's lands was £3,408, whilst the profit and loss account is credited with £3,336, "proportion of management and general expenses in Egypt transferred to Nile land reclamation schemes." Expenditure, debenture interest, &c., amounted to £18,905, so the profit was £63,656. In the balance-sheet the previous debit of £15,883 is deducted, also £12,617 representing appreciation of assets up to December 31, 1903. But credit is taken for £9,892 as proportion up to the same date of management and general expenses in Egypt transferred to the Nile reclamation schemes. This reduces the nett credit to £45,048, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of 12½ per cent. They say they have made a valuation of the land and share assets—exclusive of land in process of reclamation—which, based on market quotations and on offers recently received for some of the land, shows an appreciation over cost price of about £100,000. In addition to cash of £39,395 there are contango loans for £117,670, with a good show of other liquid assets, so there was never any need for the directors to create superficial prosperity by manufacturing fictitious credits out of market appreciation.

AUSTRALASIAN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In view of the financial position of this company it was decided to suspend mining operations on its own account, so in September, 1904, an arrangement was made whereby a party of tributors leased the property for one year, paying to the company a rent of £1 5s. per week and 10 per cent. of the value of the gold produced. During the twelve months ending June 30 the receipts, consisting of royalty from tributors, rents and transfer fees, amounted to £552, whilst the expenditure absorbed £536, showing a tiny balance on the right side of £16. The directors have agreed to waive £100 of the fees due to them, and Messrs. John Taylor and Sons will do the same as to £100 of their remuneration for the past year. Cash stands at £638 against £104 owing to creditors.

LANCEFIELD GOLD MINING COMPANY.—A cablegram has been received from Messrs. Bewick, Moreing and Company stating that the mine has developed better than was anticipated. They advise that the ore requires to be dealt with by dry crushing and roasting, and it is proposed, therefore, to erect a plant capable of treating 9,000 tons per month, the cost to be about £60,000. Pending its erection, operations have been suspended, but there is a large quantity of tailings on the surface which can be treated, probably at a profit of £6,000. In order to get the funds, the directors propose to increase the capital of the company by the creation and issue of 100,000 new shares of 12s. each, to have the same rights as the existing £1 shares. The meeting is to be held on the 23rd inst.

NEW QUEEN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—A disappointing report is issued by the directors of this company for the twelve months to August 31. Sales of gold realised £11,932, cyanide receipts were £5,466, the proceeds from public and tributors amounted to £2,321, sales of concentrates fetched £2,006, royalty from tributors gave £1,103, and smaller items brought up the gross revenue to £22,918. Expenditure, however, took £23,450, so the result was a loss of £532 compared with a profit of £2,742 in 1903-1904. For the first half of the year the loss was much greater, say the directors, but since May last there has been a considerable improvement. Moderate profits have been earned "and there now seems every indication of increasing prosperity, the recent advices from the mine being of a very satisfactory character. The debit in the balance-sheet now amounts to £831. Cash totals up to £1,852, and debtors owe £470, whilst creditors appear for £642.

KELLY'S QUEEN BLOCK GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year ending August 19 255½ tons of stone were crushed for the company for a yield of 178 ozs., the residues realising £386. For the tributors there were crushed 582 tons, the gold and residues being worth £2,202, the company receiving £545. The total income was £1,270, whilst the expenditure was £2,788, which increases the debit balance to £8,512.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

INTEROCEANIC RAILWAY OF MEXICO (ACAPULCO TO VERA CRUZ), LIMITED.

As perhaps is well known, this undertaking is now controlled by the National Railroad Company of Mexico, an American affair in a sense, as it was reorganised by Messrs. Speyer and Kuhn

Loeb in the early part of 1902. Under the present auspices a more conservative policy has been adopted, which, while bringing less immediate benefit to some of the stockholders, promises to put the concern on a surer foundation. For example, the gross receipts are returned at \$6,086,107 compared with \$5,950,230, an increase of \$135,877 only, notwithstanding improvements in the passenger business of \$137,006 and in the revenue from sundries of \$22,127, the goods traffic showing a decrease of \$23,257. This is solely due to the fact that for the preceding twelve months the receipts were credited with no less than \$252,248 for the haulage of the company's materials against nothing in the period under review, as since July 1, 1904, this class of traffic has been carried free. Such a policy means relief to the capital account for all time and is one to be commended, particularly to those companies whose positions would enable them to carry it out without causing any hardship to the shareholders. Number of passengers carried increased by 222,828, and the items of goods traffic showing important increases were sand, lime and cement, ores, agricultural products, coal and coke and lumber, due in the case of the first three to large importations of cement for the Mexican Light and Power Company and for the construction of the National Theatre. Decreases occurred in firewood and cattle, the smaller number of live stock carried being accounted for by the discontinuance of the export of cattle to Cuba and by a reduction in the movement from the breeding grounds south of Tlancualpican to the grazing lands near Tezuitlan. Despite the small advance in revenue, the working expenses went up \$293,566 to \$4,755,759, and the directors explain that heavy amounts have been disbursed upon repairs to the roadway and equipment and against sleeper renewals, which have materially benefited the condition of the property. Not only that, but \$113,000 has been expended upon sleeper renewals and placed to suspense account to be charged out of revenue during the next few years, pointing to past neglect, as with the old Mexican company, a state of affairs frequently referred to by us, but wilfully ignored by others anxious to help the "bull" campaign. Net profit of \$1,330,348 shows a decline of \$157,689, and despite the improvement from 22¼ d. to 23¼ d. in the average rate of exchange, the sterling equivalent is less by £8,795 at £138,831. Transfer fees and interest raise this to £140,467, from which rent of Mexican Eastern Railway and interest on prior lien bonds each take £20,000, interest on first debenture stock requires £27,995 and interim payment of 2¼ per cent. on the second debenture stock £25,875, leaving £46,597. Final distribution on the last having been provided, the directors propose to pay 4½ per cent. or 1½ per cent. less on the "B" debenture stock, after transferring £403 from the amount of £1,573 standing to the credit of the holders of that stock. Following the notice given by the Mexican Central Railway Company to withdraw from the Mexican Traffic Association on November 30, 1904, a new agreement was arrived at between the four lines serving Mexico City, which became effective on January 1 last, so that the possible demoralisation of rates mentioned in the last report was happily avoided. The separate pooling agreement between the Mexican Railway Company and this concern is still being maintained, but notice to terminate it on March 1, 1909, has been received.

CUBAN CENTRAL RAILWAYS COMPANY.

This is another Cuban undertaking which made excellent progress during the twelve months ended June 30. Compared with the preceding twelve months the gross receipts expanded by £64,583 to £345,285, accompanied by an advance of £23,103 in the working expenses at £193,215, so that the net income improved by £41,480 to £152,070. There was an increase in the number of passengers carried of 171,879, meaning £15,597 more in revenue, and of the additional goods tonnage amounting to 374,257 the chief contributors were sugar-cane 258,557 tons, sugar 42,790 tons, molasses 13,228 tons, timber and firewood 15,276 tons and general goods 34,209 tons. Nothing gave way to an important extent, and altogether the gain in receipts from the merchandise business came to £43,686. Then the animal traffic rose by 56,433 in numbers and £2,637 in income, luggage and parcels went up £1,120 and sundries £1,450, so that the development of traffic was general and not confined to any particular class. A considerable part of the increased working charges was due to the enhanced salaries and wages necessitated by the fact that the demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled, was in excess of the supply, consequent upon the general prosperity of the island. As a result the price of all commodities has risen, and it will probably be difficult to effect large economies in working, but while the receipts expand in greater proportion than the outlay there cannot be much cause for complaint. This happened last year, as we find that the ratio between expenditure and income works out 4.65 per cent. better at 55.95 per cent. To the net revenue already mentioned must be added sum brought forward £1,506 and interest, registration fees, &c., £1,267, making £154,843 in all, from which fixed charges and £5,287 allowed for special renewals altogether take £77,070 leaving £77,773. Already an interim dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum has been paid on the preference shares, and after providing the final distribution on these the directors propose to pay 4s. or 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £4,773. This return brings the ordinary capital back to the dividend list after an absence of four years, and so far as one can reasonably look ahead there seems every probability that it will be able to stay there. We are told, for example, that the Brussels Sugar Convention has given a great impetus to the cane sugar industry, and we hope that it is so

because this compact has thrown an enormous burden on sugar consumers of all kinds in this country, although the language used contrasts strangely with that indulged in by the directors of the Colonial Bank when issuing their report a few weeks back. They complained that the prices for beet were as low as ever, dragging down, as a matter of course, the quotation for the cane article, but probably values will go up again, giving the West Indian colonies an advantage, say, of 5 per cent. of what we lose. That is if the cane crops can be harvested, because the general manager tells us that the only disturbing feature in what is otherwise a hopeful outlook is the shortage of labour, and already opinions are expressed that unless immigration increases much more rapidly than hitherto there will not be sufficient field hands to harvest the next crop, which promises to be the largest ever grown in the zone served by this railway. Last twelve months the nett capital expenditure was £141,327, leaving only £22,386 in hand, so the directors have taken authority to increase the share capital by £100,000.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

For the half-year ended June 30 the revenue from all sources was Rs. 66,66,460 or a decrease of rather more than 4 lakhs compared with the corresponding period of last year, and as the working expenses were larger by Rs. 95,858 at Rs. 26,54,270, the nett earnings show a decline of Rs. 5,06,050 to Rs. 40,12,189. In all the ordinary classes of passenger traffic the receipts showed further improvement, but there were sharp decreases in luggage and miscellaneous owing to the comparison with the Tibet Mission traffic, and the total coaching business therefore showed a trifling decline. In general merchandise the shrinkage was almost 4 lakhs owing to big decreases in wheat, linseed and sugar, the crops being severely damaged by the winter frosts, and it is fortunate that some compensation came from increased business in coal, salt, cotton and the summer crop of grains such as rice and Indian corn. Otherwise the goods traffic would have shown a much heavier decrease, as in wheat and linseed alone the set-back was no less than Rs. 5,81,782. The steamboat earnings were also adversely affected by the diminished crops, there being less wheat and seed for export. Of the nett earnings mentioned, the company's share is Rs. 20,00,641, which, after crediting Rs. 10,593 to interest on capital account, yielded £132,670 at 1s. 4d. per rupee. Add sum brought forward, interest, miscellaneous income, &c., and the entire revenue is £142,032, reduced to £104,359 by sundry charges, income-tax, debenture interest and eleven months' preference dividend to May 31. Balance of preference dividend takes £3,828, and the directors now propose a dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary capital, being the same as at the corresponding period, but there is no contribution to reserve against £30,000 and the carry forward is moderately lower at £22,155.

DELHI UMBALLA KALKA RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

On this company's main line the gross revenue for the twelve months ended June 30 was Rs. 19,22,831 compared with Rs. 18,14,381 in the preceding twelve months, an increase of Rs. 1,08,450. All the improvement was in the goods traffic, which expanded by 74,136 tons to 284,668 tons, bringing in an additional income of Rs. 1,68,814, as the coaching business showed some falling off owing to the shrinkage in the passenger traffic. Working expenses are at the fixed rate of 48 per cent., and after providing these together with Indian income-tax the nett balance converted into sterling is £63,555 against £59,829. Adding £46,176 brought in and after providing interest on debentures and capital advances and an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., the credit still remaining is £78,721. So the directors now propose a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the complete twelve months as before, but on this occasion add a bonus of 1 per cent., bringing the total return to 6 per cent. Then, instead of carrying forward a huge sum to the credit of the current year, they add £45,000 to the reserve fund, the sum left over being quite small at £5,721. On the company's Kalka Simla Extension the total receipts were Rs. 6,71,456 compared with Rs. 2,81,876 in the previous eight months, or rather less, when the line was still in an incomplete state, against which the working expenses rose from Rs. 1,18,482 to Rs. 4,24,233, being 63.18 per cent. of the revenue, or an improvement of 1.20 per cent. This leaves the nett earnings better by Rs. 1,46,829 at Rs. 2,47,223, but as the interest on the Secretary of State's advances comes to Rs. 4,32,802 it is clear that no dividend can be paid to the ordinary stockholders. These, however, are early days yet, and the directors tell us that the receipts under nearly all heads are steadily progressive. Moreover, the railway has not yet overcome the competition with country carts, a process which usually takes some time, and when this is accomplished, as no doubt it will be, still further improvement may be expected. At present the traffic in coal, grain, metals, potatoes and sugar is very encouraging, and the passenger business promises to advance steadily. So far good, but it must be remembered that the working charges do not include the maintenance of the line, which, under the contract with the Government, is chargeable to capital for two years after opening. Had this outlay been included the expenditure would have reached Rs. 5,18,200 or 77.17 per cent., so that at best the company has a stiff fight for success before it. As is well known, the construction of the line far exceeded the early estimates, just in the usual style, and we note that in March last the board addressed the Secretary of State regarding the financial position of the railway. Up to the present no reply has been received, and the directors do not tell us the nature of their communica-

tion, but doubtless they are seeking additional monetary assistance.

BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

According to the interim report for the six months ended June 30 this company's revenue from the original line and extensions was Rs. 3,75,626 or Rs. 53,565 more than in the corresponding period, but the working expenses advanced Rs. 50,718 to Rs. 2,30,669, so that the gain to nett revenue is only Rs. 2,847 to Rs. 1,44,957. That means an important increase from 55.87 per cent. to 61.40 per cent. in the ratio of expenditure to gross income, and the directors explain that the rise in outlay is owing to the expiry of the period during which the maintenance of the eastern extension was charged to capital and to exceptional charges for renewals of sleepers and for a temporary bridge. The cost of the survey for a branch line, undertaken some time ago, has also now been finally charged off to revenue. After providing Indian income-tax, the balance of nett earnings realised £9,412 at 1s. 4d. per rupee, to which must be added £10,648 brought forward and £125 for exchange adjustments, interest on loans, &c., making £20,186. Preference dividend having already been provided with £6,128, the directors again propose an interim dividend of 1½ per cent., absorbing £6,000 and leaving £8,058 to be carried forward. As stockholders are doubtless aware, the company can call upon the Government to work the system through the agency of the Eastern Bengal State Railway for 40 per cent. of the gross earnings, the company to receive 60 per cent., and since the working expenditure is over 61 per cent., it is natural to find this power exercised. Negotiations are at present in progress, and in response to a proposal made by the directors to the Government in March last, they hope to have the matter arranged satisfactorily at no distant date. Meanwhile capital expenditure continues to increase, a further £42,000 of 4 per cent. preference stock having been lately issued, but it is good to learn that the heavy protection works at the large bridges have proved effective, the line having been open for traffic throughout the whole of this year's rainy season. There is every reason to hope, say the directors, that the difficulties in connection with floods have at last been overcome.

WEARDALE STEEL, COAL AND COKE CO., LIMITED.

On the present occasion this company's accounts cover a period of fifteen months to September 30, so as to bring them uniform with the Cargo Fleet Iron Company's balance-sheet, with which concern the Weardale is very closely connected. The interest in that undertaking indeed is no less than £504,789 and will, we gather, be increased by a further sum of £96,654 at an early date, making over £600,000 in all. It is therefore comforting to learn that the progress at Cargo Fleet has been very satisfactory, and the directors confidently anticipate that the investment in its shares will form a valuable and remunerative asset. We hope so too, and are glad to record that Cargo Fleet shares stand in the market at a moderate premium. The Weardale Company's own capital expenditure, including £21,583 added in the fifteen months, reaches £826,220, against which the depreciation reserve amounts to £300,000, a very fair sum, but there is no reserve for general purposes, that having been distributed to the shareholders by means of Cargo Fleet shares. Sum due to creditors is £60,835 against debtors £59,221 and stocks £93,636, but cash is very poor at £6,713 in comparison with an undivided credit of £59,220. No profit and loss account is issued, but the nett balance for fifteen months is returned at £104,766 compared with £75,486 in the preceding year, and with £24,895 brought forward the total sum available is £129,661. Debenture interest takes £18,667, sundry other charges £8,274 and twelve months' dividend on preferred ordinary shares £30,000. The directors have also paid 6 per cent. for the year to June 30 on the deferred shares, placing £25,000 to depreciation reserve and carrying forward £33,220, from which the final three months' dividend will no doubt be provided.

CARGO FLEET IRON CO., LIMITED.

This is the undertaking to which we have just been referring, and the present balance-sheet is the first publicly issued. Up to date the capital expenditure has reached the huge sum of £1,384,798, including a suspense account of £150,861 to be gradually written off from profits, and there is a further sum of £156,617 invested in the shares of the South Durham Steel Company, another Christopher Furness enterprise, so that there are three concerns all closely allied—we hope to their mutual advantage. This heavy outlay has left the company very poor, creditors being no less than £255,559 against debtors £16,228, stocks £85,605 and cash £660, and it would probably have been better if dividend payments had waited awhile, because the position will not be set straight even when the Weardale Company takes up the further shares. The present accounts cover a period of nine months only to September 30, and in that time a profit of £49,556 was earned, increased to £52,238 by the sum brought forward. Income-tax takes £605 and a dividend of 1s. per share paid in August last required £31,455, leaving £20,179 to be applied in reduction of suspense account.

SOUTH DURHAM STEEL AND IRON CO., LIMITED.

We are glad to find this company still making headway and congratulate those shareholders who heeded our advice and stuck to their shares when asked to exchange them for Cargo Fleets on perfectly inadequate terms. That, however, is an old story now, and we have no intention of going over the ground again. Suffice it to say that our attitude has been amply justified by the steady rise in profits, those for the nine months ended Septem-

ber 30 being £103,123 compared with £80,085 for the previous twelve months. With £3,444 brought forward the sum for division is £106,567 and after meeting fixed and other charges the directors are not only able to catch up twelve months of preference dividend arrears but to pay 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, allowing £35,000 for depreciation and carrying forward £3,251. Additions to capital account during the year were £47,321 and the sum set aside for depreciation leaves the expenditure at £770,685 against which there is a reserve of £75,000 besides a dividend equalisation fund of £25,000, so that the position is a comfortable one. Sundry debtors £152,746 are slightly in advance of creditors, stocks are valued at £179,572 and cash amounts to £15,657.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

In the report for the year ended June 30 the accounts for life and redemption assurances have been separated for the first time, and while the change is one making for greater clearness in the future its immediate effect is to render comparison a trifle difficult. New business in the life department reached the largest total ever granted at £854,175, of which £627,675 was retained yielding £21,932 in annual premiums. The total premium income was £324,522 or practically the same as in the previous twelve months, but the revenue from investments, thanks largely to an increase from £3 16s. 7d. to £3 19s. 2d. per cent. in the mean rate of interest earned, rose by £10,354 to £167,963. Claims paid took £35,816 less at £216,830 and a smaller amount was also paid for surrenders at £24,228 and after meeting all other outgoings £180,218 was added to the funds of this branch raising them to £4,299,569. The redemption assurance premiums rose from £7,276 to £12,476, and as expenses were small and there were no claims to be met the nett result was an addition of £13,170 to the funds, bringing the savings of the year up to £193,388 and making a total of £4,325,606. Expenses of management and commission in the life section alone worked out at £13 7s. 11d. per cent., but in the two combines were about 2s. 8d. heavier than last year at £12 18s. 2d. per cent., an excellent ratio considering that the society has no fire department to help it out. A new departure is announced, or rather, after discontinuing the granting of annuities as far back as 1838, it has now been decided to resume this business, and during the past twelve months the office received £400 for annuities sold. The society is so well known for the careful manner in which its funds are employed that it is unnecessary to do more than refer to a few of the principal items. Mortgages on property in the United Kingdom naturally form the largest proportion, amounting to £1,422,868, while £551,960 is in British railway debentures and debenture stocks, £488,531 in life interests and reversions, £453,070 in loans on security of county, borough and district rates and £274,778 in Colonial Government securities.

ASHBY'S STAINES BREWERY, LIMITED.

The financial position of this business does not seem very strong. It is evidently badly pinched for liquid resources, due, we imagine, to over-capitalisation when launched as a public company, and but for a mortgage here, a loan there, and an overdraft somewhere else, the affair would be in very sore straits. The property and goodwill, with £7,474 added during the year to September 30 and £2,175 allowed for depreciation on leaseholds, is valued at £626,815, against a share and debenture capital of only £565,000, and as reserves are slender in the extreme, it has been necessary to mortgage the property to the extent of £50,000 in order to keep things going. Not only that, but £15,000 has been raised on loan and £6,014 by means of a bank overdraft, and as creditors are £9,040 more than debtors and the cash in hand is just £12, with £11,483 still to be provided for dividends and interest, much stronger language would have been justified. With things as they are, the 7 per cent. ordinary dividend, which the directors propose, with £1,000 only to reserve, making it £18,000, cannot by any manner of means be justified, and the sooner the directors display a little more wisdom and forethought in handling the company's affairs the less trouble is likely to overtake it. Another unsatisfactory matter is the usage of premiums of £10,000 received on ordinary shares issued in 1903 to write down the cost of rebuilding the brewery, new plant, &c., reducing it to £13,615. These premiums should not be utilised for capital purposes in this way, but should be separately invested outside the business, because the shareholders get no return upon them; at least, not directly. Besides, part at least of the outlay ought to be charged to revenue, not capital. During the period now being reviewed the company contrived to make a profit of £31,148, from which debenture interest takes £8,170, income-tax £1,865, and preference dividend £7,125. A 7 per cent. dividend, as already mentioned, is next paid on the ordinary shares, with £1,000 to reserve and £2,335 carried forward against £2,647 brought in.

ARNOLD, PERRETT AND CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended September 30 the price of hops went up and the sales of this company's beer fell off, partly, the directors say, owing to the general depression of trade and partly to the enormous apple crop of 1904, which resulted in the displacement of beer by cider to a very marked extent in nearly all the districts where the company trades. These adverse circumstances accounted for a decrease of £9,160 to £53,516 in gross profits, and although nett rentals gave £273 more at £8,281 the total income was £8,806 smaller at £61,797. A slight saving in expenses and a reduction of £1,138 to £9,978 in the allowance for depreciation and repairs brought the decline in the nett income

down to £7,005 at £35.531, and with £888 from the previous account and £15 from transfer fees the amount available was £29,429 against £36,369 a year ago. Of this, debenture interest absorbed £74 more at £12.945, and after paying preference dividend only £4,484 or £7,015 less was available, so in order to give the ordinary shareholders a return of 2 per cent. or just half their usual dividend the general reserve and reserve for bad and doubtful debts get nothing compared with £2,000 and £610 set aside a year ago and the balance carried forward is cut down to £484. Freehold land and buildings stand in the balance-sheet at £579,655, leasehold properties at £4,885, and plant, rolling stock and fixtures, &c., are valued at £84,014, and against this the reserve of £6,000 looks much too small, especially as only £710 of it is invested outside the business. Liabilities to sundry creditors are £5,050 smaller at £14,724, but to achieve this result it has been necessary to reduce sundry debtors by £5,981 to £20,255, loans by £670 to £3,012 and stocks by £370 to £29,247. Cash, too, is down £8,552 to £8,481, while debenture interest accrued will require £2,825 and the dividends just announced £10,000.

ROBERT YOUNGER, LIMITED.

The directors of this Edinburgh brewery business still adhere to the objectionable practice of not issuing a balance-sheet, but are "pleased to report" that, considering the state of trade, the business of the company has been well maintained for the year ended September 30. Nett profits, after payment of directors' fees and making ample provision for depreciation and doubtful debts, are returned at £18,135, and as £1,582 was brought forward the total for appropriation is £19,717. From that the preference dividend takes £5,000, dividends and bonus aggregating 15 per cent. are paid on the ordinary shares, £2,000 goes to reserve, making it £20,000, and £717 is carried forward.

SLATER'S, LIMITED.

Some few weeks ago sales of this company's shares were so persistent that the market value was driven down to little more than 2 for the £1 share from the previously existing figure of round about 3. No reason for the selling transpired at the time, and it is certainly not to be found in the report and accounts for the year ended September 30 last. Business apparently continues to expand in satisfactory fashion, as the nett profit has increased by about £2,500. Trading and other revenue is returned at £56,966, and interest, dividends, transfer fees, &c., gave £5,912 or £62,878 in all, from which all ordinary charges, depreciation, interest on leases reserve and debenture interest absorbed £20,935, leaving £41,943 compared with about £39,400. Balance of £7,773 brought forward raises this to £49,716, and after providing for the interim dividends a sum of £33,330 remains. So the directors set aside sufficient to pay the final three months' preference dividend and again bring the ordinary distribution up to 16 per cent. by a final payment of 11 per cent., carrying forward £5,257. No addition is made to reserve, which therefore remains at £88,750, a good part of which we believe to be composed of share premiums. In addition, there is the lease reserve of £29,349, but that is not a real accumulation, and simply represents the wastage on leasehold premises. These, with the freeholds, goodwill, furniture, fixtures, &c., are in the balance-sheet at £489,147, including, we suppose, a long lease of extensive premises in Baltic House and leases of Nos. 81 and 81A, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, lately acquired. Amongst other assets we note investments of £80,924, of which details are not given, but the auditors tell us that all are taken at par value, and some of the shares are not yet fully paid. Sundry creditors reach £31,571, which is not excessive for a business such as this, and on the other side there are debtors £29,543, cash £21,394 and stock £7,823.

CEYLON AND INDIAN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended June 30 the crop of tea gathered on the various estates amounted to 916,396 lbs., or an increase of 146,412 lbs., but the average price realised was rather lower, and the profits only rose by £678. The company is not only a tea-planting one, it also owns a plumbago mine, but this seems to be rather an unprofitable business, some 99 tons only having been produced last year. This is expected to produce just about enough to cover the expenses, and although the results so far obtained in the current year are better the directors frankly state that, as far as can be seen at present, the supply of mineral may not hold out for more than another two years. One of the estates, however, has been found suitable for rubber cultivation, and 139 acres adjoining the garden have been purchased, of which 55 acres have been planted, and it is hoped that by June 30 next there will be 150 acres under rubber, and a further 150 acres within the next two years. Profits on tea and cardamoms amounted to £5,455, and after providing for administration charges, and debenture and other interest, the balance available, including £1,466 brought in, was £3,907. Preference dividend having been met, £200 is written off machinery account, and the ordinary shares receive 2 per cent., leaving £607 to be carried forward. The balance-sheet does not appear to be particularly healthy. Block account stands at £102,500, machinery account at £3,800, and extension account at £1,800, while the land bought for rubber planting is valued at £247. Issued share capital is only £65,000, so that £39,360 has had to be raised by debenture stock, and a further £6,416 is due to sundry creditors including loans secured by the deposit of £5,600 debenture stock. Coast advances are decidedly heavy at £3,145, and apart from £1,000 credited on plumbago account other assets amount to no more than £714.

CEYLON LAND AND PRODUCE CO., LIMITED.

Everything seemed to go against this company during the year ended June 30, as not only did the crop of tea from its own gardens show a reduction of 21,460 lbs. at 1,055,297 lbs., but less bought leaf was used, and the quantity manufactured for others was also smaller, so that the total output was 109,155 lbs. less at 1,534,031 lbs. The cocoa crop, too, was disappointing, and 747 cwt. below the estimate at 2,463 cwt., and the only gleam of brightness apparently came from the progress made with the cultivation of rubber, of which 425 lbs. were sold at 5s. 8½d. per lb. nett. A serious decline of 0.85d. to 5.15d. per lb. in the average price realised for tea brought the nett profits down by £1,668 to £6,578, and with £636 from the previous account the total amount available was £1,470 lower at £7,241. It would never do, however, to break the continuity of the high dividends paid since 1892, and the directors therefore proceed to distribute the usual 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, although this means that nothing can be placed to reserve against £1,000 a year ago and £2,315 in 1903, and the balance carried forward is cut down to £867, subject to directors' and auditors' fees, income-tax, &c., which last year absorbed £694. The wisdom of this policy is not very apparent, and a study of the balance-sheet fails to supply any justification. Capital expenditure during the year was £4,045, and as nothing has been written off, this brings the total up to £132,691, less, of course, the reserve fund of £23,500, which is all in the property. Liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable are slightly lower at £16,412, but deposits are £317 up at £5,483, and the total liabilities, including £20,694 for debentures and interest, have been reduced by only £236 to £43,894, against which produce on hand is valued at £7,777 or £1,250 less. Cash has been reduced by £1,386 to £1,187, sundry debtors owe no more than £1,892, and that most unsatisfactory asset, coast advances, comes to £2,807. The position has been straightened out a little by the call of 10s. per share, which was made on July 1, but even so it is none too strong.

SANTA FE LAND CO., LIMITED.

Although this Argentine company's efforts to obtain colonists for the sowing of cotton by offering the free use of land and the free grant of seed did not meet with success, the prosperity in other directions has continued great. Cash receipts for land sales rose by £6,493 to £21,731, while an increasing demand for rented lands at improved prices was experienced, and it is expected that more tenants will be attracted to the territory north of the River Salado by the establishment of a new estancia at the extreme north-west corner. The cattle business, too, was satisfactory as the number of calves marked was 3,798 larger at 14,011, and better prices were again obtained for cattle sold. Profits on wood, cattle and sundries increased by £8,419 to £53,834, rents yielded £872 more at £5,050 and with one-third of the cash receipts from land sales the total income was £11,456 up at £66,128. General expenses took £2,659 more at £17,158, and land tax was £133 heavier, but the allowance for repairs and depreciation was £1,834 less at £6,490, and after paying debenture interest, an item which did not occur last year, the nett profits came to £36,483 compared with £28,332. Including £8,790 brought forward, the amount available showed an improvement of £9,046 at £45,273, and after placing another £6,000 to reserve, the directors raise the dividend by another 1½ to 5 per cent. and carry £8,648 to the new account. In order to more rapidly develop the company's territories, improved railway facilities are necessary, and application has been made for a railway from San Cristobal northwards through the company's lands. The freehold land owned now stands in the books at £470,799, and the estancias are valued at £136,540, but this includes cattle taken at £71,092, which, according to the independent valuation made at June 30, are worth £104,205. In addition, the Santa Catalina estancia is put down at £22,732 against which there is a liability of £15,771 for an annuity if now purchased, machinery, plant and tools are valued at £14,157, branch railway land and materials at £18,262 and shares in Quebracho Extract factory at £16,265. Trading accounts, too, are well in favour of the company, liabilities to sundry creditors being no more than £8,090, while sundry debtors are £28,278, timber in stock and at stations come to £21,329 and cash and bills receivable to £30,567.

AGUA SANTA NITRATE AND RAILWAY COMPANY.

This Chilean undertaking continues to pursue a very even course, and each six months sees a further improvement in its earnings. During the half-year to June 30 the output and sales of nitrate dropped by 2,041 qtls. and 45,820 qtls. respectively to 651,320 qtls. and 650,000 qtls., but a decided recovery of 210,724 qtls. to 3,275,543 qtls. took place in the volume of traffic carried by the railway, the result being that nett profits again showed a fair increase. After writing off \$8,172 or \$3,764 more for depreciation the nett amount came to \$1,320,251 or £99,019 compared with \$1,250,854 or £93,814 a year ago, and expenses in Valparaiso having been met, the balance available was £87,658, out of which the customary quarterly dividends of 4 per cent. were paid and £39,658 was added to the development and amortisation fund making it £409,242. Liabilities to sundry creditors are down £5,084 to £81,466 and the indebtedness to Messrs. Balfour, Williamson and Company has been reduced by £18,068 to £19,517, while there is also a small decrease to £28,593 in the amount due to the Bank of Chili, but bills payable are £4,130 higher at £12,912.

WEST INDIA AND PANAMA TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

This company continues to struggle against adversity without any great measure of success attending its efforts, and the prospects seem less hopeful than ever, as the directors report that the British Guiana subsidy of £4,500 per annum voted for ten years from January 1, 1892, and continued up to March 31 last, has now been reduced to £3,000 per annum. Revenue from messages, subsidies, &c., during the six months ended June 30 showed a further shrinkage of £1,808 at £32,774, and although, in addition to cutting down the cost of cable maintenance and the allowance for depreciation of the s.s. *Henry Holmes*, the directors drew £150 less at £600 in fees, the expenses were only £208 smaller at £23,230. Including £216 less at £495 brought forward and £1,756 from interest, the amount available was £1,385 down at £11,794, so the payment on account of arrears of dividend on the first preference shares is again reduced by 1s to 6s. per share, leaving £1,425 to be carried to the new account. Arrears on the first preference shares now stand at £3,456, and on the second preference at £14,007, and the hope of any return on the ordinary shares has receded into the still more dim and distant future. Nothing was drawn from reserve during the half-year towards cost of cable repairs, against £3,468 in the corresponding period of 1904, so that this fund remains at £112,952, while the reserve for depreciation on the cable ship is £2,899 higher at £6,449, these two items being largely represented by investments of £101,762. Current accounts are well in favour of the company, only £6,407 being due to sundry creditors and £5,000 on loan, which has since been repaid, while on the other hand sundry debtors owe £4,202, bills receivable come to £10,475, and cash in hand and remittances in transit stand at £8,031.

BLACKPOOL PIER CO.

Whether business fell off or working expenses increased during the twelve months ended October 31 we cannot say, as the profit and loss account submitted by the directors gives only the nett revenue, but this was £582 down at £8,690. Balance brought forward was £211 up at £1,410, and after providing £968, or £37 more, for interest on mortgages, less bank interest and commission, the disposable balance showed a further shrinkage of £408 at £9,132. The directors maintain the dividend and bonus on the ordinary shares at the usual figure of 12 per cent. by transferring £300 less at £1,000 to improvement and contingent fund, and cutting down the amount carried to the new year by £110 to £1,300. Nothing was spent on capital account, which remains at £112,797, while the accumulations for reserve and other funds, after deducting £452 for part cost of redecking the pier, &c., come to £20,423, all, however, in the business. Of trade creditors the company appears to have none, as the item of £1,488 for debts and liabilities represents directors' remuneration, income-tax, interest on mortgages, &c., while sundry debtors stand at £376. Cash has risen by £352 to £7,840, an increase seemingly derived from a mortgage for £350 raised during the year, bringing the indebtedness under this head up to £24,650.

REVERSIONARY ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

This company deals in reversionary, contingent, and life interests and annuities, and during the year ended September 30 increased its holdings by £29,858 to £579,687. Temporary investments of £11,595 and claims outstanding, &c., of £8,610 brought the total assets up to £599,892 against which there were liabilities to the public of £100,000 on debenture stocks, £58,373 on temporary loans, £760 on overdrafts, and £2,428 for accrued interest and income-tax. Profits realised for the twelve months were £8,279, and with £45 brought in and £14,000 taken from suspense interest account, the total receipts were £22,323, of which debenture interest, administration charges, and income-tax absorbed £7,257, and after payment of a dividend of 4½ per cent. £442 was carried forward subject to directors' fees. The suspense interest account representing the estimated accrued value of the investments held in reserve until realised now amounts to £90,576.

TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY OF CANADA.

The prosperity in Canada was reflected in this company's affairs by an improvement of £6,676 to £45,853 in the revenue for the half-year ended September 30. Debenture interest, owing to an increase of £68,386 to £1,008,862 in the amount issued, required £1,674 more at £19,168, but after meeting administration expenses and other charges the nett profits were still £4,434 larger at £17,653. Half of the surplus over 6 per cent. on the capital has to be placed to reserve in accordance with the provisions of the Royal charter, so that £3,952 is transferred to that account, but with £19,950 brought in and £4,129 from adjustment of interest account the nett revenue was £6,794 up at £37,789, and the directors in addition to distributing the customary bonus of ½ per cent. for the six months put £5,000 to contingencies fund and carry £21,405 forward. The reserve fund is further increased by interest on investments, &c., to £189,723, but against this £5,403 is written off for loss on realisations in Canada, £1,382 for decrease in value of investments and £217 for income-tax, leaving the nett amount £6,339 larger at £182,721 of which £158,529 is invested in special earmarked securities. Investments in Canada stand at \$6,367,692 against \$6,045,544, but properties held under foreclosure have been further reduced by \$37,225 to \$20,600, and sundry debtors in Canada owe \$273,301 or \$86,561 more, mostly for interest accrued but not due, the total assets in that country being \$6,661,593 or £1,368,820 compared with £1,280,606. Cash is £15,211 up at £41,321, while liabilities on bills payable,

DEVON AND CORNWALL BANKING CO., LIMITED.

The quarterly statement of this bank made up to October 14 last shows that it has liabilities on current and deposit accounts, &c., of £4,332,177, with a reserve fund £100,000 larger than the paid-up capital of £250,000. On the other side there is the large sum of £1,839,713 invested in gilt-edged securities, including £600,000 Consols at 85, cash in hand and at call amounts to £387,981 and advances and bills reach £2,567,551. Bank premises represent a further sum of £136,932, and the total of the balance-sheet is £4,932,177.

RHODESIAN MINING RETURNS.

At the very moment when the Chartered directors were shouting that the mining industry of Rhodesia was making rapid and marvellous progress they were actually aware that they had just issued for October a return that has been the smallest since May. Though the month was longer by one day than September there was a decrease of no less than 2,402 ozs. at a total of only 33,383 ozs. This is retrogression with a vengeance. The output of the other minerals was:—Silver, 6,091 ozs.; lead, 40 tons; coal, 9,301 tons.

Name of Company.	June. Ton.	June. Ozs.	July. Tons.	July. Ozs.	Aug. Tons.	Aug. Ozs.	Sept. Tons.	Sept. Ozs.	Oct. Tons.	Oct. Ozs.
Anterior (Matabele)	1,200	768	1,060	590	1,010	599	1,060	805	1,040	957
Ayrshire	10,077	4,005	10,257	3,260	9,639	3,008	9,559	3,291	9,415	2,998
Beatrice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dumbleton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Globe and Phoenix	6,757	4,194	6,829	4,328	6,280	4,397	6,141	3,890	6,515	4,085
Golden Valley	714	396	806	413	841	707	739	500	799	557
Killarney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hibernia	3,577	1,755	4,041	1,578	3,720	1,305	4,400	1,433	3,782	1,513
Morven	1,105	705	1,199	838	1,305	899	1,357	848	653	700
Penhalonga	—	—	6,840	1,456	6,200	1,370	5,870	1,304	5,100	1,163
Red & White	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Revue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rezende	3,000	1,167	1,900	648	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhodesia Consolidated	1,250	1,174	1,350	1,306	1,570	1,383	1,974	1,609	—	—
Rhodesia Mines	720	310	698	315	799	324	478	275	645	303
Selukwe	6,100	2,245	6,120	1,876	6,360	1,840	5,731	2,234	6,126	2,143
Surprise	2,842	1,550	2,857	1,563	3,000	1,482	2,890	1,615	2,902	1,643
Wanderer	14,136	2,276	14,694	2,288	15,066	2,349	15,066	1,954	15,810	2,062
Wareleigh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Fine Gold.

The following table gives the total monthly return since the commencement of crushing:—

	1901. Ozs.	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.
January	10,787	15,955	16,245	19,359	32,531
February	12,237	13,204	17,090	18,673	30,131
March	14,289	16,891	19,626	17,756	34,927
April	14,998	17,559	20,727	17,562	33,268
May	14,486	19,698	22,137	19,444	31,332
June	14,863	15,842	22,166	20,402	35,256
July	15,651	15,226	23,571	24,339	34,693
August	14,734	15,747	19,187	24,660	35,765
September	13,958	15,164	18,741	26,029	35,785
October	14,503	16,849	17,918	24,919	33,383
November	16,308	15,923	15,714	26,183	—
December	15,174	16,210	18,756	28,100	—
Total	172,060	194,268	231,872	267,715	337,07

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

For the month of October the output from the gold mines in the Colar field, India, amounted to 51,287 ozs., compared with 50,962 ozs. for September, showing the small increase of 325 ozs., though there was one day more in the month. It is also much below the returns in some of the earlier months of the year. The decline in the Champion Reef output is the most prominent feature of the list.

Name of Company.	July. Tons.	July. Ozs.	Aug. Tons.	Aug. Ozs.	Sept. Tons.	Sept. Ozs.	Oct. Tons.	Oct. Ozs.
Balaghat	4,100	3,547	4,200	3,621	4,100	3,649	4,200	3,667
Champion Reef	19,320	18,012	19,410	18,003	19,520	18,042	19,650	17,801
Coromandel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mysore	16,600	17,254	16,050	17,039	16,000	17,016	16,750	17,303
Mysore W. and Wynaad	2,162	1,033	2,112	1,001	2,083	1,000	2,152	1,155
Nundydroog	6,300	5,754	6,300	5,371	6,600	5,721	6,800	5,816
Ooregum	10,200	5,487	10,314	5,506	10,178	5,534	10,595	5,545

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1905 and the previous five years:—

	1900. Ozs.	1901. Ozs.	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.
January	41,185	42,829	41,614	48,080	50,935	50,999
February	39,238	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629
March	40,674	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629
April	40,774	43,038	38,329	48,271	49,991	52,324
May	40,021	42,110	28,093	48,628	50,445	51,095
June	39,872	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,553
July	39,355	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086
August	42,763	44,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	50,541
September	41,765	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	50,962
October	41,834	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,031	51,287
November	41,772	41,669	48,334	51,559	50,442	—
December	44,089	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	—
Total	493,342	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	511,105

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—This has been another dull inactive week with, until just at the end of it, an almost steady decline. Markets occasionally got a lift on receipt of a more favourable cable from abroad, but these as a rule were discouraging, and no news was sufficiently stimulating to raise prices to a higher level. Farmers' deliveries for the week were 87,001 qrs. against 41,025 qrs., imports 391,627 qrs. against 479,470, and the estimated quantities of wheat and flour on passage amount to 1,830,000 qrs. against 1,885,000 last week. Markets in America have also been more or less generally depressed, but

recovered earlier in the week. Reports at first had a bearish element, a heavy crop movement, no important export business, weakness of interior markets and also favourable reports in the growing crops all having a weakening effect, but the market gradually grew more confident and took a firmer ground on a better cash demand, lighter receipts, advices from the North-West of larger sales for export and home consumption.

WOOL.—As is usual just before a London sale, country wool markets are quiet, waiting to see the trend of prices. Not that much is expected in the way of easier values, in merinos none at all in fact, but crossbreds, which have already fallen a little, may come permanently down to a lower level. At any rate, users seem to think that time will help them, and are doing a hand to mouth buying. Manufacturers are very well employed at present. The home trade is showing up better for all classes of woollen and worsted goods, though it must be said that demand for better materials is still only moderate. Cheap and medium articles are most sought after both for home and from abroad, and a very satisfactory trade is doing in them. With few exceptions the mills are well employed, in some cases having to work overtime for early delivery.

LINEN.—Again there is little change to note in the doings of this market. Russian supplies are now considered out of the question, and home produce for the time being is receiving all the attention of buyers. Markets have been well supplied, about 300 tons in all, and spinners' demand has more than equalled supplies, and manufacturers also have been buying freely, no longer gibbing at the prices asked. Their end of the business is in a satisfactory condition, prices firm and orders well booked ahead. Home markets show more activity, brown linens, damasks, dress and housekeeping goods all improving steadily, and in nearly all departments of bleached and finished linens there is a steady increase. Foreign trade is waking up, and substantial orders for both North and South America are already to hand, but colonial and Continental markets, with the exception of Canada, are not as brisk as could be wished.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The feature of the week under review has been the big rise in raw American cotton in Liverpool on Wednesday. The Ginners' report, published the previous evening, was considered decidedly "bullish," and prices in New York were pushed up to an enormous extent. Spot American cotton in Liverpool was raised 30 points, and of course this was the means of suspending business almost entirely in both piece goods and yarn. Speaking generally, the demand in cloth for export is discouraging to sellers. Buyers seem to have very few orders to place, and with the exception of a few special lines, the total sales of the week are very small. Stocks of cotton piece goods in both India and China are large, and the shipments continue heavy. Of course, the goods now being delivered are at prices much below those now being asked, and shippers are not disposed to enter the market at the advanced rates. The minor markets have shown few signs of activity. The prospects for the home trade continue bright, and for early delivery fairly good orders have been given out. Manufacturers of most classes of goods are well engaged, and are able to hold firm to quotations. The sale of home trade American yarns have been of unimportant extent. The production of the commoner kinds has been difficult to clear, and the margin for producers is distinctly poor. Shipping bundles have been quiet on the whole, and although some offers have been made for the Far East, as a rule they have been quite out. Egyptian yarns made in the Bolton district have been sold in small lots, and quotations have been well held by spinners.

There have again been violent fluctuations in the American cotton market. When the Washington Census Bureau's report was published it created the greatest excitement, and prices advanced substantially; in fact, it was one of the most sensational rises on record. It showed that the quantity of cotton ginned up to the 14th inst. was 7,498,167 commercial bales, compared with 9,786,646 bales last year. Shorts were panic-stricken, and in a short time the price rose 1.06 points. Holders then sold and the price suddenly dropped, and the market has become much quieter. Closing prices are:—Nov.-Dec., 6d.; Dec.-Jan., 6.02d.; Jan.-Feb., 6.07d.; Feb.-March, 6.10d.; March-April, 6.13d.; April-May, 6.15d.; May-June, 6.17d.; June-July, 6.18d.; July-Aug., 6.20d.

COAL.—The steam trade is brightening up again, and demand during the past week has been larger than for some time past. Railway companies' contracts are expiring, and it seems likely that they will have to pay dearer for their renewal. The present price is 8s. or 8s. 3d., but coalowners are standing out for 8s. 9d., and even if they don't get as much, are likely to obtain some advance in current rates. From South Yorkshire also a considerable quantity is being sent to Hull and Grimsby for the steam fishing fleet, a department which is rapidly growing to considerable proportions. Gas coals are at their busiest, but prices not quite up to last year's. Welsh trade has not yet recovered its briskness, some of the collieries are only half worked, and at Cardiff business has been more or less at a standstill. At Newport and Jamaica things are better, more inquiries coming to hand, and shipping from the latter port amounted to 70,000 tons during the week.

COPPER.—The market was again somewhat excited during the week and business has been on a considerable scale, although not so large as that previously reported. The opening was firm on better American advices and a good speculative demand, but the inquiry was not quite so keen for immediate delivery and more pronounced for future so that some irregularity developed, the "back" on three months showing a material reduction. For-

ward positions indeed have attracted most attention throughout, cash falling away sharply near the end and there is now only $\frac{1}{2}$ difference between present and future metal at £76 5s. and £75 5s. per ton respectively.

TIN.—Strong Eastern advices continue to give a good tendency to this market, and although business was only moderately active prices were pretty firmly held. "Bears" were covering quietly and a fair number of speculative purchases soon sent quotations forward. A little selling for near delivery subsequently caused a slight reaction, but there was a quick rally on some outside inquiries and an American demand, and prices close steady at £154 5s. for spot and £1 less for three months forward.

IRON AND STEEL.—The position of the iron and steel market is still very good, and the outlook as promising as ever, though some uncertainty is felt as to the position of Cleveland warrant iron, in view of the large stocks in public stores. Many incline to the hope, however, that this stocking up of material in Reddibrough will soon cease, as stocks have recently been reduced, and that withdrawals will soon follow. Not only has America been buying fairly extensively, but the Continental demand has improved considerably, as is evidenced by the heavier clearances from the East Coast. A large tonnage continues to be booked in semi-manufactured steel at advancing prices, both for early delivery and for delivery next year. In some cases heavy premiums have been offered for larger lines of steel for prompt delivery, but so far without success. Big orders have again been placed with shipbuilders in the north, and Scotch steel makers are putting up their prices owing to the increasing pressure of work.

TEA.—Indian sales were lighter, but the market had not yet recovered from the heavy offerings of the past few weeks, and was not disposed to do business freely. Prices again took a lower turn for nearly all grades, mediums being quoted at $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $\frac{1}{2}$ d. lower than two or three weeks ago, and commonest sorts were at their lowest, from 4d. to $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. 39,535 packages were offered, of which 35,355 were sold at an average of 7.19d. against 7.46d. last week and 6.72d. a year ago. Ceylon offerings of 22,953 packages came in for a good demand for all good and medium sorts, but superior kinds as usual were neglected and difficult to sell. The average came to 7.45d. against 7.56d. last week and 7.37d. last year. Java sales passed off at fairly steady prices for the better teas, but here also commoner sorts were neglected. Only 1,204 packages were brought forward, and of them 120 packages of "Tanawatee" realised 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

SUGAR.—The improvement in the market has continued, consumers being disposed to buy, whilst factories are inclined to sell but slowly. It is said that from fear of a Refiners' Syndicate in Germany consumers there have already covered about two-thirds of their yearly consumption, and want to cover more, the wholesale price being 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 18 marks, and the retail price 20 marks. As Mr. Czarnikow points out, retailers thus get more profit than they were accustomed to, and expect good buying at this level. But Germany has to export nearly half her crop and our prices have advanced 6d. from the lowest, therefore we ought shortly to have more actual sugars available. Crop news is unchanged. The weather has been colder, and some snow has fallen. New York has responded to the firmer condition reported from this side. Landings in the three ports for the week were 34,000 tons, and meltings 32,000 tons, leaving stocks at 218,000 tons.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Antofagasta (Chile) and Bolivia.—On account of the profits for the year 1905 as follows:—Interim of 4 per cent. on the undivided ordinary stock, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the 5 per cent. preferred ordinary stock (making 5 per cent. for the year); also an interim of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the deferred ordinary stock.

Cordoba Central.—Interim payments for 1905:— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the first preference stock, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the second preference stock, and 1 per cent. on the income debenture stock (Central Northern section).

Southern Punjab.—Interim at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, carrying forward £27,253.

BANKS.

Bank of New South Wales.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year to Sept. 30, payable December 12, adding £25,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £18,232.

Commercial of Scotland.—At the rate of 20 per cent. per annum. London and River Plate Bank.—13 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year, placing £25,000 in reduction of premises account, £10,000 to pension and benevolent fund, and carrying forward £44,324.

BREWERIES.

Alsing and Co.—10 per cent. and a bonus of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30.

Bartholomay (of Rochester).—6s. per share (or 3 per cent.) on the preference shares, payable Dec. 14.

Dartford Brewery.—Further of 4 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30, carrying forward £495.

New York Breweries.—£3 10s. per cent. on the unified stock for the year to Aug. 31.

Royal Brewery, Brentford.—Interim for the six months ending Dec. 31, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable Jan. 1.

MINES.

Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 3,000 tons, value £9,257; cyanide value £915; total, £10,172.

Golden Horse Shoe Estates.—Interim for 1905 of 6s. per share payable Dec. 29.

Oroville Dredging.—2½ per cent., payable Dec. 15.

Oroya Brownhill.—Interim of 4s. per share, payable Dec. 20.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. Darracq.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 2s. 6d. per share.

Alsing and Co.—10 per cent., and a bonus of 2½ per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30.

Anglo-Chilian Nitrate and Railway.—Interim for 1905 of 7s. per preference share, and 7s. per ordinary share.

Army and Navy Investment Trust.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock and 7 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock for the half-year ended Nov. 30.

Bristol College Green Hotel.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30, carrying forward £80.

Callard, Stewart, and Watt.—Final at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the six months ended Sept. 30, making 10 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £1,470.

Elands Laagte Collieries.—3 per cent., payable Dec. 30.

Ilford.—Final at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the ordinary share capital for the half-year ended Oct. 31, making, with interim, 6½ per cent. for the year.

Ilfracombe Hotel.—5 per cent., carrying forward £772.

Lungla (Sylhet) Tea.—Interim preference of 3 per cent. for 1905, payable Jan. 1.

Metropolitan Amalgamated Railway Carriage and Wagon.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum.

Pataling Rubber Estates.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation.—On the deferred stock of 6½ per cent. for the six months, together with a bonus of 3 per cent., making 13 per cent. for the year on the deferred stock.

Rexer Arms.—Interim of 1s. per ordinary share for the six months ended Oct. 31, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

South British Fire and Marine Insurance.—Further of 12½ per cent., making 25 per cent. for the year ended Aug. 31, carrying forward £30,802.

Tyne Valley Colliery.—5 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

Wm. Cory and Son.—Interim of 4s. per share.

William Paton.—4 per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30, carrying forward £3,286.

MINING RETURNS.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—6,354 tons crude ore produced 1,039 tons concentrates, containing 634 tons lead and 30,131 ozs. silver.

Camp Bird.—Crushed 6,618 tons of ore (dry weight), 9,278 ozs., and 476 tons concentrates.

Carrington's Lion.—Clean-up of bulk ore gave 105 ozs.

Day Dawn Block and Wyndham Gold.—From the battery, 1,820 tons, 911 ozs.; 1,800 tons of tailings for bullion, including concentrates, valued £2,330.

Durban Roodepoort.—Interim on account of the year ending Dec. 31 of 15 per cent.

Eaglehawk Consolidated.—Crushed 960 tons, 344 ozs.; 139 ozs. from cyanide.

Mills' Day Dawn United.—Crushed 962 tons, value (including tailings and concentrates) £3,200.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—Plant treated 5,400 tons of crude ore for a production of 69 tons fine copper.

New Hillgrove Proprietary.—215 tons (including 115 tons of screenings from the sorting floor), 628 ozs. of bullion and 4 tons of concentrates; value, 52 ozs.; the value of tailings is 4 dwts. 4 grs. per ton.

North Broken Hill.—1,880 tons of crude ore, producing 355 tons of concentrates, containing 244 tons 5 cwt. lead, and 6,390 ozs. silver.

Ouro Preto de Brazil.—5,909 tons of ore produced 2,031 ozs.

Pahang.—Crushed 2,300 tons, producing 39 tons black tin.

Pahang Kabang.—Crushed 730 tons, producing 10½ tons black tin.

Pena Copper.—Output, 13,861 tons; shipments of ore 10,589 tons; and 50 tons fine copper in precipitate produced.

Queensland Copper.—Ore treated, 1,086 tons; production, 203 tons of matte, containing 115 tons fine copper; shipment since last return, 261 tons matte; value £12,000.

Queensland Menzies.—Crushed 455 tons, 780 ozs. Cyanide, 980 tons, 362 ozs.; total, 1,142 ozs.

Rhodesia Consolidated.—Nelly Mine: Crushed 1,700 tons, 929 ozs.; cyanide, 1,073 tons, 523 ozs. Sabi Mine: Crushed 481 tons, 133 ozs.; cyanide, 850 tons, 380 ozs.

Singareni Collieries.—Output of coal, 30,872, against an average per four weeks for the year 1904 of 32,272 tons.

Spassky Copper.—Production, 6,000 poods (967 tons) of copper.

Tasmanian Consols.—Crushed 645 tons, 379 ozs.

Victoria Proprietary (1903).—323 ozs. from 615 tons.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Law and Customs of the Stock Exchange. By W. Bowstead. (London: Sweet and Maxwell, 3, Chancery Lane, W.C.)

Let Youth but Know. By Kappa. (London: Methuen and Co., Essex Street, Strand, W.C.) Price 3s. 6d. nett.

Annuities and Sinking Funds. By Harold Doughasty, F.S.S. (London: Effingham Wilson, Threadneedle Street, E.C.) Price 2s. 6d. nett.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and November 18, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Nov. 18, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Nov. 19, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	21,815,000	22,976,000
Excise	30,200,000	19,396,000	19,927,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	7,997,000	7,186,000
Stamps	8,000,000	4,887,000	4,388,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	410,000	540,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	6,011,000	6,351,000
Post Office	16,500,000	9,510,000	9,140,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,780,000	2,590,000
Crown Lands	240,000	240,000	240,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	679,205	608,652
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	891,455	869,551
* Revenue	142,454,000	74,616,660	74,816,203
Total, including balance		82,046,938	79,080,045
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		300,000	350,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..		100,000	820,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		400,000	1,419,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		760,408	1,400,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		13,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	98,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		—	5,250,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905 ..		9,854,604	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	5,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..		2,500,000	20,000,000
Total		96,201,542	121,473,035
* Revenue as above	142,454,000	74,616,660	74,816,203
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	99,824	106,027
Excise	5,291,000	3,165,851	3,199,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,703,839	2,650,242
Total	9,756,000	5,969,514	5,955,942
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	80,586,174	80,772,145

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Nov. 18, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Nov. 19, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 18,213,292	£ 17,802,370
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,086,236	1,057,377
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	64,306,929	69,365,805
Expenditure	142,084,000	84,761,423	88,880,479
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		240,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		135,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..		600,000	450,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		2,483,000	1,810,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		115,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		294,458	20,000
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	5,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	10,150,000
Total		89,551,881	116,456,979
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	1905. N v. 18. £ 5,898,714.	1904. Nov. 19. £ 4,232,779	
Bank of Ireland	750,947	783,277	
Total		6,649,661	5,016,056
Total		96,201,542	121,473,035

Treasury, November 21, 1905.

COMPANY MEETINGS,

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE.

The eighty-first annual general meeting of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society was held yesterday at the offices, 15, St. James'-square, London, S.W., Sir Richard Douglas Powell, Bart., M.D., K.C.V.O., presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. Arthur D. Besant, having read the notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said he much regretted that in consequence of illness the chairman, Mr. John Coles, was unable to be present, and in consequence of the advanced age of their venerable and venerated deputy chairman, Prebendary Kempe, he was also unable to preside. It therefore fell to him to take the chair, and to read a speech prepared by the chairman of the company. The speech was as follows:—In 1903 I fully described the springs from whence the streams of profit flow into our bonus reservoir and last year I referred to some reasons for our pride in this society. But I may at once say that the indications of our prosperity are as numerous now as they ever were, and we can look forward with confidence to the coming bonus for the five years ending in June next, to be declared in January, 1907. The trade of the country for the past year, as measured by imports and exports, has been fairly good, but the public debt remains nearly stationary at about 800 millions, the sinking fund being neutralised by further borrowings. Life assurance, the outcome of modern civilisation; which has reached dimensions of national importance, has been hindered by this heavy taxation which impoverishes the country. The great war in the East was another hindrance to life assurance, though by the enormous destruction of capital it helped, in conjunction with the heavy municipal borrowings at home, to bring a rather better rate of interest on our loanable capital. The termination of the war has now removed an incubus which weighed heavily on the financial and commercial world, and has given rise to a feeling of hope and confidence in the future. The inducements we can offer to the insuring public to-day are as great as ever. Our funds keep growing; our total income now, for the first time in our history, exceeds half-a-million; our expense ratio is moderate; our investments are of the best description; our rate of interest is improving; our reserves are more than ample; and our policies are good the world over, for travel or residence, in peace or in war. It would not be becoming on my part to make any comment on the investigations now being made into the position and practices of certain foreign insurance offices; but I may express my strong belief that the public can find, here at home, excellent British life offices, unrivalled the world over, whose affairs are conducted and whose investments are made on sound and prudent lines, in accord with the conservative instincts of our people. If there are any advantages to be looked for from life assurance which the best British offices do not offer, I can only say I do not know them. Our strength to-day remains undoubted. We make assurance doubly sure! Our investments are all of them choice, and almost all of them good enough for trustees. Those assured with us, and many others, thoroughly understand our position, and they know that usually a large expense ratio means a poor bonus—we could increase our business considerably if we ignored this expense ratio. It is obvious that if one company spends 25 per cent. and another only 12½ per cent. on the total premiums, the difference affects not only the bonus but the very stability of the office.

Referring again to our attractions, these have lately been increased. They are dealt with in the report, and may be further explained thus:—In the business of life assurance it is our constant aim to introduce improvements, and during the past year our actuary, with rare ability, has developed two new features which will keep us prominently before the public, and will certainly add greatly to our popularity and to the value of our policies. In the first place, we have introduced the non-forfeitable plan. Hitherto, if a premium remained unpaid at the expiration of the usual 30 days allowed for its payment, the policy lapsed and the society remained liable only for the amount of the cash surrender value, no matter how long the money remained in our hands; now we automatically employ this cash value as the single premium or purchase money of the much larger amount of free or paid-up assurance, to which it is actuarially equivalent, and our policy-holders thus obtain the utmost possible benefit to which their past payments entitle them. The cash value remains unaffected at the outset by this conversion and can be taken at any time, but so long as it is allowed to remain in our hands the assured has the protection of the larger paid up policy, and year by year as he grows older this policy becomes more and more valuable, and the cash value will grow accordingly. The second new feature of this year is the introduction of our "convertible contract policies." There are many people who, in preference to profit sharing, desire to effect assurances where the exact amount to be received under the policy is fixed at the outset, and so far back as 1897 we introduced a specially low scale of non-profit premiums designed to meet this want. This has proved very attractive, and we have now gone one stage further. In future for these contracts on sound single lives not only will the amount of the sum assured payable at death be fixed, but also the amount of the cash surrender value or the equivalent paid up policy, which will be allowed if the premiums be discontinued at any time. This new

departure will not in any way affect the present rights of policy-holders to renew their policies for the full sum assured within 13 months of the premium falling due. We have actually printed these values at all ages on the backs of the policies themselves, and we are confident that this will prove a great convenience to the assured, as well as to bankers, solicitors, and others. Probably other offices will soon follow our lead. Improvements in practice to meet the convenience of our assured have been made from time to time, and proved of great value, and have materially helped to maintain our new premium income at a moderate expense ratio. We do our best in this direction, yet we must not leave any stone unturned in the getting of new business—we venture to look to every shareholder and every policy-holder to help us. We are not content merely to repair the waste caused by deaths and the ripening of endowment assurances—the latter is, however, a growing item in every office, and will need the careful attention of actuaries in the future.

I will now deal briefly with the paragraphs in the report which you have in your hands. The new gross sum assured—£854,175—is the largest we have ever done. Our new nett life premiums for the past year were, say, £22,000, and indicate that we can easily hold our own amidst the fiercest competition that I have ever known, but, as I have already indicated, we dare not relax our efforts, and we are much indebted to our branch managers and agents for their zeal and energy. The many friends of our able actuary, Mr. Whittall, will regret his absence to-day, and the more so when they know that illness is the cause. The directors have granted him a long leave of absence, in the hope that rest and change may assure his recovery. The great prosperity of this society in recent years has been largely due to his zeal and devotion to its interests. Mr. Besant, in whose caution and ability we have the most entire trust, has had the title of secretary conferred upon him by the Board, so that he may with full power carry on the management of the office during the absence of the actuary. I now to move: "That the revenue accounts and balance-sheet and also the directors' report now read be adopted and entered on the minutes."

Mr. Peter Williams seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Herbert Lewis, seconded by Dr. H. S. Hartley, the retiring directors, Sir Walter Foster, M.D., M.P., the Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair, D.D., Sir Thomas Smith, Bart., and Mr. Peter Williams were re-elected, and on the motion of Mr. Corbyn, seconded by Mr. Herbert Coles, Dr. Robert Jones was re-elected an auditor on the behalf of the proprietors.

The Secretary announced that at a meeting held on the previous day, Mr. Alexander Ward was re-elected an auditor on behalf of the persons assured.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and directors, and another to the officials of the company.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27.

Argo Tunnel and Mining.—3-4, Great Winchester Street, 11.30 a.m.
Barcelona Tramways.—Winchester House, noon.
British and Benington's Tea Trading.—118, Southwark Street, noon.
Duff Development.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.
Interoceanic Railway of Mexico.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Mexican Cotton Estates of Tlahualilo.—118, St. Helen's Place, 12.30 p.m.
North White Feather Gold Mines.—Winchester House, noon.
North Nile Valley.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28.

Arnold Perrett.—Wickwar, 2.30 p.m.
Amelia Nitrate.—78, Cornhill, noon.
Bengal and North-Western Railway.—Gresham House, noon.
Baku Russian Petroleum.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Barker (John).—Kensington High Street, noon.
Dartford Brewery.—Winchester House, noon.
Hope Bros.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11 a.m.
Nimmo, J.—Glasgow, noon.
Tati Concessions.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

Alliance Assurance.—Bartholomew Lane, noon.
Hepworth (J.) and Son.—Leeds, noon.
Liverpool Warehousing.—Liverpool, 2 p.m.
Oceana Consolidated.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
New Queen Gold Mining.—65, London Wall, 4.15 p.m.
St. Pauli Breweries.—9, New Zealand Avenue, noon.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30.

Argentine Transandine Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
Cargo Fleet Iron.—Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 12.30 p.m.
Dickens Caster Mines.—Winchester House, noon.
Lewis and Burrows.—Winchester House, noon.
South Durham Steel and Iron.—Newcastle-on-Tyne, 11.45 a.m.
Trust and Loan of Canada.—7, Great Winchester Street, 2 p.m.
Weardale Steel, Coal, and Coke.—Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1.

Pillsbury-Washburn Flour Mills.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Southern Brazilian Rio Grande do Sul Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
Santa Fé Land.—Salisbury House, 11 a.m.
Tubes.—Birmingham, noon.
Watney, Combe, and Reid.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

The Investors' Review

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Its Advantages and Feasibility.

Compiled by

ERNEST DE RODAKOWSKI.

250 pp., 10/6. Super Royal 8vo.

4 MAPS, 6 CHARTS, 30 PLATES, AND 19 TABLES.

This work deals with the question of unbroken railroad communication between this country and France. A Train-Ferry across the Channel is selected as the best means of effecting the object in view.

It is claimed that unbroken railroad communication

Will enable travellers to journey in through carriages from London to the principal centres of the Continent.

Will materially increase the trade with Continental Europe, and especially the British exports, by obviating the double handling of goods, and by cheapening rates for the transport of merchandise.

THE PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THE BOOK ARE:—

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- (2.) Details and Information concerning 35 Train-Ferry lines at present in existence.
- (3.) Statistics giving the weight of the whole trade of the United Kingdom. (Whilst in all Blue Books and official publications trade statistics are given according to the value of the trade, in this book the weight of the total trade is given in tons.)

The Appendix contains extracts from the opinions of eminent men on the question of unbroken communication between this country and France.

HARRISON & SONS, 45, Pall Mall.

The Investors' Review.

The Cost of German Imperialism.

At the close of his chapter on the German Empire Dr. Holland Rose, in that valuable book of his just issued, "The Development of the European Nations," remarks that "the formation of the German Empire has not added to the culture and the inner happiness of the German people. Days of quiet culture and happiness are gone, and in their place has come a straining after ambitious aims, which is a heavy drag even on the fidelity of the Teutonic race." Yes, and this drag grows ever more heavy until observers begin to wonder how long the people will submit to the exactions German Imperial militarism lays upon them. It must never be forgotten in looking at the Budget of the Empire that it is a thing imposed upon the people over and above all their other taxes, State and municipal. In this country we have only municipal and Imperial taxation to meet, and find that now a great deal more than is good for the community; but in Germany each State of the Federation constituting the Empire has its budget, that of Prussia alone being considerably more than £134,000,000. The greater part of the Imperial revenue is utilised for military purposes under one guise or another, and the loudest

present outcry is for an increased expenditure upon the German navy. In order to facilitate the granting of the supplies for this and other purely blighting objects, German journalists, doubtless at the instigation of the authorities, have been busy stirring up envy and hatred towards the United Kingdom, and on our side we have had the same kind of ghoul busy at work traducing the Germans. Thus the game of bounce and bluster goes on, and meantime the people suffer.

According to some statistics published the other day by the *North German Gazette*, and summarised for the *Times* by its Berlin correspondent, the deficits of the Empire for the past five years, including the budget estimates for the current year, amount to upwards of £16,500,000, but that can only be a portion of the truth because the debt of the Empire is continually growing, and now amounts to £175,000,000. This also means an impost upon the top of the State debts. If all the expenditure found out of loans were added in, the deficits of recent years must appear much larger than the figures we have given indicate. Be this as it may, still more money is wanted—some £13,000,000 per annum more—in order to gratify the lust for spending upon death-dealing pawns and appliances. It is apparently expected that the new tariff which is already doing infinite mischief to the industries of Germany and augmenting the sufferings of the middle and working classes there, will yield from £3,500,000 to £4,000,000 more than the old tariff; but of this addition two-thirds are already ear-marked in anticipation for a contemplated widows' and orphans' pension fund, so there is only some £1,250,000 free for the slaughter trade. That will still leave a deficiency of £11,000,000 to £11,500,000 to be derived from fresh taxes. Accordingly, the North German beer duties are to be raised, being the only ones that leave room for a rise, since in South Germany, including Bavaria, Württemberg, and Baden, the State Governments and the municipalities raise for their own purpose, says the *Times* correspondent, a very much larger amount from beer in proportion to their population than is raised in North Germany. Thus in Bavaria the beer duties come to 5s. 3½d. per head of the population, while in North Germany they are only 10½d. per head. This discrepancy leaves room for a large increase in the North German beer Excise, and it is to be increased to an extent which, it is hoped, will yield £5,000,000; but this still leaves £8,000,000 to £8,500,000 unprovided, and of this £2,000,000 are to be furnished by an increase in the tobacco duties. For the remainder £6,000,000 to £6,500,000 additional Imperial stamp duties will be imposed and death duties instituted after the English pattern. No wonder that the German has become a socialist and the working classes of the country ripe for revolt! But a few more doses of this sort of Imperial progress may convert the people to pacific ideas, and lead the masses to understand that hatred of other nations is neither a good guarantee of peace nor a trustworthy replenisher of the larder.

The details of the new taxes indicate that the Kaiser's Government is favouring us with the sincerest form of flattery. It is proposed to raise over £2,000,000 by a stamp duty on bills of freight and bills of lading for inland navigation and railway traffic. Another £600,000 is looked for from a stamp duty on railway and steamboat tickets, but this tax will not affect through traffic. It will amount, however, to from ½d. to 4½d. per ticket according to the class. Then about £175,000 is to be raised by an annual tax of from £5 to £7 10s. on motor-cars, motor cabs and omnibuses and traction cars being exempt. Furthermore, £800,000 is expected from a stamp duty of 1½d. upon receipts of £1 and upwards, and it is here and in the duties upon deceased estates that the example of England has been most closely followed. From these Imperial death duties £2,500,000 of new taxes are looked for, and the scale itself ranges from 4 up to 20 per cent., according to the degree of kindred of the heir and value of the inheritance. At

least one-third of the proceeds of these death duties will be reserved for the federated States, to compensate them for the revenue they have hitherto derived from their own particular death duties, which will now have to be surrendered. And the estimates that require all this extra money grow apace. For the financial year 1906 the Imperial Budget totals up to £120,314,000, an increase of £9,552,000 upon the current year, and an amount involving a deficit of nearly £13,000,000; that is to say, £12,735,000 will have to be raised by loan, and apparently, in spite of some of the new taxes. It is not to be wondered at, for if we are right in interpreting the figures the Army and Navy in the coming year will take between them £48,501,000. Add in the debt interest £6,378,000 and pensions of various kinds £5,736,000, and we get an aggregate of £60,615,000 as the dead weight cost of Imperialism, without taking into account the colonial expenditure, upon which there will next year be an enormous deficit, including £5,418,000 representing the cost of military operations in East and South-West Africa. That is to say, more than half the entire Budget of the Empire is swallowed up in maintaining peace by preparations for war on a scale certain to render the Empire bankrupt within three months of the declaration of hostilities. What is the sense of this kind of finance or the wisdom of this form of Imperial magnificence? It affords us one consolation—a nation which handicaps itself thus in the years of peace must end by becoming impotent for war.

Still Dazzling De Beers.

When speaking of this dazzling combine as recently as twelve months ago, we asked, Is its glory waning? Is its sun about to set? Is dissolution approaching? And such questions we urged shareholders to put to themselves and ponder seriously. For the results of another twelve months' working have justified both the questions and the fears, and those who have paid no heed to what we said, but have stuck to their shares in the belief that the De Beers could defy Nature's laws, have found such trust baseless. We predicted that the situation would get more desperate every month, and the outlook darker, "and the signs are clearly visible to those who can see them in the annual dwindling profits." No buying syndicate, with its enlarging heap of unsold stones, no artificially created market will avail to save it from the fate threatened by the steady decline in the value of the blue ground. This is still the ominous fact. It has been depreciating in value only too surely for some years, and mighty as the De Beers directors are, able to sway Governments and Empires as they have been, they cannot force nature to play conjuring tricks and make the blue ground richer. This impoverishment is the ugly fact which directors and shareholders alike must face. Instead of being able to hope that the ground will become richer, the likelihood is that it will become poorer lower down. "Well, what of that?" some may answer. "If the worst comes to the worst, cannot the directors corner the market and send the price of diamonds up to any figure they please? What rival have they to fear? What can shake their unshakable monopoly? Have they not gallantly said they fear no fo—rival? Do they not say in their report that the market has been buoyant? And are they not truthful and honourable men?"

Quite possibly the bosses of De Beers may try to create a corner; have probably already tried and failed. In face of such a formidable competition as the Premier Diamond Company, they are not any more masters of the situation and cannot now truthfully say they have a monopoly. If they desire to establish a corner, they will have to go humbly to the Premier Diamond directors and say, "Pleash, goot shentlemans, hielp us." How the Premier directors would receive so meek a deputation we know not, and care as good as nothing. All one can be sure about is that nothing will be done primarily to benefit either the consumer or

the investor, but that does not bother us much either, for the millionaires have not yet begun to indulge in diamond scrip. What we are keen to understand is how the buying syndicate has financed the market of late years. What is the stock of diamonds in hand, and how much is it pawned for? Of financial results we gave a brief summary last week. The Diamonds sold to the buying syndicate realised £4,802,844 compared with £4,918,568 and £5,241,173 in the two preceding years. The average yield per load was as low as .46 carats, or 24s. 2.7d., against 26s. 7.1d. in 1903-4, 29s. 9.8d. in 1902-3, and 35s. 6.2d. in 1901-2, syndicate prices. At this rate of depreciation the blue ground will at no far off day become quite valueless, and shareholders will merely have the empty pleasure of gazing upon a mountain of mud and of recalling past days of wealth and splendour. Dividends? Sordid wretch! Why should a world-shunting buying syndicate pay them if not earned? In addition to the income from the stones, dividends on investments gave £19,075, interest on Consols £27,977, house and stand rents £18,445, commission and interest £6,003, sundry receipts £9,961, transfer fees £2,302, and reserve fund written down—curious credit that—£8,835, an aggregate of £4,895,443. Expenditure totalled £2,937,509, including £346,393 for depreciation against £567,513, debentures redeemed £185,000, "interest on debentures and obligations and capital of leased companies" £298,933, whilst a further £100,000 goes in commutation of the life governor's interest. Thus the nett profit on actual diamond mining was £1,865,335 compared with £1,981,770 and £2,302,298 respectively in the two previous years, but had depreciation allowance been on the 1904 scale the profit would have been down £338,000. With the income from the other sources and the sum of £697,684 brought from the old balance-sheet, the disposable surplus amounted to £2,646,783 only, in comparison with £3,012,961 in 1904, £3,221,764 in 1903 and £3,560,280 in 1902. So the dividend on the deferred shares is only 20s. per share compared with 27s. 6d. in the two preceding periods, a big drop, to be followed, we fear, by others. Dividends on both classes of shares absorb £1,800,000, which leaves a little more at £846,783 to be carried forward. It is to be noted that nothing is added to reserve, and the insurance fund is also neglected.

Turning to the balance-sheet, the debenture debt has been reduced to £4,053,545, the reserve fund, invested in Consols, stands at £1,057,255, the nominal value being £1,178,000 at 90½ per cent., whilst the insurance fund is unaltered at £300,000. There is an income-tax suspense account of £232,774, together with bills payable for £100,000 accepted by De Beers on behalf of the Klerksdorp-Fourteen Streams Railway Company, and £350,000 deposited by that company at call, making the total obligation on De Beers on this account £450,000. Creditors have risen from £107,714 to £126,884. On the other side are those dazzling assets, the De Beers and Kimberley claims £3,607,707, Du-toitspan, Bultfontein, and Wesselton Mines £3,287,994, farms and lands £150,347, shares £781,334, explosive works £750,000, offices, compounds, &c., £332,221, machinery and plant £807,771, blue ground £284,445, debtors £178,423, Consols £1,057,255, diamonds on hand £360,073, bills receivable £305,000, and cash £242,409.

We had almost forgotten those explosive works in Cape Colony, which have been assisted so generously by a sympathetic Government. This factory produced as many as 175,281 cases of explosives in the year. On this colossal place the company has already spent £1,308,263, though the asset appears in the books merely at £750,000. The balance-sheet total is now £12,793,370 compared with £12,620,859, but since last year the Klerksdorp-Fourteen Streams Railway obligations have appeared. Such is the display in the year of grace 1905; magnificent still, perhaps, but with a magnificence that is waning and destined one day to

become extinct. Imagine the real value of "claims" on their way to exhaustion, and yet that figure in the balance-sheet for nearly £7,000,000.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE LATEST JAPANESE LOAN.

As we said last week, it is with considerable regret that we see Japan to be under the necessity of once more coming upon foreign money markets for assistance. With the £25,000,000 now to be added, we compute that the foreign-owned debt of Japan will amount to about £133,000,000, involving an annual charge of about £6,250,000, or an amount in excess of the entire ordinary revenue of Japan 25 years ago. This is the State obligation alone, but other Japanese securities are beginning to come upon foreign markets, as witness that railway loan issued last week, so that unless the Government and people exercise vigilance and prudent restraint in time, the country will be in danger of drifting into the position of a debtor State, than which no fate could well be more forlorn. The new loan has been taken by the premium hunter in the usual pell-mell fashion, but this must not lead the Japanese Government to suppose that the ultimate investor, the man who lends his own money at moderate usury, is just as keen after the bonds as he was, say, when the first 6 per cent. issue came out. Far from being so, a considerable element of doubt is beginning to pervade the customary estimates of Japanese strength, and it will require the utmost circumspection on the part of the Mikado to prevent this feeling from spreading.

Japan we still believe to be capable of bearing the burden this war has laid upon her, although its magnitude is greater than we expected it to be. But obviously the mere increase in the debt is only a small portion of the added load resulting from the triumph of Japan over Russia. In order to maintain the position of a great State thus attained by heroic fighting and endurance, the unavoidable ordinary expenditure of the Japanese Government must be many millions larger than it was before the war. A bigger army will have to be maintained, were it only to keep the restless population of Korea in hand, and large additional cohorts of civil officials will also be required in that country and in Manchuria. The fortress of Port Arthur will have to be restored, and its maintenance provided for, while, above all, the great fleet which Japan has gathered together will have to be kept in proper condition—manned, provisioned, repaired, and renewed—all these requirements being upon a scale much in excess of anything the people ever had to face before. To have additional charges on account of demands like these to meet, and at the same time to be obliged to find every year between £6,000,000 and £7,000,000 in interest upon debt held abroad will obviously be a task calculated to strain the resources of the young State—young in the modern Western, progressive sense—and we at least shall rejoice most sincerely when the day comes, as we trust it will before many years are over, that shows Japan rich enough, triumphant enough over her many difficulties to begin to take home the debt now scattered abroad over the civilised world, even as the Italians have taken their foreign debt back. It is a light thing to borrow, but a hard thing to repay. We are sure the Japanese, prudent as they are, and shrewd above most people in the management of their financial affairs, will be the first to recognise the truth of this saying. We can quite understand the necessity for restoring working capital to the industries of the country. The currency gold reserve must be rehabilitated, and means found to resume and enlarge those industries which were growing into a flourishing state of existence before the war broke out. The present transfer of internal loans to the foreign creditor is, therefore, excusable, and may be justified by results.

None the less is it true that the debts owed by Japan to the international usurer—or money-lender, if you prefer that word; to us they mean the same thing—have grown with unprecedented rapidity, and now amount to a formidable aggregate, sure to cause inconvenience to the borrowing State, and perhaps occasional privations amongst sections of its people. Unofficially it is declared that the Japanese Debt Consolidation Office is to have £12,000,000 a year for debt service, out of which £2,900,000 will go to redemption account. It is just as well this statement should not be official.

TURKISH FINANCE.

A certain special interest attaches to the latest report of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, because it covers the first complete year's operations since the Decree of Mouharrem, which formerly regulated the action of the Council and the Turkish officials, was superceded by the new law that provided for the conversion of the various odds and ends of debt into a unified whole. Looked at from a general standpoint, the change seems to have worked well, and there was wisdom in the policy which gave to the wily Abdul a share in all receipts collected by the foreign administrators over and above a certain fixed minimum. Sundry modifications have been made in the present report, and the Council calls attention to the fact that it is no longer under obligation to close accounts on March 28/13, owing to the rate of interest being dependent upon the amount of receipts received up to this date at the central office. Instead the new decree has established definitely the amount of annuity necessary for the service of interest and sinking fund, as well as the proportion of the Government's share in the surplus nett receipts. In future, therefore, the reports will be based upon the entire revenue of the year, including the money in course of transit, as well as the cash actually in hand when the annual period ends, both items having previously figured in the accounts of the following year. All this makes for simplicity in working, and another useful innovation foreshadowed is the publication of a balance-sheet, giving at the end of each month the general situation of the administration instead of a mere recital of the receipts. A general overhauling of the expenditure items has also taken place, and providing naval demonstrations against the Sultan's Dominions are not too frequent, the outlook seems more encouraging than for some time. On the present occasion Mr. Adam Block, the representative of the British and Dutch bondholders, makes his preface to the report a very brief one, having devoted much time and labour to the preparation of a short historical sketch of the financial operations of Turkey during the last half century. Very instructive reading it is, too, and well worthy of perusal by those directly interested. So far as the past year is concerned, the salient point is that after payment of the annuity necessary for the service of the debt, namely, £2,157,375, there was a surplus of £336,101, of which £252,076 was handed over to the Government, and £84,025 retained by the debt administration. That looks a very good result, and it is encouraging to learn that the outlook for the present year is favourable. Estimates are difficult to make on the imperfect returns available for the first six months, but Mr. Block thinks the year will finish up with a surplus of £450,000, of which 75 per cent. will go to the Government, and the remainder to the extraordinary sinking fund.

MORE "BLUFF" FROM THE UNITED STATES EQUITABLE.

With all due respect to the gentlemen who have succeeded to the Hyde-Alexander combination in the management of this great premium-gathering company, we submit that an accountant's report is not what policy-holders want. We say this without in the slightest degree reflecting upon the eminent abilities and high character of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and

Co. They have doubtless examined the assets, and done their very best to estimate the present value thereof, and it is up to a point satisfactory to know that the Equitable is not an empty husk. Neither Hyde nor Alexander stole its assets. They only used its wealth for their own purposes or in furthering the ends of the financial grandees with whom they worked. We, however, never doubted the existence of these assets. Nobody did who reflected upon the kind of business done, and therefore the report of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co. is superfluous and wide of the point at issue. What policy-holders want to know is how far the extravagance of the management, the dishonest scale of commissions paid, the excessive salaries voted to themselves by the controllers of the company, and the baksish of financiers exacted upon every transaction entered into may account for the cruel disappointments which are overtaking those who trusted their fortunes to policies in these and similar Yankee undertakings. In other words, an actuarial examination of the accounts by English actuaries of the highest attainments and repute is what we require here, and until that examination is permitted, with the fullest liberty to inquire into every transaction, into the nature of every asset, and into the character of all existing policy contracts, we must continue to impress upon the people of this country the wisdom of having nothing whatever to do with a so-called life insurance office of this description. It is really shameful that the new men who have ostensibly taken charge of this office should still apparently be under the thumb of those whose business throughout it has been to beguile and betray the people who trusted in them.

We have before us a striking example of the sort of thing that has been habitual, not to say invariable, with this Equitable Company and its congeners, and as an ounce of fact is worth many tons of theory, it will be interesting just to set down here a few facts relating to an actual policy which has matured at the end of 20 years. When that policy was taken out the following was the basis upon which the insurant was induced to invest his money. Note that the amounts offered are not "guaranteed," but the wording is such that no person of inexperience or common honesty would for a moment doubt the *bona fides* of the officials or the probability that the prospects here held out would be realised:—

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

AN ESTIMATE BASED UPON ACTUAL EXPERIENCE.

All-Life Policy, payable at Death only. Sum assured £1,000, for a Person of 39 Years of Age.

If the Assured accepts the Tontine Savings' Fund and Semi-Tontine Plans—that is, no profits to be added to the Policy, unless he attains the Period, 10, 15, or 20 years, as agreed, he can have the option, on attaining that age, of the following advantages, at the respective dates:—

	20 Annual Payments, Maturing in 20 Years.	£ s. d.
Annual Premium	37 15 10	
Total Amount of Premiums paid by the Assured...	755 16 8	
Cash Value of Policy at maturity.....	1,281 0 0	
Assured may then draw out, continuing Policy at same Premium		
Assured may then draw out, and have a paid-up Policy for £1,000	703 10 0	
Or have a paid-up Policy for.....	2,220 0 0	
Or an Annuity during life, and £1,000 at death, of	73 5 10	

These amounts are not guaranteed. They are, however, calculated upon the Actual Experience of the Society for a number of years, and the results may exceed the estimated figures, but even should they fall slightly below the estimates, the results will be more favourable than could be offered by any company on any other form of policy. When the paid-up policy exceeds the original amount of the assurance, a certificate of good health from one of the Society's Medical Examiners will be required.

Semi-Tontine Policies provide for a definite surrender value in paid-up assurance, in case the policy is discontinued after three years from its date.

Now what has been the actual outcome to set against this lying presentment? At the end of the 20 years

several options were put before the policy-holder, the first being the offer of a paid-up policy for the sum originally insured, together with an immediate cash payment just 44 per cent. less in amount than the promise quoted above, or a paid-up policy was offered of a value almost 68 per cent. lower than the £2,220 held out as a bait when the contract was entered into. Or, still further, the policy-holder was offered a surrender value almost 70 per cent. below the amount originally promised in the definite though adroitly evasive official "estimate" given above. The only thing that came out rather better than the original promise was the annuity offered, together with a paid-up policy, for the amount insured, and this was about 6½ per cent. up. Now why has this remarkable result come about? Is it due to the extravagance of the management, to the waste of assets, or to the dishonest exaggeration of the offers originally spread before the individual tempted to take out a policy? A competent and trustworthy examination of the position of this company by English actuaries might do something to solve these and other questions. When will Mr. Grover Cleveland and his colleagues join in the demand for such an investigation?

THE STATE OF RUSSIA.

To all outside appearance things go from bad to worse in Russia, and as yet no controlling power has emerged out of the chaos. Disaffection is rife throughout the army, and it grows more and more probable that the autocracy could not rely upon the troops to coerce the people. Here and there regiments, or sections of regiments, may remain faithful, but the army as a whole is plainly not to be trusted. Therefore we find the men who control the Empire and its Tsar casting about in a panicky way for some means of allaying the ferment or intimidating the revolution; conceding privileges one day only to withdraw them the next; now allowing free speech, the right of assembly, and then arresting this band of leaders or the other. Plainly such rulers have lost their heads, and so far there is only one body visible amid all the surging warfare of classes and masses which seems to keep calm and to put a definite policy before the country. This body is the Zemstvo Congress sitting at Moscow. It has this week again declared for Polish autonomy, and for equal rights to Jew and Gentile before the law. "Words, words!" True, but its strength appears to be on the increase, otherwise why should Count Witte appeal to it to be moderate? If there were enough cohesion amongst the various classes now demonstrating, striking, protesting, memorialising, and otherwise telling the world that a new day has dawned in Russia, they might rally round this, in a feeble way, representative body and enable it to evolve some sort of regular government out of the chaos. At present this is almost our only hope. Should the Zemstvo Congress be suppressed or dissolve amid the warring elements of society broken loose, or waste its energy in mere talk, then the end of the present winter may, one might say must, witness a state of things in Russia to which no story of modern revolution furnishes a parallel.

Our thoughts, this being the outlook, naturally turn to the financial straits of the empire. Autocracy cannot go down without involving the suspension of regular payments upon the huge debt it has laid on the backs of the Russian peasantry. Whether suspension will end in complete or partial repudiation of this debt is a question which it would be premature now to discuss. No definite opinion, in fact, can be formed upon a point of that kind, but it is plain enough that an adequate amount of money cannot be coming into the Treasury at the present time to enable the Finance Minister to sustain markets for Russian securities in Paris and elsewhere, and to provide for the due payment of the coupons as they fall due. Perhaps the test will be applied in January, or it may be postponed until the spring of 1906 by the action of the French banks, who have put themselves in the position of slaves to their client, the greatest public debtor to foreign nations in the world. The

bankers may elect to finance the debt of Russia in the hope of such amelioration of the political outlook in that empire as will permit the issue of one more Russian loan, one more trusting to luck and the readiness of the moneyed to lend the means to pay the interest they themselves are to receive. It is indeed said that some of them have already advanced £5,000,000 to the autocratic Government at 7 per cent. interest, but of this there has been no confirmation. Without help of the kind we may be sure that partial or total default upon the Russian debt cannot be long postponed, and the prospect is obviously causing no small anxiety to the Paris market and the French people, whose stake in the fortunes of Russian autocracy cannot be much less than £500,000,000, if it is not beyond that figure. From this point of view the turmoil in Russia is ominous of much that may be dangerous to the stability of Western money markets, and because we look upon the consequences of Russian revolution with apprehension in these directions it has all along seemed to us a pity that our market should be so poorly equipped to withstand any shock from outside. It goes on carrying all sail as if there were no dangers to credit likely to spring from the foundering of Tsardom and its impotent, cruel, unenlightened and reactionary bureaucracy.

DORMAN, LONG, AND CO.

We ask shareholders and others who may be tempted by the revival in the iron and steel trades to take an interest in this concern to follow us very attentively through the analysis of its position we now propose to make. It is not our desire to paint the picture blacker than is necessary, but the company's affairs seem to have got into such a thoroughly bad way that several years of highly profitable business will be needed to set it squarely on its feet once more. The directors expect the current year to be a good one, telling the shareholders that all the works are now in excellent state, and capable of producing large quantities of steel at low cost, while the company itself is in a good position to take full advantage of the improvement in trade. It follows that the directors look forward with confidence to being able a year hence to present a satisfactory statement to the shareholders. Satisfactory it may be in the sense that profits will once more be earned, but the revenue will have to be larger than seems really possible if proprietors are to be safely furnished with a dividend. It is known, and the knowledge must be painful to many, that during the last few years the directors have followed the popular but hazardous path of expansion, not only expending great amounts of capital on its own account, but taking important interests in other well-known iron and steel business. So it is that at present the company owns all the ordinary shares to the amount of £390,000 in Bell Brothers, and has £259,603 invested in the shares of the North-Eastern Steel Co., besides its ordinary capital expenditure of £809,324, making a total of £1,464,356. The result is that the concern finds itself saddled with a share and debenture capital of £1,910,029, a terribly burdensome sum under the best conditions, but just try to consider what it must mean when one of the two shareholdings returns no dividend at all, the other a much attenuated one, the owning company works at a loss, and not one of the three provides a penny for depreciation. It means that £1,259,594 of share capital has received no dividend for two years, and that an important debit balance has been created in order to meet debenture interest, which all know must be paid. In dealing with the accounts of the North-Eastern Steel Company in April last, we pointed out that no wastage allowance had been made for two years, and it must be regarded as very improbable that anything can be set aside for the current twelve months. That will create three years' arrears to be made good before dividends can be properly resumed, and as the capital expenditure must by now considerably exceed £600,000, the sum required will not be a trifle. The position of Bell Brothers is happily not so lamentable, but its capital expenditure is pro-

digious, at £1,200,000, and, probably for the first time since created, the enterprise failed to provide for wastage in respect to the year 1904. The neglect enabled it to pay a dividend, although a reduced one, and while Dorman, Long's could more than do with the money so distributed, the policy is not really a wise one, taking the long view, because some day the deficiency must be met. As to the position of what might be called the proprietary company, that is really most distressing, and the directors put forth a lengthy explanation of the poor results. They begin by saying that in the report issued a year ago certain difficulties experienced at the Britannia works were pointed out. In order to improve the conditions under which work is conducted, it was found necessary to make further alterations, which were completed in June last. But when the machinery was ready the company's workmen raised objections both to the rates of wages and to the conditions of employment, which, in consequence of the great improvement effected, the management proposed to establish. Result, a strike affecting not only the mills but other departments not directly influenced by the changes. Protracted and troublesome negotiations ensued, and these led to what the directors consider an equitable arrangement but not until the works had stood idle for seven months. The outcome was a loss on operations of £4,077, as although there is a profit on the manufacturing account of £10,923, we must not forget that the dividend paid by Bell Brothers for 1904, and received during this company's financial year alone reached £15,000. With £2,353 brought in the total income is £13,276, against which the interest on the first and second debenture stocks alone came to £30,440, so that the current year began with a deficiency of £17,164. But that is not all. In the course of the period under review the company spent capital to the amount of £55,361, making the total outlay to date £809,324, and, for the second year in succession, not a penny of depreciation is allowed. Take off 5 per cent. all round, and the facts we have related concerning the three companies come to this: that before dividends can be legitimately paid or resumed arrears of depreciation to the amount of £230,000 must be made good, besides another £130,000, say, for the current year. Can all that be accomplished in a single year, be the conditions never so prosperous? We very much doubt it, and counsel investors not to repeat the follies of the past and buy shares at extravagant figures on what may prove to be merely transitory trade prosperity. The immediate financial position is tolerable, as £92,857 is owing to sundry creditors, against debtors £107,952 and cash £27,145, while the stocks on hand are valued at £366,078. Expenses of issue of second debenture stock, £6,663, and experimental expenditure at Clarence works, £13,529, have still to be written off when profits again permit.

LE ROI GOLD MINING COMPANY.

At last the directors have issued their report for the twelve months to June 30, and a voluminous tome it is, for they have to present their case for that amalgamation which has brought matters to such an unhappy pass. We have not the space to deal with all the pros and cons of the proposed scheme—they are all pros in the reports before us—especially as a mass of literature is likely to be published during the coming week, arguing the matter from all points of view, bewildering shareholders with verbiage and variety. Let us deal first of all, briefly, with the accounts. Matte sales realised £272,251, rents £697, transfer fees £73, with ore and matte on lands £90,524. After allowing for all expenditure, including depreciation and mine development, the nett profit was £49,741, against a loss of £88,194, showing a considerable improvement, which surely must be set down in great part to the credit of Mr. McMillan. This increases the profit balance to £150,539, but there is no talk of a dividend. Cash is only £3,630, debtors owe £1,381, whilst ores and matte on hand are valued at £121,472, against which the

company has secured advances of £38,164. The other current liability is £16,193 owing to creditors. It is evident that the company has improved its position in the 12 months, and it is possible it might do better still, without embarking on so precarious a venture as amalgamation.

With respect to this the matter has been under discussion for the past 18 months or two years, and in January last we wrote:—"If the future of Le Roi is dependent on such amalgamation then it is a dark and sorry future." We see no grounds for changing this opinion. Eight months afterwards the directors ejected Mr. McMillan from the board, because he opposed the scheme, and this we have condemned as a high-handed action, for which there is no justification. Such a matter ought to be settled by the shareholders, for Mr. McMillan is only doing his duty according to his conscience. Since his ejection the directors have tried to defend themselves, and have said all kinds of things about Mr. McMillan's management, evidently after-thoughts. These, we notice, they do not repeat in their report. They simply say Mr. McMillan opposed amalgamation, and that his only alternative was to let the Le Roi stand by itself. We consider Mr. McMillan's alternative most reasonable, for it is a common-sense argument that if the company cannot stand on its own legs it will totter more if it has to hold up other weak-kneed concerns. Mr. Mackenzie—Mr. McMillan's rival—is the one in favour of the amalgamation, and sets forth all kinds of advantages likely to result from the fusion, especially economies. These seem to be more or less hazy and conjectural, but we notice the maximum dividends expected are 14 per cent. only! We may be sure that in this calculation many unhatched eggs are counted; that it does not err on the side of conservatism. Even to gain this about 75 per cent. of the capital is to be wiped out. What a tiny, uncertain gain, in face of the many risks to be faced! Thus the proposers practically condemn the scheme out of their own mouths. So in taking the line we have done there is nothing to regret, and we have nothing to withdraw. It is for the shareholders now to look to themselves.

LOMAGUNDA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

This is one of the vendor companies of the Rhodesian Banket concern, and invariably shares the attention of the inside riggers when they turn to this particular group. Lomagundas go up with Bankets, and fall with them, and whether prices go up or down, the fools part. Thus Lomagunda's fortunes are largely bound up with those of the Banket Company, and it is safe to say they are precarious in the extreme. The other two concerns in which it is mainly interested are the Ayrshire Gold Mine and Lomagunda Railway and the Consolidated African Copper Trust. The Ayrshire is one of the few Rhodesian mines that is winning gold, but it does not follow that it will also win tolerable dividends; the far future alone can show. Probably many readers know that the Chartered Company has exercised its right to purchase the Ayrshire Railway, and the accounts between both are now in course of adjustment. The cash to be received by the Ayrshire as consideration for the sale of its line and rolling stock is to be devoted to a reduction of the debenture debt. Who has the gift of prescience to foresee what measure of success is destined for the Consolidated African Copper Trust? On a couple of its mines—the Umkondo and the Edmundian—a certain amount of development work has been done, and the question of their flotation is receiving the attention of the directors. But in these times there is precious little plunder to be got from the promotion of Rhodesian companies, the public wisely leaving the insiders to find the money themselves. Readers will probably recall some correspondence we have published on this very matter of the rigging of Bankets and Lomagundas, in which we were taken discourteously to task for not advising them to plunge into the vortex. The report and accounts of the Lomagunda Company to June 30 enable us to test its position, and to form an idea of its prospects.

During the period in question the income consisted of £17,569 profit on the selling of shares on the market, £1,369 interest on loans, stocks, and debentures, and £294 from transfer fees—in all £19,232. Expenditure is put at £6,587, leaving a nett profit of £12,645. A balance of £6,773 was brought in, raising the surplus to £19,418. But the directors propose an "interim" dividend of 10 per cent., which will require £22,785, or £3,367 more than the company has earned. How do they propose to pay it? In the easiest manner possible. They will pay it out of capital; will take the money directly out of the pockets of the simple. At one period of the year they issued 7,500 of the reserve shares, and received £11,250 in premiums. This wind-fall they treat as revenue by crediting it to the profit and loss account, and declare they have earned a profit of £23,895. Such is the way in which profits and dividends are manufactured by these clever men. When it is impossible to issue more shares at a premium, and consequently when no capital is available out of which to pay dividends, there will be bitter disappointment, and shareholders will wonder what on earth has happened. This sort of finance will explain it. As the company has £25,365 in contango loans, nearly all will go in the payment of the dividend, and will then probably dry up this source of revenue. An "interim" dividend! How cleverly described! "That means another dividend later on!" shareholders will naturally exclaim. If so, they must again find the money; a sure way of making a fortune.

A "CORNER" IN TURPENTINE.

It appears to be the work of the Standard Oil people or some of their connections, and offers another example of that peculiarly modern system of brigandage by which the world's commerce and industry are hampered and sometimes blighted. It turns out to be comparatively an easy affair to lay hold of the sources of supply of this commodity, so indispensable to varnish-makers and others. Most of the high quality turpentine now available comes from the pine forests of Florida in North America. Coarser qualities come from Russia, but these are of comparatively little use to the varnish manufacturer or to the paint and paper manufacturer. Thanks to the intervention of the Standard Oil people the price of turpentine has been more than doubled within quite a short period of time, and the consumer everywhere is held up and made to stand and deliver in true brigand style. Is there no remedy for this method of robbery? Not yet, we fear; but in time it is to be hoped that consumers will pluck up courage to band themselves together in order to resist and overcome these intermediaries who now fleece them, caring nothing whatever either for producer or consumer. Your monopolist intervenes solely for purposes of plunder. He does not care whether the people who collect the turpentine from the trees and the owners of the trees on the one hand, or the manufacturers on the other, are impoverished, and it may be ruined, so long as he collects his toll. His position is precisely that of the Rhine barons of old who took lawless toll of all the boats passing up and down the river.

What is the remedy for this sort of robbery? It is surely combination amongst those who use with a view to entering into direct relations with those who produce the raw material. Our British Cotton Growing Association has led the way in this method of combating the interloping plunderer, and there is no reason at all why those who consume turpentine should not do the same. They in no sense require the intervention of the Standard Oil Company and its satellites or brokers if they would but combine amongst themselves and go direct to the producers. And there is no reason at all why new sources of supply should not be opened up. Turpentine pine will grow in most temperate and many cold climates, and large tracts of now barren land in these British Isles of ours might be planted with it to the great advantage of home industries. There is also much to be done to develop new

sources of supply by help of pine forests in France, in Germany, in some parts of South Africa, and possibly in Canada, the turpentine pine being a hardy tree requiring only deep sandy soil in which to root. All efforts like these to throw off the incubus of the modern toll-taker will require considerable time; but, meanwhile, there is nothing whatever to hinder varnish manufacturers and others in this country who use up large quantities of turpentine from at once forming an association which would act for the whole body and, setting aside the intermediaries, go direct to the producers in the United States and elsewhere. Such a body might also at once endeavour to introduce improved methods of collecting and refining Russian turpentine so as to have in that quarter an additional source of supply with which to combat the Yankee monopolists. They will do good, these persecutors, if they succeed in rousing the trades preyed upon to vigorous and sustained action in self-defence.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: SALISBURY GOLD.

The Salisbury Gold Mining Company is a venerable concern, but it is approaching the end of its career, a career its guides will not be able to look back upon with glowing pride. For the dividends paid by it have been small and irregular, with some scrip doled out now and then as a kind of sop to the hungry. There has also been too much faking with the capital. It was formed in the year 1886, and crushing commenced in 1887. The capital of the company has undergone some important changes. It was originally only £15,000 and in 1890 was no more than £25,000. In the beginning of that year, however, it was increased to £400,000, when the Empress property was acquired, holders of the 25,000 £1 shares then receiving 250,000 new shares, or ten new for each one old share. So water was poured into the capital with great freedom. In the following year the mass was reduced to its present amount of £100,000, shareholders receiving one new share for every five, thus giving sufficient time for the lucky original holders—were they the vendors?—to make their little bit. The first dividend was paid in 1888 at the rate of 150 per cent., followed by 50 per cent. in 1889, 30 per cent. in 1892—after the water had been drawn off—10 per cent. in 1893, and 10 per cent. in 1898, in which year one Village Main Reef share was given to every four Salisbury shares. Then there was a long gap until April, 1904, when 10 per cent. was paid, followed later by a distribution of 20 South City shares to every 100 Salisburys, and another 10 per cent. in November of the same year. In the financial year to May 31 last the aggregate dividend was 20 per cent. Accordingly, the company has not greatly enriched those unhappy ones who have bought at the high premiums of the past. All hope of riches has practically gone, for the company is not likely to pay higher dividends than 20 per cent. on the average during the time it will last. Profits are more likely to fall off than to improve, despite the fact that the working costs, compared with those of many mines, are low. Taking the results of the past year, the yield from all sources averaged only 6.69 dwts. per ton. The output was 20,646 ozs., the value of which was £87,643, equal to £1 8s. 4d. per ton, whilst the costs averaged £1 1s. 1d. per ton, showing a profit of only 7s. 3d. per ton, which was raised to 7s. 11d. by adding sundry oddments. This is lower than it has been for the past ten years, at least. As regards the life, the following was the chairman's statement at the last annual meeting:—"Inquiries have reached us from England regarding the life of the mine. It is impossible to give any definite reply to this question, but I can safely say that we have several years' life in the mine yet if we worked only the Main Reef and South Reef, but the manager is finding payable ore in the Main Reef. In the Main Reef we have hundreds of thousands of tons undeveloped, and should a large portion of this come up to our manager's expectations, you will readily see that the mine has not a few years, but a comparatively long life yet." As the Main Reef

is a very low-grade body of ore, the mixing of this with the other ore can only reduce the average value and bring down profits. The life is estimated at about six or seven years, apart from the uncertain possibilities alluded to by the chairman. We will calculate it at seven years. Taking the average yield on the market price at, say, £14, that would give £98 per outlay of £100 at the end of seven years, showing a loss of £2. If £12 12s. 6d. were invested annually at 3 per cent. compound interest to return such principle the nett yield to the buyer would be only 1½ per cent. So Salisburys are too dear even at the low comparative price now quoted for them.

Passing Events.

In supplement to last week's note on the affairs of the International Bank of London, and in justice to the Board of Trade, we must point out that as the case stands officials cannot effectively interfere. The Court has made a supervision, not a compulsory winding-up order, and only when compulsion is applied is the Board of Trade competent to intervene. An investigation must then be made and, if judged proper, a public examination of the people implicated applied for. Is it too late or are the remaining independent shareholders of this insolvent and ruined bank too disheartened and spiritless to provide the necessary means to pay for an effort to procure a compulsory winding-up order? That granted, the machinery of the Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade could at once be set in motion to secure a thorough investigation of the bank's affairs, and, probably enough, restitution. Who will make a beginning?

A suggestive example of peculiar journalistic enterprise has come to light in connection with the *Cedulas* gamble. It is no less than the concoction of bogus telegrams, sent from Buenos Ayres in the names of the correspondents of London papers and stuffed with "bull points." The wonder is this kind of trick is not played more often, for, as the *Financial News* says, even if the *Morning Post* had been hoaxed, which happily it was not, "it would only be another illustration of the danger to which any newspaper is exposed at the hands of persons who choose to incur the expense of cables." Are there any enterprising gentlemen in Russia engaged upon this kind of manufacture at the present time and in the "bear" interest?

Another famine hangs over India, over the United Provinces, Central India, and at least parts of Bombay. "Liberal remissions and suspensions of land revenue granted in all affected districts of the Agra and Allahabad divisions," says the official message, and numbers on the relief works are slowly increasing in the three districts where they have already been started within the United Provinces. On all the relief works the numbers employed were, at the end of last week, 49,175, and of this aggregate 36,642 were in Ajmere and Rajputana. But "no rain," "prices high and still rising," and other indications are ominous of horrors in store.

Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan has owned up to yet another bad "deal." He was deceived, he admitted, about the value of the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad, which he brokered off upon the Erie, and not only handsomely admitted the fact, but honourably agreed to take the property back and cancel the bargain. He had been imposed upon, he said, and was ready to relieve the Erie at his own expense. This is most handsome and straightforward, but why is the Erie Company going to stick to the money the proceeds of the \$12,000,000 of its bonds issued to pay for the Cincinnati Hamilton and Dayton property? When Mr. Morgan refunds, as he undoubtedly will, the bonds ought to be paid off. Perhaps—Oh, never mind—it is only Yankee railroad finance.

There does not appear to be any immediate danger that the weight of the earth will be so lightened by the enormous consumption of coal as to endanger the stability of its orbit round the sun. None the less is it still worth noting that the world's consumption of coal is growing at a marvellous pace. According to

the Board of Trade tables for 1904, the total known coal production of the world, exclusive of brown coal or lignite, is now about 790,000,000 tons per annum, tons of 2,240 lbs. Of this total the United Kingdom produces rather less and the United States rather more than one-third. Compared with population, however, our production still surpasses that of the United States, having in the past year attained the figure of 232,428,000 tons, compared with 120,816,000 tons estimated for Germany, 33,838,000 tons for France, and 23,507,000 tons for Belgium. Although the United States output was 314,563,000 tons, that represented less than 4 tons per head, against 5½ tons per head for the United Kingdom. In Belgium the output per head was less than 3½ tons, in Germany about 2 tons, and in France less than 1 ton. The value of the coal was highest in France at 11s. 3½d. per ton, compared with 8s. 7½d. in Germany, 10s. 4½d. in Belgium, 7s. 8d. here, and 6s. 7d. in the United States. These prices were lower than in the year before by about 7d. per ton here, 3d. per ton in Germany, and 5d. per ton in France, but low though the United States price is, it showed a rise of 11d. per ton, and the Belgian price was also 3d. per ton up. This year, however, prices have apparently been going down all round, and all but 3d. of last year's advance in the United States has disappeared. How is that, tariffites?

The head of the Agricultural Department at Washington has, we see, been computing that the farm products of the American Union in this year 1905 amount to the wonderful aggregate of nearly £1,300,000,000, or £527,000,000 more than the estimated aggregate value for the census year 1900. Should these figures be anything near the mark, they would help to explain a good deal of the mystery now surrounding industrial developments and stock market demonstrations in the American Union. But we should like to know on what data Mr. Wilson's estimate is based. Is it an affair of prices merely as in cotton? Is it the Beef Trust's computation of the prices it is going to exact for the dead meat, fruit, and other articles of consumption of which it monopolises the supply? Where, in a word, does the Secretary to the Board of Agriculture get his figures, and how much of the splendid crops thus signalled will be available for foreign markets?

The Agent-General of the colony of Victoria is anxious to contradict a statement made by the Secretary of the Sydney Labour Council to the effect that his colony does not require any more immigrants. The reverse is true, he says, since the Government has been following the example of New Zealand, and buying up land for "close settlement," with the result that it has at present a good deal of land available on "most liberal terms" for the small settler with a few pounds in his pocket. Such immigrant can get pound for pound advanced by the Government to enable him to build his house and fence his holding. The news is interesting, but immigrants do not seem keen to go.

In an interesting supplementary report upon the revenue and expenditure of the Chinese Empire Mr. George Jamieson, formerly British Consul-General at Shanghai, arrives at the cheering conclusion that China is very far from being in a bankrupt condition. There is an enormous reserve of wealth in the country, he says, which might be drawn upon for useful purposes, and in proof he estimates the volume of the revenue in the province of Honan, taking the land tax alone as a test. This tax he brings out at about 3s. 3d. per English acre, and at a total of upwards of 12,000,000 taels as a minimum. "If we suppose," he goes on, that approximately 150,000,000 mow—a mow being about one-sixth of an acre—are taxed, the sum levied from the people as land rent alone would be well over 28,000,000 taels, a sum not very far short of what is now returned for the whole Empire of China. As a matter of fact, the figure returned in the accounts of the provincial officials as revenue from this source in Honan is less than 3,000,000 taels, so that the wastage and speculation must be enormous. Honest administration should therefore mean an incalculable augmentation of

the public income, and probably by-and-by of private wealth. But how is honest administration to be secured in China?

Exactly a year has elapsed since we devoted a leading article to what it was necessary to describe as the Manchester Brewery scandal, but up to the present we have not heard of anyone being prosecuted. Instead of that all the wickedness is apparently to be obliterated by the usual cut-and-dried capital reorganisation, as shareholders have just been informed by circular that while the business of the company has improved in a marked degree, it will be impossible to resume preference dividends until provision has been made for the large deficit on profit and loss. Moreover, extensive renovations to the property are rendered necessary by the neglect to make adequate provision in the past. But things will be all right presently, as proposals for the reconstruction of the capital account, so as to permit of the earliest possible resumption of dividends, are under legal consideration, and will be shortly submitted to the shareholders. "In the meantime everything is being done to improve the trade of the company and to rehabilitate its various properties," which sounds very well, but it is not pleasant to think that those responsible for the break-up are to get off scot free.

Some time last week the *Financial Times* received a message from its Buenos Ayres correspondent stating "authoritatively" that an agreement had been signed between the representatives of the Paraguay Central Railway Company and the Government for the settlement of all outstanding claims. Under it the Government was to hand back preference shares of the company to the amount of £210,000, which it received as part payment for the line, and grant certain new concessions on favourable terms, including power to build extensions southward, while the railway agreed to forego its claims for arrears of guarantee. On the news the price of the debenture stock rose several pounds, and later on holders' mouths were made to water by a further message that the agreement had been finally ratified by Congress. Unfortunately, however, someone seems to have gone astray over the business, as on the company's agent being applied to for details, a reply came that the President of the Republic proposed further changes, and that nothing can be done this year.

Adverse criticisms have been passed upon the scheme proposed by the New Heriot directors to purchase certain claims from the Nourse Deep. Owing to the meagre details published, it is almost impossible for shareholders and outsiders to gather which company will benefit most from the deal, but as we have shown in our columns, it looks as if it will be entirely in favour of the Nourse Deep, of the Wernher, Beit group. Mr. Sidney Jennings, consulting engineer to Messrs. Eckstein, appears to have answered some of these criticisms in a report to the New Heriot board, in which he argues that the New Heriot will greatly gain on the proposed transaction. All this is very funny. It is something like a seller assuring a buyer that he is disposing of his commodities at a great personal sacrifice. We can imagine Mr. Jennings saying to his own employers, Messrs. Eckstein: "Sell the claims by all means. If they pay us what we ask we shall make a fat profit;" and then trotting round to the New Heriot board, and assuring them: "We are selling the claims almost at a dead loss. I calculate that you will make a profit of £148,000. In fact, it is a munificent gift to your shareholders." Assuming that the New Heriot will make a profit of £148,000, would it not be made at the expense of the Nourse Deep shareholders?

Mr. A. J. McMillan, who has been so scurvily treated by the directors of the Le Roi Company, has issued a further lengthy circular to the shareholders, in which he categorically replies to some of the statements in the last egregious epistle from the board. The directors declared, it will be recalled, that they never intended to dismantle the Northport smelter, but were only doing a little "cleaning up." Mr. McMillan

says the facts are quite otherwise. Upon making inquiries, he found that specific orders were given for the removal of one of the blowers and to load it on the railway cars. The legal documents from America, in connection with the injunction proceedings he instituted, have now reached him, "and there is not the slightest doubt," he asseverates, "that orders were given to remove some of the most important machinery in the Northport Smelter, with a view to sending it to the Trail smelter. The injunction I was able to secure fortunately put it out of the power of the directors or their officials to do this." A week ago a meeting of shareholders was held in Manchester, at which they unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the directors to convene a meeting forthwith. If all shareholders display this kind of vigour they may be able to do some good for themselves.

It was reasonable and prudent on the part of the Insurance Investigation Committee of the New York Senate to issue a caution over the signature of its chairman and advise the policy-holders not to allow their policies to lapse. "Legislation," the circular adds, "will undoubtedly be recommended to safeguard and strengthen the rights of policy-holders. Patience and courage for a short time will prevent loss and enable the Committee to render the best service to the greatest number." We hope events will prove this anticipation to be true, and have little doubt that it will do so provided the public in the United States continues to take an intelligent interest in what goes on. Without that matters will drift back into the old rut. The difficulty always is to create enough sustained interest in the affairs of businesses of this description to be a check upon the depredator. Another piece of good news is the resignation by Mr. McCurdy of the presidency of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. This, we presume, means also the disappearance of his family as well, and changes are probably to be looked for in the composition of the European staff.

The Government has done a good deed and a sensible in appointing a Commission to inquire into the working of the Poor Law. It was high time, for the expenditure on poor relief has been growing steadily more scandalous these many years past, and the system in many of its aspects is so repellant to the sense of independence still strong in the minds of the people that when relief is accepted it demoralises more often than not. It may be a source of justifiable complaint that no representative of labour has been included in the Commission, but otherwise it appears to be a fairly constituted body, non-political in character, and sufficiently endowed with experts to ensure a painstaking and intelligent handling of the intricate subject in hand. Although the number of paupers in this country, it may be added, has declined per thousand of the population the expense of poor relief has risen almost without a break from 5s. 11½d. per head in 1889 and 1890 to 8s. 0½d. per head in 1904. Of this last figure 7s. 6½d. per head fell upon the ratepayer. This is a pauperising tax in itself.

The new decree regulating the working of gold mines in Madagascar has now been published. It will not make the island any richer than it was before, though it may possibly give further encouragement to the industry of "salting." In order to stimulate prospecting the decree reduces by one-half the size of the holdings of prospectors, and diminishes the dues from £4 to £1. In the matter of working permits a distinction has been made between alluvial workings and lode workings, and the following are the taxes imposed on claims in both categories:—The tax of 5 per cent. on the value of the metal extracted is maintained. In addition, in order principally to prevent concessionnaires from taking up too large a holding, a surface tax will have to be paid. This will be 2 francs per 2½ acres for alluvial deposits and £4 per 2½ acres for lode deposits. Besides this, there will be a share for the colony, fixed at 5 per cent. on the surplus of nett profits over and above £10,000 per annum. As it is anticipated that considerable difficulty will be experienced at first in the lode workings, a reduction, or even total remission, of the tax of 5 per

cent. can be allowed by the Governor-General on appeal by the concessionnaires.

To a representative of the *Gaulois*, Sir Julius Wernher has expressed his "belief" that the mining industry is now about to resume its normal activity. This is a vague, cautious, and most guarded utterance, but as an utterance it is worth nothing in the face of telling facts, facts the public can interpret without any promptings from Sir Julius and pals. Huge expenses for all sorts of things will no longer burden the companies' accounts, "and dividends will certainly be paid next year." But where does the gain come in when one has to pay 30s. or 60s. for a 20s. dividend? This is how the mine bosses have piled up their millions in the past, and hope to add to the piles in the future. And the public know it, late in the day though the knowledge comes. "In a general way," this interested magnate added, "the outlook is of the brightest from every point of view. The Transvaal mining industry has entered upon an era of magnificent prosperity." Beautiful! beautiful! and has the public absorbed the shares of the Beit Trust? Sir Julius among the prophets—it is time to sell!

The directors of the Imperial Continental Gas Association now supply us with the reason for the important advance recently witnessed in the market value of the company's stock. It is proposed to capitalise the sum appropriated from profits to meet contingencies, &c., which will have the effect of increasing the outstanding capital by 30 per cent., that is, from £3,800,000 to £4,940,000. This additional sum will, of course, be distributed amongst the stockholders, but while the dividend will have to be reduced, as on a previous occasion when a similar operation was carried through, the rate of 8 per cent. proposed, instead of the former 10 per cent., will raise a proprietor's income by 8s. per cent. In other words, while £100 of present capital brings in £10 per annum, the future £130 of stock at 8 per cent. means a yield of £10 8s. per annum.

It is not necessary to devote very much space to the annual meeting of Hope Bros., because shareholders are evidently quite content that matters should proceed on the lines that have brought the business to its present pass. They displayed a frantic desire to get rid of the men who seem capable of pulling the concern round, accepting the plausible story of the chairman without a murmur, and well deserve the fate which is apparently hanging over them. The gathering, however, was useful in throwing light on the state of internal disruption which has prevailed during the year, one section of the directors pulling one way and one another, and it is small wonder that, with most of the time devoted to mutual recrimination, the business suffered. The chairman declined to say why Mr. Albert Peacock resigned his seat on the board, but Mr. Lowthian, one of the dissentient directors, obliged with a little recital on the subject, telling us that the real reason was the impossibility of inducing the chairman to depart from old-fashioned paths, and permit drastic reforms in the tailoring department which, we heard for the first time, has always been run at a loss. But facts like these were all to no purpose, and after the motion for the appointment of an investigation committee had been rejected, the shareholders, clearly pleased that Mr. Hargraves had resigned, rather rudely requested Mr. Lowthian to do likewise.

Critical Index To New Investments.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4 PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1905.

Nominally this loan is for £50,000,000, but only half of the amount is at present issued for the redemption of internal loans, the remainder being reserved for conversion or repayment at a later date of the 6 per cent. sterling loans for £22,000,000 issued in 1904. Of the half offered subscriptions were invited for £12,000,000 in Paris, £3,250,000 in New York, and £3,250,000 in Germany, leaving £6,500,000 for this market. The price asked was 90 per cent., payable in instalments

spread over a period of about six months, but as a full six months' interest will be paid on July 1, the actual cost would be about 1 per cent. less, and so great was the rush of applicants here that the lists were closed after being open for half a day. The loan is repayable at par on January 1, 1931, but it may be redeemed at any time after January 1, 1921, on six months' notice.

PEDLAR BRAKE AND TWO-SPEED GEAR CO., LIMITED.

Certain British and foreign patents for a hub, frictionless free-wheel drive and brake for bicycles and the British patent for a variable speed and brake gear are acquired by this company for £27,500 in shares, £12,500 in cash or shares, and £10,000 in cash. This is half of the nominal capital, and as the devices do not appear to have been put upon the market, in asking so much for contrivances which may or may not prove a commercial success the vendor is handicapping the company severely. Of course, it is claimed that they will meet the requirements of up-to-date cyclists more completely than any other, but even with an estimate that an annual sale of 50,000 brakes and 30,000 combined brakes and two-speed gears would enable the company to realise handsome profits, there is not sufficient inducement for investors to take up the 37,493 £1 shares offered. A still stronger argument against investing in the shares is the fact that it has been found necessary to give the underwriters of 35,000 shares a commission of 5 per cent. in cash, 10 per cent. in shares, and an overriding commission of 5 per cent. in cash.

CITY AND SUBURBAN MOTOR CAB CO., LIMITED.

The success of recent motor bus flotations has evidently stimulated the zeal of promoters, and this company is probably only a pioneer in the new field it seems to open up. It does not exactly look an over-attractive proposition, as the calculations put forward appear to be based on nothing more substantial than surmise, only it is surmise in an almost untried field. An option has been secured for the purchase of 500 motor cabs at the price of £284 each, with delivery at the rate of 12 per month, and this company proposes seemingly to start with £100. The capital is £100,000 in £1 shares, and after paying £15,000 in cash or shares to the promoters, it is estimated that this sum would buy 300 cabs, on which a profit is estimated of £49,875 per annum. In order to arrive at this result it has been necessary to take the earnings per cab at 35s. per day throughout the year—a figure which we should regard as extremely doubtful of realisation. Then expenses, including £50 per cab per annum for tyres and one-sixth of the cost of the cab written off for depreciation is worked out at 3'03d. per cab mile on an average of 60 miles per day, and altogether the showing made is much too fanciful to be convincing, but motor cabs may come to stay and pay one day.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

BOURNEMOUTH GAS AND WATER COMPANY.—This company requires funds for the erection of new gasworks at Poole with all the latest improvements, and for the extension of existing works and plant, and invites tenders for 2,000 7 per cent. "B" shares of £10 each at a minimum price of £15 per share. Net profits for the year ended June 30 were £31,998, and after transferring £2,000 to reserve, and writing off £3,500 for works demolished, &c., £6,350 was carried forward, so that there was an ample enough margin to meet the dividend on the new shares.

ROBERTSBRIDGE, SALEHURST, AND HURST GREEN WATER AND GAS COMPANY.—Tenders are invited for 948 6 per cent. preference and 382 ordinary shares of £5 each, and 167 5 per cent. debentures of £10 each by this tiny company, which is working under a concession granted by the Ticehurst and District Water and Gas Company. Its total share capital is only £17,000, divided into 2,200 preference and 1,200 ordinary shares, and the debenture debt, with the present issue, amounts to £6,000, so that the investors and premium seekers to whom the appeal is directed have not much of a field to play in.

DELTA METAL.—10,000 ordinary shares of £1 each are offered to shareholders in the proportion of two shares for every 15 held at £2 per share.

LANCEFIELD GOLD MINING.—The 100,000 new shares of 12s. recently created are offered to shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every two held.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE.—90,000 ordinary shares of £5 each are offered at par to holders of preferred and deferred stocks in the proportion of one new share to every £45 stock held.

SELANGOR RUBBER COMPANY.—The directors have decided to issue the remaining 3,700 shares to holders registered on November 7 in the proportion of one new share for every 7·108 held at a premium of £5 per share.

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION.—£300,000 bearer debentures were issued on November 6 at £97 2s. 6d. per cent., and a further amount of £200,000 debentures has been guaranteed for issue on December 27 next, the whole to run for five years from date.

SURINAM GOLD CONCESSIONS.—9,000 "A" preferred shares of £1 each are offered to shareholders at par.

UTAH LIGHT AND RAILWAY.—The company proposes to issue 1,500 additional 5 per cent. consolidated mortgage gold bonds of \$1,000 each.

NOTES ON AMERICAN RAILROADS.

Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.—This road has decided to build a line 250 miles long to connect Bridgeport, Nebraska, with North Platte and thence to a connection with the main line further east.

Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.—Persistent rumours have been current that this great corporation is going to build to the Pacific. They have been denied, but now we hear that a company called the Pacific Railroad has been incorporated and has made extensive purchases of terminal property in Tacoma and Seattle. It plans to build east 250 miles from the coast, and this has been taken as strong circumstantial evidence of the connection of the St. Paul Company with the project. Moreover, the general manager of the St. Paul line resigned in order to become president of this new company. It may be an independent adventure, and the Milwaukee and St. Paul may not get it, but it looks suspicious.

Chicago and North-Western Railway.—New construction of an aggregate length of 520 miles is projected by this company in various regions of the North-West. The longest new branch is an extension from Pierre, South Dakota, to Rapid City, in the same State. It will be 165 miles long; and another, 148 miles long, is to develop the Shoshone Indian reservation, and this must be completed before that reservation is opened for settlement next June.

Canadian Northern Railway.—In the year ended June 30 last this company earned nearly \$417,000 over and above its fixed charges of \$1,120,000, the increase in the surplus being fully \$100,000 over that for the preceding year.

The Illinois Central Railroad.—This company is building a line from Jackson, Tennessee, to Birmingham, Alabama, 216 miles in length, and has incorporated two small lines to act as auxiliaries in connection with this extension.

The New York Central Railroad Company proposes to increase its capital stock by \$17,192,500, giving proprietors registered on December 31 an allotment at par equal to 13 per cent. of their holdings. That means a substantial bonus of between seven and eight dollars a share, and the proceeds of the issue are to be used in connection with the New York terminal improvements and the electrification of the New York suburban division.

The gross earnings for September of all American railways making complete returns expanded by \$10,846,006, with an addition to expenses of \$7,915,438, leaving the nett gain comparatively slender at \$2,930,568. Some of the roads reflect the comparison with the big earnings brought about by the World's Fair at St. Louis, and others suffered from the interruption caused by the yellow fever at New Orleans and other points in the Gulf States, as also from the smaller cotton traffic; but on the whole the returns are taken to afford further evidence of the flourishing conditions now supposed to be ruling in the States. Expenses went up because the present is thought to be a good opportunity for liberal outlays, but the fact that in the corresponding month of 1904 the expenditure was a good deal curtailed must not be overlooked. For the first nine months of the current year the increase in gross revenue was \$84,655,882, and in the expenses \$62,047,749, leaving the nett gain at \$2,260,133.

CEYLON (PARA) RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.

It is too early yet to say anything about this company's prospects, but if modest capitalisation and careful management go for anything it ought to succeed. The nominal capital is £50,000 in £1 shares, but so far only 35,000 shares have been issued on which small calls are made as and when the work progresses, and the directors announce that they think they can carry out their present programme without issuing any more shares. During the period from June 13, 1904, to September 30, 1905, planting was carried on steadily, and by the end of the year the area under cultivation is expected to be 612 acres, while another 700 acres will be planted next year, and a final 700 in 1907. Including £1,000 paid to Mr. W. Forsythe for his services in selecting land, arranging for managers, and other preliminary operations, the expenditure to date, less £45 for interest received, amounted to £4,003, and by the end of 1906 it is estimated that, with £5,300 paid for land, the outlay will come to about £15,500. The directors did not exercise their powers to call up 3s. per share during the year, but they propose to make a call of 1s. per share on December 29, bringing the amount paid up to 6s. per share, and a further 3s. per share in 1906 will suffice to meet the estimated outlay to the end of that year.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and November 25, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Nov. 25, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Nov. 26, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£	6,352,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	22,583,000	23,766,000
Excise	30,200,000	20,078,000	20,540,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	8,206,000	7,665,000
Stamps	8,000,000	5,098,000	4,568,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	410,000	550,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	6,094,000	6,385,000
Post Office	16,500,000	9,650,000	9,260,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,780,000	2,590,000
Crown Lands	470,000	340,000	340,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	679,205	608,652
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	899,624	870,551
*Revenue	142,454,000	76,817,829	77,143,203
Total, including balance		84,248,107	81,407,045
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		380,000	350,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		100,000	820,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		400,000	1,419,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		760,408	1,400,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		13,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	98,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,250,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	5,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		2,500,000	20,000,000
Total		98,482,711	123,800,035
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	76,817,829	77,143,203
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	99,824	106,027
Excise	5,291,000	3,385,851	3,269,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,783,839	2,730,242
Total	9,756,000	6,269,514	6,105,942
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	83,087,343	83,249,145

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Nov. 25, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Nov. 26, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 18,213,292	£ 17,803,915
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,086,236	1,057,377
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	65,686,929	70,235,805
Expenditure	142,084,000	85,641,423	89,752,024
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		240,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		135,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		600,000	450,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		248,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		115,000	85,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		356,433	20,000
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	5,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	10,150,000
Total		90,493,856	118,057,524
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 7,242,908	£ 5,032,234	£ 5,742,511
Bank of Ireland	745,947	710,277	—
Total		7,988,855	5,742,511
Total		98,482,711	123,800,035

Treasury, November 28, 1905.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—A quiet tone has prevailed with transactions on a small scale. Heavy shipments caused speculative positions to decline at first, but subsequent cables from abroad, the firmness of American markets, and heavy rains in the Argentine, had a hardening effect, which has been more often maintained. Supplies of English wheat have been smaller this week, and prices more often than not have favoured the buyer, while foreign has dropped 3d. and sometimes 6d. from last week's prices. Farmers' deliveries were 77,168 qrs., averaging 28s. 5d. against 41,359, averaging 30s. 5d., last year. Imports were 362,320 qrs. against 492,777 last year, and Dornbusch's estimate of the quantities on passage to the United Kingdom are 2,065,000 qrs. against 1,830,000 last week. American markets have been active, with a strong bullish tendency all through. Buying orders have been large, both foreign and home, and a large milling demand came in from the North-West. Bradstreet estimates the quantities in sight east of the Rockies at 62,605,000 bushels against 59,509,000 last week.

WOOL.—London sales opened on Wednesday at practically September rates, with an occasional tendency in favour of buyers for lower grades, both merinos and crossbreds. But such a tendency soon passed off. Meanwhile, Bradford and Leicester trade is restricted, the desire still being to hold off as long as possible, the hope being expressed that larger supplies will lower values ere the spring. Home grown produce is receiving a good deal of attention, but here also there is an outcry against the prohibitive prices for all the better-class wools. Throughout the country yarn spinners generally are very busy, with orders principally for immediate delivery, as they decline to give speculative quotations for 1906. Stocktaking is looming ahead in the piece trade, and not much more is expected of it for this reason.

LINEN.—The manufacturing end of the trade, according to the "Belfast Linen Market," has given a good account of itself throughout the week. Unions are still in rather an uncertain position owing to the flutterings in cotton, but demand for them is steadily increasing, also for housekeeping goods, drills, and dress cloths. All classes, in fact, seem to be doing an increasing business, and prices are steadily hardening to the level of raw materials. Bleached and finished linens for cross-Channel have shown a slightly larger turnover, but might with advantage do still better; and reports on foreign trade are in most directions encouraging. Yarns show a substantial turnover for the week, in spite of the check put upon them by spinners' prohibitive prices, particularly as regards Continental yarns. At home market prices for flax advanced rapidly, Ulster reaching the highest point this season, 8s. 6d. and more being paid per stone.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market has been unsettled during the week under review, and buyers have been afraid to operate to any free extent. The big advance of 22 points on the spot in American cotton in Liverpool on Monday checked all business that was being arranged, and since then buyers have not been disposed to enter the market for anything more than small lots. In piece goods for export the demand has been dragging. Very few of our outlets abroad appear to be in need of goods. Of course, the stocks in our foreign markets are heavy, and until these are cleared, there does not appear to be much likelihood of large orders being given out. Very few practicable offers have come through from India and China, and buyers for these markets have done very little. The minor markets, speaking generally, are also quiet. A healthy demand continues for home trade cloths of a miscellaneous character, and the prospects for the spring are decidedly encouraging. Manufacturers all round are well engaged for some time to come, and quotations are firmly held. Cops made from American cotton for home consumption have only moved in small lots, and the sales of the week have been disappointing to spinners. Supplies are tending to show themselves in first hands and there being abundance of yarn, users are in no hurry to enter the market. Producers of common cop twist are doing very badly. Shipping bundles have been quiet in demand of a practicable character. Some inquiry has been reported from China and Japan, but the offers are a long way out. Producers are holding exceedingly firm to quotations. Bolton spinnings show hardly any change. The position of spinners is very strong, and although the demand has not been extensive, quotations are well held.

As Sir Jacob Behrens and Sons point out, we are getting accustomed to surprises in the American cotton market. This week there has been the action of Mr. Price, who, after being the chief "bear" in the market, suddenly decides to cover all his engagements. This action of his sent up prices, and caused considerable excitement in Liverpool and New York. A part of the rise has, however, been lost since, and it is expected there will be little change until after the publication of the Bureau report on the 4th inst. Closing prices are:—December-January, 6.0rd.; January-February, 6.06d.; February-March, 6.10d.; March-April, 6.13d.; April-May, 6.15d.; May-June, 6.18d.; June-July, 6.19d.; July-August, 6.20d.; August-September, 6.14d.

COAL.—There is little to note at present in the general trend of trade. It remains quietly steady, with gas coal perhaps its most active feature. For the moment interest is centred in the placing of next year's contracts for locomotive coal by the various railway companies. Tenders for the supplies have all come in, and as was noted last week, there is an advance in quotations. South Yorkshire have already tendered for the first half of the year at 8s. 6d., but for the second half have advanced

to 9s. On the other hand, some companies are said to have made an offer of 8s. 3d. per ton, and the general idea appears to be that the ultimate price will come between the two. In Wales the dissensions of owners and men are still going on, and trade is still depressed, one or two collieries, it is reported, only working two days a week. Cardiff quotations for best steams are 12s. 3d. to 12s. 6d., and Swansea 12s. 6d. to 13s.

COPPER.—There was again a good deal of excitement in this market, and prices scored a heavy further advance. At the present moment the consumption of copper in all countries is unusually large, and this has led to a serious diminution of the visible supplies in Europe, and the total exhaustion of stocks in producers' hands. Reserve stocks are also reported to be much attenuated, and as some of the big companies like the Rio Tinto and Amalgamated have already sold their output a long way forward it seems likely that the present strength will continue. Under the influence of very firm American advice, quotations opened at a further big advance, and at the second session on Monday about 800 tons changed hands, the total for the day being 1,300 tons. The market continued active during the remainder of the week, the outstanding feature being the scarcity of refined metal for near delivery, and although there was some reaction before the close final figures show a gain of £1 15s. for cash at £78 per ton and £2 5s. for forward delivery at £77 10s. per ton.

TIN.—Quotations for this metal were also carried up rapidly, an active demand being experienced both for near and forward delivery. It seems that about 2,000 slabs of Banka were delivered in Holland last week, leaving stocks very small, and the Straits shipments for the month are expected to be quite moderate. Eastern markets therefore were very strong, and the close on this side was firm and active at £158 5s. for spot and £157 2s. 6d. for delivery three months forward.

IRON AND STEEL.—Activity in the iron and steel trades continues unabated, the demand everywhere still outrunning immediate production. Trade has not been disturbed by the uncertainty in the political situation, though naturally a little uneasiness is felt. Such uneasiness might be greater had manufacturers not contracts in hand sufficient to keep them going well into the spring. Though the condition of the iron and steel industries in the North of England is all that can be desired the position with respect to Cleveland pig-iron is hardly so satisfactory, as prices are so unsettled, being regulated less by legitimate business than by speculations in warrants. The stock of Cleveland iron in the public warrant stores has increased so rapidly that now the speculators have over 666,000 tons with which to work, and the stock is increased daily. On the other hand, there is quite a scarcity of hematite iron, so that prices are steadily moving upwards. Good reports are given by manufacturers of steel in other parts of the country, particularly Yorkshire and Lancashire. In Scotland also great activity is noticeable.

TEA.—No further decline has taken place this week. Indian supplies were practically the same as last week, 39,115 packages, and for these bidding was a little stronger and prices generally were without change. The average for the week was 7.16d. against 7.19d. last. Ceylon auctions had a smaller quantity to deal with, 18,867 packages, and competition was pretty general throughout the sales. Commoner teas were in small request, but prices for them kept steady, and medium sorts from 6d. to 8d. showed a tendency towards dearer rates. For the week the average was 7.64d. against 7.45d. last week. Java offerings of 1,677 packages had a steady market, especially for teas over 6½d. per lb.

SUGAR.—The recent improvement noticeable in the sugar market has been checked by a pause in consumption. This caused some selling from France as well as from refiners in Germany, depressing prices a few pence, followed by a temporary slight recovery. As Mr. Czarnikow points out, there is no new development either as regards statistics or crops. In France about a dozen factories have finished work with a total quantity of roots nearly double that of last year. Some French fabricants are willing to sell next crop crystals at about 11s., but from other countries that delivery is offering under 9s., basis 88 per cent., and this helps to depress the English market. The market is writing now for November statistics to ascertain how much of the large October exports were consumed or are still en route. The American market, owing to increased activity in refined, seems to take more interest in raws and various transactions have taken place at prices favouring holders. Landings in the three ports for the week were 25,000 tons, and meltings 30,000 tons, reducing stocks to 214,000 tons.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

World's Work and Play. Dec. Edited by Henry Norman, M.P. (London: W. Heineman, 21, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.) Price, 1s.

Municipal Insurance Schemes. Reprinted from the *Policy Holder*. (Manchester: 44, Lloyd Street, Albert Square.) Price, 6d.

The Reformers Year Book, 1906. Edited by F. N. P. Lawrence and Joseph Edwards. (London: 4, Clements Inn, W.C.) Price, 1s. net.

BUENOS AYRES PROVINCIAL CEDULAS.—The Cedula-Holders' defence Committee invite the attendance of all Cedula-holders (both English and Continental) to a meeting to be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on Monday, December 18, at 12 noon, for the purpose of passing resolutions for a formal demand of settlement to be addressed to the Provincial Government.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

A very poor return was that for the month of October, for though it was a day longer than September a big decrease had to be reported. The output from the mines on the Witwatersrand proper was 397,868 ozs. of fine gold, and that from the outside mines 17,659 fine ozs., making a total of 415,527 ozs., of a value of £1,765,047, against 416,487 ozs. worth £1,769,124 in the previous month, a decline of 960 ozs., of a value of £4,077. If we take the daily average at over 13,000 ozs., the real decrease was over 14,000 ozs. Of this shortage about 6,000 to 7,000 ozs. is to be accounted for by the damage done to the mills of the Wolhuter and Ginsberg, but even then there remains a decline of 8,000 ozs.

MINE.	August.			September.			October.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	11,448	6,564	11,760	12,654	7,371	14,290	8,217	14,290	8,217
Barrett	374	350	541	1,000	541	1,000	541	1,000	541
Bonanza	8,750	4,503	8,553	8,530	4,173	7,380	8,475	4,314	7,813
Buffelsdoorn Estate ..	3,000	603	1,552	605	1,618	472	1,170	472	1,170
City and Suburban ..	25,000	8,941	15,558	24,300	8,656	14,658	19,200	7,392	9,039
Comet, New	14,268	6,046	6,402	14,443	6,255	8,371	15,129	6,317	...
Cons. Langlaagte	16,484	5,662	5,167	15,953	5,592	5,667	16,300	5,615	5,504
Cons. Main Reef	16,610	6,491	8,408	16,983	6,501	8,761	18,092	6,511	9,273
Crown Deep	30,193	12,173	23,150	24,270	11,787	23,050	29,140	12,131	23,150
Crown Reef	19,340	12,346	25,266	18,287	11,656	25,481	18,891	11,471	25,160
Driefontein	20,575	8,525	13,568	18,966	7,563	9,807	20,163	8,065	...
Durban Roodepoort ..	11,580	5,250	8,755	11,550	5,233	9,180	11,550	5,161	...
Do. Deep	9,970	4,346	4,100	9,300	4,374	4,000	9,470	4,354	4,050
Ferreira	20,796	12,470	27,065	19,500	12,400	28,174	20,400	12,456	28,471
Do Deep	20,268	12,358	30,300	19,800	11,876	30,050	19,588	12,102	30,050
French Rand	16,400	5,334	265	16,500	5,040	1,061	17,800	2,037	1,061
Geldenhuis Deep	24,310	10,185	13,350	22,110	9,659	13,400	24,450	10,392	14,750
Geldenhuis Estate ..	16,870	7,220	16,030	16,625	7,114	15,670	17,138	7,272	15,880
Ginsberg	8,572	3,514	5,150	8,111	3,127	3,767	...	...	...
Glencairn	14,980	4,231	5,008	13,395	3,566	3,302	13,139	3,845	4,503
Glen Deep	15,000	5,968	7,008	14,700	5,782	7,000	15,660	5,926	7,000
Glyn's Lydenberg	2,290	1,503	...	2,140	1,428	...	2,240	1,515	...
Goch New .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Henry Nourse .....	...	6,005	10,029	11,560	5,850	10,052	12,030	5,928	10,171
Heriot	9,480	3,937	4,765	8,960	3,612	4,186	8,955	3,600	3,711
Jubilee	5,625	1,871	...	5,460	1,938	...	5,321	2,002	...
Jumpers	12,240	4,418	4,860	12,200	4,531	5,158	12,020	4,544	5,022
Jumpers Deep	16,540	5,473	450	16,024	5,305	200	15,951	5,169	450
Knight's	28,000	9,194	7,751	26,000	8,500	5,246	25,500	7,970	4,017
Knight's Deep	22,869	8,239	7,921	18,747	7,427	7,256	20,566	7,883	8,557
Lancaster	11,650	4,332	872	12,543	4,522	1,308	13,102	4,647	1,700
Lancaster West	6,570	2,422	2,876	6,402	3,303	2,983	6,660	2,340	3,084
Langlaagte Deep	20,104	7,013	6,500	19,519	6,734	6,500	19,923	6,830	6,550
Do. Estate	27,060	8,475	9,000	26,480	8,535	10,400	27,326	8,243	9,400
May Consolidated	14,020	6,137	11,918	13,650	6,034	11,835	13,840	5,991	12,072
Meyer and Charlton ..	11,330	4,558	8,233	10,924	4,336	7,688	11,049	4,547	8,050
Modderfontein	9,788	3,519	3,264	9,323	3,617	3,784	9,472	3,628	3,750
New Kleinfontein	28,401	10,092	...	26,929	9,276	11,304	26,605	7,698	...
New Unifed	9,025	3,155	2,317	8,547	2,848	1,796	8,907	2,772	1,530
Niekerk	813	300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nigel	6,500	2,600	6,467	6,310	3,815	7,128	6,150	3,658	6,285
Nigel Deep	2,900	1,953	719	2,632	1,829	395	2,800	2,023	1,926
North Randfontein ..	15,029	5,951	6,200	14,423	5,970	7,700	15,322	6,126	7,700
Nourse Deep	15,050	6,774	8,550	14,610	6,718	8,700	14,900	6,884	8,850
Forges Randfontein ..	13,503	5,510	8,800	13,100	5,565	8,500	13,523	5,842	8,400
Primrose	17,074	7,895	15,147	16,839	7,527	14,013	15,800	7,277	13,503
Princess Estate	7,092	2,792	1,493	6,448	2,894	1,606	5,788	2,091	1,795
Rietfontein New	8,448	4,306	2,317	8,300	4,347	8,507	8,320	4,437	8,602
Robinson	29,000	19,571	47,450	28,000	8,372	47,311	29,000	18,560	47,418
Robinson Cent. Deep ..	14,902	9,141	23,942	11,756	8,837	24,008	13,980	9,360	25,342
Robinson Deep	29,173	15,426	33,750	28,121	14,841	32,670	29,097	14,938	33,002
Robins'n Rnd'ntein ..	14,530	5,328	4,000	14,566	5,589	4,800	15,122	5,660	...
Roodepoort Central ..	7,703	3,308	2,996	7,413	3,245	3,054	7,693	3,175	5,750
Roodepoort United ..	9,540	4,336	5,823	9,100	4,002	5,409	9,120	4,075	5,350
Rose Deep	25,662	8,873	9,150	25,475	8,926	10,350	9,163	11,300	...
Salisbury	5,150	1,840	2,100	5,150	1,640	1,280	5,300	1,920	...
Sheba .....	...	2,750	...	...	3,100	...	3,426	...	...
Simmer East	12,141	2,327	...	13,116	3,338	...	16,599	4,949	4,219
Simmer and Jack	52,420	19,820	30,676	51,207	19,334	29,067	52,800	20,026	31,590
South Randfontein ..	14,886	5,737	5,000	14,646	5,960	6,400	15,022	5,982	7,250
Transvaal Gold	10,103	3,723	...	7,983	3,295	...	5,530	3,774	...
Treasury	5,925	2,359	3,014	6,060	2,798	4,075	7,490	2,916	4,017
Van Ryn	22,220	5,781	12,000	21,880	8,329	12,635	22,440	8,614	12,099
Village Deep	13,055	5,781	5,829	16,300	6,153	7,226	16,000	5,844	4,997
Village Main Reef	25,150	9,396	14,510	24,000	9,386	14,631	25,250	9,310	14,570
Vogelstruis Estates ..	5,420	2,108	...	5,250	2,090	...	5,150	2,081	...
Wenner	8,520	4,039	4,548	7,820	4,261	4,960	8,300	4,350	...
W. Rand Central	2,450	1,120	...	2,575	1,121	...	2,575	1,144	...
Windsor	5,935	1,514	589	4,750	1,416	374	4,700	1,372	77
Wt. Deep	22,670	9,044	11,334	23,070	9,247	12,903	26,300	10,393	15,160
Worcester .....	...	1,385	...	1,036	...	...	1,081	...	...

* Loss.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	oz. 80,785	oz. 70,340	oz. 199,279	oz. 288,824	oz. 369,258	oz. 369,258
February ..	64,408	81,405	190,513	289,502	363,811	363,811
March	84,546	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823	399,823
April	54,772	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166	399,166
May	64,249	138,602	234,125	314,840	412,395	412,395
June	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317	412,317
July	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505	419,505
August	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,581	428,581
September ..	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	416,487	416,487
October	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	415,527	415,527
November ...	39,075	187,375	279,813	336,167	...	...
December ..	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	...	...
Total ..	348,760	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	4,040,870

Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February ..	1,457,684	---	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508
March	---	---	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371
April	---	---	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340
May	---	31,271	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550
June	---	84,014	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734
July	---	110,269	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412
August	---	120,953	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944
September ..	---	135,654	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496
October	---	141,848	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,566	1,769,124
November ...	---	165,936	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047
December ..	---	224,692	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	---
Total ..	1,457,684	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	17,164,526

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

due probably to the diminished yield of gold per ton of ore. There was a nett loss of natives of 1,959, against a loss of 3,195 in September, but there was a large gain in Chinkees to offset this. It is to be noted that there was a bigish decline in the yield from the Village Deep mine, the profit falling from £7,226 to £2,997. This is due, it is officially explained, to the introduction of 600 untrained coolies, which increased the working costs by 3s. per ton, whilst the grade of the ore fell by 12 grs. per ton. This is but the common experience, showing how shareholders have to pay through the nose for the privilege of employing Ah Sin.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The Agent-General for Western Australia has received notification that during October 47,313 ozs. of gold were entered for export, whilst 113,310 ozs. were received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint for coinage, giving a total of 160,623 fine ozs. In October 1904 the total export and mint returns were 174,607 ozs.

Name of Company.	August.		September.		October.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
Associated G. M. of W. A. ..	6,776	£20,050	3,955	£13,779	8,040	£19,355
Associated Northern Blocks ..	3,417	£15,710	3,319	£15,481	3,417	£15,320
Bellevue Proprietary ..	3,129	2,038	3,231	1,729	3,766	2,072
Burbank's Birthday ..	2,215	822	2,185	641	2,302	692
Cosmopolitan Proprietary ..	8,061	2,482	8,943	2,537	8,780	2,482
Golden Horseshoe ..	18,769	13,159*	18,774	13,071*	19,720	13,434*
Golden Pole ..	1,314	1,789	1,791	2,111	1,650	2,309
Great Boulder Perseverance ..	14,918	9,149*	13,499	9,377*	14,160	8,369*
Great Boulder Proprietary ..	11,223	12,692	11,215	13,281	12,004	13,732
Great Fingall ..	17,877	13,658*	17,514	13,633	18,150	12,559*
Halmait ..	4,449	1,935*	4,412	1,921*	4,481	1,900*
Hannan's Reward ..	790	265	739	330	324	330
Hannan's Star ..	1,909	609*	2,185	454*	2,478	815*
Ida H. ....	...	1,295	1,500	1,104	1,400	1,112
Ivanhoe ..	17,030	10,584*	16,560	10,479*	16,610	10,525*
Kalgurli ..	8,000	5,880*	8,030	5,922*	8,290	6,121*
Lake View Consols ..	10,096	4,060*	10,500	4,008	10,646	3,989*
Menzies Consolidated ..	1,315	£3,762	1,550	£3,450	1,517	£3,469

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended November 23, \$5,027, decrease \$587.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 27, \$17,184, increase \$1,410; aggregate from January 1, \$772,608, increase \$162,880.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 28, Rs. 64,856, decrease Rs. 3,194; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 11,81,351, increase Rs. 1,54,431.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 7, \$114,500, increase \$16,100; total from July 1, \$1,803,100, increase \$401,200.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 21, Rs. 25,434, increase Rs. 1,602; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 3,97,799, increase Rs. 27,090.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 4, £540, decrease £11.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of November, \$15,562, increase \$1,932; aggregate from January 1, \$715,197, increase \$3,310.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 21, Rs. 14,289, decrease Rs. 1,007; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,06,909, increase Rs. 28,920.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended November 7 amounted to \$3,825.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending November 25, £1,214, increase £16; aggregate from July 1, £25,058, decrease £178.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending November 25, £722, increase £151; aggregate from July 1, £9,486, decrease £1,078.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for September, £4,376 decrease £335.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending November 25, £422, increase £61; aggregate from July 1, £7,183, decrease £352.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 25, £14,886, decrease £697; aggregate from January 1, £629,849, increase £38,437.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 247,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of October, £10,350, decrease £411.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to October 31, \$393,936, increase \$101,487. Net earnings from July 1 to October 31, \$184,298, increase \$73,276.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending November 26, £3,483, increase £1,240; aggregate from January 1, £163,152, increase £8,420.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending October 28, £1,175.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month October, \$236,900.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 25, Rs. 43,730, increase Rs. 2,405; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 8,99,353, increase Rs. 1,13,082.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of October, £3,155, decrease £83. Total to October 31, £37,763, increase £6,130.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of September, \$454,061, increase \$80,118; aggregate from January 1, \$3,482,687, increase \$274,516. Net traffic receipts, \$278,030, increase \$70,104; aggregate from January 1, \$1,904,537, increase \$206,534.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	Wk. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Nov. 26	£ 2,073	— 151	21	£ 43,585	— 2,287	
Cambrian	" 26	5,662	+ 10	21	156,776	— 7,040	
Central London ..	" 25	7,206	— 23	21	131,184	— 963	
City and South London ..	" 26	3,275	— 79	21	53,321	+ 203	
Furness	" 26	9,754	+ 1,585	21	225,801	+ 22,465	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 26	69,927	+ 7,896	21	1,518,220	+ 102,203	
Great Eastern	" 26	99,400	+ 1,900	21	2,390,000	— 22,900	
Great Northern and City ..	" 25	1,810	+ 304	21	32,341	+ 7,402	
Great Northern	" 25	110,400	+ 6,959	†	2,494,588	+ 30,696	
Great Western	" 26	222,100	+ 14,500	21	5,254,500	+ 90,400	
Hull and Barnsley	" 26	9,778	+ 1,498	21	206,291	+ 1,187	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 26	101,753	+ 6,961	21	2,445,755	+ 66,428	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 25	51,185	+ 752	21	1,432,286	— 2,992	
London & North Western ..	" 26	269,000	+ 18,000	21	6,218,000	+ 137,000	
London & South Western ..	" 26	78,500	+ 800	21	2,062,300	+ 13,900	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 26	7,351	+ 37	21	226,701	+ 1,679	
Metropolitan	" 26	17,275	+ 409	21	360,602	+ 1,520	
Metropolitan District ..	" 26	8,088	+ 637	21	146,501	+ 2,410	
Midland	" 25	225,633	+ 14,089	21	4,857,144	+ 148,319	
North Eastern	" 25	171,014	+ 5,893	21	3,943,070	+ 35,538	
North London	" 26	8,886	— 335	21	186,451	— 4,952	
North Staffordshire	" 26	18,299	+ 1,523	21	375,320	+ 9,330	
Rhymney	" 26	5,886	— 119	21	119,077	— 1,371	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 25	72,839	+ 736	†	2,103,736	+ 25,286	
Taff Vale	" 26	17,369	— 1,203	21	380,954	— 7,32	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Nov. 26	81,198	+ 5,913	17	1,501,806	+ 22,303	
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 25	29,128	+ 816	17	621,177	+ 966	
Great North of Scotland ..	" 25	8,860	+ 440	17	170,365	— 1,534	
Highland	" 26	7,433	+ 247	17	192,809	+ 421	
North British	" 26	83,261	+ 4,118	17	1,610,444	+ 3,870	

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Nov. 24	2,600	+ 431	21	70,395	+ 2,603	
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 24	1,474	+ 243	21	39,288	+ 260	
Great Northern	" 24	17,706	+ 26	21	433,628	— 2,588	
Midland Great Western ..	" 24	10,597	— 975	21	242,220	— 9,344	

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 24, £1,259, increase £444; aggregate from July 1, £29,038, increase £10,207.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 26, £8, decrease £2; aggregate from July 1, £499, increase £16.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 24, £4,340, decrease £14; aggregate from July 1, £106,176, decrease £2,018.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending November 24 £25,710, increase £4,921; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,268,642, increase £131,509; 432½ miles, against 414.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 25, £1,034, increase £122; aggregate from July 2, £23,553, increase £1,095.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 26, £96, increase £10; aggregate from July 1, £3,175, decrease £76.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 24, £83, increase £4; aggregate from July 1, £2,710, decrease £26.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 24, £4,297, increase £271; aggregate from July 1, £107,499, decrease £898.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 25, £4,492, increase £657; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £228,547, increase £17,068.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 24, £193, decrease £24; aggregate from July 1, £5,352, decrease £406.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 23, £320.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 25, £239, increase £17; aggregate from October 1, £2,394, decrease £447.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 18, £13,416, increase £1,393; aggregate from April 1, £496,703, increase £68,813. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 25, £20,432, increase £855; aggregate from July 2, £488,790, decrease £10,616.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 25, £7,213, increase £749; aggregate from July 1, £164,271, increase £1,520.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 24, £178, increase £4; aggregate from July 1, £4,225, increase £188.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 26, £660, increase £289.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Nov. 27.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Nov. 27.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
4 1/2	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	May Consolidated	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	2 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Apex	5 1/2	5 1/2	7 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Banties	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Goch	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Barnato Consolidated ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Comet (New)	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Porgas-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Pref. 23/6	23/6	23/6	7 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Reef	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Driefontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
3 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	East Rand	6 1/2	6 1/2	2 1/2	Roodepoort United	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand Extension ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ferreira	1 1/2	1 1/2	10/6	Sheba (New)	10/6	10/6
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Geuld	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Steyn Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Glencairn	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
10 1/2	Harmeny Proprietary ..	10 1/2	10 1/2	2 1/2	Treasury	2 1/2	2 1/2
6 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal ..	6 1/2	6 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Henry Nourse	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Heriot	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Welgedacht	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Jubilee	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wemmer	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Woluter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Lancaster	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2			
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Nourse Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Robinson Deep (new) ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
2 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
8 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	8 1/2	8 1/2	5 1/2	Rose Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
2 1/2	Knight's Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
				3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep ..	3 1/2	3 1/2

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Rhodesia, Ltd. (5/ pd.) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Develop- ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	ment	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Koffyfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Orange Free State	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
7 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Premier Diamond Def. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	9 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Kamfersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbertiakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	6/6	Gold Coast Agency, new ..	5/6	5/6
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2	Do. Amalgamated	2	2
3 1/2	Ankobra	3 1/2	3 1/2	2/9	Gold Coast (Wassau) ..	2/6	2/6
8/6	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	8/6	8/6	3/3d	Deep	2/6	2/6
2/6	Do. Goldfields	2/6	2/6	1/	Goldfields East'n Akim ..	1/	1/
1 1/2	Ashanti Sansu	1 1/2	1 1/2	2/6	Himan Concessions	2/6	2/6
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	6/	Obhuassi Syndicate	6/	6/
1 1/2	Brit sh Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestra	5/6	5/6
16/3	Broomassie	16/3	16/3	1/6	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1/6	1/6
3/3	Effueta (Wassau)	3/3	3/3	1 1/2	Taquaah and Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2
9/9	Fanti Consolidated	9/9	9/9	1	Wassau	1	1
				2	W. A. Gold Trust	2/6	3/

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	8/6	Ida H.	8/6	8/6
2 1/2	Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	7/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	7/2	7/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Ivanhoe South	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Belleue Proprietary	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgarli	9 1/2	9 1/2
3/6	Boulder Deep Levels ..	3/6	3/6	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
9/9	Brownhill Extended	9/9	9/9	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1/9	Chaffers 4/-	1/9	1/9	9/6	London & W.A. Explor- ..	9/6	9/6
6 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	6 1/2	4 1/2	Mount Boppy	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1/3	North Kalgarli	1/3	1/3
1 1/2	Golden Links	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	1/	Peak Hill	1/	1/
24/	Great Boulder, 2/-	24/	24/	1 1/2	South Kalgarli	1 1/2	1 1/2
13/	Do. Perseverance	13/	13/	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalla	1 1/2	1 1/2
7	Great Fingall	7	7	2/3	W.A. Goldfields	2/3	2/3
1 1/2	Hannault	1 1/2	1 1/2	3/	W'str la Mt. Morgans ..	3/	3/
2	Hampton Plains	2	2	1/6	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf. ..	1/6	1/6
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2	3/			

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
23/	Balaghat, full paid	23/	23/	33/9	Mount Lyell	34/	37/
12/3	Brilliant and St. George ..	12/3	12/3	6 1/2	M't. Morgan	6 1/2	6 1/2
60/	Broken Hill, Prop.	60/	60/	3 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	3/	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	3/6	3/6
5 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	10/	Do. West, 10/-	10/	10/
30/9	Champion Reef, 10s.	30/9	30/9	10/	Do. Wynad, 19/-	10/	10/
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Coniapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	18/	Nile Valley	18/	18/
3/	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	3/	3/	1 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/ shares ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Esperanza	5 1/2	5 1/2	18/	Oo egum	18/	18/
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
14/6	Frontino and Bolivia	14/6	14/6	66 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	66 1/2	66 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	9/6	St. John del Rey	9/6	9/6
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Tharsis	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Waihi	6 1/2	6 1/2
4 1/2	Linares, £3	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Ymir	7 1/2	7 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec on 1904.	
Alcey and Gandia	Nov. 25	£	£	Ps. 653,100	£	
Antofagasta (Chili) and ..		Ps. 13,000	+ Ps. 500	**		
Bolivia	Oct. *	\$1,200,000	+ \$296,000	**	\$9,695,000	+ \$218,000
Argentine Gt. Western ..	Nov. 24	11,887	+ 832		260,275	+ 41,385
Algeiras (Gibraltar) ..	" 18	Ps. 25,534	- Ps. 2,991		Ps. 654,886	- Ps. 87,863
Buenos Ayres & Pacific ..	" 25	30,619	+ 9,472		554,376	+ 157,550
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o ..	" 25	82,094	+ 17,054	**	3,618,927	+ 173,085
Do. Argentine	" 25	78,250	+ 11,474		1,375,482	+ 228,136
Do. Western	" 25	35,135	+ 7,946		630,679	+ 113,041
Do. Ensenada	" 26	303	+ 53		6,639	+ 130
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid. ..	" 25	11,041	+ 449		153,099	+ 2,325
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 25	2,728	+ 144		30,727	+ 5,620
Do. Northern Ex.	" 25	1,784	+ 427		21,754	+ 5,886
Do. Western Ex.	" 25	1,878	+ 189		22,655	+ 4,577
Cordoba Central	" 26	4,015	+ 1,530	**	141,650	+ 1,480
Do. Northern Ex.	" 26	7,515	+ 2,545	**	311,690	+ 25,820
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 26	1,965	+ 825	**	90,635	+ 10,885
Cordoba and Rosario ..	" 26	5,285	+ 2,130		93,630	+ 1,675
Costa Rica	" 25	4,079	+ 587		81,304	+ 2,693
Cuban Central	" 25	5,245	+ 1,271		101,077	+ 23,515
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 25	14,474	+ 5,487	**	388,248	+ 159,033
Entre Rios	" 25	3,717	+ 1,180		62,517	+ 14,249
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico ..	" 21	\$111,600	+ \$10,380	**	\$2,267,500	+ \$47,700
Leopoldina	" 25	27,360	+ 10,602	**	1,013,259	+ 301,379
Mexican	Oct. *	\$530,000	+ \$5,000	*	\$2,087,500	+ \$138,000
Mexican	Nov. 25	\$112,800	+ \$5,100	*	\$2,498,100	+ \$86,500
Do. Southern	" 21	\$20,664	+ \$923	*	\$1,070,486	+ \$20,720
Do. Central	Sept. *	\$2,178,651	+ \$257,229	3	\$6,622,576	+ \$634,445
Do. Do.	Sept. *	\$651,508	+ \$120,275	3	\$2,002,940	+ \$341,110
Manila	Nov. 25	\$24,649	+ \$3,643	**	\$1,588,439	+ \$262,156
Nitrate	" 15	28,775	+ 3,930	**	477,992	+ 95,990
Ottoman	" 25	7,597	+ 1,339	**	175,133	+ 13,991
Peruvian Corporation	Oct. *	\$616,050	+ \$42,250	*	\$2,447,975	+ \$334,575
San Paulo.	Nov. 19	32,217	+ 8,016		736,884	+ 118,405
Salvador	" 25	\$16,750	+ \$750	**	\$270,676	+ \$13,806
United of Havana	" 25	8,823	+ 1,313	**	179,302	+ 30,781
Villa Maria & Rufino ..	" 25	1,163	+ 195	**	52,332	+ 6,931
Western of Havana	" 25	4,205	+ 460	**	96,017	+ 5,319

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

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- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

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Actuary.

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ESTABLISHED 1824.

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The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

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Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

All the week money has been growing easier. The market has really been managed with consummate skill. At the beginning of the week Japanese balances were let free from the Bank of England, and at once rates began to break, so that only yesterday when the general Stock Exchange settlements had to be paid was there anything like scarcity. The market then went to the Bank of England for a little assistance, both by loans and on bills, and to-day the supplies of credit have not been inconveniently plentiful, yet rates have steadily tended downwards. Throughout the early part of the week the joint-stock banks had no difficulty in getting $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for most of their seven-day credits, but yesterday the rate fell to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and this was again broken to-day so far that some borrowers got part of their supplies at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Call money has been up at 4 per cent. and down at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. We may give the range as from 3 to 4 per cent., closing to-night weak at 3 per cent.

And not only have loan rates come down, but discount rates have been even weaker. They began to fall even before money gave way, and although some of the leading houses have bravely continued to quote $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and early in the week even $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., for three months' bills, the working rate has tended to slip back until we fear to-day $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was about the best of it. We may call it $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with a decidedly downward tendency after the Treasury bill allotment became public. Here again Japanese influence is felt. The market itself could not have taken these bills at much less than $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., if so low, but the average rate at which they have gone is only £3 rs. 8d. per cent., or allowing for the fact that they are strictly 90 day bills,

about £3 3s. per cent., and tenders at a price equivalent to a discount of £3 2s. 8d. per cent. only got about 9 per cent. of the amount applied for. Therefore it is Japanese money, the market says, for even foreign bankers could not have competed at this figure, and our market dared not. Thus the dread of a 5 per cent. Bank rate has completely vanished, and there is danger now that credit jobbers will rush to the other extreme and initiate a contest as to which shall cut market rates finest. If it be true that Russian gold is coming here to pay for the investments made by the Russian wealthy classes in Consols and other British securities, and if sovereigns are coming back from Egypt because of the shutting down of speculation there by the banks, we may quite expect to see the money market ease down still further.

And yet it is at present far from being a rich Money market. The banking reserve is only £23,292,000, and the total of other deposits only £43,034,000 in spite of an increase of £777,000 during the week. Much, however, is hoped for from the £14,000,000 to be disbursed by the Treasury on the 7th inst., in payment of that amount of expiring Exchequer bonds; or rather it will be £12,000,000 at the most, since the £2,000,000 of new Treasury bills sold this morning will have to be paid for on the same day that the Exchequer bonds are redeemed. Some say £5,000,000 of the £12,000,000 nett will actually come on the market in spite of buyings in under discount and pawnings of the expiring bonds which have been going on for some time back. Nobody can tell, but a vaguely confident hope is entertained that the release of this credit will ease the Money market for the rest of the year, and it is strengthened by the fact that on balance the Bank of England continues to augment its stock of gold through imports. It got £261,000 nett in its past Bank week, and there is every probability that the effect of Russian anarchy and revolution will be to drive the savings of that country, and such bullion as can be laid hold of and exported, largely into our market.

Wall Street, too, appears to have got over its credit colic for the time being, and although the day before the thanksgiving holiday call loans did rise to 9 per cent., the rate has generally been from 5 to 6 per cent., which may be considered quite easy as things go. Nothing can exceed the skill with which the load of securities created, hoisted, and held up by financiers is adjusted and shifted around directly it bears too ominously upon any one point.

The small "stags" who have rushed in such numbers to subscribe for the latest Japanese loan will find themselves left out in the cold, since the issuing banks have decided to ignore all applications for amounts below £600. We sympathise with them, for the thankless work involved in the adjustment of a multiplicity of small applications was totally out of proportion to any possible advantage gained, and people had begun to exercise ingenious cunning in duplicating these small applications under the mistaken impression that they would thereby get the most favourable attention. Allotments will probably be in the hands of applicants on Monday morning.

SILVER.

The inquiry for bars for prompt delivery continued strong up till Thursday, owing to the necessity of getting the metal out to the East in time for the Chinese New Year, and the price remained steady at $30\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. day after day. Transactions in "cash" silver, however, in actual practice refer to dealings for a week hence, and as next Thursday's boat is the last by which it is possible to reach China in time, purchases to-day were naturally less valuable, and the quotation gave way $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 30d. per oz. Forward metal has been in much quieter demand, and a little pressure to sell drove the price down to $29\frac{3}{4}$ d. The decline, however, attracted sufficient buying to cause a rally to $29\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz., but to-day it relapsed once more to $29\frac{1}{4}$ d., in sympathy with the fall in the spot value. Tenders for Rs.80,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday amounted to Rs.5,58,20,000 in bills and Rs.80,00,000 in telegraphic transfers, when Rs.69,97,000 were allotted in bills and

Rs.10,13,000 in transfers. Applicants at Rs. 4 1-32d. and Rs. 4 1-16d. per rupee received about 12 per cent. Next week another Rs.80,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 29, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 50,294,620	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	31,844,620
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£50,294,620		£50,294,620

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 17,039,131
Reserve ..	3,196,398	Other Securities ..	33,203,214
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	12,667,519	Notes ..	21,577,485
Other Deposits ..	43,034,560	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,714,960
Seven Day and other Bills ..	83,313		
	£73,534,790		£73,534,790

Dated November 30, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Nov. 30.		Nov. 22, 1905.	Nov. 29, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,185,187	Rest ..	3,257,414	3,196,398	—	61,016
8,274,087	Pub. Deposits ..	13,346,971	12,667,519	—	679,452
42,153,345	Other do. ..	42,257,151	43,034,560	777,409	—
92,849	7 Day Bills ..	85,044	83,313	—	1,731
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,610,005	Gov. Securities ..	17,039,131	17,039,131	—	—
29,758,864	Other do. ..	33,578,440	33,203,214	375,226	—
22,889,599	Total Reserve ..	22,882,009	23,292,445	—	410,436
				1,152,635	1,152,635
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,110,620	Coin and Bullion ..	28,542,335	28,717,135	174,800	—
32,550,219	Proportion ..	418 p.c.	33,559,580	585,236	—
452 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	4 "	412 p.c.	8 p.c.	—
3 "				—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £261,000 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
Week ending				
Sept. 6	260,933,000	172,122,000	88,811,000	—
" 13	175,162,000	149,391,000	25,771,000	—
" 20	255,376,000	192,173,000	63,203,000	—
" 27	187,852,000	164,860,000	22,992,000	—
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,726,000	27,856,000	—
" 18	270,692,000	226,552,000	44,140,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,631,000	15,589,000	—
Nov. 1	270,695,000	250,973,000	19,722,000	—
" 8	216,916,000	195,045,000	21,871,000	—
" 15	260,846,000	241,533,000	19,313,000	—
" 22	222,090,000	176,593,000	45,497,000	—
" 29	217,274,000	253,726,000	—	36,452,000
	11,273,883,000	9,641,191,000	1,632,692,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders were invited at the Bank on Friday for £2,000,000 3 months' Treasury Bills when the total amount applied for was £9,922,000. Applications at £99 4s. 4d. received about 90 per cent. and above in full, the average rate per cent. being £3 1s. 8d.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	—	Jan. 27	—
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
25,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday, Bars ..	Thursday, S. America ..
Tuesday, " ..	" Gibraltar ..
Wednesday, " ..	
Thursday, " ..	Nett Influx ..
Friday, " ..	
Total ..	Total ..

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week.
			Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	3 1/2
Berlin ..	5 1/2	November 3, 1905	4 1/2
Hamburg ..	5 1/2	November 3, 1905	4 1/2
Frankfort ..	5 1/2	November 3, 1905	4 1/2
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	2 1/2
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3 1/2
Vienna ..	4 1/2	October, 1905	4 1/2
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	5
St. Petersburg ..	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2
Madrid ..	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4
Lisbon ..	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	3
Stockholm ..	5	September 22, 1905.	4 1/2
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4 1/2
Calcutta ..	6	November 30, 1905	—
Bombay ..	6	November 30, 1905	—
New York call money ..	8	—	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs.	25 1/4	25 1/4	Antwerp ..	short	25 2 1/2	25 2 1/2
Brussels ..	chqs.	25 2 1/2	25 2 1/2	Italy ..	sight	25 10 1/2	25 10 1/2
Amsterdam ..	sight	12 1 1/2	12 1 1/2	Constantinople	3 mths	110 0 1/2	110 0 1/2
Berlin ..	chqs.	20 4 3/4	20 4 3/4	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	16 1/2	16 1/2
Do. ..	3 mths	20 2 1/2	20 2 1/2	Valparaiso ..	90 dys	14 1/2	14 1/2
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20 4 1/2	20 4 1/2	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1 1/4	1 1/4
Frankfort ..	short	20 4 1/2	20 4 1/2	Bombay ..	T.T.	1 1/4	1 1/4
Vienna ..	sight	24 0 3/4	24 0 3/4	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2 1/4	2 1/4
St. Petersburg.	3 mths	93 7/8	93 7/8	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2 1/4	2 1/4
New York ..	60 dys	4 8 1/2	4 8 1/2	Singapore ..	4 mths	2 1/4	2 1/4
Lisbon ..	sight	50 1/2	50 1/2	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2 1/4	2 1/4
Madrid ..	sight	32	33 0 1/2				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Nov. 25.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs ..	National Debt Services ..
Excise ..	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges ..
Stamps ..	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion ..
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services ..
Post Office ..	Bullion Advances ..
Telegraphs ..	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands ..	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds ..
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Uganda Railway ..
Miscellaneous ..	Military Works ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	Naval Works ..
Uganda Railway ..	Telegraph Acts ..
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Land Registry (New Build-
count ..	ings) ..
Telegraph Acts ..	Public Buildings Expenses
Naval Works Acts ..	Act ..
Military Works Acts ..	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Land Registry Acts ..	Act ..
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	in reduction of debt ..
Ways and Means ..	Canard Agreement ..
Deficiency ..	Deficiency Advances re-
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	paid ..
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	Ways and Means Advances
Transvaal and Orange River	repaid ..
Colony. Repayment of	Increase in Exchequer
Temporary Advance ..	balances ..
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments ..	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances ..	
£2,281,169	£2,281,169

* Exclusive of £300,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £6,269,514.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 23, 1905.	Nov. 16, 1905	Nov. 9, 1905.	Nov. 24, 1904.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 4,847,880	£ 4,899,520	£ 4,870,880	£ 4,843,920
Other securities ..	23,509,760	23,043,840	23,257,760	22,502,440
Note circulation ..	27,193,640	27,379,120	27,392,840	26,035,760
Deposits ..	3,036,240	2,522,880	2,813,600	3,120,080

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 23, 1905.	Nov. 15, 1905.	Nov. 7, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£ 43,763,050	£ 41,872,900	£ 39,949,600	£ 51,315,150
Bills discounted ..	47,438,550	49,621,150	53,231,450	38,870,450
Advances on stocks ..	2,517,200	2,742,250	2,661,750	2,206,750
Note circulation ..	64,727,600	66,950,750	69,276,250	63,025,450
Public deposits ..	27,661,150	25,460,450	23,719,750	28,915,700

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 1/14, 1905.	Oct. 23/Nov. 5, 1905.	Oct. 16/29, 1905.	Nov. 1/14, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 87,618,529	£ 81,565,971	£ 88,589,722	£ 84,835,388
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	3,641,494	3,764,488	3,885,196	6,790,927
Advances and bills discounted ..	42,742,235	40,823,044	39,938,£27	40,862,047
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	7,002,926	7,023,847	7,297,059	5,965,650
Notes in circulation ..	123,557,822	110,461,974	109,201,154	84,313,351
Deposits and current account ..	47,416,869	46,993,283	47,724,456	45,159,539
Treasury account ..	7,260,276	5,014,835	4,652,387	22,481,112

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 25, 1905	Nov. 18, 1905	Nov. 11, 1905	Nov. 26, 1904
Gold ..	£ 14,996,324	£ 14,980,805	£ 14,984,342	£ 14,870,264
Silver ..	22,768,864	22,587,259	22,429,075	19,976,927
Foreign Bills ..	2,994,906	2,942,484	2,702,224	1,649,012
Discount and Short Bills ..	45,740,743	45,993,103	45,902,184	43,249,209
Treasury Account ..	20,858,111	20,810,108	20,848,107	22,227,883
Notes in circulation ..	62,214,679	62,708,286	63,096,187	64,540,650
Current Account deposits ..	22,663,736	22,254,590	22,164,763	24,769,760
Dividends Interests ..	2,809,805	2,909,080	3,055,483	2,762,397
Government Securities ..	5,479,941	5,249,807	4,827,739	6,004,048

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1905.	Nov. 16, 1905.	Dec. 1, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£ 115,651,560	£ 115,976,000	£ 115,975,280	£ 106,815,760
Silver in hand ..	43,650,080	43,680,720	43,828,240	44,194,680
Bills discounted ..	40,481,760	29,641,560	29,497,600	28,438,520
Advances ..	19,161,360	18,821,800	18,985,640	20,210,800
Note circulation ..	185,961,800	178,471,280	180,617,280	174,222,920
Public deposits ..	16,708,960	15,918,200	13,845,400	12,023,080
Private deposits ..	22,799,360	20,653,153	19,678,520	19,604,480

Proportion between bullion and circulation 85½ per cent. against 89½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 20, 1905.	Oct. 10, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1904.
Reserve ..	£ 28,902,240	£ 28,310,680	£ 28,147,240	£ 25,210,640
State notes and small changed ..	486,920	518,600	425,240	459,800
Discount and loans ..	15,537,840	14,177,480	13,866,400	12,036,800
Public stock and State loans ..	8,309,960	8,395,360	8,403,080	8,415,440
Credits ..	7,423,400	6,621,720	6,678,560	7,273,680
Note Circulation ..	41,058,760	40,360,440	40,476,920	36,943,600
Current account ..	2,633,040	2,660,640	2,478,080	4,251,280
Deposits ..	4,402,680	4,290,840	4,153,800	3,539,200

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Nov. 25, 1905	Nov. 18, 1905	Nov. 11, 1905	Nov. 26, 1904.
Specie ..	£ 36,894,000	£ 35,922,000	£ 36,454,000	£ 43,592,000
Legal tenders ..	14,897,000	14,615,000	14,477,000	15,295,400
Loans and discounts ..	202,460,000	203,420,000	208,860,000	220,480,000
Circulation ..	10,920,600	10,938,000	10,862,400	8,425,400
Net deposits ..	199,836,000	199,814,000	205,660,000	228,840,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,832,000 against an excess last week of £583,500.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 21.	Nov. 23.	Nov. 28.	Nov. 30.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam ..	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. ..	3 months	12'5	12'5	12'5	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'48½	25'48½	25'48½	25'48½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'71	20'71	20'71	20'70
Berlin & German B. Places ..	3 months	20'71	20'71	20'71	20'70
Paris ..	cheques	25'16½	25'15	25'15	25'15
Do. ..	3 months	25'38½	25'38½	25'38½	25'37½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'38½	25'38½	25'38½	25'37½
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'51½	25'51½	25'51½	25'50
Austria ..	3 months	24'34	20'36	24'36	24'34
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24'4½	24'4½	24'4½	24'4½
Moscow ..	3 months	24'4½	24'4½	24'4½	24'4½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47½	25'48½	25'48½	25'47½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ...	3 months	36½	36½	36½	36½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50'8	50'8	50'8	50'8
Oporto ..	3 months	50'8	50'8	50'8	50'8
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'40	18'41	18'41	18'40
Christiania ..	3 months	18'41	18'42	18'42	18'41
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'41	18'42	18'42	18'41

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Nov. 23, 1905.	Nov. 15, 1905.	Nov. 7, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1904.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 45,467,166	£ 45,308,458	£ 45,113,833	£ 48,877,541
Silver reserve ..	12,039,208	11,950,750	11,903,708	12,110,041
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,897,541	2,152,416	2,298,541	1,845,791
Note circulation ..	70,865,000	72,886,583	74,249,625	68,756,958
Bills discounted ..	22,056,083	22,746,000	24,196,791	17,147,083

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	38-32
Three months ..	38-31½
Four months ..	38-30
Six months ..	38-30
Three months fine inland bills ..	32-4
Four months ..	32-4
Six months ..	32-4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	4
" " short loan rates ..	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3
" " 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	3½-38
" " for call loans ..	28-3

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Perhaps the most interesting thing in markets at present is the effect of the Russian crisis upon Consols. The stock has been rising in price for several reasons, the closing of "bear" accounts amongst them and the rather easier outlook in the money market, but along with these and other purely market influences there has been Russian buying, product of the unsettled state of that country. This has tempted people in Russia to seek safety for their possessions in English securities. Probably this sort of transfer of means will go on, and it should have a sensible influence upon the bullion market in tending to at least prevent gold from leaving the country, as it would probably have done if the Russian people had kept quiet and allowed the bureaucracy to come to foreign markets for loans. And, for the time-being, the strength imparted to the Consol market by this and other influences has had a beneficial effect all round, tending to disperse the gloom hanging over men's minds and to encourage buying in various other departments, especially in Home railway stocks and the stocks of leading foreign railways like those of the Argentine Republic, Cuba, Mexico, and Brazil.

We do not know how long this mood will continue, but the renewed prospects of ease in the money market have also a tendency to encourage buying in many quarters. As the end of the year approaches, moreover, it is usual for dealers in the Stock Exchange to make preparations for the turn of the year investment demands by lifting prices. Untoward events apart, we may therefore expect a certain amount of elasticity in markets, notwithstanding the darkness hanging over Russia and the extremely gloomy outlook there for the European investor. It is too early yet to discuss the consequences of partial or complete Russian default on the French market, but one effect would certainly follow, the demand for gold would be accentuated on French account, and it might be that our 4 per cent. Bank rate would after all prove insufficient as a protection to the still slender Bank reserve. All, however, is conjecture at present and, as we say in another column, default on Russian stocks is scarcely to be looked for immediately. For one thing the great French and German banks, the powerful finance houses linked together all over the Continent, must strain every nerve to maintain an appearance of solvency in the hope that the Russian disturbances will subside towards next spring and permit further loans to be negotiated on the international usury markets. Therefore it does not seem a wise thing even now to plunge into sales of Russian bonds for the fall, since it is quite within the power of the bankers interested in sustaining Russian credit to prevent any such supply of bonds coming upon the market as would depress it sufficiently to allow the "bear" to snatch a profit. We do not like inter-bourse stocks as gambling media at any time. It is so difficult to foresee what

controlling operators may be able to do or may decide to do, and the history of our "bear" speculations in Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish, Brazilian, and other stocks more or less common to European money markets ought to be a warning to the outsider not to be tempted to try his fortune in Russian. In selling for the fall, the amateur gambler does the greatest possible service to those interest in sustaining prices amid adverse circumstances, and rarely makes anything for himself. The surest road to ruin is the road beaten hard by the tramp of the discomfited "bear."

Quite a cheering little revival has taken place in Kaffir shares this week, partly the outcome of "bear" hunting, partly of a fresh dose of energy applied to prices by the manipulating houses. They must support each other, and when they find the speculative position oversold to an even moderate extent it is quite easy to concert an operation for the rise which will have the effect of making markets look buoyant, and on the way to go much higher. But the strength behind most of the higher prices is not much to boast of. We, therefore, adhere steadfastly to the advice so constantly iterated through weary years to the general public in regard to Kaffir shares. It is to sell on the rise every share which is not yielding the holder a handsome or fair return in the way of dividends. Shares at fancy prices, the holding of which involves loss either through the contango rates exacted or through the capital sunk unremuneratively, ought to be handed on to the masters of the market whenever these gentry combine to put prices up. When all the touts cry "Buy, buy," do the opposite.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Stock Exchange business this week has been on a very moderate scale, and we doubt if much improvement can be looked for during the remainder of the year. Prices, however, were fairly well sustained, becoming quite buoyant for the gilt-edged things towards the close, and, notwithstanding the alarming state of affairs in the Russian Empire, nearly all sections made an effort to follow the lead. The adjustment of the account was carried through with the usual comfort, except that one small man in the Kaffir Circus went under, and the slightly easier tendency in the money market induced bankers to make $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the top rate for loans, instead of 5 per cent. as at the last settlement. Consol money, too, was easier to come by, and after starting at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., the rate eased off to 4 per cent., the account open for the rise being somewhat lighter, and some said

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money)	89	90
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Jan. 4)	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88	89
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	100
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Local Loans (3) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	100
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	Do. Account (Jan. 4) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
308	297	Bk. of England Stock. (9 p.c.) ..	294 $\frac{1}{2}$	295 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1948 ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock. red. 1926 ..	81	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$

that the Government broker and also the Russian Imperial family were taking up a good deal of stock. Thus encouraged, speculators drove up prices with some rapidity, and, although the quarterly dividend of $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. was taken off yesterday, there is still a moderate improvement on the week. Other active British Funds were equally strong, and Annuities, Irish Land stock, National War Loan, Exchequer bonds, Local Loans, Transvaal Three per Cent., India sterling issues, and Bank of England stock all ended $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 higher. Bank of Ireland stock exceptionally fell $4\frac{1}{2}$. Dealings were poor in the Home County and Corporation division, but there was a fair sprinkling of improvements of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, and any Colonial stock that changed moved up.

In the Foreign Bond market Russians were particularly weak, on the naval mutiny at Sevastopol, and prices again went to the lowest touched during the late war. They closed almost without recovery. Japanese securities were at first inclined to go down in sympathy, but braced up again on the prodigious applications for the new loan. The lists of applications were closed at one o'clock on the day of opening, and although no authentic details are available there is no doubt that the amount has been many times subscribed. Continental loans apart from Russians displayed considerable strength, especially Spanish and Turkish, and notwithstanding the paucity of dealings, leading South American issues like Argentines, Brazilians, and Chilians were quite firm. Peruvians, after a further decline, rallied again, only to go back once more, when

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	92	92
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	100	100
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
106	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
97	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	97	97
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	99	99
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	94	94
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	95	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
107	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103	103
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	53	53
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	43	43
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External ..	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	105	105
107	104	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c. ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Greek, 1884 ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
44	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. Funding ..	52	52
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96	96
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	105	105
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c. ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1901-2 ..	101	101
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	70
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	86	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89	85
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	Servian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	100	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
92	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	90	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
99	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. ..	95	95
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$

the dividend was announced at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the preference stock. This is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than was paid a year ago, but dealers had looked for an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. A sum of £75,000 is placed to reserve, making it £400,000, and a balance of £9,918 is carried forward. Buenos Ayres Provincial Cédulas were better again, and only Honduras showed heaviness amongst Central Americans. The carry-over charge on all leading South American stocks was again 4 to 6 per cent, a similar rate prevailing on Chinese and Peruvian debentures, Japanese 5 per cent., 1902, and the two 6 per cent. issues, and on Portuguese. In the Central American group bargains were continued at 5 to 7 per cent., and amongst Continental securities Italians were done at 1 to 3 per cent., Portuguese at 4 to 6 per cent., and Russian and Turkish at "even" to 2 per cent. Making-up prices did not reveal many important movements, the most striking being declines of 3 in Russian Series I. and II. and $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ in Peruvian Corporation stocks and bonds. Guatemalans were down $1\frac{1}{2}$, Honduras $1\frac{1}{2}$, Costa Rica A 1, Argentine National Cédulas, Series "B" $1\frac{1}{2}$, and "F" $1\frac{1}{2}$, and some of the Government loans $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$. On the other hand Provincial Cédulas were up $1\frac{1}{2}$, Brazilians $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, Costa Rica B 1, Egyptian preference 1, Greeks and

Japanese $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, Spanish $\frac{1}{8}$, and Turkish Unified and Uruguays $\frac{1}{4}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	140	140
165	152½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157	157
131½	116½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	127	127½
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	117	118½
83½	77½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78½	78½
41½	33½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	40½	41½
94½	88½	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	94	94
87½	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	86½	86½
17½	15½	Chatham Ordinary ..	17½	17
47½	37½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	45	47
71	51	Furness (½ p.c.) ..	66	65
39½	28½	Great Central Pref. ..	38	38½
19½	15½	Do. Def. ..	18	19
93½	80½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	89	89
108½	98½	Gr. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	103½	103
45½	33½	Do. Def. (1) ..	44½	45½
145½	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	143½	143½
56½	41	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	51½	50½
49½	41	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	47	47
112½	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	109½	110
100	88½	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	91	90
42½	34½	Metropolitan District ..	38	38
71	62½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	69½	69½
74	62½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	72½	73
83½	76½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	78
49½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	46½	47½
146½	134	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	145½	145½
161½	147	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	160½	161
90	84½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	94	93
135½	122½	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	132	132
60½	48½	Do. Def. ..	57½	56½
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	164½	164½
111½	104½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
60½	52½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	58	58

Business in the Home Railway market has been extremely quiet, and the week's record is devoid of any outstanding incident. The political outlook and the statement that bankers intended to charge the same rates for loans over the account caused a certain amount of realisation before the settlement on Tuesday, but the changes in price were in no case important. Traffic returns were for the most part satisfactory, the North-Western, Great Western, and Midland figures being particularly good, and with a moderate stream of investment orders coming into the market quotations rallied, and the feeling at the close was one of confidence. Except in a very few cases the changes in the making

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	88½	89½
108½	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106½	106½
120½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	115½	115½
102	97½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	55½	55½
103½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	183	183½
38	27½	Denver Shares ..	36	35½
93½	85½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	90½	90½
347½	320½	Erie Shares ..	50½	50½
87½	77½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	83½	83½
80½	58½	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	76	76
187	156	Illinois Central (7) ..	182	182
161½	143½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	156½	155½
39½	24½	Missouri and Texas ..	39½	37½
169½	142½	New York Central (5) ..	154½	154½
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	88½	87½
96½	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	95	95
654	41½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	55	54½
76½	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	72½	72
73½	46½	Railway Shares (1½) ..	73	71
49½	40	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	48	48
51½	43½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	51	51
74	58½	Southern Pacific ..	70½	70½
39½	28	Southern ..	36	35½
104½	97½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	102	102
142½	116½	Union Pacific (4) ..	138	140½
102½	90½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99½	100
24½	14½	Wabash ..	22	21½
48½	37½	Do. Pref. ..	42½	42½
86½	68½	Do. Income Debs. ..	79	78
162½	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	177½	180
106	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106½	106½
112	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110½	110½
26½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	22½	23½
104½	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	101½	102
115½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	112	112½
167	147½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	102½	103½
124½	107	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	56½	57½
109½	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	107½	107½

up list were unimportant, but Great Western and Lancashire and Yorkshire both fell $\frac{1}{2}$, North-Western was $\frac{3}{4}$ down, Great Central preferred $\frac{1}{8}$ lower, and South-Eastern ordinary and deferred lost $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$. South-Western deferred also declined $\frac{1}{2}$, but the ordinary and preferred put on $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$. Amongst Undergrounds Metropolitan dropped $\frac{1}{8}$, while Central London ordinary and deferred rose $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ and City and South London

gained $\frac{1}{2}$. Carrying-over charges were again much about the same as last time at 5 to 6 per cent. as a rule, and rising to 7 per cent. on South-Eastern deferred, Metropolitan, North-Western, Great Eastern, and North-Eastern.

According to the daily reports, large masses of shares, aggregating from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000, have been changing hands in Wall Street, but the transactions were purely the result of manipulation by the big financial cliques. These gave their attention first to one group and then to another in the usual fashion, pushing prices up and down with a good deal of noise, in an endeavour to create an appearance of genuine interest, but the only result has been to bring out sellers whenever a level sufficiently attractive to outsiders was reached. Union Pacific shares were hoisted smartly early in the week, and it was said that the rise was helped by a good deal of buying in connection with options. Atchison rose on the gain of \$1,000,000 in the nett earnings for October, and Milwaukee were supported owing to rumours of rights in connection with the Pacific Coast extension scheme. Erie issues, however, weakened on the developments with regard to the purchase of the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Road. A recent inspection of the property is said to have revealed that there had been a transfer of contracts and agreements to another road to an extent which rendered the operation of the line unprofitable. Mr. J. P. Morgan, who acted as agent in the transaction, has admitted that he had been imposed upon, and offered to buy the railroad himself, but although this offer has been accepted the issue \$12,000,000 in bonds will still be made. Throughout all this turmoil of the week dealers here have continued to look on, and a very good proof of the trifling amount of actual business done on this side was afforded by the way in which prices were

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	217½	219½
321	144½	Do. Def. (15) ..	310	315
130½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	126	126
131	113½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	126	126
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	82	82
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	138	137½
133½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	127	127
142	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	130½	130
118½	108½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	114	114
110½	99½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	105½	105
115	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	111½	112½
107½	92½	Do. Deferred (6) ..	105½	105½
170½	161	Do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	164	164
109½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	107
142½	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	132½	133
93	79	Central Uruguay (4) ..	86	86
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	108	105½
95½	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	93	93
76½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	72	70½
38	28	Costa Rica ..	3	2½
76½	59	Cuban Central ..	74½	74½
128	107½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	114	114
107½	104	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	105	105
95½	72	East Argentine (4) ..	94	94
84½	55½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	54	54
84½	50½	Leopoldina (3) ..	51½	51½
98½	86½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	98	98
110½	100	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	110	110
106	104½	Do. "B" (6) ..	106	106
29½	19½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	22½	22½
124½	103½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	113½	113½
57	30½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	44½	44½
69½	48½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	52	52
17	16½	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	15½	16
198	163	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	18½
220	178	Sar. Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	200½	205½
226	122	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	220½	219

allowed to fall away on Thursday when there was no Wall Street market to hold them up. During the stress of high money rates in New York a good deal was said about large accounts being shifted to our market, but there was no appreciable trace of any increase in the stocks carried here. Continuation charges were at first from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent., but eased off to 5 per cent. or little more before the end of the day. Of the changes in the fortnight Union Pacific headed the list with a gain of $\frac{1}{2}$, and next came a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ in Milwaukee. Louisville improved $\frac{1}{4}$, Baltimore ordinary $\frac{3}{4}$, Atchison ordinary $\frac{3}{8}$, Illinois Central, Missouri and Kansas and Wabash preferred put on $\frac{1}{2}$, and Erie ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$, while advances of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ were shown by New York Central, Norfolk Common, Southern Pacific,

and Wabash Income debentures. Pennsylvania, however, relapsed 1, Rock Island fell $3\frac{1}{2}$, and Reading only $\frac{3}{4}$.

Canadian Pacific shares were lifted in the end of last week on the increase of \$263,000 in the weekly traffic return, and received a further impetus when the October statement came out showing a gain of \$708,000 in nett revenue. The dulness which came over Wall Street as the result of the closing of accounts over the holiday affected these shares to some extent, but they soon rallied and finished strong. Grand Trunk stocks were less buoyant at first, as the market seemed rather doubtful over the October figures, but these proved quite up to expectations with a nett increase of £5,000, and prices forged ahead until they, too, were substantially up on the week. Making up prices showed gains of $3\frac{1}{2}$ in Canadian Pacific shares, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 in Grand Trunk first and second preference stocks, but the ordinary and third preferences of the latter company were $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ lower.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	15	20½	Allsopp Ordinary	24	19½
71	40	—	City of London Ord.	60½	60½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540	540
27½	21½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	23	21½
28½	3½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	28	28
3½	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	36	38
68½	48	56½	Watney, Combe, P. Or. St. (4)	56½	58½
35	15	17	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	17	17
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks P. St. (4)	100	100
78½	50½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	62	61
6½	5½	6	Aerated Bread (32½)	6 xd	6
7½	6	7½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7½	7
1½	5½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement P. (5½)	6½	6½
17½	17	25½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	12	11½
8	28	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	27½	27½
3½	5	—	Brunner Mond (35)	7½ xd	7½ xd
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	11½	11½
5½	4½	11½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½)	11½	11½
502½	483½	500	Coats Ordinary (20)	500	500
1½	1½	18½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	500	500
1½	1	23½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	7	7
6½	5½	6½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	17½	17½
13½	10½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6½	6½
4½	3½	4	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13	13
11½	106	107½	Harrods' Stores Ord. (20) ..	4	4
11½	106	107½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	13½	13½
11½	106	107½	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
11½	106	107½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	13½	13½
11½	106	107½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	6	6
11½	106	107½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	13½	13½
11½	106	107½	Russian Petroleum (5)	8	8
11½	106	107½	Savoy Hotel (5)	7½	8
11½	106	107½	Sweetmeat Automatic	17½ xd	17½
11½	106	107½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15½ xd	15½
11½	106	107½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	9	9
11½	106	107½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	9	9
105	102½	104½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	104½	104½
89	49½	77½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	78	78
51½	38½	44½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	45	45½
108½	99½	104½	Do. Debentures (6)	104½	105½
98	88	—	National Discount (10)	9	9
11½	104	—	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½
84½	6½	6½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	6½	6½
13½	104	11½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	12	12
104½	95½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	101½	101½
134½	120½	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	133	133
33½	34	3½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	31½	31½
59	34	3½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	36	36
17½	17½	17½	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10)	11½	11½
12	14	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	18	18
148	92	138	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	13½	13½
408	208	39	United States Steel Ordinary ..	388	384
1091½	938	1072½	Do. Preference (7)	1092 xd	1074
248	2	283	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	243	243
15	11½	—	Cunard Steam	14½	13½
249	214½	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (1½)	245½	245½
47	38½	—	Royal Mail	46	46
98½	8	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	9	9
110½	101½	110	Anglo-American Telegraph—	110	110
18½	10	17½	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	17½	17½
147½	134½	145½	Do. Def. Ord.	145½	145½
247½	13½	14½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	14½	14½
113½	100	109	Eastern Extension (7)	108	109
147½	13½	14½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	14½	14½
108	84	10	Western Telegraph (7)	10	10
93½	7½	5½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	8½	8½
129	11½	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	112½	113½
108	98	—	London General Omnibus (8)	104	104
108	98	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	104	104

Hardly anything went on in Argentine Rails this week, except in such prominent favourites as Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and Buenos Ayres Western, and changes in price were few and far between. Rosario ordinary, in spite of the interest shown in it, was only £1 or so higher, and it was left to a comparatively insignificant stock like Entre Rios second preference to show the largest gain of the group. Paraguay Central debenture stock was sold freely on the official denial of any agreement having been arrived at with the Govern-

ment, and United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock fell back, owing to realisations by nervous holders who were frightened by talk of trouble between the United States and Cuba. Brazilian Railways were inclined to be weak, but Mexican Railway stocks hardened on the adjusted figures for October, and Inter-oceanic preferred shares were lifted a fraction or two by rumours of the line being absorbed by the National. Contangoes in Mexican Railways were from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent., but in other Foreign Railways the charge seldom rose above 6 per cent. On the fortnight Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary and second preference lost $3\frac{3}{4}$ and 4. Buenos Ayres Western ordinary was $5\frac{1}{2}$ down, and Cordoba Central first preference dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$, against gains of 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Buenos Ayres and Pacific first preference, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred. Cordoba and North-Western debentures declined a further $2\frac{1}{2}$. In Brazilian things San Paulo ordinary receded 8, Leopoldina issues moved in opposite directions to the extent of $\frac{3}{4}$. United Railways of the Havana ordinary was $3\frac{1}{2}$ down, and amongst Mexican things the first preference of the old company fell $2\frac{1}{2}$ and Mexican Southern ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$, while Inter-oceanic "B" debenture stock improved 1.

Miscellaneous securities attracted a very moderate amount of attention, but after displaying a good deal of irregularity prices closed somewhat better. Hudson's Bays picked up from a dull opening, and Pekin Syndicates rallied sharply from the low price of $16\frac{1}{2}$ at one time touched. London Docks deferred was flat to the end, and there was also some selling of Cunard Steamship, although the reason did not transpire. Anglo-American Telegraph deferred were depressed by rumours that the company is about to lay a new cable to compete with that recently put down by the Commercial Cable Company, and Road Cars and London Motor 'Bus shares were easier and in the Tramways and Omnibus section, but London General stock was disposed to rally. Bieckert's Brewery ordinary stock further moved up sharply, and Watney Combe issues showed some recovery, but Allsopp's were flat again, and talk has entirely ceased regarding the amalgamation project. Pronounced weakness was shown by Mazawattee Tea shares on adverse rumours as to the condition of the company's business, and people are, no doubt, beginning to wonder how the launch into the provision business is turning out. We predicted failure, and the weakness in the shares is ominous. Catering shares were fairly steady, with the exception of Slaters. Eastmans were firm in the Meat list, and Sweetmeats again had a small rise. English Sewing Cotton ordinary were prominent in the Textile group, reaching par. Russian oil shares showed weakness, as might be expected, and Barnums fell away on poor dividend anticipations. Imperial Continental Gas was not further influenced by the capitalisation proposals referred to elsewhere. Iron and Steel securities were generally hard, and Nitrates displayed some dulness. Contango rates in this division were much the same as on the previous occasion, 5 to 7 per cent. as a general thing, with 7 to 9 per cent. on Pekin Syndicates, and a smaller charge on Allsopps. Changes on the fortnight displayed a good deal of irregularity, among the principal rises being $\frac{7}{8}$ in Amalgamated Press, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Apollinaris, 5 in Coats' preferred, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Harrods' Stores Founders' shares, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in Allsopps debenture stock, 2 in Bieckert's ordinary, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 in Anglo-American Telegraph issues, and 2 in National Telephone deferred. Against these Aerated Breads went back $\frac{1}{2}$, Charing Cross Electric $\frac{3}{8}$, Wm. Cory $\frac{3}{8}$, Westminster Electric $\frac{3}{8}$, Allsopp ordinary 4, the preference $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debentures 1. Then Watney Combe issues fell $1\frac{1}{2}$, to 4, Hudson's Bays $1\frac{1}{2}$, Pekin Syndicate $2\frac{3}{8}$, and the deferred 18, National Bank of Egypt $\frac{3}{8}$, and Commercial Union Assurance 1.

Stock markets have been quiet to-day with nothing particular happening, ending perhaps with a slight tendency to droop. A sharp rise, however, took place in Mexican Railway stocks, especially the first preference, but we could not hear why, except that some changes in the board are foreshadowed. Elsewhere nothing

interesting arose, but prices kept steady on the whole, and the scrip of the new Japanese loan crept up another 2s. 6d. to $1\frac{1}{8}$ for cash and $1\frac{1}{4}$ for the special settlement. Buenos Ayres Western new was also steady at $2\frac{3}{8}-\frac{1}{4}$ premium. Kaffir shares have not made much further progress with their recovery, but the market was fairly steady on the whole, in spite of the idleness of Paris.

More About the Consolidated Gold Fields.

As illustrating the feverish desire of some financial writers to create a boom in the Kaffir Circus in defiance of the public's disinclination to buy, note the efforts made to triple or even quadruple the value of the shares possessed by the Gold Fields Company, and carried in the books at £4,860,307. One writer values them at between twelve and thirteen millions, another at about sixteen millions, and would thus make the public believe either that the company is enormously wealthy, that the directors are meek and modest men, or that they are fools. In the first place, it stands to reason that if the shares would fetch on the market thirteen millions, thus showing hidden unrealised profits of nine or ten millions, the directors would not risk disgusting their shareholders and crushing the hopes of the gamblers by paying a miserable 15 per cent. dividend. If they can materialise this untold wealth by mere selling why put aside, out of the accumulated profits of past years, £1,000,000 to a book reserve? In comparison with the alleged millions it can command, a mere million is nothing, and the finances of the company would not be appreciably weakened were such sum divided amongst the shareholders to whom it belongs. One million is written up, another carried forward, and the poor, hungry shareholders get only £300,000. They suffer, too, in another way. The price of the share is valued in the market on the actual dividend paid and on imaginative prospects. The price has fallen rather heavily since the dividend was declared, and such market depreciation means a loss to present holders, probably more than equivalent to the dividend they get. Even now the price is inflated—the yield being barely $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—but it is maintained by inside manipulation. If the share assets alone—exclusive of all the other assets—show an unrealised profit of over nine millions would the “shop” be content with the present market price? Would they not push it to 20 or higher? Read through the report, from beginning to end, and there is not one pessimistic word or phrase penned. All is written in simulated rapture and enthusiasm. The mining industry itself is stated to be doing marvellously well; gold is turned out by countless tons; costs are being reduced, and profits are swelling; the Chinkee is a wonder of economy. Why these exaggerations and these prodigious efforts to work the public up to a state of excitement if the very next minute the enthusiasts knock the market to pieces by declaring a misery dividend? Were the directors drivelling idiots to pay only 15 per cent., when market gamblers, shareholders, and the outside public generally looked for a much more substantial distribution? If the share assets are worth what these writers declare them to be then the language of the directors is irreconcilable with their actions.

How these writers have arrived at their market valuation we know not, for there is no market whatever for the majority of the shares held by the company. What market there is for many is wholly fictitious, controlled by the Consolidated Gold Fields itself, which probably supplied the fancy quotations used. We reproduce last week's list showing the company's holdings and the issued capitals of the various concerns, in which it is interested principally as the vendor and promotor. This shows that the Gold Fields Company is almost the sole market for many of them. To whom could these shares be sold if the company desired to sell? Who would buy?

Would you buy any of the rubbish, reader? In an ordinary business market a man might ask a shilling apiece for his eggs, but if no one would purchase them at any price, he might just as well ask 10s. So with these creations of the Consolidated Gold Fields Company. The directors may say: “Oh, we want £2 10s. apiece for our City or Klip Deeps,” but if no one will give 10s. apiece for them, is not the higher price ridiculous, except as a means of fooling Press and public? Such shares as the Simmer and Jack, Robinson Deep, Glen Deep, Village Deep, and another one or two might be sold, but the mere attempt to offer them freely would “smash the market,” and the so-called profit would suddenly vanish. The directors dare not attempt to realise large lines of them, the consequences would be too appalling. That being so, what contemptible clap-trap it is to say the shares are worth thirteen to sixteen millions! In whose interests are these statisticians labouring so? Here is the list we speak of:—

Company.	Gold-fields Holdings.	Issued Shares Ordinary.
African Land and Investment	63,557 ...	150,000
Booyens Estate	17,107 ...	35,698
Boksburg	12,444 ...	625,000
Central Nigel Deep	38,148 ...	250,000
City Deep	61,083 ...	450,000
Consolidated Exploration and Development	88,640 ...	250,000
Consolidated African Copper Trust...	49,926 ...	484,000
Enterprise Gold	18,464 ...	195,000
East Rietfontein Syndicate	6,951 ...	25,000
Elandsfontein Estate	11,753 ...	30,000
Giant Mines of Rhodesia	17,316 ...	205,000
Glen Deep	75,620 ...	600,000
Gold Mines Investment (£4)	54,080 ...	250,000
Jupiter	221,734 ...	575,000
Kleinfontein Deep	23,685 ...	529,500
Klip Deep	40,171 ...	375,000
Klipriversberg Estate	12,168 ...	110,000
Knight's Deep	330,281 ...	643,500
Nigel Deep	20,250 ...	450,000
New Gold Coast Agency	63,651 ...	550,000
New Vierfontein Mines	48,736 ...	250,000
Robinson Deep	446,600 ...	980,000
Rand Victoria	228,106 ...	630,000
Rand Mines Deep	42,552 ...	778,900
Simmer and Jack East.....	287,610 ...	600,000
Simmer and Jack Proprietary	1,703,766 ...	3,000,000
Sub-Nigel	143,946 ...	700,000
South Rand	72,600 ...	300,000
South Deeps	57,292 ...	125,000
South City	39,392 ...	450,270
South Nourse	91,360 ...	523,900
South Wolluter	87,254 ...	450,000
South Geldenhuis Deep	177,971 ...	367,000
South Rose Deep	156,149 ...	514,300
Turffontein Estate	9,004 ...	40,000
Turf Mines.....	116,993 ...	1,500,000
Village Deep	40,250 ...	471,900
Van Kyn Deep	61,234 ...	592,500
Wolluter Deep	58,933 ...	392,500

If readers will go through the files of the INVESTORS' REVIEW for the past twelve months they will learn what we have said from time to time respecting the values and prospects of the companies in the above list. With the exception of two or three we have the very poorest opinion of the whole lot. By a happy coincidence, however, Mr. J. H. Curle, the well-known mining expert, has just published the third edition of his valuable work, “The Gold Mines of the World.” He knows all about the mines he describes from personal experience, and his opinions are of the greatest value. Let us hear, then, what he says of some of these beautiful Gold Fields properties worth such heaps of money. In practically every instance his views confirm what we ourselves have said. His observations on the Simmer and Jack, for instance, are almost exactly what we have published in the past two weeks. The following notes were collated from the work by the *Pall Mall's* City editor:—

Boksburg.—Ten boreholes have been sunk, cutting the reef at depths varying between 100 and 1,400 ft. Results poor in every case; prospects not good.

Simmer and Jack.—A low-grade mine. No probability of its yielding a profit sufficient to pay 7 per cent. interest on an investment at £2 per share (the price is now about $1\frac{1}{2}$). The market value bears no relation to its intrinsic value. The bulk

of the shares held by a finance company which supports the value for its own ends.

Knight's Deep.—Has not turned out so well as expected, while the heavy flow of water has altogether upset the financial arrangements. There is a big debt which must be cleared off, and 200 stamps started before the mine can begin to make profits commensurate with capitalisation.

Glen Deep.—Looks well, and will earn good profits. Average grade, however, cannot be arrived at till returns are made by the mine below it—the Simmer East.

Simmer East.—Value not really known yet. Patches of unpayable ore occupy a considerable part of the area already explored. The percentage of such poor areas to the total and the cost of developing large blocks of unpayable ore are factors that must be taken into account.

South Rose Deep and South Geldenhuis Deep.—Same factors to be considered as in the Simmer East, but the mines may eventually prove successful.

Wolhuter Deep.—Of doubtful value. Before work commences here will most likely be absorbed in a bigger concern.

Village Deep.—Ought to turn out a good mine, although the ore exposed to date is of lower value than was expected. If no further falling-off in value, it ought to justify a capitalisation of £6 per share.

Robinson Deep.—One of the few mines that have improved of late years. This refers more to the width of ore than to its value, which is a good deal lower than the mines above it.

Jupiter.—In the initial stage of exploitation. Reef at a vertical depth of 4,000 ft., the deepest gold mine in the world. It is not to be inferred that all Rand mines will be payable at that depth. Not enough work has yet been done on Jupiter to determine its value.

South City, South Wolhuter, and Klip Deep.—Will no doubt be absorbed into the companies above them. Worked alone, the Klip Deep would require a shaft more than 4,000 ft. deep.

South Rand.—Should be a good mine, although no estimate of its actual value is yet possible.

Rand Mines Deep, Rand Victoria, and Turf Mines.—Below 4,000 ft., and not worth noticing. It would require £1,000,000 each and seven or eight years to reach producing stage.

South Deeps, Vierfontein, Turffontein, and Elandsfontein Estate.—Deep levels, for the most part poorly located.

Van Ryn Deep.—As the deep level of such a sound mine as the New Kleinfontein, it has certainly prospects. Three boreholes have been sunk, and have shown good results.

Kleinfontein Deep.—On the dip of Benoni and Chimes West and shares their uncertain prospects. No work done.

Nigel Deep.—Ore very narrow and the mine, which has been developed considerably, must as yet be regarded as barely payable.

Sub-Nigel.—Several boreholes have been sunk; results poor.

Giant.—One of the three or four mines on which the future of Rhodesia very much depends. Looks well in depth, but other two levels should be developed before deciding on any mill.

So the prospects of the overwhelming majority of these properties are highly uncertain and speculative. It will be several years before many of them can hope to reach even the producing stage, and in the meantime an enormous amount of additional capital will have to be spent upon them. That money, we trust, will not come out of the pockets of the public; the Gold Fields will have to find it as best it can. This is why it cannot afford to pay a higher dividend, and why a year hence possibly it will not even distribute 3 per cent. Whence is it to get the money? In the entire list of its "investments" there are three dividend-payers—excluding the small company, the Elandsfontein Estate. These are the Simmer and Jack, the Robinson Deep, and the Glen Deep. In the past year the company probably received from these in the way of dividends, respectively, £85,188; £111,650, and £7,362, in all £204,200 out of its income of £450,200. This dividend revenue cannot be perceptibly swollen for many years to come, and as the company will probably have less to lend to market speculators, the income from interest may be sensibly reduced. Could the outlook be more dismal? And could the company, with all its imaginary, fantastically-weaved wealth, be in a more hopeless and helpless financial condition?

Notes on Books.

Riches and Poverty. By L. Chiozza Money. (London: Methuen and Co.)

Frankly we confess we read this book with feelings of considerable disappointment. Mr. Chiozza Money has done such excellent work in the domain of political economy that to us it is a matter of regret to find him adventuring into the neighbouring territory of social economics, particularly as he has succumbed to that fatal enemy of all social economists—the nation's income. No man, not even the great Sir Robert Giffen,

has succeeded in estimating what the nation as a whole earns or receives from its investments in a year, and no man ever will until more exact data exist on which a calculation can be based. The present methods are grounded mainly on the income-tax returns, and a more uncertain and untrustworthy foundation on which to base an estimate of the country's revenue could not be conceived. A moment's thought shows this: A is assessed for income-tax at £1,000. Out of this he pays B, C, D right on to X, his various tradesmen and so forth, and such payments or part of them will, therefore, reappear in the returns in the shape of the income of each one of these numerous individuals. How, then, can it be said that the nation's annual income is something like £1,700,000,000, the figure at which Mr. Chiozza Money puts it?

Unfortunately, this initial error taints the whole of the book, and detracts from the merits of the remedies suggested to modify the unequal distribution of wealth in the United Kingdom. But in dealing with this aspect of the problems he has set himself to study the author has made a further though not so serious mistake in leaving out what may be called the human factor of wealth and poverty. Many a working man earning his two or three pounds a week—a wage not uncommon among skilled artisans—is, comparatively speaking, a far richer man than the landlord deriving a few hundreds or thousands from estates mortgaged to the hilt. For one thing, he does not stagger under the load of debt borne by the landowner, often the creation of his predecessor, and, for another, he has not to keep up appearances to the same extent. Therefore, many of the 38,000,000 people who among them enjoy, according to Mr. Chiozza Money, £880,000,000, and are classed by him as poor, are infinitely better off than a good few of the 3,750,000 people described as comfortable because they share among them £245,000,000. We quite agree with Mr. Money that the tendency of the present age is for wealth to be amassed in the hands of the few, yet, at the same time, it is hardly wise to consider all individuals whose income is a mere £160 per annum as among the poor. Furthermore, a not inconsiderable portion of the wealth hoarded is certainly put into circulation again within a few years, since no millionaire has yet devised a means of taking his gold with him at the end of his span of life.

When dealing with the subject of employment the author is inclined to draw too arbitrary a distinction between productive and non-productive labour. Work done to furnish the means of enjoyment for the wealthy is regarded by Mr. Chiozza Money as wasted, yet had the men and women employed not done it they would either have starved or would certainly have earned less. Why, then, cavil at the work being done? Society has not attained that high level of civilisation which demands that each member must work not only for his own benefit but for the good of the community as well, and society never will. Should it approach that perfection, a good many of us will have to find some new employment. On this point Mr. Money again spoils his case by over-stating it. Much of the work of this world is, we know, unproductive, in the sense that the results derived from it are transient, but it is none the less paid for, and the worker by its means is able to buy food and clothing for himself and family. Although we have taken exception to some of Mr. Chiozza Money's views, it must not be thought we found no interest in his book. Far from it. The book is one every student of social questions should, and ought to, read and study closely. There is much that requires adjustment in the conditions of life as lived in this country, and it is only by men and women examining those conditions and suggesting remedies, altruistic as they may be, that the nation can learn what its diseases are, and in the end find a means to cure them.

ST. JOHN DEL REY.—In the six months to August 31 the bullion won realised £148,098, or, nett, £140,231 after deducting duties and other charges. The profit was £28,491, and after paying debenture interest, the dividend on the preference shares, 3d. per share on the ordinary shares, and transferring £10,000 to capital expenditure and bond redemption fund, £1,373 is carried forward.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * * *Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.*

A dreary account was that which came to an end at the beginning of the week, prices during the fortnight uniformly moving against holders despite such alleged invigorating influences as the speeches of Lord Harris and the Duke of Abercorn. Since they delivered themselves of their flamboyant orations the decline in quotations actually became more pronounced and less resistible, and it is nonsense to say the ominous recession is the effect solely of the political situation at home and abroad, for it started long before the articles in the *Times* and *Telegraph* were written, before the Sultan flouted Europe, and before the mutiny broke out at Sevastopol. For the new account business is no better, for there are no buyers about, and any number of sellers are offering their paper to needy and weary speculators, and the bosses.

Monday was carry-over day in the mining market, and rates showed little change from those ruling at the mid-monthly settlement. Gold Fields were continued at 5-6 per cent. against 4½-5½ per cent., but on East Rands, Rand Mines, Modderfontein, Randfontein Estates, Barnato Consols, and Johannesburg Investment the charges were the same. The general rate was 6-8 per cent. On De Beers it was 4½-5½ per cent. against 3½-4½ per cent., but on Jagers it was a little lighter at 4-5 per cent. Banket descriptions were carried over at about 6½-7½ per cent., but the ruling figure in the Rhodesian section was 6-8 per cent., also the prevailing charge on Egyptians. West Africans were arranged generally at 5-7 per cent. The majority of West Australian shares were carried over at 6-8 per cent. On Great Fingalls the rate went to 3-5 per cent., and on Oroyas to 2-4 per cent., whilst on Golden Horseshoes and Perseverance it hardened to 7-9 per cent. and 8-10 per cent. respectively. In the Miscellaneous group the general rate was 6-8 per cent.

As already stated prices, particularly in the South African section, moved against speculators for the rise. The biggest drop was ½ in South African Gold Mines, followed by losses of ½ in Gold Trusts and Gedulds, ½ in Central Mining, Crown Deep, and Crown Reef, Ferreira, and Modderfontein, ⅓ in Modder B, Driefontein, and Tanganyika, ⅓ in Apex, East Rand, City and Suburban, Rand Mines, H. E. Props., Knights, Lancaster West, and Northern Copper, ⅓ in General Mining and Finance, Henry Nourse, Lace Diamond, and Welgedacht, ¼ in Cason Block, Durban Deep, A. Goerz, Nourse Deep, Lancaster, Langlaagte Deep, Robinson, Rand Victoria, Rice Hamilton, Rodepoort United, Rose Deep, Steyn Estate, Village Deep, and Village Main Reef, and any number of smaller declines in other shares. Amongst the rises were 7-32 in Transvaal Development, ⅓ in Premier Diamond deferred, and ⅓ in De Beers deferred. Amongst Egyptians Nile Valleys lost ⅓ and Central Egypt ¼. In the West African group Bibianis put on ⅓ and Taquahs ⅓, but Nigeria fell ½, and Abbontiakoon Block 1 ⅓. Declines were in the majority amongst Westralians, but they were not substantial. Kalgurli was an exception with a gain of ⅓. In the Miscellaneous list Broken Hill Block 10 advanced ⅓, Proprietary 3s., and British 1s. 9d. Esperanzas declined 11-32, and El Oros ¼. Of the copper shares Mount Lyells improved 4s., but Rio Tintos, helped by manipulation, moved higher to the extent of 1 ⅓.

For the new account business has again been stagnant. Alarmed probably by the continued descent in prices the magnates came forth in the latter part of the week and bought ostentatiously. This rallied prices, and as "bears" rushed to cover there was a general recovery. As the means of the bosses are limited, such support can be but momentary, and the market is practically certain to relapse into its now normal gloom, for the public are less likely to buy with the prospect of the turmoil of a general election.

A staggering announcement is that of the Premier Diamond directors, to the effect that no final dividend will be paid on the deferred shares. The excuse is that though the company has the money the directors prefer to keep it for the construction of water works to overcome the difficulties of water supply. It looks rather a thin plea, and shareholders have reason to feel resentful, as the payment of an interim dividend foreshadows a final one; particularly was such probable in the case of a flourishing concern like the Premier. The price has been only slightly affected by the announcement.

In other sections there is nothing of importance to speak of. Rhodesians have weakened, especially Bankets, despite the birth of the baby and optimistic reports generally; whilst West Africans and Egyptians have been as dull as usual.

West Australian shares are likewise mostly lower on the week. Strength has again been exhibited by the Broken Hill group. Amongst Americans Esperanzas have advanced and El Oros have rallied, but Camp Birds have fallen. All copper shares have been helped by the high price of the metal, especially Rio Tintos, in which the customary manipulation has been apparent.

HENDERSON'S TRANSVAAL ESTATES.—Rumours have been flying about the market recently stating that Henderson's Transvaal Estates was to be reconstructed, reports promptly denied by the secretary. As far as we can judge from the accounts now published for the year to June 30 reconstruction is not probable, at any rate not in the immediate future, unless, of course, the directors are contemplating some scheme which they have not

divulged. They regret that the past year was "one of unusual depression, and therefore unfavourable for the realisation of your holdings and for the general development of the business of the company." In London the income totalled £49,334 from interest, dividends, transfer and agency fees, and other sources, whilst in Johannesburg £1,069 was received from agency fees and rents. Amongst the debits is a sum of £8,641 written off properties and other ventures that were abandoned, in other words, it was a dead loss; whilst another item is £4,200 "share realisation account," probably meaning a loss on share selling. The nett profit was £15,899, to be added to the old credit of £81,505, making £97,404, which is carried forward, so a further dividend is again postponed. Sundry creditors are owed £20,643, and cash is as much as £144,998. Stocks and shares are valued at £252,936, at or below cost, and depreciation, £58,609, has been charged to the reserve fund, which is reduced from £225,371 to £166,762, invested in the business. Seeing that the company's principal holdings are in such companies as the Daggafontein Gold, Henderson Consolidated Corporation—in the latter 1,998,020 shares are held out of 2,000,000 issued—the Consolidated South Rand Mines Deep, Delagoa Bay Development, Tyne Valley, &c., it need not be added that dividend prospects are extremely uncertain.

TYNE VALLEY COLLIERY.—The output for the year ending June 30 amounted to 71,073 tons, against 81,791 tons in the previous year. The competition of the Middleburg collieries has been severely felt, and during the first half of the year the monthly output did not average more than 4,757 tons, increasing in the second half to an average of 7,078 tons. Gross profit on the output of coal was £3,331, sundry receipts gave £1,605, and interest £643, whilst the profit and loss account is credited with £8,464, amount of award in respect of coal in expropriated area. Deducting expenditure and depreciation, the nett profit is £7,758, to which £2,729 from 1904 falls to be added. A dividend of 5 per cent. is recommended, absorbing £3,367, and the balance is carried forward. The directors say they have for some time felt the desirability of securing a new property, containing a coal area of a quality which could enable the company to compete fully with existing large producers. Accordingly, boring operations were undertaken on a property, the control of which was secured, situated on the New Springs Ermelo line, but they are satisfied the coal is not of the quality they desire.

KAFFIRS CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT.—In the financial year to September 30 this concern earned a moderate profit of £5,282, to be added to £12,461 brought forward, making a total credit of £17,743. Out of this the directors hasten to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., in scrip, not in cash, that is in shares of the Salisbury Building Estates. They also report that the company has floated during the year the British South Africa Tobacco Plantations. About 140 out of 20,000 acres purchased have been cleared and planted, and buildings and machinery are now being erected. The Kaffirs Consolidated is said to possess 30 banket claims, and though offers have been made for these the directors have decided to retain them. Development of the Delagoa Bay property has been postponed in view of the uncertainty as to the exact route of the new direct railway to Johannesburg and coal-boring operations are in abeyance.

PRETORIA DISTRICT DIAMOND COMPANY.—The diamonds produced by this company in the twelve months ending June 30 fetched £27,635, and as outgoings absorbed £20,273 the profit was £7,263, whilst a small credit of £705 was brought from 1904. This has been reduced, however, by £4,206 by writing £1,000 off development and £3,206 representing the over-valuing of the diamonds on hand at June 30, 1904. During the twelve months 46,617 loads were added to the stocks on hand. Boreholes have been sunk on the property, principally on the north-western boundary, and the most important discovery is declared to be the location of a second layer of deposit in No. 4 borehole, 20 ft. thick, underlying the present workable seam, covering a large area, to be attacked at some future date. Further tests are to be made on the remaining section of the property.

MONTROSE GOLD MINING AND EXPLORATION COMPANY.—During the year ending June 30 the directors confess that the Rand gold mining industry has not afforded many opportunities for investment, so they have looked elsewhere and have participated in syndicates for exploiting tin, coal, asbestos, and diamonds. This looks rather venturesome enterprise. In the twelve months shares were sold that gave a profit of £19,484, and dividends, interest, rents, and transfer fees raised the entire income to £20,428. On this the nett profit was £17,786, which reduces the deficit in the balance-sheet to £14,943. The company has considerable cash and equivalent resources, and owes nothing worth speaking of.

WITBANK COLLIERY.—The total output of coal in the twelve months to August 31 was 336,771 tons, a decrease of 1,734 tons upon that of the preceding year. This was won at a profit of £37,733, interest adding £1,805 and rent £736; total £40,274. As £40,712 was brought in the directors pay a dividend of 15 per cent., or 5 per cent. more than in 1903-4, though profits were smaller. For the second half of the year 1902-3 the dividend was paid out of the revenue for 1903-4. A balance of £43,887 is carried forward. The financial position of the company is tolerably strong, cash alone amounting to £52,813.

NORTH NILE VALLEY.—Shareholders are assured by the directors in their report to September 30 that development work was carried on energetically in that period. Up to the present gold to the value of £3,875 has been won from the mine, but it is admitted that the results obtained by last season's operations were not of a satisfactory character. The directors, however,

believe that the information which should be obtainable from the developments now being carried out by the Nile Valley Company will form reliable data upon which to base the policy for the future. This, of course, means patience. In the report of Messrs. Lake and Currie, the engineers, it is stated that the season's work has shown that the ore bodies, although of exceptional richness, are of small extent, and while it has failed to bring to light any further rich deposits, the vein cut in the bottom of winze N., adit No. 3, gives distinct promise of improvement as compared with the ground immediately above it. The nature of the deposits, however, is such that, situated at a distance from communications, only the richer ore will at present pay to work. Nor is there a sufficient quantity of this rich ore to justify the erection of even a small battery, so it is to be crushed at the battery of the Nile Valley Company, some eight miles distant. Messrs. Lake and Currie recommend a limited amount of development of the main workings and shaft No. 2 in depth. So it is really impossible to say what this company is likely to do in the distant future.

SONS OF GWALIA.—Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Company, the general managers, issue a report for the half-year to the end of June. The receipts were:—Gold realised at Perth mint £72,982, realised in London £61,555, slag to smelters £663, sundry receipts £130; total £135,131. Working costs, allowing for rebate on stores, absorbed £50,672, and £22,370 was spent on capital account, in all £73,042, so the surplus over all outgoings in the colony was £62,089. The quantity of ore crushed was 58,833 tons, or 2,841 tons more than for the six months from June 30 to December 31, 1904. Working costs averaged 17s. 2.71d. per ton against 17s. 6.99d. Ore reserves were increased through development operations by 39,125 tons and the quantity was estimated at June 30 at 343,157 tons, of a value of 45s. 4d. per ton. On September 30 last they stood at 386,113 tons, say the directors, of an average value of 40s. 10d. per ton. As the reduction in the costs and the increased tonnage with which the plant can now deal have made it possible to treat profitably some of the low-grade reserves opened up, the directors propose to continue the payment of quarterly dividends at the rate of 1s. 6d. per share.

IVANHOE SOUTH EXTENDED GOLD MINING ESTATES.—This West Australian company is still shaft-sinking, and there is no foretelling yet when it will get any revenue from gold winning. Interest on loans gave £1,400 in the financial year to the end of June last, dividends added £1,663, and transfer fees £42, a total of £3,106. Mine expenses came to £820, and London expenses to £916, whilst depreciation took £1,000. Thus a tiny profit of £370 is shown, which reduces the debit from £16,275 to £15,905. Cash is very low at £614, but there are loans against securities for £23,500, and shares in another company worth at cost £3,500, against £1,132 owing to creditors.

MUNGANA (CHILLAGOE) MINING COMPANY.—In the twelve months to June 30 the tonnage of ore smelted by this company was considerably less than in the previous period, for only 3,582 against 7,005 tons of copper ore and 5,960 compared with 10,720 tons of lead ore were treated at the Chillagoe Company's Smelters, producing 172 tons of copper, 999 tons of lead and 154,739 ozs. of silver. A considerable amount of trouble was caused by the water at the Lady Jane workings, greatly hampering operations and entailing very heavy expense, but it is stated that these difficulties are now overcome. Metal products realised £22,247 and ore on hand was worth net £3,415. On working account the profit was £7,365, to be added to £5,618 brought forward. After paying administration expenses in Queensland, Melbourne, and London, the nett credit taken to the balance-sheet was £11,361. The company's finances, however, need some replenishing. Cash is very low at £102, debtors owe only £149, and there is some ore on hand worth £3,592 against £7,048 owing to sundry creditors and £2,850 draft against wages. A dividend, therefore, is out of the question.

ANGLO-KLONDYKE MINING COMPANY.—Here is a Klondyke company that pays a dividend. In the financial year to the end of September the gross profit on the gold recovered was £8,845, and £561 was received from interest and transfer fees, a total of £9,406. The nett profit was £6,669, and £1,283 was brought in, giving the directors a credit of £7,952. Out of this they recommend the payment of a dividend of 6¼ per cent., requiring £7,706, leaving £246 to be carried forward. Last year 5 per cent. was paid, and the directors are dividing right up to the hilt. That is, they allow nothing for development and depreciation, imprudence that will bring trouble sooner or later. It may be nice to receive dividends, but shareholders may have to pay for them very dearly in the long run.

HUTTI (NIZAM'S) GOLD MINES.—For the twelve months ending September 30 gold sales reached £51,607, and after liberal writings-off, a dividend of 20 per cent. is recommended, against 10 per cent., leaving £5,011 to be carried forward. The average yield was 14 dwts. per ton, 1½ dwts. lower than in the previous year. Prospects look favourable, though the price of the share is high.

DAGGAFONTEIN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This company is still carrying on boreholing operations. In the financial year to June 30 interest, transfer fees, and rents produced £3,373, which the expenditure topped by £1,524, increasing the debit to £7,791. Cash is only £201, but the company has over £90,000 invested in Consols.

DAGGAFONTEIN PROSPECTING SYNDICATE.—This syndicate received £747 from interest and £22 from transfer fees in the year ending June 30. Expenses came to £1,027, so there was a loss of £257, raising the deficit to £423.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

ARGENTINE TRANSANDINE RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

The year ended June 30 last practically witnessed the end of the independent existence of this undertaking. Its lines constitute the final link in the big system of railways designed to stretch across the South American continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, joining up Valparaiso and Buenos Ayres, the remaining railways being the Argentine Great Western and the Buenos Ayres and Pacific. But the company has always been in a poor way, as although its zone must be a very important one when the great stretch of lines is actually finished, that part of the system so far built, from Mendoza to the Argentine side of the Andes, naturally attracted very little traffic, and the finances fell into disorder. It therefore became impossible to raise funds for such expensive work as piercing the mountain without which the rest was almost useless, and the Argentine Great Western and Buenos Ayres and Pacific companies made a proposal by means of which the necessary work could be put in hand. In exchange for the joint guarantee of these two important undertakings, the "A" debenture stockholders agreed to release £310,250 Argentine Railway Guarantees Rescission bonds set apart and appropriated for their security, and thus funds were provided for the completion of the line. We are now told that the work on the Chilian Transandine Railway is being vigorously pushed forward by the Transandine Construction Company, and the directors are in treaty with that concern for the construction of the remaining portion of the Argentine line, thus securing economy and unity of action. A commencement has already been made with the work at both ends of the tunnel, and on the Argentine side there is only a short length of line to be built in order to carry the rails to the mouth of the opening. When negotiating the guarantee agreement it was stipulated that an amended working agreement with the Argentine Great Western Railway should be entered into, the two compacts to run concurrently, and in any event to continue in force for eight years. The result is that the past was the first year in which there has been a credit balance on the working account, which is satisfactory, but we should like to have some details of the working. We only know that the gross receipts came to £31,039 compared with £24,883 in the previous twelve months, and that under the agreement the proportion of receipts payable to this company was £3,873. With £60 added for transfer fees, the total revenue on working account was £3,933, of which expenditure in London and the Argentine absorbed £3,607 leaving £326. This sum is transferred to the revenue account, which is also credited with interest on Rescission bonds £14,091, balance received from the Argentine Great Western in respect of the year to June 30, 1904, £2,397, interest £1,461, and registration fees, &c., £107, an aggregate of £18,382. It will provide interest on the "A" debenture stock, and leave £5,075, which is added to the balance at credit of revenue account, raising it to £72,928, the whole of which is now to be used towards completion of the new construction. Next we have an arrears fund appropriation account, to which is transferred £42,100 in rescission bonds, £6,691 interest, and £7 balance from last account, making £48,797. Out of that discount, commission, and stamps on sale of bonds take £5,195, interest at 6 per cent. on "B" debenture stock £18,610, and dividend on preference shares at 5 per cent., £25,000, leaving a deficiency of £7 to be carried forward. The company still has unrealised Argentine Rescission bonds to the amount of £459,700, of which £110,000 belongs to the "A" debenture stock guarantee fund, £139,000 to the arrears fund, while £210,700 is to be devoted to general purposes, and as the special appropriation of £72,928 previously mentioned is fully held in cash, the financial position is now fairly encouraging.

CORDOBA AND ROSARIO RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Unlike all the other Argentine railways whose annual or half-yearly reports we have lately analysed, this comparatively small undertaking failed to hold its own during the twelve months ended June 30 last. Gross receipts showed the very slight increase of \$9,070 to \$2,571,459 compared with 1903-4, and against that the working expenses went up \$130,363 to \$1,494,503, so that the nett balance is smaller by \$121,293 to \$1,076,956. In sterling that means a drop of £10,543 to £95,190. Number of passengers carried increased 13,038, and the revenue \$19,776 being the best figures ever reached, but while the goods traffic was larger by 41,750 tons the receipts were less by \$19,549. From foreign merchandise traffic the income improved \$10,096, and from transit traffic \$47,308, but from local business there was a decline of \$76,955, due to drought which caused the loss of a large portion of the wheat crop in the districts served by the Cordoba Central original line, and as a consequence deprived this company of a profitable long haul traffic. The increase in expenditure seems to have been largely due to the considerably higher rate of wages now ruling throughout the Argentine owing to the prosperity of the country, and which must be regarded as permanent. Labour societies are held partly responsible for this state of affairs, but that is an old cry, and it must be recognised that when business is flourishing all are entitled to share the good times and not merely employers and proprietors. Principal advances in merchandise traffic were under timber, posts, railway material, lime, bricks, stone, and

sand, against decreases in cereals, firewood, and sugar. In addition to the traffic revenue of £95,190 the company received £239 from transfer fees, making a total of £95,429 from which year's interest on 4 per cent. debenture stock, interim payment of 3 per cent. on 6 per cent. second debenture stock, and sundry other charges altogether absorb £46,414, leaving £49,016. Out of that the directors propose to complete the 6 per cent. debenture stock interest, to pay 4 per cent. on the income debenture stock, and 3½ per cent. on the 6 per cent. first preference shares, placing £5,555 to a special reserve and carrying forward £1,220. Details have already been published of the scheme for dealing with the arrears of dividend on the preferred shares. In order to provide shunting engines for use at the Rosario sorting ground, and at the Embarcaderos, and additional wagon stock, the directors propose to seek authority from the debenture holders concerned for a further issue of £100,000 4 per cent. debenture stock.

NORTH-WESTERN OF URUGUAY RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended June 30 this undertaking took receipts of £40,480 and made a profit of £5,393, so that the expenditure came to £35,087. This the directors seem to regard as pretty good, as although the revolution in Uruguay ended in September, 1904, it was not until near the end of October that the bridge over the Arapey was repaired and the line reopened for traffic throughout. The receipts therefore represent the full working of the line for a period of less than nine months. To the nett revenue must be added interest on 4 per cent. bonds £10,723 and guarantee £13,480 making a total of £29,596, from which is deducted the debit balance of £2,564 brought forward. Interest on first debenture stock absorbs £23,939 and on the second debenture stock £2,302, so that after adding £250 to the rolling stock renewal fund and allowing £100 for depreciation of stores in Uruguay there is a credit to be carried forward of £440. The policy of gradually relaying part of the line has been continued, 430 tons of rails and 5,500 sleepers having been put down, but as considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting a supply of native hardwood a trial is being made of Australian Jarrah sleepers, a consignment of which is now on the way. This work, we take it, is being carried out at the cost of revenue. Claims against the Government in respect of the recent revolution have not yet been finally settled, but the matter is receiving careful consideration.

URUGUAY NORTHERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Gross receipts for the year ended June 30 including £847 received from the Government of Uruguay on account of suspension of traffic during the first four months amounted to £17,508, but expenses came to £18,427, leaving a loss on working of £918 subject to realisation of a claim against the Government in respect of suspension of traffic. The guarantee, however, has been regularly paid, and with £1,438 brought in and £1,281 being the portion of the Government payment applicable to the previous year the amount available was £21,725, of which interest on the prior lien and debenture stocks took £16,415 and a dividend of 1 per cent. on the preferred stock £2,500, leaving £1,809 to be carried forward. According to the balance-sheet the claim against the Government for suspension of traffic still amounts to £12,119, in addition to which £1,144 is due on freight account. Other assets consist of £2,146 for bills receivable, £640 due from sundry debtors, £3,896 for stores and £17,486 in cash, but against this last item must be put £8,085 for debenture interest and also the dividend just announced, while liabilities to sundry creditors amount to £2,091. Arrears of dividend on the preferred stock now stand at £233,548, and as payments made on account of the guarantee are repayable out of profits the outlook for the ordinary shares is the reverse of encouraging.

TALTAL RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking did wonderfully well in the year ended June 30, increasing its gross receipts from £105,979 to £151,480. At the same time, working expenses went up about £21,000 to £81,778, leaving the nett receipts better by £24,423 at £69,701. To that are added balance brought forward £3,691 and registration fees £140, making £73,532, from which administration expenses and other small charges absorb £3,641, the debenture service £16,000 and an interim dividend of 3s. per share £16,500. A sum of £10,000 having been credited to general reserve, the directors now propose a final dividend of 4s. per share, making 7 per cent. for the year, and carrying forward £5,391. There was an advance in the number of passengers of 15,690, bringing in extra revenue of £2,737, and in the down goods traffic we note such increases, in quintals, as nitrate 1,852,761, copper 86,126, luggage 4,772 and miscellaneous 18,792, but in the up traffic, apart from coal, which was larger by 254,733, decreases predominated, the principal being in timber 72,695, machinery 79,995 and miscellaneous 123,784. From the goods traffic the gain in income was £38,403, and there were also improvements under all other heads, such as luggage, &c., water sales, pier and sundries. Percentage of working expenses to gross receipts was smaller by 3.29 per cent. to 53.99 per cent. In order to provide facilities for the growing traffic of the railway certain new works have been executed and more will be necessary in the future, and as capital already raised is very nearly exhausted the directors ask for their borrowing powers to be increased by the not unreasonable sum of £50,000. Steps have been taken to have cancelled a concession to build a railway within a district where the company has an exclusive right until 1912.

BURMA RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended June 30 this company's revenue was Rs. 1,56,99,160, or an increase of Rs. 13,46,593 compared with the corresponding period of last year, of which no less than Rs. 13,10,618 came from goods traffic, paddy contributing Rs. 11,00,000. In the coaching business there was actually a small decrease, and the telegraph earnings did not quite reach previous figures, but steamboat revenue and sundries each displayed some improvement. The advance in receipts was accompanied by a rise in the expenditure of Rs. 8,34,029 to Rs. 91,62,874, leaving the nett earnings larger by Rs. 5,12,564 at Rs. 65,36,286. Ratio between expenditure and income was 0.34 per cent. up at 58.37 per cent. A year ago shareholders were warned that an advance in the outlay must be looked for during the next few years, in consequence of the heavy renewals impending, and of the general improvements necessary for an increasing traffic. A large part of the outlay will fall on revenue, and with this in mind the directors are increasing the carry forward, as the Government has objected to the creation of a small reserve suspense account to meet these abnormal charges. After deducting certain outstandings relating to previous years, the nett earnings reach Rs. 65,24,335, from which total interest charges absorb Rs. 31,36,624, leaving Rs. 33,87,711, of which the Government's share is Rs. 27,10,169 and the company's share Rs. 6,77,542. The last is reduced by income-tax to Rs. 6,59,893 and again raised to Rs. 6,61,388 by the small balance in India on June 30, 1905. All but Rs. 388 of this was remitted to England at rs. 4 1-32d. per rupee, realising £44,153, and with the addition of £17,498 brought forward makes a total for disposal of £61,650 against £46,775. So the directors propose a dividend of 2 per cent., or ½ per cent. more, in addition to the guaranteed dividend of 2½ per cent., making 4½ per cent. for the year, and carrying forward the considerably increased sum of £21,650.

SOUTHERN PUNJAB RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Business was excellent for this undertaking during the half-year ended June 30, and the revenue went up with a bound. Gross receipts are returned at Rs. 18,15,745, or an increase of Rs. 4,77,668 against the corresponding period, of which no less than Rs. 4,40,740 was in goods traffic. In coaching the improvement was Rs. 36,149, and in sundries Rs. 773. Working charges, being fixed at 52 per cent., absorbed Rs. 9,44,187, and as there was no adjustment on account of previous years, compared with Rs. 8,689, the balance of nett earnings expands by Rs. 2,21,261 at Rs. 8,71,558. Converted into sterling this realised £58,104, to which must be added interest £1,926 and proportion of administration expenses chargeable to extension capital account £625, making a total of £60,655. Revenue expenditure in England and India, Indian income-tax, a trifling loss on sale of rupee paper, and interest on debenture stock, altogether took £12,550, leaving £48,105. It is increased to £62,866 by the sum brought forward after making certain adjustments, from which the directors again propose a dividend at 4½ per cent. per annum, absorbing £20,527. A further amount of £15,085 is the Secretary of State's share of surplus profits, and the sum carried forward is largely increased to £27,253. Expenditure on the extension during the half-year was £132,669, and one-half of the line, the Ferozepur-Ludhiana section, was opened for public traffic on October 1 last. The chief engineer expects to have the other part open before January 1 next, though the work has been much retarded by abnormal rains and floods, which caused some damage to the unconsolidated embankments between Ferozepur and McLeodgunge.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

The gross profits of this important Scotch bank for the year ended October 14 last showed an increase of £3,530 at £406,085 compared with the preceding twelve months, but the management charges went up by £4,870 to £166,369, so that the nett profit of £239,715 shows a small reduction. Not sufficiently important, however, to influence the dividend in any way, which will again be 9 per cent., with an additional bonus of 1 per cent., but whereas last year the directors devoted surplus profits to writing down the investments by £37,056 and reducing bank buildings account by £4,000, they now write down the last-named asset by £7,000, and increase the rest or undivided profits from £900,724 to £933,440. This may be taken as an indication that no further depreciation has occurred in the holdings of securities. Including a certain amount of Consols at 85, their total is £2,823,889, an increase compared with the previous balance-sheet of £186,993, but the cash and notes have been reduced by £85,350 to £1,390,233, and the money at call and short notice, &c., is less by £318,476 at £2,596,935, so that what the bank would describe as its liquid assets have gone down from £7,027,891 to £6,811,057. Advances on cash credit and current accounts also show a small drop to £4,802,884, loans on stocks and securities for short periods are down by the considerable sum of £245,589 to £1,555,507, and acceptances and endorsements figure for £547,313 against £632,840, but bills discounted are larger by £337,885 at £4,325,976. Bank buildings, despite the sums allowed from revenue, are a trifle larger at £280,554, and there are also small increases in property yielding rent £212,160, and freehold property in London £125,000. Liabilities to the public do not show much movement, but deposits with interest accrued £13,606,172, notes in circulation £996,431, and drafts outstanding £467,097, are all a little smaller, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £18,660,453 compared with £18,896,323.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

During the twelve months ended October 31 this bank earned a profit of £336,711 compared with £330,659 in the preceding year, a good enough result, but the improvement is hardly indicative of the bounding Canadian prosperity of which we hear so much. Said profit provides two dividends of 5 per cent. each, making 10 per cent. in all, with an increase in the balance forward from £119,835 to £164,765. No addition is made to the "rest" or reserve, but it already amounts to £2,054,795 against a paid-up capital of £2,958,904. The bank has notes in circulation to the amount of £2,670,448, being an advance of £425,443 against the previous balance-sheet, while the deposits on which no interest is paid have gone up £1,593,829 to £6,459,864. In deposits bearing interest the advance is larger still, £3,413,459 at £18,025,731, and on the other side there is a sharp rise from £16,706,368 to £18,203,796 in the current loans and discounts. What are known as the cash assets add up to £14,102,679, including call and notice loans £7,800,393, an increase of the great sum of £5,601,452; gold and silver coin up from £675,229 to £1,045,716 and Government demand notes, which show a rise of £565,723 to £1,483,969. Then agencies in Great Britain and foreign countries owe £1,240,898, investments amount to £1,701,668, and notes and cheques of other banks reach £725,856.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The 65th annual report of this company reaches us too late for adequate notice in the present issue, but it may be stated that the nett surplus profits of the year ended September 30 last were £219,746, including £10,535 brought forward. After deducting the half-year's preferred stock dividend and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the deferred stock paid in June last enough remains to complete the 5 per cent. for the preferred, and to give another $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. together with a bonus of 3 per cent. to the deferred stock. This brings the return up to 9 per cent. for the year on a paid-up capital of £2,320,000, the deferred stock getting 13 per cent. and the preferred 5 per cent. A balance of £10,946 will be left to carry forward. In their notes on the year's business the directors say that the Australian trade is improving in bulk, but not in freights, and that the outward trade to China and Japan has been good, but not the homeward. For all that the shortage of £37,000 shown on the freight charters and miscellaneous services account is due entirely to a lesser amount of casual chartering by Government for the conveyance of troops, the actual freight receipts having been larger.

FRASER AND CHALMERS, LIMITED.

The principal incident in this company's financial year, which ended on June 30 last, was that the Allis Chalmers Company, a Yankee concern in which Fraser and Chalmers is interested to the extent of £92,898 in preference shares, paid no dividend. It appears that the changes in the conditions of trade in the United States respecting certain classes of machinery necessitated heavy outlay by this Allis Chalmers enterprise in laying down plant for the economical manufacture of electrical machinery, steam turbines, gas engines, &c., and the profits of the business have gone in this expenditure. From the point of view that capital will be permanently relieved by the policy followed the step taken is no doubt a very commendable one, but the immediate effect is a reduction in dividend, and we hope shareholders are willing to make the sacrifice. In other directions trade seems to have been fairly satisfactory, and the nett profits on trading came out at £49,956 but the absence of Allis Chalmers dividend which for the previous year reached £16,237, having been paid for a period of nine months, brought down the total income from £68,660 to £52,597. London management expenses took a hundred or so more at £16,229, law and professional charges £900, which seems a heavy figure, interest on debentures £1,105, and depreciation £5,440. Balance of profit remaining is £28,922 or £15,889 less, but the big sum of £88,602 was brought forward making £117,524 and had they been so minded the directors could easily have maintained the ordinary dividend at 10 per cent., after providing the usual $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the preference shares. Therefore their prudence in reducing it to 7 per cent. is to be commended, even though the smaller return absorb more than the earnings, the balance carried forward being slightly lower at £86,339. It is a very important sum and really constitutes the company's reserve because no other accumulation is possessed. Additions to buildings, plant, machinery, and tools during the year were £14,008, occasioned by the demand for certain classes of machinery and by special requirements for the lately established manufacture of steam turbines, and the directors tell us that further outlay will come into the current year. With this sum added and after providing £5,240 for depreciation, the Erith works are valued at £128,994, while other freehold property at the same place has been reduced by £200 leaving it at £1,005. Patents, patterns, and drawings are entered at a further sum of £3,000 and real estate, plant, furniture, and fittings in London and branches at £48,672, an important increase on the year of £16,226. Floating liabilities £233,524 are heavy, but stocks of machinery and merchandise including the quantities on consignment alone come to £348,445, and goods in transit reach £32,034. Then £117,180 is owing by sundry debtors, and cash and bills amount to £38,356. The chairman of the company is Sir Julius Wernher, and shareholders will therefore be quite prepared to hear that the progress of the mining industry of South Africa offers prospects of a continual demand for high-class machinery, the Erith shops at present being well supplied with work both for home and foreign use.

SHOWELLS BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

Up to the present the three classes of shareholders of this unfortunate enterprise have not been able to agree upon a scheme for the writing down of capital necessitated by the heavy losses brought to light at the end of last year. The peculiar rights possessed by the preference and guaranteed portions of the capital render very difficult a fair and proper understanding, but unless proprietors are willing to go without dividends for an almost limitless number of years, an agreement of some kind must be reached, because the deficiency to be provided for is little short of £300,000. As disclosed in the balance-sheet of October, 1904, the losses were £299,580, raised to £300,580 by the sum of £1,000 voted to the advisory committee at the last general meeting, but thanks to a balance of profit of £6,834 in respect of the year to September 30 last, the present gap in the assets is now brought down to £293,746. The directors' views on the best way of meeting the loss were explained at the meeting held on Thursday, and we shall probably return to the subject next week. A nett profit of £26,184 was earned in the period under review, despite the troubles which have overtaken the company, proving beyond doubt that the business is well worth saving, and this sum meets the debenture interest with a balance over of £6,834, as already mentioned. Conditions of trade last year are described as generally unfavourable, the abnormal price of hops having a particularly adverse effect on profits. Capital as at present existing consists of £110,000 in preference £10 shares, £200,000 in guaranteed £5 shares, and £300,000 in ordinary £5 shares, besides £429,900 owing on debentures. Sundry creditors, loans on security and reserves, all given under one head, represent a further sum of £73,677, so that altogether the total of the liabilities is £1,113,577. Against that the assets are valued at £819,831, of which the land, brewery, properties, fixed plant, machinery, &c., represent £673,043. Loose plant, rolling stock, and other kindred assets are entered at £43,250, stocks at £65,861, and investments at £11,617. Sundry debtors owe a further sum of £25,705, and cash is terribly poor at £193.

WENLOCK BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

Gross profits for the twelve months ended October 31 showed a further shrinkage of £1,323 at £63,371, and with £30,258 from rents, interest, and transfer fees, the income was £1,295 lower at £93,629. This by itself was perhaps a small matter, but as it was accompanied by increases of £2,205 to £37,162 in expenses, including bad debts written off and £354 to £15,701 in debenture and other interest charges, the nett revenue, after providing £8,133 for depreciation, came to £3,830 less at £30,427. With a reduction to £4,174 in the amount brought forward the total decrease was £4,073 at £34,601, but the directors again pay a dividend of 10 per cent. by writing £5,000 or £2,000 less off properties and loans, and carrying only £2,101 to the new account. The position disclosed is all the more serious because the business has been dwindling steadily ever since 1901, and it is surely time the directors did something more drastic to remedy it than surrendering a trifle of £100 or so of their fees. In addition to freehold breweries, fixed plant and goodwill valued at £216,347, the company has properties, loans, and interest standing at £608,344, and both of these items should be divided if the true state of affairs is to be shown. Light is especially needed with regard to the second, and while they are about it the directors should state the reasons for the large sums written off during the past few years. Were these chiefly in the nature of depreciation on the properties or were they due to the necessity of providing for irrecoverable loans? Trading balances are only just in favour of the company, an increase of £2,080 to £13,334 in liabilities to sundry creditors being accompanied by one of £1,769 to £14,622 in sundry debtors, but stocks have risen by £1,614 to £14,867. Cash, however, is £914 down at £21,407, and as the final dividends just declared will take £13,750 the margin is not very grand.

ILFORD, LIMITED.

The directors of this well-known enterprise are able to announce in the report for the year ended October 31st that the business continues to show satisfactory progress, the sales for the twelve months having been considerably larger than in any previous year of the company's existence. So the Yankees have not knocked out the company yet, despite the gloomy prognostications of those who wanted to sell the whole concern to the Eastman Kodak Company. Profits, too, are beginning to grow again, balance on trading account coming out at £48,443, compared with £45,023 in 1903-4, but with £62,802 in the year before that. An additional £2,590 came in from interest and transfer fees, making £51,032 in all. General charges, repairs, depreciation, directors' fees, &c., absorb £23,659, leaving £27,573; but only £1,480, or £1,774 less, was brought forward, so that the actual sum for disposal shows a drop of £697 at £29,054. Preference dividend having been met with £11,400, the directors distribute $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or $1\frac{1}{2}$ less on the ordinary shares, writing off £4,000 from goodwill, processes, &c., and carrying forward £1,258. A year ago the directors deducted £5,000 from this account, but only £1,000 came from profits, reserve contributing the balance. Goodwill, &c., will now stand at £226,000, a big figure truly, but there is a reserve of £44,000 and the financial position looks fairly good, except that the high-class investments, standing in the balance-sheet at £87,578, have a market value of £76,850 only. Rather more than £15,000 is owing to sundry creditors, against which there are debtors £22,782 and stock £12,639, while the cash held

amounts to £13,865, not a very imposing sum. Additions to freehold land, buildings, cottages, &c., were £7,588, and as only £1,732 was allowed for depreciation, this asset is considerably higher at £80,088.

SANTIAGO NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

Shareholders of this undertaking will be keenly disappointed with the display made for the twelve months ended June 30 last. Profits have fallen away severely during a period when other companies were experiencing increasingly prosperous times, and we begin to suspect that in the past financial stability has been somewhat sacrificed to the payment of big dividends. In the twelve months to June 30 the company earned a gross profit of £63,731, making, with £156 brought forward and £36 for transfer fees, a total revenue of £63,923. Debenture interest, London expenses, and a large number of other charges reduced this to a nett balance of £55,459, a decrease compared with the preceding year of something like £7,000. Redemption of £12,000 debentures, including premium thereon, absorbed £12,645, a sum of £1,000 is again written off expenses of debenture issue, and dividends aggregating 15 per cent. already paid absorbed £30,000. That unfortunately is all the shareholders can receive against the 22 per cent. distributed for 1903-4, and no contribution can be made to reserve compared with £5,500. Instead the balance of £11,814 is appropriated towards the payment of the new grounds purchased from the Government at a cost of £12,000. The decrease in profits seems to have been largely due to the necessity of making extensive repairs to the machinery and considerable additions to the plant in order to safeguard the company's quota under the proposed new combination. A considerable portion of this outlay was charged to revenue, as it should be, but the incident tends to bear out what we have already said regarding the big dividends lately paid. At the same time, capital account was charged with £3,000, making the total outlay for the year including the £12,000 for new grounds £15,000, increasing the purchase account to £323,074. But against that the debenture redemption to date is £64,900, bringing down the balance-sheet value of the principal asset to £258,174. It could be further reduced by the reserve fund of £33,000. Total floating liabilities, including the sums due to debenture and share holders, reach £110,337, against which the principal liquid assets are stocks and stores £73,371, sundry debtors £3,169, and cash £16,998. The oficina Mapocho is valued at £29,161, and the debenture issue expenses still to be written off stand at £3,639.

ANELIA NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended June 30 this company gathered the largest profit ever earned in a single year, and so much progress is possible with the redemption of debentures that the share capital must now be in sight of a dividend. Nett revenue is returned at £69,814 or £26,994 more than in 1903-4, and after providing £7,606 against £9,443 for debenture interest there is £62,207 or £28,220 more to be applied to the reduction of the debenture debt. When this sum has been written off the debentures outstanding will amount to £76,093, and another year as good as the last will practically wipe this balance away. The company's floating liabilities are fairly heavy at £68,273 but debtors add up to £49,012, stocks amount to £45,596 and cash comes to £5,686. An item appearing in last year's accounts, called improvements in plant, buildings and machinery £4,512 has now disappeared, and the position all round seems fairly encouraging. It may be mentioned that the trading profit was £73,939 against £49,144, making with interest and transfer fees £74,561 compared with £49,145, and as outgoings were less the nett profit came out as mentioned. Reference is made to the negotiations now going on for the renewal of the combination which expires in March next and confidence, expressed that these will have a good result.

BRITISH AND BENINGTON'S TEA TRADING ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

During nine of the twelve months ended September 30 business was hampered by the high tea duty, and the three months' notice given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of his intention to reduce the tax caused a further restriction in trade. Since July 1, however, there has been a decided improvement, and although the trading profits of this concern show a further shrinkage, it only amounted to a trifle of £118 at £10,905. Interest and other receipts yielded £333 or rather more than a year ago, and as a saving of £267 was effected in management charges the balance available including £283 or £234 more brought forward was £490 up at £7,023. This amount the directors proceed to divide up to the hilt, and by carrying forward £135 less at £148 contrive to give shareholders an extra 16s. 8d. per cent. at £4 3s. 4d. per cent. Goodwill, trade marks, names, &c., stand at the heavy figure of £89,548, so that the policy of the directors in leaving the reserve to be increased solely by the operation of compound interest is not one to be commended. This increase only amounted to £316, bringing the total of the fund up to £19,421, of which £13,350 is represented by the company's own preference and ordinary shares held by trustees. Trading accounts are well in favour of the company, floating liabilities being light at £5,612 or a decrease of £1,404, while sundry debtors are £1,641 up at £30,551. Stocks have been reduced by £3,097 to £11,606, but cash and bills come to £455 more at £2,320 and there are miscellaneous investments, chiefly consisting of home and foreign railways, valued at £8,960.

J. HEFORTH AND SONS, LIMITED.

With the aid of four more new branches, making a total of 143, the profits for the year ended September 30 showed a further small recovery of £1,005 at £33,323, and as £598 more at £2,509 was brought in the nett balance after deducting directors' fees and preference dividend came to £28,808 or an increase of £1,495. Having this larger amount at their disposal, the directors wisely pay the same dividend of 8 per cent. as for the past three years on the ordinary shares and raise the allocation to reserve by £2,000 to £7,000, leaving £2,048 to be carried forward. The factory at Leeds is now in course of enlargement to meet the growing requirements of the business, and £3,421 was spent on the buildings during the twelve months, together with £4,989 on new plant and fittings against which £3,489 was written off for depreciation. Including £1,870 paid as premiums for leases, the capital outlay stands in the books at £366,450 against an issued share capital of £360,000 and a reserve of £55,000, all of which with the exception of a small investment of £4,100 in James Lay and Co., Limited, is in the business. Liabilities to sundry creditors have been reduced by £7,785 to £74,837, but, on the other hand, sundry debtors owe only £12,728 or £3,962 more, while cash and bills have shrunk from £15,157 to £251. Stocks, however, are £4,733 up at £135,116.

CAVENDISH MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED.

With a paid-up capital of £65,440 and £47,724 in deposits and loans this company has made advances of £82,076 on mortgages of freehold and leasehold properties and holds other properties valued at £33,304. The total income yielded by these investments for the year ended August 31 was £7,755, of which interest charges took £1,250, management expenses absorbed £1,477, and after writing off £193 for balance of preliminary expenses and £87 for sinking fund charge on short leaseholds the nett profits were £4,748. Including £1,930 brought forward, the amount available came to £6,678, out of which a dividend of 5 per cent. is paid, £1,000 is placed to reserve making it £2,000 and £2,405 is carried to the new account. Floating liabilities are small at £505, while the company holds £2,694 in cash.

MINING RETURNS.

Brilliant Central Gold.—6d. per share, payable on the 14th inst.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—Gold 1,511 ozs., silver 448,608 ozs., soft lead 5,388 tons, antimonial lead 52 tons.

Central Chili Copper.—Shipment 550 tons of regulus containing 260 tons fine copper, 4,900 ozs. silver, and 102 ozs. gold.

Chicago Breweries.—For the year ended the 30th ult., at the rate of 5 per cent., carrying forward £16,122.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal, 20,500 tons; sales, 18,000 tons; consumption, 1,425 tons.

Dolores.—Returns, \$38,799.

Gibraltar Consolidated.—Tributers crushed 178 tons, 176 ozs.; 8 tons concentrates produced containing, as per assay value, 47 ozs.; total, 223 ozs.

Kamfersdam.—Diamonds recovered, 4,622 carats.

Maryborough Leviathan.—624 tons, yielding 105 ozs.

Mitchell's Creek.—Crushed 633 tons, 274 ozs.; concentrates 24 tons, value £280.

Natal Navigation, Collieries, and Estate.—Output 20,789 tons.

New Queen Gold.—Crushed 603 tons, 628 ozs.; concentrates £650.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—Crushed 5,080 tons, 3,653 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—Treated 1,920 tons of crude ore, producing 380 tons concentrates, containing 263 tons lead, and 7,068 ozs. silver.

Tasmania Gold.—5,465 tons, 3,005 ozs.; chlorination 393 tons for 536 ozs.; total, 3,541 ozs.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—17½ per cent., equal to 3s. 6d. per share.

Transvaal Gold.—Crushed 8,494 tons; output from all sources, 3,757 ozs.

Weardale Lead.—Ore raised, 219 tons; pig lead smelted, 157½ tons; average price obtained for lead sold, £15 per ton net.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

BREWERIES.

Northampton.—Final distribution which, with interim, will make 12 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Sept. 30, placing £3,000 to a contingency fund, and carrying forward £10,354.

Offiler's.—Further 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, placing £2,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,064.

Redruth.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the year ended Sept. 30, placing £1,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £132.

South African.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares (being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum) for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

MINES.

Cape Copper.—10s. per share on the cumulative preference and ordinary shares, payable Jan. 1.

Durban-Roddepoort Gold.—Interim for year ending Dec. 31, 1905, of 3s. per share (15 per cent.), payable Dec. 30.

Kalgurli Gold.—No. 15 of 5s. per share, payable Jan. 6. At the general meeting to be held on Dec. 12 the directors will recommend an additional payment on the same date of a bonus of 2s. 6d. a share.

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. a share for the month of Nov., payable Dec. 1.

Namaqua Copper.—Account of the current year an interim dividend of 3s. per share (equal to 7½ per cent.).

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—9d. per share, payable Dec. 13.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Aux Classes Laborieuses.—Interim of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Daniel Brown.—£500 to reserve at the rate of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Oct. 31, placing £500 to reserve and carrying forward £490.

Eastman Kodak of New Jersey.—Usual quarterly of 2½ per cent. on the outstanding common stock; also an extra dividend of 2 per cent. on the common stock, making 12 per cent. for the year.

Fourth City Mutual Benefit Building.—For the past year on the original shares at 4¼ per cent.

Indian and General Investment Trust.—Interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock for the half-year ended Oct. 31.

International Plasmon.—5 per cent. for the year ended June 30.

John Brown and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

Pelican and British Empire Life.—Interim of 7½ per cent., being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.

Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries.—Final of 1s. 9d. per share on the shares numbered 1 to 158,760 and 175,001 to 333,760, making 3s. per share for the year ended Sept. 30.

Royal Bank of Scotland.—Further at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 1 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year.

The Mint, Birmingham.—Interim at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the six months ended Sept. 30.

Tredegar Iron and Coal.—Interim of 2½ per cent. for the half-year ended Sept. 23, on the amounts paid up on the A and B shares.

Tyne Valley Colliery.—5 per cent.

Western Telegraph.—Interim payable Dec. 21 of 3s. per share for the quarter ended Sept. 30.

William Hancock and Co.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary and the deferred ordinary shares for the half-year ending Nov. 30.

Witwatersrand Township Estates and Finance.—No. 9 of 25 per cent. (5s. per share).

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4.

Anglo-Continental Gold Syndicate.—Winchester House, noon.
Consolidated Goldfields of Ashanti.—Throgmorton House, noon.
Hornsby (Richard) and Sons.—Midland Grand Hotel, 11.30 a.m.
Motor Traction.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Raleigh Cycle.—Nottingham, noon.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5.

Cavendish Land.—Cannon Street Hotel, 5 p.m.
Cordoba and Rosario Railway.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Dorman Long.—Middlesbrough, noon.
Montrose Gold Mining.—Winchester House, noon.
Transvaal Estates and Development.—Winchester House, noon.
United Railway of the Havana and Regla Warehouses.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Worcestershire Brewing and Malting.—Institute Chartered Accountants, noon.

WEDNESDAY, December 6.

Cape Electric Tramways.—1, London Wall Buildings, noon.
Ceylon (Para) Rubber.—138, Leadenhall Street, 2 p.m.
Cold Storage Trust.—Winchester House, noon.
Empire Palace Varieties, Middlesbrough.—Holborn Restaurant, noon.
Estate Finance and Mines Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.
Ingersoll-Sergeant Drill.—144, Leadenhall Street, noon.
Manitoba Land.—46, Queen Victoria Street, noon.
Peak Hill Goldfield.—Salisbury House, 11.45 a.m.
Robinson's Brewery.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
South Punjab Railway.—70, Cornhill, 1 p.m.
Wenlock Brewery.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, December 7.

Alaska Goldfields.—Winchester House, noon.
Alliance Marine and General Assurance.—Capel Court, 12.30 p.m.
London Scottish American Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11.30 a.m.
St. John Del Rey Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

FRIDAY, December 8.

Aron Electricity Meter.—Winchester House, noon.
British Manila Estates.—39, Lombard Street, 1 p.m.
Exploring.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Henderson's Transvaal Estates.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
Le Roi Mining.—Salisbury House, 2 p.m.
New Centaur Cycle.—Coventry, noon.
Transvaal Mortgage, Loan, and Finance.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Tanganyika Concessions.—Winchester House, noon.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CARGO FLEET IRON.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE COMPANY WITH ITS ALLIED CONCERNS.

The annual meeting of the Cargo Fleet Iron Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Station Hotel, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Sir Christopher Furness, M.P. (chairman), presided, and among other directors present were Mr. J. S. Barwick, Mr. Walter Scott, Colonel H. F. Swan, C.B., Mr. J. E. Rogerson, Mr. E. Lloyd Pease, Mr. Jas. Stothart, Mr. S. W. Furness, Mr. J. J. Burton, Mr. Benjamin Talbot, and Mr. C. J. Bagley (managing director). The notice convening the meeting was read by the secretary (Mr. Sladden).

The Chairman said this being the first annual meeting of the company, there were no minutes to read. You have before you (the Chairman proceeded) the first published balance-sheet of the Cargo Fleet Iron Company, Limited, and it is the first time I have had the opportunity of meeting you, the shareholders, in my capacity as chairman. The balance-sheet of the company has not until now been published, for although the concern dates back more than twenty years, it was owned in the family of the late proprietors, and was of a private character. The change came when the Weardale Steel, Coal and Coke Company, finding that their works at Tudhoe were geographically in a position which made competition with their principal competitors difficult, bought the entire share capital of the Cargo Fleet Company. The amount of that capital stood at £120,000, and the works were absolutely antiquated, but the purchase secured what the Weardale directors mostly desired, a large quantity of freehold land, and unrivalled situation on the seaboard, a magnificent frontage to the River Tees, low cost of carriage by sea and land, and the ironstone mines within a few miles of the works—what one may term the natural advantages of the property were very great indeed. How best those advantages might be turned to the profit of the company was, as you are aware, a matter to which the board gave its most serious consideration. They obtained the best expert advice available, and from all possible sources, America and Germany being drawn upon for this purpose, in addition to the experts of our own country. The ultimate outcome of these deliberations was the adoption of a scheme involving practically the demolition of the entire plant as it then existed, and the construction of works for the manufacture of iron and steel, with subsidiary plant for dealing with by-products second to none on the North-East coast. I would even claim for it—now that we are reaching the stage of accomplishment—that there are no works in this country or abroad more thoroughly up to date or capable of turning out the material with anything like the same economy of production. The comparatively small property which the Weardale acquired has become a vast undertaking, and, as shareholders, you will be interested to have some details of our outlay upon it. If you will take the balance-sheet you will find that the first item of our assets is the freehold and leasehold works, &c., which at December 31, 1904, were certified by Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons, and Cassell at £933,488. Since that date and up to September 30 last there has been a further capital expenditure of £300,449 6s. 9d. on rolling mill plant, Talbot furnaces, Talbot gas-producers, metal mixers, coke ovens, by-product plant, electric light and power, turbine and gas engines, &c. The next item, and, perhaps, the only one calling for special explanation, is the suspense account, £150,860 19s. 10d. This is the sum of our expenditure during the years in which the reconstruction of the works was being carried on. The largest item is in connection with the opening out of the Liverton mines in Cleveland, the remainder being, partly interest on advances, partly the cost of the recent debenture issue, and partly to the cost of expenditure. The starting of machinery and processes which were in many cases untried on Cleveland materials and under English conditions—although we did not adopt any plant or process which had not been proved satisfactory elsewhere and under other conditions—involved much teaching of the men and the overcoming of many difficulties; and while passing through this stage expenses were incurred which could not properly be charged to cost and were not strictly expenditure on plant. Yet the outlay has its very real value to the undertaking, and being expected to contribute to the sum of our earnings in future years, we are advised that we may very properly add the sum of it to our capital account, and I shall ask you to pass a resolution to sanction this.

THE SOUTH DURHAM INVESTMENT.

As a matter of fact, the appreciation in the market value of your investment in the South Durham Company's shares alone is no less than £191,756, which is more than equal to the amount we are transferring from suspense account to capital account, and if we had valued this investment at present market prices there would have been no occasion to ask you to make the transfer; but we prefer to deal with the items in the way we have shown them in the balance-sheet, and any shareholder wishing to see the particulars of how the amount is made up can inspect the detailed statement now before me. From the total of these expenditures, although really not a proper charge on profit and loss account, your directors have deemed it prudent to deduct the balance of the profits for the period under review, carrying the remainder to the debit of capital expenditure. I would point out to you that the certificate of Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons, and Cassell—who were selected by the underwriters of the

debentures to make an independent report—entirely excluded any amount for goodwill, and it may be fairly said that if there were no other ground to justify a transfer of this suspense account to capital, the item itself poorly represents the goodwill of this undertaking. Goodwill, of course, does not figure as an asset in your balance-sheet, but in my own view it is very substantial and of great value. The amount which I have given you represents actual expenditure on works, plant, and machinery, which are tangible assets, and you can take my word for it that every shilling of it, and more, that appears in the balance-sheet is represented in the company's property. Further than that, the money is put down upon a site the value of which it is difficult adequately to assess, but which will, I am convinced, become more and more apparent with every year that goes by. Returning again to our balance-sheet, you will expect me to refer to our interests in the South Durham Steel and Iron Company, Limited, and the policy which induced your directors to acquire a controlling interest in its affairs. I am glad to tell you that at the meeting of that company held this morning I had the advantage of laying before the shareholders a statement of their affairs that is eminently satisfactory, more especially as it concerned the condition of their profit and loss account, and upon which, as the chief shareholder, I congratulate you. The profits of the South Durham Company for the nine months covered by the report exceed £100,000, with the result that the preference dividend, which had fallen into arrears, has been paid up to date and a dividend has also been voted to the holders of the ordinary shares. But that by the way. I want to speak of the policy which brought about the union of their interests with those of the Cargo Fleet and the motives of that policy. As chairman of both concerns I noted that the lines upon which the Cargo Fleet Company were proposing to proceed must bring them into active conflict with the South Durham Steel and Iron Company, and frankly I did not feel it consistent with my duty to either or both to permit a situation of hostility involving fierce competition to arise between the two if it were possible to avoid it. I saw that the Cargo Fleet plant, with advantages in rail and water carriage, with ironstone of its own close at hand, producing pig-iron by the latest methods, and capable of supplying molten metal to its manufacturing departments, besides being allied with the Weardale Company for supplies of fuel, constituted a position which in the end, given active competition between the two concerns, must result in serious loss to both, a serious loss to the shareholders of each company, and the ultimate ruin of one of them. After consultation with my colleagues we unanimously came to the conclusion that a union of interests was from every point of view desirable and necessary. That could only be effected by the Cargo Fleet Company relinquishing its scheme for the manufacture of steel plates, leaving that field to the South Durham Company, and by giving the Cargo Fleet Company an opening with the South Durham Company for the delivery of raw material, further arranging that the Weardale's supplies of fuel should be available for the South Durham as well as for the Cargo Fleet. The union of interests between your company and the South Durham Company gives both the benefit of a union of interests with the Weardale Steel, Coal and Coke Company, whereby a continuous supply of fuel is secured—a most important consideration for those engaged in the steel trade and the manufacture of pig-iron, because in times like these it is sometimes difficult to obtain fuel of a particular quality suitable for the requirements of steel making with special classification tests. And while the South Durham Company obtain manifest advantages from its union with us we thereby secure for ourselves a staff of officials and managers well tried in their respective positions, men with successful records in their commercial administration. I may tell you that the arrangement has worked most smoothly. We have had Mr. Bagley's experienced and almost constant attention to our affairs, and in no small measure we have to look to him and the staff working under him for the future industrial success of our undertaking.

UNION BRINGS MUTUAL ADVANTAGES.

Commercially, then, each company is deriving some share of the advantages which the other had to offer, to their mutual advantage, and this, I feel sure, is all that you would ask me as chairman of both companies to attempt to secure for either. Financially, as you are aware, the union was achieved by an exchange of shares on a basis which, as I think, at that time was fair and just to both parties, and will in the long run prove to be so. At this moment of time the exchange may appear disadvantageous to those of the South Durham shareholders who made it, but I would ask those shareholders to reserve their judgment for a year or two when the true position of affairs is likely to be more apparent. The South Durham shares appear in your balance-sheet at their cost price to us, which is £156,617, while the market price of our holding shows an appreciation of no less a sum than £191,756. We might have used that surplus to swell the assets, but your directors deemed it better to value them at cost only, so that you may all feel that each single item of assets is full intrinsic value for the amount at which it is credited in the balance-sheet, without anything added for goodwill. I think I have now dealt with every matter on the asset side which calls for any observation. Our share capital at the date of the balance-sheet stood at £903,346. The remainder has since been allotted, and the total authorised capital of £1,000,000 has now been issued and is fully paid. One matter there is to which I have not yet referred, and some of you will consider it a most important one—I mean the profit and loss account. You are not to regard the profits of the past nine months as being any criterion of future profits. We have

all of us great expectations of our enterprise, and reasonably so; but I would have you guard against expecting that, one year with another, our works will yield more than fair remuneration for the capital we have adventured in it. The steel and iron trades are notoriously subject to fluctuations. In bad times like those through which we have recently been passing we are apt to think that we shall never win through; in good times we are apt to spend as though they would never come to an end. The policy I invariably recommend for every concern in which I am interested is to build up a sound reserve as a bulwark against bad times in order to ensure the payment of regular, if modest, dividends, except perhaps in extraordinary circumstances. It is my hope and belief that notwithstanding the pressure of foreign competition, notwithstanding fluctuations arising from the laws of supply and demand, we can, by the excellence of our administration, by the careful supervision of all our manufacturing departments, by the intelligent efforts of our managing director and his subordinates, and owing to the unique situation of our property, that by the reason of these things we can yield you a fair dividend in good times and in bad. While the future is in the lap of the gods, you may rest assured that all those to whom with myself you have entrusted your interests, are devoting whatever of intelligence, of ability, and of industry they possess to securing the abundant success of this great enterprise. There only remains for me to move that the accounts be received and adopted, and to congratulate you on the fact that our works are being completed at a time abounding with hope for our trade. We are fortunate also in not having any old low-priced orders on our books. I wish to incorporate in the resolution a paragraph entitling the directors to some remuneration for the time they have devoted to the interests of the company. During all those five years the directors have not drawn a single penny as fees, nor have they charged a single penny for their personal expenses in connection with the laying-out of this great work. We have refrained from doing so, preferring to allow the matter to remain over until we had an opportunity of meeting the shareholders and explaining the work we have done. I therefore further move the formal resolution which requires to be passed in order to effect the transfer of our suspense account to capital and involving the sum of £150,850 10s. 10d., and add this: "Although the directors under the articles of association have been entitled to an annual remuneration, to be from time to time fixed by the company in general meeting, the directors in office have never received any remuneration for their services. It is resolved that the annual remuneration of the directors be and is hereby fixed at the sum of £2,500, to be divided by them as they think fit, and that they be paid this amount for their services during the period to September 30, 1905, such amount to be charged to the profits for the period shown on the accounts, before the transfer of the balance to reduce the suspense account." That simply means that if you pass that the sum of £2,500 will be deducted from the balance of profit and loss account before it is carried to the suspense account; or, in other words, it means that the services of the directors will be paid up to September, and from that date we commence with a clean sheet in regard to our profit and loss account.

Mr. J. S. Barwick seconded the resolution, which was carried without discussion.

It was also resolved that the auditors (Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co.) be re-elected, the fee to be 300 guineas.

The Chairman remarked that the detail work required to keep the directors posted up in all departments was very great, and he was of opinion that the fee of 300 guineas was a reasonable one. (Applause.)

The meeting then terminated.

SOUTH DURHAM STEEL AND IRON.

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK ANTICIPATED.

The seventh annual meeting of the shareholders of the South Durham Steel and Iron Company, Limited, was held on Thursday, at the Station Hotel, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the chairman (Sir Christopher Furness, Bart., M.P.) presiding. The directors present were Mr. W. Cresswell Gray, Mr. E. Lloyd Pease, Mr. James Stothart, Mr. C. J. Bagley (managing director), and the secretary (Mr. Arthur Sladden) was also present.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting having been confirmed as a correct record, one of the auditors read the auditors' certificate, which stated that the balance-sheet was properly drawn up so as to give a correct view of the company's affairs.

The Chairman said: In submitting to you for your approval the report and balance-sheet made up to September 30 last, in order to coincide with the financial years of the associated companies—the Cargo Fleet and the Weardale—it is not necessary for me to remind you that the expectations held out at our last annual meeting have been amply fulfilled, the profits for the nine months being £109,123 8s. 1d., against £80,095 9s. for the previous twelve months. This has enabled us not only to pay off the last twelve months' preference dividend, which was in arrears at the end of 1904, and to pay the half-yearly preference dividend due on June 30, 1905, as well as providing for the interest for the quarter accruing to September 30, 1905, but also to pay a dividend of 2s. per share on the ordinary shares. The output of ships in the United Kingdom during this period has been on a larger scale than ever, and our make of steel plates and other finished material has been correspondingly large, rendering us at once the most important manufacturers of these goods in the United Kingdom. We have continued to enlarge our production and to reduce our costs by judicious capital expenditure, but we

certainly could not have reached such a high total make if we had not been able to take full advantage of the steel produced by our associated company, the Cargo Fleet Iron Company, all of which we have rolled in our mills to the mutual advantage of both concerns, and until their own mills are in full operation (which we expect will be early next summer) we shall be glad to take all the steel which they can make, and thus relieve ourselves of some of the extreme pressure for delivery which we are experiencing from our customers. This addition to our make during next year will be a valuable help towards increased profits, and as the Cargo Fleet steel is now proved to be of excellent quality, and been accepted, after the most severe tests, by Lloyd's and other surveys for shipbuilding, the arrangement made by your directors has been fully vindicated, because if the Cargo Fleet Company had pursued their original policy of rolling steel plates their competition would have been simply ruinous to your company. During these nine months we have made 222,061 tons of steel plates and other finished material, equal to a production of a thousand tons per day, or over 300,000 tons per annum, which is 46,000 tons more than we turned out in 1904 and 30,000 tons more than our previous record production of 270,000 tons in the boom year 1900, in the manufacture and distribution of which we have paid £228,140 in wages and £37,845 in railway carriage and dock dues. Your directors, therefore, have no reason to be other than satisfied with the course which they recommended shareholders to adopt in relation to an exchange of shares between Cargo Fleet and South Durham; and as to the position of shareholders who made the exchange, your directors are quite content to abide by the verdict of time.

THE QUESTION OF DEPRECIATION.

There is one item on the balance-sheet as to which perhaps you may like a little explanation, namely, the amount written off for depreciation. We have usually written off about the same amount as the additions to capital expenditure, but you will observe that this time we have written off £35,000 depreciation, while the additions to capital are £47,320 15s. 6d., the reason for this being that in order to cope with the greatly increased demand for our products and to get the utmost advantage therefrom during the financial year, we pushed on with our additions and alterations as much as possible during September last, and one-third of the total amount was expended during that month alone, the benefit of which we did not begin to reap until October and the present month of November. We therefore consider that it is only fair to write off during the last nine months the sum of £35,000, and we shall write off the balance during the current financial year. Since the establishment of the company the total amount written off under this head has been £175,000, in addition to which there is a reserve of £100,000, making, as a total provision out of profits, £275,000 for depreciation and reserve. Now, I claim that the balance-sheet is a very strong one. The liquid assets, including sundry book debts and cash balances, total more than £348,000, whilst the debts due by the company only amount to £149,000. These debts are for current supplies, and are discharged periodically each month in cash. I can therefore congratulate you, both on the satisfactory condition of your balance-sheet and on the satisfactory result of the operations for the nine months covered by the accounts now presented to you.

THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

The steel trade is notoriously one of many and wide fluctuations, and it has been remarked by one universally known in the industry, that one must be either a prince or a pauper. I think we have gone through the pauper period, and judging by our order book it looks as though we are about to experience a fair measure of prosperity. We have difficulties to contend with. The works are in three different situations, in only one of them have we direct access to water carriage, and in none of them do we manufacture or produce any portion of the raw material. We have as far as possible met these difficulties—which date back to the company's beginnings—by our alliance with the Cargo Fleet and the Weardale Companies, but it must not be forgotten that the lion's share of the profits is likely, in the future, to be with those steel-making concerns which control not merely the finished product, but the raw material also. Nevertheless, and because of the alliances we have been enabled to make, I look forward to a fair measure of prosperity for the South Durham and a satisfactory return upon the capital invested. The Talbot process of steel making has proved so satisfactory at Cargo Fleet that your directors have resolved to put down these furnaces at the Malleable Works, Stockton, where we own abundance of freehold land and a splendid frontage to the River Tees with our own wharf, and also at the West Hartlepool Works, and these are expected to be in operation and contributing largely to your profits in the near future, so that next year I hope we will be able to lay before you a balance-sheet and report no less favourable than the one I have now the pleasure to move the adoption of.

Mr. Lloyd Pease: I have great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report.

The Chairman: Has any gentleman any remark to make on the report?

There being no remarks, the Chairman put the motion to the meeting and it was unanimously carried.

The Chairman said: The retiring director, as you will see, is Mr. Lloyd Pease, who has been a director with us since the commencement, and I beg to move his re-election.

Mr. C. J. Bagley seconded the motion, which was agreed to. The Chairman said it was usual, as the auditors were the

auditors of the shareholders, for some shareholder other than a director to move the reappointment of their auditors—Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co.—who give constant attention to all our interests and accounts in our various works, which necessitates a very large amount of work during the twelve months, and the fee which they receive, which would be part of the resolution, would be 300 guineas.

Major Harry Tompkins moved the re-election of auditors.

Mr. John Gardner (Newcastle) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. R. H. Charlton said he had great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, and he begged to congratulate the company on the successful year they had had.

Major Tompkins seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman said: I am very glad, indeed, to meet you again. It is very good of you to show your appreciation as you have done by arranging for our proceedings to be very short to-day. I must confess my great ambition has been to bring these three concerns, the annual meetings of which are to be held here to-day—that is, the South Durham Steel and Iron Company, the Cargo Fleet Iron Company, and the Weardale Steel, Coal, and Coke Company—in close touch with each other, so that we might by close alliance and community of interests be all the better able to cope and compete with those who are running us very closely; but I feel satisfied that such concerns as I have the honour of presiding over will be able to make the article we produce at as low a cost as will compete with the best manufacturers, not only in this, but in any other country. I am glad to see you here to-day. (Applause.)

The meeting then ended.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING.

The Chairman said: I propose that we now resolve ourselves into an extraordinary meeting of shareholders to consider and pass a resolution with reference to our articles of association. First, it would be necessary for the secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

The Secretary having read the notice,

The Chairman said: The Cargo Fleet Company is an old company, registered more than 20 years ago, and the articles were not considered sufficiently up to date to meet the conditions of the Stock Exchange. We have, therefore, had fresh articles prepared. These have been before the Committee of the Stock Exchange, and they have approved of them, so that our stock or shares may be officially quoted on the London Stock Exchange. The articles have been brought up to date. As we consider ourselves to be a very important company, we thought it was right that we should have a complete set of new articles. I, therefore, move a resolution authorising the adoption of this course.

Mr. Walter Scott seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. E. Fenton said he desired to ask the shareholders to accord a hearty vote of thanks to their excellent chairman, not only for the way in which he had presided over that meeting, but also for the admirable work he and his co-directors had done in carrying out the business of the Cargo Fleet Company in such an efficient and excellent manner. He did so also because, although, as they saw, he was a clergyman, he took the keenest possible interest in work of this kind. It was a real holiday to him to take an interest in it. He had travelled a good deal through the world, and some years ago came to the conclusion that as a commercial nation we must indeed bestir ourselves, for we were in danger of getting very much behind the times. Although he had not had much experience in these matters, he believed that Sir Christopher Furness and their other directors were on the right lines and were doing their best to pull us out of the old rut that English folk got into so often. He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his work in the chair and for his great services at Cargo Fleet. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman, replying to the resolution, which was carried with acclamation, said it was most pleasing to himself and to his colleagues to hear such expressions as those which had fallen sent instructions to the works that they should give Mr. Fenton had reminded them that he was a clergyman. He (the chairman) remembered receiving a letter from a vicarage in Durham asking him for his permission to go over the Cargo Fleet works. He then thought some business man was staying at the Vicarage, and sent instructions to the works that they should give Mr. Feuton every facility to see what they were doing. He was afterwards very gratified to receive, not a merely complimentary letter, but a letter full of detail, and pointing out the advantages they were adopting. He, therefore, came to the conclusion that the Vicarage was not the proper place for this gentleman. (Laughter.) However, he agreed entirely with Mr. Fenton that they must keep pace with what was going on in other places. It was absolutely necessary, whether it was in the steel industry or in any other industry, that they should bring everything right up to date, though these things were not very easily done.

The meeting then terminated.

WEARDALE STEEL, COAL, AND COKE.

INCREASING VALUE OF THE COMPANY'S INTERESTS

The sixth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Weardale Steel, Coal, and Coke Company, Limited, was held at Newcastle on Thursday, the chairman, Sir Christopher Furness, M.P., presiding. The directors present included Mr. J. S. Barwick, Mr.

S. W. Furness, Mr. E. Lloyd Pease, Mr. J. E. Rogerson, Mr. Walter Scott, Colonel H. F. Swan, and Mr. G. H. Wraith.

Mr. Nuncarrow read the certificate of the auditors, Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co.

The Chairman, Sir Christopher Furness, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: I have the pleasure to submit to you the balance-sheet for the 15 months ended September 30, 1905, the date of this company's financial year having been altered, in accordance with resolution, to coincide with those of the Cargo Fleet and the South Durham, our associated companies. Probably some of you were at the meeting of the Cargo Fleet Company and heard my statement to its shareholders; but in any case I do not propose to go over that ground in detail, because the statement I then made will be printed and sent to all of you, and you will thus have an opportunity of knowing my views in regard to its prospects. You hold a preponderating interest in that company. You will find from the balance-sheet that on September 30 last we owned 504,789 of its shares. These are taken at par, but I can assure you that par does not, in my judgment, represent the intrinsic value of the shares of that concern, either to yourselves or to any other of its shareholders. The assets of the Cargo Fleet Company have all cost hard money. There is nothing in their balance-sheet to represent goodwill, and the market value of the shares is something like 15 per cent. in excess of their face value, being an increment of £75,000 on the figure at which your holding is brought into the Weardale accounts. As regards our own position, capital expenditure upon collieries, iron and steel works and other properties figures in your balance-sheet at £826,219. Against this you have in reserve, including £25,000 now transferred to that account, a total of £300,000, thus reducing your capital liability to a little over half-a-million pounds. Here again, in my view—and I am sure you will agree with me—the figure is substantially less than the real value of your properties. From those properties you get an output of about 1,500,000 tons of coal per annum, and about 250,000 tons of coke, in addition to pig-iron and other products.

CONTROLLING INTEREST IN THE TALBOT PROCESS.

It has not been in the past an altogether easy matter to find a constant market for these large quantities at fair prices and for cash settlements, but in controlling the Cargo Fleet Company we have secured a customer for our minerals at fair prices, and the alliance of that company with the South Durham Company is also of an enormous advantage to us. The partial dismantling of the Tudhoe Works may involve us in some small loss, but the depreciation fund is strong enough to easily cope with any such contingency. Your directors, however, noting the very satisfactory working of the patent coke ovens at Cargo Fleet, propose to take advantage of the process, and are about to erect similar coke ovens at Tudhoe, and thus profitably utilise some of the land which your company owns there. It may also interest you to know that the proved success of the Talbot process at the Cargo Fleet works, and the circumstance that the South Durham Company is about to use it at their works in Stockton, and also at West Hartlepool, have induced your board to make arrangements for acquiring a controlling interest in the company owning that process on terms which, I venture to think will be satisfactory to the shareholders in both companies. From the profit and loss account you will see that the profits amount to £104,736, and the proposed appropriation is given in the directors' report. The latter shows a carry-forward of £34,220 10s. 6d.—nearly £10,000 more than the balance brought forward, although the same dividend has been paid. In this connection I would remind you of my speech at a meeting of the proprietors held in April of last year. I pointed out then that during the history of the company the dividends had averaged 10·13 per cent. on the preference shares and 15·77 per cent. on the deferred shares. These averages are slightly reduced by the fact that we have since paid what, having regard to the times, I consider a satisfactory dividend of 6 per cent. on both classes of shares.

HOLDINGS IN THE CARGO FLEET COMPANY.

I have to congratulate those of our shareholders who were wise enough to hold their allotment in the bonus distribution of 120,000 Cargo Fleet shares, and the result may yet still be more favourable to them. Unfortunately, some of the shareholders threw away their Cargo Fleet interests, and I can only express regret that they did not follow the advice given them by the board. During the year £100,000 debentures have been issued, the proceeds of which, along with other resources, have enabled the company to pay off its bank overdraft, which in the balance-sheet of 1904 figured at £116,000. When your directors acquired the Cargo Fleet Company they took over the liability standing to the debit of the profit and loss account, and before reconstruction began it amounted to £30,119. This amount has since been discharged by your company, and we have since exercised our right to apply for and take up the balance of the Cargo Fleet Company's unissued capital, amounting to 96,654 shares at par. In another direction your company found themselves in possession of a lease granted to their predecessors in title which, when all came to be examined, involved a direct responsibility on the company to utilise the land for building purposes, and your directors felt that the fulfilment of that undertaking would be neither prudent nor profitable in the interest of the company. They decided, therefore, to make the best terms possible with the lessor, and had to pay rather over £10,000 for the satisfaction of cancelling the lease. This item is one which really does not affect the profit results of our operations, but attaches itself to the cost of acquiring the property transferred to the company, and for that reason the cost appears as part of the capital outlay for the year.

During the 15 months under review, the amount of expenditure in special renewals paid out of the profits was £3,798. In following this course your directors are carrying out their policy of keeping your property up to the highest standard of efficiency.

THE NEW PIT AT THORNLEY.

Considerable progress has been made in the sinking of the new pit at Thornley, which is proceeding satisfactorily. We have got through the sand and the water troubles, and are now at a depth of 177 yards, at the softest part of the sinking operations. Progress in the future will be much more rapid than it has been in the past, and when completed, the colliery will add very considerably to our output of coal. We are, as you know, greatly dependent upon our collieries for the profits of our company—we have such a huge capital invested in them, and it is a matter of considerable concern to your directors that so much should be lost in the matter of output by reason of the increasing tendency of hewers to be idle at some of the collieries. The aggregate for all our collieries in the entire county show that the percentage of hewers off work rose considerably over the period. At Wheatley Hill the percentage is much above the county average, and at Thornley nearly double. If the percentage of hewers off work at Thornley and Wheatley Hill had been the same as the average of the other collieries in the county, the output would have been 50,000 tons higher. Unfortunately, the indications are that the practice of lying idle is on the increase, and that notwithstanding the repeated attempts that have been made to induce the men, for their own sakes and in the interest of others, to remedy this state of things. Apart from the shrinkage of wages sustained by the men themselves, and the putters, fillers, trammers, &c., dependent on them, these proceedings result in serious loss to the company who have provided the necessary plant and machinery for dealing with a full output, and consequently when that is not reached a corresponding loss is involved. We have been passing through a very trying period in the coal trade, but there are signs that we are entering upon better times for this particular industry, and I look forward to meeting you a year hence with an even more favourable balance-sheet than that presented to you to-day. I now formally move the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

INTERIM DIVIDENDS ON THE DEFERRED ORDINARY.

I should like to add that, as you know, we paid the year's dividend on the deferred shares up to June 30 last. Consequently, if we only declare our dividend on the ordinary shares at each annual meeting, it will mean that when we meet next year the dividend will be for 15 months; but I have been looking up the articles, and my reading of them would justify your directors in considering the desirability of paying an interim dividend later on in the year. We have two classes of shares. The preference share dividend is paid on February 1 and August 1, and, of course, that date is fixed upon the preference scrip, and no alteration whatever can be made. But as to the ordinary dividend, the article says:—"The directors may from time to time pay to the members on account of the next forthcoming dividend such interim dividend on the preferred ordinary shares as in their judgment the position of the company justifies." It says preferred ordinary, and does not say deferred ordinary, and I say if we are in a position to consider the payment of an interim dividend, one will be paid. If not, when we do declare a dividend at the next annual meeting, it will be for 15 months, by reason of our payment of the last dividend at last meeting being made up to June 30 last, and our altered date is September 30. I only mention this to show that the matter is fully before the directors, and if we can, under our articles, pay an interim dividend later on, we will certainly do so. (Applause.)

Mr. J. S. Barwick seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: The next resolution is purely formal—that the profits of the year be distributed as recommended in the report of the directors.

Mr. J. E. Rogerson seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

The Rev. E. Fenton moved that the retiring directors, Mr. Walter Scott, Colonel H. F. Swan, and Mr. S. W. Furness, be re-elected.

Mr. Cowley seconded the motion, which was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Walter Scott returned thanks on behalf of the re-elected directors.

Mr. Coulson said: I have pleasure in moving the reappointment of Messrs. Peat and Co. as auditors for the ensuing year. I think, after the directors, it is highly important that we should have capable auditors, for in a concern of this magnitude, where the accounts doubtless are of a very scientific character and require much skill on the part of those who keep the records, it is important that we should have a firm of auditors of the very first order, and I think it will be agreed that Messrs. Peat & Co. have a more intimate knowledge of the iron, steel, and coal trade than any other firm of auditors in the country, and that we can with confidence leave it to them to see that our interests, so far as the accounts are concerned, are carefully watched during the coming year. I beg to propose their reappointment at a fee of 350 guineas.

Mr. J. L. Bell seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. Claugham moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman, in reply, said as directors they had had hard work, but he had the honour to preside over a very loyal body of directors, and it was satisfactory for him to know that the work of the directors met with their entire approval.

The proceedings then concluded.

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NOW READY.

THE CHANNEL FERRY

BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE:

Its Advantages and Feasibility.

Compiled by

ERNEST DE RODAKOWSKI.

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4 MAPS, 6 CHARTS, 30 PLATES, AND 19 TABLES.

This work deals with the question of unbroken railroad communication between this country and France. A Train-Ferry across the Channel is selected as the best means of effecting the object in view.

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Will materially increase the trade with Continental Europe, and especially the British exports, by obviating the double handling of goods, and by cheapening rates for the transport of merchandise.

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- (2.) Details and Information concerning 35 Train-Ferry lines at present in existence.
- (3.) Statistics giving the weight of the whole trade of the United Kingdom. (Whilst in all Blue Books and official publications trade statistics are given according to the value of the trade, in this book the weight of the total trade is given in tons.)

The Appendix contains extracts from the opinions of eminent men on the question of unbroken communication between this country and France.

HARRISON & SONS, 45, Pall Mall.

The Investors' Review.

Then and Now, 1895-1905.

At last Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has succeeded in his latest enterprise. The second great party in the state he has managed to wreck goes out of office, and to the country in a state of complete demoralisation. Ten long years of reactionary government have come to an end, and in going the Cecil Ministry has left behind it a legacy of social and financial confusion seldom paralleled in our history. It has been a Government characterised throughout by subservience to faction, and, above all, by abject obedience to the demands of the South African band of cosmopolites; it was an out and out servant of the mine bosses and military locusts, a craven victim or instrument of the blue funk school, and a careful protector of the selfish interests of its friends. What the consequences have been of lax and unprincipled handling or neglect of affairs, of the presence of weaklings, intellectually and morally, in the high offices of state, cannot yet be summed up, but something of the contrast between the chaos of the end of the period, when a Government of Jingos gives up place and a semblance of power, and the position of the country in 1895, when the party now driven from office by Mr. Chamberlain took in hand

the misguidance of the country's destinies, may be worth indicating in outline. It is impossible in a mere newspaper article to enter into many details, and those who want a really effective, true, and at the same time most appalling, exhibit of the disorder into which the finances of the nation have been brought by the incompetence, and unprincipled extravagance of the party which has just abandoned office, will find the essential facts set forth with a lucidity and completeness nowhere else attained in Mr. Thomas Gibson Bowles' latest pamphlet, "National Finance in 1905." Gathering together there all the omitted items of the national outgoings he shows that in the year 1904-5 the peace expenditure of the Imperial Government attained to the appalling figure of £175,298,451. In 1894-5, the last year for which a Liberal Government could be held responsible, the total on the same basis was only £110,141,569. In the intervening ten years, therefore, the gross peace expenditure of the nation has risen by £65,156,882 per annum, by more than 30s. per head of a population mostly poor, millions of whom live always hungry or on the verge of hunger.

These are the gross figures, but if we merely take the ordinary records of the Government the result is just as startling. In the ten years the amount drawn from the pockets of the nation by indirect taxation has increased by upwards of 43 per cent. Custom duties are more now by about £15,500,000 per annum than they were ten years ago, and the increase in Excise is £4,250,000 per annum. In the same period the National Debt has been augmented by nearly £140,000,000, and the expenditure upon the fighting forces of the country has been expanded to an extent which unquestionably spells national impotence, if not national ruin, unless it can be abated at once and for all time. The gross income from taxation paid into the Imperial Treasury, and kept by it, in the year ended March 31, 1895, was £78,655,000, and the estimate for the current year is £120,500,000. This is an increase of almost £42,000,000, or 53 per cent., and there are the local doles to add, the extraneous items going to make up Mr. Gibson Bowles' total. Is it any wonder that the revolutionary spirit is beginning to manifest itself in the language and attitude of the London unemployed? Can we be surprised that, compared with such a recent date as the beginning of 1901, the paupers of England and Wales maintained or "relieved" at the expense of the community have increased 131,000 in number? The surprising thing is that exhibitions of hunger amongst the population have not been much more striking, and the attitude more ominous than anything as yet witnessed.

And it is not alone in the merely national or imperial expenditure that extravagance, wanton and most profligate waste of every description, is manifested. Wherever this vanished Ministry has put its hand it has heartlessly consumed the substance of the people. The army of famine-gnawed India costs now something between £5,000,000 and £7,000,000 more than it did ten years ago, and India is to all appearance considered less secure by the military faction dominant there than it was a decade back. We have stirred up our colonial self-ruling possessions also to extravagance, to increased outlays upon military enterprises, and money has been wasted in and by our African possessions or protectorates to an extent which they will probably never get over. Look at the additional responsibility we have taken on in South Africa alone as copestone to an edifice of folly and crime rarely surpassed. In 1895 we had no concern with the internal affairs of the South African Republic or the Orange Free State. They went their own ways and we had no responsibility for their mistakes, their debts, or anything else. But as result of the policy followed at the bidding of Rhodes and his associates—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain being throughout the humble, not to say grovelling, tool of these men—we have contracted a contingent liability of £35,000,000 for the Transvaal alone, and the still self-governing colonies in that region have been tempted into outlays provided

out of loans raised in this country whereby the debt of Cape Colony has been increased from £27,000,000 to £40,000,000, and that of Natal from about £9,000,000 to £18,000,000. Including the debt we guarantee for the Transvaal, the obligations of these South African communities now aggregate nearly £100,000,000, exclusive of the incalculable total representing the feats and depredations of the company capitalists. A great portion of these various moneys—investments they are called—has undoubtedly been wasted, and the condition of South Africa from one end of our dominion to the other is to-day incalculably more backward and distressing than it was ten years ago. First win a country and then load it with debt is and has always been, the cardinal doctrine of Tory policy and finance.

To go back to domestic affairs, we have had reaction in the treatment of popular education with a revival of sectarian conflicts and a decline in efficiency all over England and Wales. We have had the brewery interest endowed with freehold rights in property which depended heretofore on an annual licence, we have had landowners and State parsons compensated by doles out of the Imperial Treasury, and still the cry is "give us more," a cry we may be sure the Ministry now gone would have listened to had it continued at the head of our affairs. For has not this Ministry screened the fraudulent company promoter, until but for a courageous judge we might have had Whitaker Wright in the House of Lords. Has it not played the game of the Chartered Company, bought up the Niger Company, built the Uganda Railway, wasted £3,000,000 in Somaliland, permitted the Thibetan Expedition, and itched to be once again at the throat of the Afghan? Turn where we may, the picture of wreckage and of humanity scorned is dark, and the outlook gloomy in the extreme. To give a yet deeper shade of darkness to the domestic picture we have been compelled to fight over again the old battle of Free Trade. A dishonest and corrupt agitation has been organised for the purpose of leading the country back into the toils of protectionism. So far-reaching is the machinery, so deep the purses behind this agitation, that we actually find a bishop of the American Episcopal Church playing with zeal the part of Brummagem tariff reformer in a message he sent home from London. Bishop Henry C. Potter is declared by a correspondent of the *New York Evening Post* to have sent the following message to the United States. "It goes without saying that England is occupying a false position in the commercial strife of the age. She is like a boxer fighting with one hand tied. The conditions which prevailed in Cobden's time do not exist now. It is only the conservatism of the Anglican mind that produces opposition to Mr. Chamberlain's proposals. England will have to adopt a change, which will do much to solve the unemployed question, and improve the earnings of workers." Just imagine a man calling himself a Christian bishop uttering nonsense like this, taking the trouble to get it cabled. It is criminal nonsense because a man of education and observation such as Bishop Potter presumably is cannot be ignorant of the consequences of a Protectionist system in his own country. He is well answered by Mr. Franklin Pierce, the correspondent who quotes the above message, who winds his letter up by saying, "It may be popular to exalt our institutions, but a system of privilege in the form of a protective tariff, which allows a few hundred millionaires to make eighty millions of consumers pay them tribute is a terrible injustice, and is the more ghastly in its hideous injustice when approved by a pious bishop than when urged by its avaricious beneficiaries."

We cite all this merely as an example of the lengths to which the subsidised propagandists of reactionary protectionism in this country are prepared to go, or to send their dupes and ignorant supporters. They stick at nothing, refuse the help of no instrument, abstain from no falsehood in order to gain their ends. And all this reveals something of the character of the inheritance to which the Liberal Party falls heir. We do

not envy Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman and his colleagues the task they have taken in hand. Not only must expenditure be reduced, domestic expenditure, but there are all sorts of imperial problems to be taken in hand and solved, not the least formidable of which is that South African problem created by the mine bosses since the war was over—Chinese slave labour to wit; the keeping of upwards of 40,000 male barbarians in compounds at sweating wages in order that more and more gold may be produced. What can the new Government do with a vested interest like this, established in defiance of the nation's conscience, and of all human rights? It will have to give true freedom to the Transvaal, and see to it that the white inhabitants therein and other citizens, whether black or brown, who may be entitled to speak, shall have full liberty to express their unbiassed verdict upon this iniquity. Also it can at once stop further importations of coolies from China, and see to it that the poor yellow wretches already in South Africa are either sent back home or given fair usage. The mine harpies, the knot of men who act as if the whole empire were theirs in virtue of cunning share "deals," and abundant social bribery will be sure to "raise hell" through all their instruments for the manufacture of falsehoods and dishonest opinion, but in their hearts they would welcome the departure of the Chinaman, for he promises to work more harm to their monopoly schemes than the white man's trade unionism ever could.

But what a loathsome, festering mass of chicane and hypocrisy the story of the Ministry now gone has been in relation to this one question, the lies that have been told, the Old Bailey playing with phrases, the pretence of popular support for a system of indentured labour indistinguishable from slavery, surrounded with imposture of every kind, and involving a degradation of morals unsurpassed in Sodom, how they have grovelled and dodged and glossed, and, when hard pressed, brazenly lied about it all, these men of the concentration camps, with their 20,000 white women and children dead. They are gone, these men, and in due time will come up for the judgment of history, but they have left their works behind them, and strong, indeed, must the new Government be if it is to bring order and cleanliness out of the confusion and mire.

President Roosevelt and Mr. Secretary Shaw.

United States politicians are, it seems, delighted with President Roosevelt's twenty thousand word Message, and we have no objection, although to us the silences in it are more eloquent than the torrents of words, gags, and phrases. The President of the United States says nothing about tariff revision, but a great deal about the control of corporations and the railroads by a "sovereign power," meaning the bureaucrat in office. Republican politicians do not appear to like the word "sovereign" thus introduced into the current politics of their country, but if the thing is there why jib at the word? With many of the President's monopoly-handcuffing recommendations we might agree, circumstances being what they are within the Union; but as long as he and such as he abstain from any efforts to release the commerce of the Republic from the curse of the existing Dingley tariff we have no hope that any legislative or administrative machinery will much abate the robberies of the monopolists. He would extend the powers of the inter-State Commerce Commission so that it might overhaul railway rates, prevent dishonestly granted rebates, and otherwise subdue these arrogant corporations to a sense of their duties to the citizens, and it is said that a sort of compact has been arranged between the President and the masters of the railroads, in virtue of which he will be allowed to cavort around to his heart's content with plaything devices for checking their dishonesties so long as he lets the tariff alone.

It may not be so—we do not much care one way or the other; but a certain sense of thankfulness must steal into the minds of business men in the United Kingdom that for the present the tariff abomination is to be let alone. It is the best friend the British merchant has in neutral markets, for while the United States continue to bar the way to a free intercourse with other commercial nations England must remain supreme as a country exporting manufactures. Into the Munroe doctrine disquisition it is not our concern to enter, but we are disposed to congratulate the President on his recommendation to Congress that insurance corporations and companies should be brought within control as the banks now are, although it may be doubtful whether any State machinery can do much to check abuses so long as the public conscience not only tolerates them, but, on the whole, admires those individuals who by chicane and corruption, unscrupulous self-seeking and false pretences attain to dollar eminence through success in cheating the people.

More interesting to us in some respects than the President's Message is the report of Mr. Secretary Shaw, the Finance Minister of the Federal Government. It states that in the year ended June 30 last the deficit on the public revenue was £4,600,845—income £139,420,000, outgo £144,021,000—and that in the two years then ended the aggregate deficit was more than £12,800,000. In this, however, is included the £10,000,000 paid to the French for their rights in the Panama Canal. Even so, the story is not particularly exhilarating, but obviously there cannot be any radical change in the dishonestly-engendering tariff enactments of the Republic, while expenditure is kept up to such a preposterous height. A good £20,000,000 might at once be knocked off it by a reversion to honest methods in handling pensions, but were pensions to go the tariff would also go, because the present system of bribery these pensions embody is the main buttress of Protectionism. Those who profit by the fraud keep quiet and avoid principles or convictions. Deficits appear to be still continuing, since the excess of expenditure in the first quarter of the current fiscal year ended on September 30 last was £1,915,000—but what of that? What though this does mean the devouring of a new country's substance, the steady impoverishment of the great majority of the people, the filling of the ranks of the unemployed, the triumph of monopoly? It is all right with these monopolists, and railroad receipts continue to expand in a most gratifying manner, rebates, dishonest compacts with beef trusts, and Standard Oil Trust notwithstanding. Why should not the primrose way be followed?

Mr. Shaw, as usual, trots out his demand for what he calls an "elastic currency"—another choice imposture—and again recommends that the National banks should be permitted to issue notes over, and above those now circulating under Government guarantee to the amount of 50 per cent. of such guaranteed rag money, these untrammelled-credit notes to be subject to a tax of 5 or 6 per cent. until redeemed by a deposit of Government stock in the Treasury, and he adds very naively, "by eliminating the words 'secured by United States bonds deposited with the Treasurer of the United States' from National bank notes now authorised, the additional currency would be identical in form with that based upon a deposit of bonds, and its presence would not alarm, for it would not be known." We never saw dishonest trickery, the cheating of the public by the emission of debased currency, so frankly recommended by any high public official in a modern civilised State. Mr. Shaw bases his demand for a dishonest inflation of the paper currency such as this implies on the remarkable fact that "millions were loaned approximately at 1 per cent. in midsummer, while in November call money reached 25 per cent." Clearly the higher rates of interest interfere with the gambling in the stocks upon Wall Street, and if more paper money will help the players to keep loan rates down there would be no check upon their capacity to drive the prices of public securities away into the empyrean. That is Mr. Shaw's ideal perhaps, and if

not he knows nothing about honest money and the limitations of State interference with the currency. This is not honest finance, but our feeling is that there is very little real honesty anywhere in the management of the affairs of this great Republic. It is not that the individual members of the Administration are all, or any of them, personally corrupt; it is because the atmosphere they live in is foul, because the dollar and dollar interests dominate everywhere, individual prepossessions, public sentiment, the principles of Government, so that even a thoroughly honest and strenuous man like the President can only talk and act within an arena full of the intoxicating fumes generated by the underlying corruption. "There will be a revolution here soon if things don't mend," correspondents in the States often tell us, and we doubt the information. Worship of the dollar is too universal, the demoralisation too great, to afford observers much ground of hope for a return to manly purity and independence.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, PRIME MINISTER.

Elevation to a position so high in the councils of the nation has naturally brought out much laudatory comment upon Sir Henry's capacities and career. The Radical Press, for one thing, has seized upon the rise in Consols as proof that the City approves of the change of Government. There is truth in this argument, notwithstanding the fact that Consols have really been pushed up by the diseased cheapness of banking credits in the money market and the purchases of Russians anxious to save some of their property from the ruin which seems to be impending over the Russian Empire. Unquestionably Sir Henry's advent to power has brought a sense of relief to all thinking minds and to City business men in particular, who have been wearied to an exhausting extent by the extraordinary tortuosity of the Ministry which has now disappeared. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, wrecker of that Ministry, has never been popular or trusted amongst City bankers and merchants as a body. We remember many years ago, years before that man betrayed the Liberal Party, a conversation with the chairman of one of our greatest joint-stock banks, the purport of which, so far as he was concerned, was to express the profoundest distrust of the Birmingham politician, his methods, and aims. No greater contrast could be instanced than that between the restless, unstable, and ignorant man of Birmingham and the new Prime Minister. For a long time Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was looked upon as a man of small account in the political arena. In the early days of the South African War we ourselves were guilty of carpings at him on more than one occasion, and underestimated his force, but he has surmounted all this sort of demeaning, and gradually won for himself the confidence of the people. His speeches have been more and more recognised as those of a man of settled convictions and no little intellectual force. They are often suffused also with a delightful play of wit and humour, precious to students of politics, and in the City he has come to be regarded as a level-headed man, not likely to be swept away by sudden enthusiasms, but trustworthy, a man to be counted upon to do his duty in all circumstances. No higher qualifications could be possessed by a Prime Minister at the present juncture of our affairs.

As we say elsewhere, the task before the new Ministry is an appalling one, and it will hardly have entered upon its duties before it will have to encounter the opposition of vested interests and corruptions of all kinds. Therefore we hope the Prime Minister will be backed up not only by a strong Ministry, by men of conviction in high places, but most vigorously by the electorate when the verdict and mandate at the polls have to be given. Above all, we trust he will secure a competent and determined Minister of

Finance, for it is upon the financial policy of the Government that everything must hinge. Unless we are to return to paths of economy and prudent retrenchment there can be no cure for the unemployed disease, no routing of the Protectionist heresy, no deliverance from the dominance of privilege and of the master usurers in all Departments of State. The helpless and fettered nation will drift towards Protection as certainly as a derelict hulk in the river would drift out to sea. Whoever is appointed Finance Minister ought at once, on the assembling of the new House of Commons, to act upon the valuable suggestion of Mr. Gibson Bowles, and appoint a strong Committee of the House to overhaul the estimates. Alone no Finance Minister, however great his capacities, can hope to stand up with success against the insatiable demands of the army and navy, of all branches of the public service. All the more reason why he should forthwith gather round him a band of earnest members, drawn from all parts of the House, and entrust to it the arduous labour of overhauling the estimates presented by the various departments, and of bringing order out of the chaos they deliberately or of hereditary ineptitude infuse into all their accounts. By the help of such a body the Chancellor of the Exchequer might be able to knock a good many millions off the current expenditure of the State, and in doing so to effectively destroy the foothold the Protectionist traitors now have in pushing their nefarious schemes for our undoing. This journal at least shall loyally support the Government of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman in all that relates to the economic well-being of the country.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

It surprised us, we confess, to find the Liberal Press rather disposed to welcome that memorandum about the reorganisation of the navy which appeared in the end of last week over the signature of the Earl of Cawdor, the retiring first lord. It is called "A Statement of Admiralty Policy," and appears to us to be in spirit quite pernicious, and in substance only so-so. Perhaps the Liberal Press was misled by the statement towards the end of it that as a result of all the "reforms" to be instituted the navy estimates for the coming year will be reduced by a further £1,500,000 making, with the reduction of £3,500,000 last year, no less than £5,000,000 knocked off the bill in two years. This looks plausible, but it is not all the truth. In the first place, last year's reduction of £3,500,000 was to the extent of nearly £1,000,000 a delusion, since the Government could not find any more foreign ships of war to buy, as it had uselessly bought the Chilean ones the year before, and in the next place, were the whole £5,000,000, as alleged, to be really knocked off the total of the naval estimates in the two years, they are still perfectly monstrous, and without any reasonable justification whatever. The total will still be about £32,000,000, exclusive of expenditure on naval works, which may be £3,000,000, £4,000,000, or £5,000,000 more, which is to date about £2,500,000. Nobody knows how much extra may go in this way, because that part of the public outlay is kept out of sight in estimates until it is too late for anyone to criticise or curtail. Now, as recently as 1894-95 the total expenditure upon the navy was only about £17,500,000, so that the figure for the coming year upon the basis of Lord Cawdor's memorandum, and without counting naval works, would still be about 83 per cent. more than the total of ten years ago. Go back another year, to 1893-4, and add in the £1,429,000 then laid out on naval works over and above the ordinary expenditure upon that branch of our slaying services, and the increase for the coming year would be about 93 per cent. on the total expenditure twelve years before, also exclusive of "works" extras. What reason on earth can there be for an outlay of this description? There is none, and the memorandum appears to us to confess that there is none, else what is the meaning of this phrase now paraded before the country "nucleus crews?" Does

it not mean that we have built ships far in excess of any power to man them? What also was the meaning of that recent sale of 150 ships described as obsolete, the throwing of such a mass of naval vessels on the scrap heap, if not that we had built and built in order to gratify the lust of spending and to maintain in a flourishing condition a number of iron and steel works, in which probably enough many officials are interested as shareholders, in perfect indifference to the taxpayer and without the least regard to the question of crews. The whole thing is revolting, and a memorandum such as that issued on Saturday by the late First Lord of the Admiralty is an insult to the intelligence of the community. A naval expenditure of the magnitude it foreshadows is absolutely beyond anything that we require. It may perhaps be something to the good that there is to be a restriction in the number of new ships laid down every year, but reform will have to go further than this if the country is to be allowed to enjoy in any reasonable degree the fruits of its industry. Where are the navies we are afraid of?

THE ANGLO-GERMAN CONCILIATION COMMITTEE.

The institution of this body was a most praiseworthy idea, and its value has already been made apparent in the attitude assumed by the German Ambassador, Count Paul Wolff-Metternich. Speaking at a dinner of the Lyceum Club, on Saturday last, he said that with England the Germans had never had a serious quarrel, and he sincerely trusted they never would have. The overwhelming majority of Englishmen and Germans wished, he declared, to live with each other in peace and harmony; and of that there can be no question whatever. We cordially agree. Not only are the two peoples of close kindred, but German commercial requirements, as Lord Avebury pointed out at the inaugural meeting of the Conciliation Committee, are of the greatest importance to us. Next to India, he said, Germany is the largest purchaser of British goods, having taken last year nearly £30,000,000 worth against £20,000,000 to the United States, £17,000,000 to Australia, and £15,000,000 to France. We are not in agreement, however, with Lord Avebury when he said that the increase of German armaments had not caused us to increase ours. In one sense, perhaps, the statement is true, but in the sense of the blue funk school, it is not. The increase in German armaments and the unwearied clamour of the Kaiser for more and yet more ships of war have been utilised by our own uncared-for alarmists to hound the administration on to waste public money in this direction, and yet it is true, as Lord Avebury also said, that our large increase in empty and speedily scrapped ships of war is not really intended as a threat against Germany. It is simply an exhibition of our own insanity. Well might he add, "Oh, if this money could be spent, not for the destruction but for the benefit of mankind, how much happier the world would be!" That sentiment we heartily endorse, and it should be the business of this Anglo-German Conciliation Committee to combat the revival of militarism and chauvinism in this country, with a view to a speedy reduction of the burdens laid upon all European nations by a recrudescence of the spirit of mediævalism shocking to behold. Well might Mr. Leonard Courtney say that it was a strange thing they should be called together to support an object which should commend itself to all men; strange that there should have been perfect goodwill between Germany and England hitherto, and that to-day it should be menaced. It is not menaced except by the pestilent creatures who rave about war and invasion, and the evil designs of the Kaiser in order to frighten us into parting with the little we have left of our means.

RUSSIAN FINANCE.

Most people here will be inclined to misapprehend the action of the French Prime Minister in interfering to prevent a collapse in the Russian bond market on the Paris Bourse. He told the Council of Ministers last

Tuesday, when a panic seemed to be imminent, that, according to his opinion, the state of the Russian Treasury was such that the interest on the loans was secured for two or three years by the Russian deposits with various foreign banks*. This would mean that an amount of from £50,000,000 to £75,000,000, at a moderate computation, was in hand among these banks and ear-marked for the payment of interest. We simply do not believe it, especially as the Russian autocratic Government has been unable to raise any loans lately in order to pay its war bills. Why, then, did M. Rouvier venture upon a statement of this kind? Probably because he had no choice. France is, even more than England or the United States, under the thumb of the great masters of usury, and M. Rouvier has always been notably at their beck and call. They probably told him that unless he made some statement of the kind and published it to the world one or other of the great banks deeply committed to Russian credit would have to founder, and no Minister in France dared face such an eventuality. Is Russia, then, really insolvent? From some points of view, undoubtedly yes, although we distrust the reports about loss of revenue forwarded from that dark country. What is to be feared is the absence of any Government at all capable of collecting revenue and of meeting with it the engagements of the State. But would default, the outcrop of anarchy, be permanent? We scarcely think so. It is quite true that amongst the masses of the Russian people there is an intense hatred of the foreign creditor, as represented by the Jew, whom they are diligently taught to regard as their arch-enemy, but no responsible political leader or thinker in Russia has ever gone further than an advocacy of the repudiation of the loans necessitated by the Manchurian War. The great bulk of the Russian debt would certainly be honoured by whatever Government the Russian peoples may be able to set up and maintain, and Russia has many valuable assets to represent this debt. It is not all a debt which must be considered a legacy of wars, like our own National Debt. Most of the railways within the Empire have been paid for out of the loans, and although there may be hundreds of millions remaining as mere war legacies, it is hardly likely that any responsible Government would seek to segregate this portion of the debt from that represented by genuine assets. Therefore the default, if default comes, will only be temporary and partial, but even temporary default would produce something like a cataclysm of insolvency in France and Germany, the effects of which would be felt on all money markets.

THE ZAMBESI FALLS ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT.

Some interesting notes and correspondence have been appearing in the *Times Engineering Supplement* upon this subject, and last week's issue contained a curious letter from Mr. Wilson Fox in which all sorts of wonderful things were promised and assurances made as to the feasibility of the scheme. As has already been noticed in these columns, it professes to be a scheme, furthered by a creature of the Chartered Company called the African Concessions Syndicate, to lay down turbines at the Victoria Falls for the purpose of utilising the water power there to generate a current of electricity which will be carried by cables a distance of 725 miles to the Witwatersrand, the power to be there broken up and distributed for use in working the mines. To us it has seemed a mad project, and the criticism upon it offered by Professor Ayrton was at any rate a practical one. He said that the coal deposits in the neighbourhood of the mines would constitute a better and surer source of electric supply than this cable. At this opinion Mr. Wilson Fox jeers in his letter of November 25, published by the *Times*, but he offers no reliable arguments or data to refute the Professor's conclusions, and indulges in much tall talk which seems wide of the subject. Like the correspondent "Ignotus," whose letter appears in this

* A later version of the story is that M. Rouvier said about 18 months, but the one assertion is as dangerous as the other.

week's *Engineering Supplement*, we should like to know how continuity of current is to be ensured over such an enormous distance. He, speaking from experience, points out that owing to the tremendous floods to which the country is subject portions of the Rhodesian railways have been actually undermined, "the rails forming a viaduct over a valley in the embankment," telegraph poles frequently unearthed and telegraphic communication interrupted, in one instance for as long as three weeks. How are the steel towers upon which the transmission cables will, it seems, be carried, to be ensured against the forces of nature thus displayed? We should also like to know on what practical experience Mr. Wilson Fox bases his assertion that electric power can be effectually transmitted to such a distance. Experience in the United States has indicated 500 miles as about the utility range of any such transmission. And further we want to know what real data have been accumulated and digested to indicate the initial and probable maintenance cost of an enterprise of this kind. Is it known, for example, how much power the Victoria Falls may really be capable of supplying all the year round? The statements put forth seem to us to be without any solid foundation, and we have been assured on excellent authority that it would not be possible to obtain continuously from these Falls much more than one-tenth of the total power claimed to be there for the harnessing by some of those who support this mad-looking scheme? One might go on to ask what would happen upon the Witwatersrand were the cables to fuse or break, were any accident to occur stopping the current, but it is unnecessary to say more in order to warn the public against what seems to us to be another of those forlorn and desperate schemes furthered by the Chartered Company and its creatures and victims, in order to hide a little the fact that it is one of the most melancholy instances of miscalculation and failure in modern history.

SHELL TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY.

Rather more than eleven months after the close of the period covered, the report and accounts of this great oil producing and carrying enterprise for the year 1904 have just made their appearance, and will, we fear, give rise to the usual protest against the paucity of the information vouchsafed. We have no intention of wearying readers with a repetition of the many complaints we have formerly felt compelled to direct against the administration and general conduct of the business, but when a chairman like Sir Marcus Samuel promises that the actual position of affairs shall be more clearly defined by segregating the important items of the balance-sheet and giving fuller details of the methods by which profits are arrived at, it is only reasonable to expect the pledge to be fulfilled. Yet we find the latest statement drawn up on the old inadequate lines, and it must be concluded that while the board or the vendors remain in active control by means of their huge holdings of ordinary shares no reforms will be instituted. A company like this, with its swarm of offshoots and dependents, ought to afford a maximum of information, so that all may learn to what extent these outside ventures contribute to the general weal. This much said, and we may at once turn to the result of operations. At first blush the display seems a good deal better than for the preceding year, the nett profits being returned at £465,222 against £319,775, but the confused fashion in which previous revenues have been brought out renders accurate comparison quite impossible. Moreover, from the first-named figure must be deducted the enormous sum of £112,685 for "cost of working European oil business, including provision for results of the trading to April, 1905." In other words, that sum of money was sunk in getting a foothold in European markets and making a determined effort to break down the monopoly of the Standard Oil Group. If this much-desired achievement has been really accomplished—and the directors tell us they have secured a position which

should have substantial results in the future—no one, not even the shareholders, should grudge the money; but the Rockefeller octopus will not allow one of its most important tentacles to be cut away and destroyed without a keen and bitter struggle, and it remains to be seen whether the "Shell" Company is in a position to bear the strain. Other deductions from the so-called nett profits are £22,150 for management expenses, surely a big sum, income-tax £8,064, depreciation £103,022 an increase of £18,926, a sum of £10,000 written off the expenses of issue of preference shares, and £3,713 off the American expenses, and a further sum of £6,625 allowed against the investment in the London Oil Development Company. It comes to this, then—that the real nett profit is only £9,665 better at £198,963, and except that £58,853 compared with £19,555 was brought forward the position is little better than that revealed about a year ago. This balance raises the disposable sum to £257,816 or £48,963 more, from which the preference dividend and the 5 per cent. paid on the ordinary shares on January 1 last absorb £150,000, leaving £107,816 to be carried to the credit of the current year ending three weeks hence. It is not a little remarkable that although the complete accounts cannot be given to the shareholders until a year after they are closed the dividend is declared on the very next day. That is to say, the distribution for the twelve months now drawing to an end will be made on January 1 next, and while some are hoping that the return will this time be 6 per cent. it is doubtful if the directors will see their way to go beyond the usual 5. Nett capital expenditure for the year was £33,104, bringing the total to £3,015,519, against which the depreciation to date, including the £103,022 set aside on account of the period under review, is £497,343, so that the book valuation of the steamships, freeholds, buildings, wharves, storage, works, plant, and installations &c. all given under the one head, is reduced to £2,518,176. It could be further brought down by the reserve fund of £400,000, but as this money consists largely of share premiums it is not really available for capital purposes. Other capital commitments in various forms are £1,093,395 in the company known as the Dutch-Indian Industrial and Trading Company, £373,893 in the Asiatic Petroleum Company, and £161,026, being an increase of £62,526, in the German Petroleum Producing Company. Unfortunately the finances cannot properly support all this outlay, and the company therefore finds itself heavily in debt. Under all heads the floating liabilities add to £853,388, and by stretching everything to its utmost limit the liquid assets do not reach £300,000. That is by no means a comfortable position, and because we are told nothing about them we are unable to discover whether any of the associated companies are in a position to liquidate part of their indebtedness to the "Shell," and so afford the opportunity of putting its position a little straighter. Full details regarding these companies should certainly be pressed for at the forthcoming meeting, even though the chance of getting them may be small; and the chairman might also be asked the amount of the gross profit, as it might then be discovered how much goes into the pockets of intermediary firms for services rendered. Of these there must be a good many, and though it may not be well to particularise, it would be very instructive to know how much Messrs. Flannery, Baggalay, and Johnson receive each year in their capacity of superintendent engineers. We fancy the figure must be a pretty big one.

ANOTHER FURNACE COMPANY DEAL.

It is not pleasant to be always complaining, but we are not sure that the latest move of the Christopher Furness companies in their efforts to establish a complete community of interests is quite so fair as it might be. Readers are probably aware of the close relationship now existing between the Weardale Steel, Coal, and Coke, the Cargo Fleet Iron Company, and the South Durham Steel and Iron Company, and how South Durham shareholders were offered an exchange

into Cargo Fleet shares on perfectly inadequate terms, measured by the performances since. Well, something similar is now projected in connection with a little-known venture called the Talbot Continuous Steel Process, Limited. It was launched in November, 1900, and on the front of a most glowing prospectus could be found the name of a director of the Weardale and South Durham Companies respectively. Unfortunately, the promises held out were not fulfilled, and by the end of 1903 the company found itself with a debit balance of £5,707, each year's operations, so far as we can tell, having resulted in a loss. But in 1904 the undertaking seemed to turn the corner, a small profit being realised, and the directors giving their opinion that the income would steadily increase. Both Guest, Keen, and Nettlefold and the Cargo Fleet Company were using the company's process, and, for all we know to the contrary, the business of the current year may have turned out very well indeed, but before the shareholders are given an opportunity of learning the results, up steps the Weardale Company with an offer to exchange Talbot shares for Cargo Fleets in the proportion of five Talbots for two Cargos, the denomination in each case being £1. Attention is drawn to the fact that the Cargo Company hopes shortly to be making 3,000 tons of steel weekly by the Talbot process, which seems to us an argument in favour of allowing that concern to work out its own salvation until we read on and learn that on the termination of the patents the present company must cease to exist. There was no actual mention of that in the prospectus, and the episode reminds us of the argument put forward in favour of the other exchange, that the Cargo Company could easily undersell the South Durham. Comment is needless, but we think the Talbot results for the present year should be available, in order to give shareholders an opportunity of judging whether the suggested terms are adequate.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE IN NOVEMBER.

It is certainly gratifying to all Free Traders to see the manner in which our foreign trade appears to be recovering from the embarrassments and depression produced by the disastrous waste of our capital in the South African war, a waste whose effects Tariffites strive to hide and do their utmost to ignore. In the past month imports went up £2,476,088, or nearly 5 per cent., to a total of £53,146,934, and the increase in exports was equal to nearly 13½ per cent., or £3,494,861, at £29,608,149, the highest figures, it is said, ever seen in any one month of the year. Re-shipments of foreign and colonial merchandise also rose by almost £980,000 to £6,692,958, an increase of over 17 per cent. That these improvements are healthy we can hardly doubt, for at no point among our great branches of trade is their evidence of sudden inflation in prices or sudden bulgings in the quantities imported or exported. Thus, amongst the leading imports the greatest increase, whether in quantity or value, is in hemp, but that is only a small article at best. Next comes copper, up about 108 per cent. in quantity, but only about 39 per cent. in value. There has also been a large increase in the imports of rice, which have cost slightly more than a year back, but the import of raw cotton is down fully 6 per cent. in quantity and 8½ per cent. in value, and the only raw materials in our textiles which have not only come in in much increased quantity, but have cost more, are jute, up 24 per cent. in quantity and 55 per cent. in value, and wool, the import of which has been 60½ per cent. greater in weight and nearly 79 per cent. greater in price.

Exports are equally even-keeled so-to-say, and yet gratifying enough, not only in quantity, but as a rule in price, although there seems to be a considerable decline of chemical and other manures exported, and a further relapse in the value of sugar. Coal is also down in price, so that the increased quantity exported last month has not brought quite as much money as the smaller quantity a year ago, but there has been some increase in the value of our iron and steel exports over and above the increase in quantity, and the increase in the value of

the jute, yarn, and piece goods is from two to four times that of the increase in quantity. Our export trade seems to have been good with all parts of the world, and it continues to be surprising to find less trace in the figures of the chaos in Russia than might have been expected. We have certainly imported less wheat from that Empire in the past month, less barley also, and oats, but our imports of butter from Russia have not fallen off, perhaps because this article of consumption comes very largely from Finland and the Baltic provinces. Nor is there any material decrease in the import of eggs. Our exports to Russia are also keeping up better than might have been expected, although always small by reason of the ferocity of the Russian Customs tariff. More steel, however, in bars, angles, rods, &c., was sent to Russia last month than in the corresponding month of either of the two preceding years, and the only important commodity which seems to have stopped going there altogether is rails, of which only two tons have been sent all this year. More cutlery, however, went in the month just closed, and the decrease in hardware has not been very serious. Amongst our best customers for cotton piece goods in the past month Turkey continued conspicuous, as also Egypt, the Dutch East Indies, China, Japan, Brazil, and the Argentine Republic. As yet, too, there is no trace whatever of any injury to this leading branch in our foreign trade inflicted by the alleged boycott of British productions in India. Last month the exports of piece goods to Bombay and Bengal were larger, to Bengal notably larger, than in the same month of 1904. Many other interesting points might be dwelt on in the returns, but as they now embrace 11 months of the 12, and as our columns are terribly overloaded with other matter, we shall defer a lengthened analysis of the figures until the totals for the complete year are available. But the subjoined tables indicate woeful discomfiture to the charlatans of Birmingham:—

IMPORTS.

	November.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise	£ 48,723,591	£ 50,670,846	£ 53,146,934	+ 2,476,088
Gold	1,769,964	2,094,665	4,314,763	+ 2,220,098
Silver	1,043,065	631,498	1,116,863	+ 485,365
	51,536,620	53,397,009	58,578,560	+ 5,181,551

EXPORTS.

	November.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 23,037,793	£ 26,113,288	£ 29,608,149	+ 3,494,861
For. and Col. M'dse..	4,805,279	5,713,065	6,692,958	+ 979,893
Gold	3,765,662	5,217,937	1,515,287	— 3,702,650
Silver	1,318,750	1,012,666	1,260,578	+ 247,912
	32,927,484	38,056,956	39,076,972	+ 1,020,016

IMPORTS.

	Eleven Months ended November 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise.	£ 490,603,123	£ 498,523,697	£ 512,173,646	+ 13,649,949
Gold	25,469,642	30,053,554	36,376,387	+ 6,322,833
Silver	8,954,969	10,532,728	11,752,396	+ 1,199,668
	525,027,734	539,129,979	560,302,429	+ 21,172,450

EXPORTS.

	Eleven Months ended November 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 266,277,778	£ 272,745,763	£ 301,371,273	+ 28,625,510
For. and Col. M'dse..	63,736,607	63,881,642	70,705,412	+ 6,823,770
Gold	23,845,883	29,937,659	27,084,930	— 2,852,729
Silver	9,927,017	12,070,567	13,055,500	+ 928,933
	363,787,285	378,635,631	412,217,115	+ 33,581,484

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	November.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports.. ..	£ 51,536,620	£ 53,397,009	£ 58,578,560	+ 5,181,551
Exports.. ..	32,927,484	38,056,956	39,076,972	+ 1,020,016
Excess value of im- ports over exports	18,609,136	15,340,053	19,501,588	+ 4,161,535

	Eleven Months ended November 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as com- pared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports.. ..	£ 525,027,734	£ 539,129,979	£ 560,302,429	+ 21,172,450
Exports.. ..	363,787,285	378,635,631	412,217,115	+ 33,581,484
Excess value of im- ports over exports	161,240,449	160,494,348	148,085,314	— 12,409,034

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

Passing Events.

For the sake of those people who have bought shares in nitrate companies at the inflated prices lately ruling, we trust that the breakdown in the negotiations for a renewal of the output-restricting combination will be only temporary. The old compact expires at the end of March next, and for a considerable time past the representatives of the companies interested have been in constant conclave with a view to its continuance, market values being based on the assumption that there was no possible doubt of a favourable result. So when a cablegram came from Iquique on Tuesday stating that negotiations had been abandoned, quotations went back with a rush, and have been weak ever since. The trouble seems to have arisen from the demand of certain companies for a larger quota than that allotted to them, and we fear that the various interests will not be brought into line without very great difficulty, because the mere fact that prices have been so good has encouraged new enterprises, and led to the building of fresh oficinas, with the result that the maximum quantity which can be exported if prices are to be maintained does not give to the individual concern so large an output as desired. But an earnest endeavour must be made to find a way out of the deadlock, because not a few companies, before the last agreement gave them a fresh lease of life, found themselves on the verge of bankruptcy. Some say that owing to the shortage of labour matters will adjust themselves without any artificial restriction, but wise men will not place too much reliance upon that, and already we note a significant weakening in market quotations for nitrate of soda.

An anonymous telegram asks in reference to last week's note on the Equitable Life Company of the United States whether the correct values of the options offered to a policyholder by that company should not be 44, 68, and 70 per cent. of amounts instead of "lower than"? The answer is "Yes." How the slip occurred we do not know, but here are the exact percentages:—Cash with paid-up policy offered now, 44 per cent. of cash promised; paid-up policy offered 67.74 per cent. of policy promised, and surrender value offered 69.21 per cent. of "estimate" paraded to catch the victim. This is called business by the Yankees. We call it gross imposition.

Mr. George Mathieson, the manager-director of Clarke, Nickolls, and Coombs, has been throughout distinguished as one of the ablest and best-informed opponents of the Sugar Convention. We, therefore, hasten to make known the fact that he has issued a fresh pamphlet entitled, "The Sugar Convention: Its Cost and Consequences," which can be had from him at the price of 3d., in which the recent history of the sugar trade and much valuable statistical information is embodied. The pamphlet ought to be extremely useful to Liberal candidates and others about to enter

upon the struggle of the General Election. He points out with great force that the whole of the £250,000 grant made to the West Indies by the Imperial Government seems to have been frittered away uselessly, since he can only find one central sugar factory started in Antigua, an island which received a bonus grant of £15,000. The West Indies, in fact, have gained nothing by the Sugar Convention. For their sake, he says, we have paid unnecessarily in twelve months about £6,000,000 extra for this necessary article of food, and the islands are beaten by Cuba, by independent producers everywhere because their sugar-growers have no energy, enterprise, or mercantile forethought. Since the inception of the Convention beet sugar has fluctuated from 6s. to 16s. 6d. per cwt., and apparently Mr. Mathieson expects these fluctuations to go on. Get the pamphlet and circulate it.

Another pamphlet which may be useful to Liberal candidates and people anxious to secure better government for the country is now in the Press, and will be ready at an early date. It is entitled "The Profligate Waste of Imperialism," and consists of an address delivered by the Editor of this REVIEW to the New Reform Club on the 7th of last month. Copies may be had either from the New Reform Club or from the publisher of this REVIEW, and early orders will to some extent regulate the price at which it can be supplied, which will not be more than 2d. per single copy, with large reductions for quantities.

The strenuous competition foreshadowed by the numerous motor omnibus enterprises which have recently sprung up has evidently alarmed the directors of the London Road Car Company. Claims have been made that only the new companies can put serviceable motors on the streets of London, claims which the directors say are without foundation. The Road Car Company owns at the present moment about 50 motor omnibuses, and has contracted for 200 more of the most approved types, to be delivered during 1906, while further contracts are now being made to enable the supply to be continued without intermission, so that the substitution of motor for horse omnibuses may be completed in the near future. All this may be true enough, but we have heard it said that the motors used by the new companies are actually the only really reliable ones in the market, and that the makers of this type are bound not to supply other users during the continuance of the contracts, which have still several years to run.

The Schibaieff Petroleum Company announces that, as the result of negotiations with the Russian Government for advances to the oil companies in Baku to enable them to replace property damaged during the outbreak in September, it has been granted a loan of 453,000 roubles for 10 years at 5½ per cent., repayable by instalments over the last seven years. The company, however, did not wait for this decision to commence the work of restoration, and is able to inform the shareholders that already the greater portion of the reconstruction has been carried out, and most of the producing wells restarted. During the 10 months prior to the outbreak the weekly production averaged 181,000 poods, and notwithstanding the destruction of the property and the total cessation of work for six weeks, the latest report, dated November 21, shows a weekly output of 128,000 poods—a result which the directors ascribe to the care exercised in previous years in the cementing of the wells. As regards the commercial position, it is stated that the contract between the company and Messrs. Nobel Bros. and the Mazout Company stipulates for the delivery of certain fixed quantities of astatki, kerosene and lubricating oils during the navigation on the Volga. The whole of the contract quantities were dispatched from Baku, and as the two firms named are responsible for the solvency of buyers, the position of this company seems fairly strong. Stocks of kerosene and other oils in the interior of Russia are realising high prices, which it is hoped will compensate for the losses incurred, and in the meantime the directors conclude with the reassuring statement that the financial

resources at their disposal are sufficient for the requirements of the company.

Mr. F. B. May writes as follows:—

I think your criticisms of the Consolidated Goldfields Company outstep the limits of fairness! Not that this will bother you, perhaps; but, either the report is a tissue of lies, Lord Harris's speech ditto, and the auditors' signed statement; or they are statements of fact. And the inference is that all three were issued with intent to mislead? This can hardly be so. The argument as to their ability to realise their assets is beside the mark. A trust company—and this in a great measure the Goldfields Company is—has no need to realise, and can "hold the baby" till it is full grown.

We have a few back numbers of this journal kept in stock for the convenience of the public. What is to hinder us from entering these at say £10 apiece, and on this basis getting up a collusive trade in them a "pocket order" trade by help of the office boy, the clerk, the advertising agent, the printer's devil, and the charwoman? Bargains could be made and unmade at no expense beyond the price of a drink or two now and then, and on the basis of value thus established, it would be easier than lying to hoodwink accountants to certify to a valuation of the "assets" big enough to float a £50,000 company upon. Could this angry critic oblige by indicating another method by which the Consolidated Gold Fields Company may be able to establish the true and irrefragable value of the bales of shares—of its own manufacture, and mostly in its own possession—paraded in its balance-sheets as proof that it is a solid, responsible company, and not a bouncing bucket shop? How are you to estimate the value of a share secured upon nothing vendable at a properly tested price? There is but one safe rule to follow in valuing assets in a balance-sheet, the rule which prescribes cost price as the maximum value. Assets may be written down from that maximum but should never under any conditions be written up.

By means of the immense number of proxies they were able to control, the directors of the Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company succeeded in defeating the resolution for the appointment of a committee of investigation brought forward by Mr. Dvorkovitz at the special meeting held on Wednesday. Nevertheless it cannot be said that the board came through the ordeal with flying colours, because the actual vote given at the meeting was in favour of the opposition, and there is no doubt that grave dissatisfaction exists amongst a large body of shareholders at the present condition of affairs. Needless to say Mr. Hubbard, the chairman of the company, and Mr. H. N. Gladstone who, together with his firm, had been specially singled out for attack, repudiated in the most emphatic terms the long series of charges brought against them, quoting many facts and figures in support of their statements, and while this disavowal must be accepted we fancy that a good many shareholders must have come away from the meeting with a vague sort of feeling that all was not well. One matter specially interested us, and that was the question of share selling. Mr. Hubbard denied in a fashion and left no room for doubt that either he or his firm had sold a single one of the 10,000 shares originally applied for, but that, on the contrary, they had increased their holding until at the present time it amounted to 21,600 shares. To that Mr. Dvorkovitz replied that he had taken his figures from the records at Somerset House—the statement was that Mr. Hubbard had reduced his holding from 10,000 to 1,000—and we shall have to take an early opportunity of turning up the lists to see where the confusion arose.

Critical Index To New Investments.

LONDON COUNTY 3 PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED STOCK.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on December 12 for an issue of £1,500,000 of the above stock, which will be consolidated with the £24,455,000 of similar stock already existing. The money is required for the electrification and extension of tramways, for street improvements, housing of the working classes, main drainage, and other works, and for

capital expenditure on educational purposes. Like the other issues, the new stock is secured by a charge upon the county rate leviable upon the rateable property within the administrative county of London, and may be redeemed at par at any time after March 19, 1920, on one year's notice. On September 30 the stock and loan debt outstanding consisted of £65,617,614, London County bills £1,463,000, raised for the purpose of making a loan to St. Marylebone Council, and various other liabilities £2,612,273, but against these there were assets of various kinds amounting to £23,890,757, leaving a nett liability of £45,802,130, of which about £6,100,000 relates to undertakings of a remunerative character. The minimum price of this issue has been fixed at 92 per cent., payable 5 per cent. on deposit, so much on December 19 as will leave 75 per cent. to be paid by three instalments of 25 per cent. each on January 17, February 14, and March 14, but a full three months' interest will be paid on March 1.

SWANSEA HARBOUR TRUST.

The Swansea Harbour Trustees have authorised Messrs. Fredk. J. Benson and Co. to offer £500,000 4 per cent. "A" stock at the price of 97½ per cent. This stock forms part of an amount of £2,000,000 which the Trustees were empowered to raise for the purpose of constructing a dock capable of accommodating the largest vessels afloat, work on which was commenced in 1904. At present the harbour estate consists of three docks, river frontage, 24 miles of railways and sidings, extensive warehouses, and valuable freehold and leasehold land near the docks, portions of which have been leased for various purposes. The Great Western, Midland, North-Western, and Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railways have considerable frontage for the shipment of coal, and the fixed annual rents paid by three of these aggregate £15,970. In 1874 the net revenue of the harbour was only £30,803, ten years after it had risen to £47,101, by 1894 it was up to £56,554, and in 1904 it reached £79,939. Interest on the stock is payable at all times out of capital, and the Act authorising the construction of the dock contains provisions that the Corporation of Swansea shall, during a period of ten years after the opening of the dock, guarantee any deficiency in the income up to £150,000. Advances made under this guarantee are to be repaid with interest during the following ten years by annual instalments, but it is expected that the revenues earned will be sufficient to meet all charges without having to resort to the guarantee, and the stock now offered looks fairly attractive.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking is steadily expanding its business, and on June 30 last was operating 51½ miles of fully equipped electric railway, exclusive of the Canadian Pacific line between Vancouver and Steveston, which it has electrified, and is working under an agreement with that company. In addition to the railway, the company owns an electric light business in Vancouver and Victoria, where the number of lights supplied has increased from 27,988 in 1898 to 136,512 on July 1, and in connection with this it has bought the whole of the share capital of the Vancouver Power Company. An issue of £100,000 6 per cent. two-year promissory notes matures on April 15, 1906, and in order to repay these and to provide funds for further extensions, 185,000 5 per cent. cumulative perpetual preference shares of £1 each were offered at the price of £1 os. 10d. per share. For the twelve months ended June 30 the nett profits were £84,977, compared with £72,134 and £56,703 in the two preceding years, and as the nett receipts for the first four months of the current year amount to £38,000, the nett earnings for the entire year are estimated at £105,000. Bonus to employees, capital amortization charge, and London expenses on the basis of the 1904-5 figures will require £11,997 and debenture

ture interest £20,718, so that there would be a surplus of £72,285 available for preference dividend and other purposes. Of the present issue only £58,000 has been underwritten for a commission of 3 per cent., and an "over-writing" commission of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., which seems fairly moderate.

ASSOCIATED OMNIBUS CO., LIMITED.

After giving a fair trial to motor omnibuses by running seven vehicles between Haverstock Hill and Charing Cross and between Cricklewood and the Law Courts, the directors have decided to increase this number considerably. In order to do this more money is required, and an issue of £50,000 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock is offered at par, a sum which is apparently considered sufficient to purchase 50 'buses and leave something over for other purposes. At present the company has 115 horse vehicles working, but when the new motor 'buses are put on the roads it is intended to remove two horse 'buses for each motor, and the saving to be effected by suspending the purchase of horses would, it is thought, nearly cover the cost of the new 'buses. The debenture stock is secured on the leasehold properties, consisting of a motor garage in Camden-road, and some seven stables in Camden Town, Westminster, and elsewhere, and by a floating charge on all other assets; these assets, including horses, "Times," and omnibus stock, being valued on December 31 last at £139,466. Profits since the inception of the company are given at £8,238, £6,714, £11,268, and £10,755 for the four years to December 31, 1904, and for the six months to June 30 at £6,547, so that the debenture stock seems well enough covered.

AUTOMOBILE CAB CO., LIMITED.

This rival to the City and Suburban Cab Company followed close upon the heels of that concern, and like it, has a capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. There, however, the resemblance ends, as this company is to pay £360 each for its cabs against £284, and it calculates to earn £10 per week of six days or a trifle less. After providing for expenses and writing off 20 per cent. for depreciation, it is estimated that a profit of £124 per cent. would be earned, or with 200 cabs working £24,860 per annum, of which rent and administration charges would take £3,860. Of the total capital 5,000 shares were retained for subscription by the company's employees, leaving 95,000 for the public, and of these 25,000 shares were underwritten for a commission of 10 per cent. The promoters were rather more moderate in their demands than those of the competing concern, and were satisfied with £7,000 to cover preliminary expenses.

ANGLO-WESTPHALIAN COPPER CO., LIMITED.

This company acquires certain copper mines and mining rights in Rhenish Prussia, for which it pays £56,000 in shares and £1,500 in cash. The total capital is £100,000 in £1 shares, of which 11,507 have been privately subscribed and 2,493 are under option of subscription, leaving 30,000 shares, which are offered for subscription at 25s. per share. Some of the concessions were in former years worked as separate mines, and there are indications of a large extraction of ore in ancient times, but it is believed that owing to lack of railway communications and the consequent difficulties of transport their development on a large and systematic scale has, until recently, never been seriously taken in hand. Various experts' reports are quoted, and in one of these, dated in December, 1904, it is estimated that, taking the price of B.S. brands at £65 per ton, the nett profits should be £15,992 for one year, £30,000 for two, and £46,000 for three years. Another report puts the probable profits for the second and subsequent years of working at 25 to 35 per cent. of the capital, and if actual results correspond there may perhaps be some justification for the premium of 25 per cent. now demanded.

SHAHDARA (DELHI)-SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

This company proposes to construct under contracts with the Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh a light railway on the 2 ft. 6 in. gauge from Delhi-Shahdara on the East Indian Railway to Saharanpur on the North-Western State Railway. Messrs. Martin and Co., of Calcutta and London, have undertaken to construct and equip the line ready for opening for public traffic on or before December 1, 1907, at a total cost not exceeding Rs.37,56,007 (£250,400), including rolling-stock and station buildings. The share capital is Rs.39,00,000 in Rs.100 shares, of which 15,000 shares will be offered in India, and the balance of the funds required is to be raised by an issue of £200,000 $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. debenture stock which has been bought by Messrs. Ogilvy, Gillanders, and Co., and is by them offered for sale at 104. The line runs through one of the richest agricultural districts in India, and it was estimated by the late Mr. Horace Bell that the earnings per mile per week would amount to about £8 in the third year after completion. Sir Guilford L. Molesworth, another former Director-General of the State Railways, estimated that a traffic of £5 5s. 6d. per mile per week should be earned in the first year, with a gradual increase to £8 16s. in the fourth year. This would give an average of £7 0s. 9d. per week, and taking working expenses at 50 per cent. of the gross receipts, it is calculated that the amount available for interest and dividends would be £17,290, or nearly twice as much as is required to meet the interest on the present issue. It therefore looks a promising investment.

APOSTLE'S BREAD COMPANY, LIMITED.

The rather striking name given to this company originates in the surname of the inventor of a new process of making bread direct from grain by a continuous process. Mr. Serge B. Apostoloff has had his invention before the public for some considerable time, and now proposes to test it practically by going into business as a miller and baker through this company. The Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited, will accordingly receive subscriptions at par for 100,000 £1 shares of the company, part of a total share capital of £150,000, the vendor taking the balance of 50,000 shares in part payment of the purchase price. In addition, £75,000 worth of 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures, part of an authorised issue of £100,000, will be offered also at par. Altogether the vendor is to take £142,500 as the purchase price for the premises, plant, patents, leases, and so on. Of the total capital £82,500 in cash, shares, or debentures will be set aside as working capital, and sufficient profits are estimated for to yield 15 per cent. dividend on the total share capital, with about £11,500 over for directors' fees, reserve fund, &c. Certainly if the process is half as excellent as it is claimed to be the company ought to revolutionise the bread and milling industries and make its shareholders happy.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

EDINBURGH INVESTMENT TRUST.—The directors have decided to issue 8,400 additional shares of £10 each at a premium of 10s. per share, and in accordance with the articles of association these are offered to the preferred and deferred shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every £50 of stock held. In their annual reports the directors are careful not to give any particulars regarding the investments, and do not even state what relation exists between market and book values, but they unbend so far on this occasion as to mention that at present prices the securities are worth at least £100,000 over the last balance-sheet figures.

LAND BANK OF EGYPT.—The 100,000 ordinary shares of £5 each recently created are offered to holders of ordinary and founders' shares in the proportion of one share for each ordinary or founders' share held at a premium of £2 per share.

LLOYDS BANK.—The balance-sheet for November shows liabilities consisting of current and deposit accounts £57,941,252, and bills accepted or endorsed £3,600,891, and assets of cash in hand and at Bank of England £9,207,485, cash at call and short notice £5,167,268, bills of exchange £7,787,211, Consols and other investments, £10,723,704, and advances to customers and other securities £29,630,904.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The cargo market has shown some improvement this week, and holders in one or two instances are raising their prices. In other markets, too, a little more activity has been visible, though not very much, and there has been no sustained improvement in either speculative positions or spot parcels. Supplies of English wheat have been moderate, and prices for them have hardened, while foreign has ruled steady. Farmers delivered for the week 93,510 qrs. averaging 28s. 8d. against 45,942 qrs. averaging 30s. 4d. last year. Imports during the week were 423,030 qrs. against 422,006 qrs. last, and the estimated quantities of wheat and flour on passage are again heavier—2,155,000 qrs. against 2,065,000 qrs. last week. American markets opened easy, but improved later on reports of very large milling demand and other influences of a bullish tendency. Until the last day or so reactions were only of a temporary order, export trade was good, spot parcels very strong and the Russian situation stimulated speculative buying, but the last day or so saw a decided set-back, chiefly owing, it was said, to the Armour interest selling largely. Bradstreet's estimate of the quantities in sight east of the Rockies is must the same as last week's—62,400,000 bushels against 62,605,000 bushels.

WOOL.—Colonial wool sales here have continued their animated way, this week, but without any very perceptible rise in quotations. On the other hand, consumers will get no relief, for if prices do not go much higher than in September they will certainly not decline, and as both spinners and topmakers begin to realise this they show more signs of agreeing to a common basis of values. At present there is very little doing and almost no speculative dealing. Exporters of yarns and tops are having a fair trade, in spite of the difficulties caused by the situation in Russia, and spinners generally are busier. In the piece trade there is nothing to report.

LINEN.—Nothing has occurred to disturb the satisfactory state of this market, though spinners seem likely to be confronted with a difficult position ere long—the problem of how to keep their customers supplied. Stocks have seldom, if ever, been so low or the markets so oversold. Irish flax continues in fairly good quantity and to command high prices, while Continental fibre is going higher than ever, spinners over there being so anxious to secure early supplies. There is little or no change in brown linen, damasks, &c., and where there is it is for the better. The same may be said of bleached and finished goods. Home buyers are still cautious, but show more signs of activity, and the prospects with regard to outside markets are nearly all encouraging.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the week under review a generally quiet feeling has prevailed in the market, and transactions, on the whole, have been of a retail character. The feature of interest was the publication on Monday of the Washington Agricultural Bureau estimate of the American crop, which gave the figures at 10,168,000 bales. This caused considerable excitement in New York, and prices were rushed up, but on Tuesday the spot quotation in Liverpool was only advanced 13 points, the quotation being 6.35d. A further advance of 7 points occurred the next day, but on Thursday a decline of 4 points was registered, bringing the official quotation to 6.38d. We have experienced an unsettled and irregular state of affairs, and transactions have been most difficult to arrange. The business doing in piece goods for export has been on a small scale, and buyers, for the most part, have restricted operations to comparatively small limits. The demand from India is far from extensive, and China also is doing very little. The telegrams from abroad do not stimulate shippers to anticipate their wants, and until stocks are cleared in our outlets there does not seem to be much prospect of large orders to make being given out. Egypt and the Levant have dealt in small lots, but the sales of piece goods have been of retail dimensions. The prospects for the home trade are decidedly promising, and fairly large orders for delivery in the spring have been given out. Home trade American yarns have been in poor demand at practicable rates. Some spinners have done better than others, but most sellers have had considerable difficulty in getting a price that will leave any margin of profit. Weft is rather more plentiful than some little time ago, and common cop twist is abundant. In export yarns the total sales of the week have been unimportant. The demand for the Far East at current rates has been poor. A little business has been done for the Continent. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton have not been in healthy demand, but the position of spinners is well maintained owing to their deep engagements.

The Agricultural Bureau estimates the total yield of the current season's crop at 10,167,818 bales of 500 lbs. gross weight. The area picked and to be picked is computed at 882,399 acres, or 3.3 per cent. reduction on the acreage estimated to have been planted. Considerable excitement followed the publication of these figures and prices advanced sensationally. Trading was on an enormous scale. Shorts becoming nervous covered freely and bulls gave considerable support to the market. At one time quotations advanced over a cent. Subsequently the market has become much quieter and is now steady with a mild demand. Closing prices are:—Dec.-Jan., 6.30d.; Jan.-Feb., 6.34d.; Feb.-March, 6.39d.; March-April, 6.43d.; April-May, 6.46d.; May-June, 6.49d.; June-July, 6.51d.; July-Aug., 6.52d.; Aug.-Sept., 6.45d.; Sept.-Oct., 6.11d.; Oct.-Nov., 6.02d.

COAL.—A very fair business is now being done in almost all districts. Owing to the milder weather house coal demands have

been quiet, but there is still an average trade, which justifies the advance of 1s. per ton decided upon this week by London merchants. Steam fuel is in good request, and prices for the best have again gone up to 9s. per ton in the north of England. Gas coals, too, are doing a considerable trade, with an increase in shipments, but there is no settlement as yet over the question of the railway contracts. Scottish shipments have shown a falling off lately, but even so the total amount sent from the ports for the year to date are at least half-a-million tons more than in the same period last year. Of Welsh trade there is little to say. Conditions have improved slightly and there has been more activity at Swansea and Newport, but Cardiff is still dull. Prices remain without change.

COPPER.—The market did not show quite such pronounced strength as that lately witnessed, but the reaction was by no means unwelcome, as, although the position of bottom seems sound enough, there is danger in values going ahead too fast. Strong advices from New York and the continued shortness of supplies caused a strong opening, and all offerings were readily taken, but the Russian crisis subsequently created some uneasiness, and sales were somewhat more liberal. The market, however, was never allowed to become in any sense heavy, and prices were soon picking up again, closing at £78 7s. 6d. for cash, and £77 17s. 6d. for three months, forward.

TIN.—Dealings in this metal were again of a rather excited character, and shortly after the opening the cash price was driven up to £161 on brisk covering by the shorts. The rise was helped by strong Eastern quotations, and although the high level of quotations caused some realising, any offerings were so quickly snapped up that values immediately recovered again. At the Billiter sales on Wednesday 125 tons were sold at an average equal to a parity of £161, and before the close prices were well above this figure, the final quotation being £162 5s. for spot, and £160 5s. for future delivery.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business in most departments of the iron and steel trades is still brisk, manufacturers having to repeat orders before the completion of those already booked. Some makers who have orders up to February next are not disposed to accept new lines. Shipping houses continue to give out heavy orders. Pig-iron is selling with great freedom, but, in the Midlands especially, foundry iron is scarce. Values, therefore, keep firm. In the North iron is in good demand at firmer rates, G.M.B. selling readily at 53s. for prompt, whilst for delivery over six months rates are higher. The market for hematite is as strong as ever and 70s. remains the minimum price for East Coast mixed numbers, with 1s. 6d. more for delivery over six months. Demand for finished iron and steel is very brisk at firm rates. In Glasgow, however, pig-iron warrants have been quieter than for some time past. As there are but a few sellers in the market prices are well supported. In this particular market there has recently been a considerable amount of clearing out by weak "bulls."

TEA.—The slight reduction in Indian supplies did not effect much improvement in the market. The quality was not so good as it was a few weeks ago, and though prices for the better sorts remained practically unaltered, medium and lower teas were irregular, the commonest selling at 4d. to 4½d. and the average for the whole market during the week was 7.10d. against 7.16d. last. 36,613 packages were offered, of which 34,344 were sold. Ceylon teas had a brisker auction. 22,647 packages were put up and the average obtained during the week was 7.46d. against 7.64d. last. Medium and better descriptions received most attention perhaps, but common sorts remained steady. Javas had a fair sale, particularly for better-class teas. Sales consisted of 2,371 packages, among which the invoice from Goalpara averaged 10d. per lb.

SUGAR.—Inactivity has continued to be the condition of the market in the past week. Some business, however, was done for consumers here and abroad, which caused a little more inquiry for paper sugars, May rising from 8s. 6½d. to 8s. 8d., moving to 8s. 7d. to 8s. 7½d., and closing at 8s. 7¼d. Certain excitable people, deficient in imagination, tried to influence the market by spreading a rumour that a Liberal Government might abolish the sugar duty and so stimulate consumption. As Mr. Czarnikow remarks, they overlooked the fact that for reductions time is allowed after the Budget in which to get rid of old stocks, so that even if any change were made after July 1 next, assuming the improbable, consumption this season would be very slack. Giesecker has raised his European estimates from 6,625,000 tons to 6,855,000 tons against Licht's 6,725,000 tons, and those of the Convention countries to 5,385,000 tons compared with Licht's 5,285,000 tons, but the market takes no interest in the figures, as the factories hold the sugar and release barely sufficient for consumption. The New York market has remained steady at previous quotations. Landings in the three ports for the week were 13,000 tons, and meltings 20,000 tons, reducing stocks to 207,000 tons.

The December number of the *World's Work and Play* is an interesting one dealing with a variety of subjects in a thoroughly readable way. It opens with an illustrated account of how the magazine itself is produced, which we have read with enjoyment. A portrait of the editor, Mr. Henry Norman, M.P., precedes the article. Then we have a short essay on "Does Poultry-Farming pay?" an account of recent air-ships, especially of "Lebaudy No. 2," and an article on the new treatment of deafness, but the article which interested us more than any other is one entitled "Christmas without Flesh Eating," a really fascinating statement of the arguments in favour of vegetarian diet.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

INSURANCE.

Norwich and London Accident.—13 per cent., making 19 per cent for the year ended Aug. 16.
 Royal.—Interim for 1905 of 20s. per share.
 Sun.—Interim of 4s. 6d. per share.

BREWERIES.

Carter's Knottingley.—At the rate of 9 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Sept. 30, placing £1,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,117.

Cheshire's.—After providing for depreciation and bad debts and transferring £15,000 to reserve, final of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 15 per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30, placing £15,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £8,372.

Chicago.—For the year ended Nov. 30 at the rate of 5 per cent., carrying forward £16,122.

Commercial.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

North-Eastern.—Further of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 12 per cent. for the year ended Oct. 31. Transferring £27,000 for reserves and carry over.

Obilsson's Cape.—Interim to Sept. 30 of 10 per cent.

United States.—Interim of 8s. per share on the preference shares for the six months ended Sept. 30

MINES.

Brilliant Central Gold (No Liability).—6d. per share, payable Dec. 14.

Greene Consolidated Copper.—Bi-monthly of 4 per cent.

May Consolidated Gold.—20 per cent. (equal to 4s. per share).

Mills' Day Dawn United Gold.—1s. per share, payable 21st inst.

Nigel Gold.—No. 20, of 20 per cent.

Sulphide Corp.—10 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended June 30.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Assam.—Interim of 2½ per cent., or 10s. per share, payable Jan. 1.

Assam Railways and Trading.—On the preferred A shares of 6s. per share on account of arrears, payable Dec. 23; on the preference shares at 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 4; on the new 6 per cent. shares at 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 4.

Barsi Light Railway.—Final at the rate of 3½ per cent., making 6 per cent. for the year to June 30, carrying forward £3,213.

Bayliss, Jones, and Bayliss.—After placing £6,450 to depreciation reserve accounts, 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Sept. 30, placing £6,450 to depreciation reserve, and carrying forward £662.

Chicago Junction Railways and Union Stock Yards.—1½ per cent. on the preferred, and a dividend of 2 per cent. on the common stock for the three months ending 31st inst.

Clitheroe Estate.—Final of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 5 per cent. for the past financial year.

Dooars Tea.—On Jan. 1 interim of 2½ per cent. (5s. per share) on the ordinary capital on account of the current year, payable Jan. 1.

Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.—3½ per cent. on the preference capital (7s. per share), of which 1 per cent. is the arrears of 1904, and 2½ per cent. an interim payment for 1905, payable Jan. 1.

Freehold and Leasehold Investment.—½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, placing £1,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £4,050.

Gokak Water Power and Manufacturing.—7 per cent. on the preference shares and 8 per cent. on the A shares, payable Dec. 31.

James Deuchar.—Interim at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Oct. 31.

Jokai (Assam) Tea.—Ad interim of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Milner's Safe.—Usual interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Nov. 30.

Mitchells and Butlers.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending Dec. 31.

Natal Navigation Collieries.—Interim for six months ending Dec. 31 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

National Guarantee and Suretyship Association.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Nov. 30.

New Pegamoid.—5 per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30, carrying forward £381.

Newport Abercarn Black Vein Steam Coal.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on both preference and ordinary shares for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

North British Coal Storage.—Interim for the half-year ended Oct. 31 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

S. W. Arnold and Sons.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Sept. 30.

St. George's Coal and Estate.—2½ per cent., payable Dec. 30.

South African Hotels.—2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Starkey, Knight, and Ford.—Final of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30.

Tilbury Contracting and Dredging.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the six months ended Sept. 30, payable 22nd inst.

Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light.—Interim on the preference shares for the half-year ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable Jan. 1.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

For the month of November the output from the mines on the Colar gold field was 50,802 ozs., a decrease of 485 ozs. compared with October, November being a shorter month. There is nothing important in the individual returns to which to draw attention, with the exception of the Balaghat, which crushed 100 tons more for a proportionately increased yield.

Name of Company.	Aug. Tons.	Ozs.	Sept. Tons.	Ozs.	Oct. Tons.	Ozs.	Nov. Tons.	Ozs.
Balaghat	4,200	3,621	4,100	3,649	4,200	3,667	4,300	3,744
Champion Reef....	19,410	18,003	19,520	18,042	19,650	17,801	19,540	17,762
Coromandel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mysore	16,050	17,039	16,000	17,016	16,750	17,303	16,400	17,010
Mysore W. and Wynaad	2,112	1,001	2,083	1,000	2,152	1,155	2,042	1,137
Nundydroog	6,500	5,371	6,600	5,721	6,800	5,816	6,800	5,607
Ooregum	10,314	5,506	10,178	5,534	10,595	5,545	10,276	5,542

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1905 and the previous five years:—

	1900. Ozs.	1901. Ozs.	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.
January ..	41,185	42,829	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999
February ..	39,238	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629
March ..	40,674	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629
April ..	40,774	42,038	38,349	48,271	49,991	52,324
May ..	40,021	42,110	28,093	48,628	50,445	51,095
June ..	39,872	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,553
July ..	39,355	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086
August ..	42,703	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	50,541
September ..	41,765	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	50,962
October ..	41,834	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,031	51,287
November ..	41,772	41,669	48,332	51,559	50,242	50,802
December ..	44,089	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	—
Total ..	493,342	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	562,484

Answers to Correspondents.

X.—No; the guarantee you mention should be taken as a warning to avoid.

Nomen.—Our opinion of this undertaking is not very high, and at the price named the shares seem very fully valued.

W. H. G.—No; we hear very bad accounts of this company, and do not think the share a desirable speculation. They have a priority as to capital. (2) Under the circumstances we naturally do not approve of the debenture stock, and think you will be well advised to leave the company's securities alone. (3) We do not look for any rise in the immediate future as the company is spending lavishly on revenue account, thus neutralising the excellent gross traffics. Still, there seems no occasion to sell, unless you want the money.

F. T.—We cannot advise a purchase of such shares; they are far too speculative.

M. N. T. B.—The company is said to have struck a good seam of coal, but no official statement appears to have been made to that effect, and its accounts are long overdue. Prospects, so far as we can see, are not cheering, and it would perhaps be better to cut your loss.

M. A. Philipshorn.—(1) The business has been dwindling for some years, and at the price you mention the shares would be dear. Better leave them alone. (2) The address you ask for is 62, London Wall, E.C. As we make no charge for a question of this kind, we hold us to your credit.

"THE STRAND," "SUNDAY STRAND," "CAPTAIN," "C. B. FRY'S," and "WIDE, WIDE WORLD."—We regret that pressure on our space this week forbids us to do much more than acknowledge the receipt of these magazines. Christmas numbers all of them, and a goodly array they make. It would be difficult to say that one was better than the other, so our only advice is to read all six, and then nothing can be missed. We may mention in passing that the *Strand* begins what promises to be an exciting story told by Sir A. Conan Doyle concerning "Sir Nigel," of "White Company" fame.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN BANK.—The statement for Nov. shows current accounts and deposits of £13,320,890, other liabilities £539,671, and acceptances and endorsements £2,180, against assets consisting of cash in hand and at Bank of England £1,830,745, money at call and short notice £1,033,430, British Government and other securities £4,089,449, and bills discounted, loans, &c., £8,906,937.

UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK.—Deposits and current accounts on November 22 came to £35,029,683, acceptances and liabilities by endorsement to £3,672,132, and other liabilities to £496,422, while assets consisted of cash in hand and at Bank of England £5,917,974, money at call and short notice £7,075,550, investments including reserve fund £6,272,854, and discounts, loans and other advances £19,602,419.

LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK.—The balance-sheet for November shows that current, deposit and other accounts were £47,389,387 and acceptances on account of customers £3,763,279, against which there were cash in hand and at the Bank of England £7,426,242, money at call and short notice £7,682,964, investments £6,826,148, bills of exchange £4,241,819, and advances on current accounts, loans on security, &c., £26,043,717.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and December 2, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Dec. 2, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Dec. 3, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland	—	6,352,909	3,462,116
		1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	23,300,000	24,591,000
Excise	30,200,000	20,534,000	20,816,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	8,631,000	7,992,000
Stamps	8,000,000	5,375,000	4,801,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	420,000	550,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	6,228,000	6,499,000
Post Office	16,500,000	9,700,000	9,260,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,850,000	2,710,000
Crown Lands	470,000	340,000	340,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	679,205	608,652
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	899,985	877,567
*Revenue	142,454,000	78,957,190	79,045,219
Total, including balance		86,387,468	83,309,061
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		380,000	350,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..		100,000	820,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		400,000	1,419,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		760,408	1,400,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		13,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		35,000	98,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		—	5,350,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905 ..		9,854,604	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	5,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		2,500,000	20,000,000
Total		100,622,072	125,802,051
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	78,957,190	79,045,219
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	99,824	106,027
Excise	5,291,000	3,385,851	3,260,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,783,839	2,785,242
Total	9,756,000	6,269,514	6,160,942
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	85,226,704	85,206,161

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Dec. 2, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Dec. 3, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£	£	£
Other Consolidated Fund Services	28,000,000	18,228,839	17,819,462
Payments to Local Taxation	1,620,000	1,095,403	1,068,993
Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	68,939,429	73,037,905
Expenditure	142,084,000	88,968,637	92,581,287
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		240,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		135,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..		—	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..		600,000	450,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903 ..		2,485,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		115,000	109,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		356,433	20,000
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	5,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	10,150,000
		93,821,070	120,910,787
Balances in Exchequer:—	1905.	1904.	
Bank of England	Dec. 2. £	Dec. 3. £	
Bank of Ireland	6,274,655	4,410,687	
	528,347	480,577	
Total		6,801,002	4,891,264
		100,622,072	125,802,051

Treasury, December 5, 1905.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11.

Corporation of Western Egypt.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Car Trust Investment.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
 Daggafontein Gold Mining.—3, Gracechurch Street, 2.15 p.m.
 Daggafontein Prospecting Syndicate.—3, Gracechurch Street, 3.15 p.m.
 Exploring Land and Minerals.—Salisbury House, 3 p.m.
 Frontino and Bolivia Gold Mining.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
 Fraser and Chalmers.—Winchester House, noon.
 Great Indian Peninsula Railway.—Salisbury House, noon.
 Indian Midland Railway.—Salisbury House, 12.30 p.m.
 Pahang Kabang.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
 Southern Land.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
 Villa Maria and Rufino Railway.—Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12.

Alabama Great Southern Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
 Baku Russian Petroleum.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Burma Railway.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.
 Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre.—Hotel Cecil, noon.
 Continental Union Gas.—7, Drapers Gardens, 2 p.m.
 Camwal.—Frascati Restaurant, Oxford Street, 3 p.m.
 Ilford.—Winchester House, noon.
 London and River Plate Bank.—River Plate House, noon.
 Mazawattee Tea.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
 Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation.—122, Leadenhall Street, 1 p.m.
 South Indian Railway.—55, Gracechurch Street, 1.30 p.m.
 Shell Transport and Trading.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
 St. Louis Breweries.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
 Wanderer (Selukwe) Gold Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13.

Bartholomay Brewing (of Rochester).—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
 Cape Copper.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
 Cooper, Cooper, and Johnson.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
 Elysée Palace Hotel.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 General Industrial and Development.—27, Walbrook, 1 p.m.
 Grand Junction Canal.—21, Surrey Street, 2 p.m.
 Loch Mines.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
 New York Breweries.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
 Stretton's Derby Brewery.—50, Gresham Street, 2.30 p.m.
 Southern Mahratta Railway.—45, Queen Anne's Gate, noon.
 Tate (Henry) and Sons.—21, Mincing Lane, 2 p.m.
 United Kingdom Lighting Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14.

Associated Tamworth Mines.—Winchester House, noon.
 Amalgamated Press.—Memorial Hall, 2.30 p.m.
 Bentley's Yorkshire Breweries.—Leeds, 11.30 a.m.
 Champion Reef Gold Mining of India.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
 El Oro Mining and Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
 Gold Coast Estates.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
 Madras Railway.—1, Broad Street Place, 2.30 p.m.
 Mysore West and Wynaad Gold.—Winchester House, noon.
 New Gold Coast Agency.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.
 New Tamarugal Nitrate.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
 New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency.—1, Coleman Street, noon.
 United Realization.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15.

Abosso Gold Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
 Australian Commonwealth Trust.—20, Cophall Avenue, 12.30 p.m.
 Bombay and Baroda Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Boston Consolidated Copper and Gold Mining.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.
 Cargo Fleet Iron.—Newcastle-on-Tyne, 3.30 p.m.
 Esperanza Nitrate.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
 Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock.—Winchester House, noon.
 North British Australasian.—Winchester House, noon.
 New Zealand and Australian Land.—Edinburgh, noon.
 Taquah and Abosso.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
 Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries.—Dudley, 12.30 p.m.

LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK.—Current and deposit accounts on Nov. 27 amounted to £17,581,794 and acceptances to £1,298,380, against which there were Government stock and other investments £3,542,968, cash in hand and at Bank of England £2,188,612, money at call and short notice £5,455,205, and bills discounted, advances and other securities £8,873,582.

WILLIAM DEACONS BANK.—The statement of accounts on November 25 shows amounts on current, deposit, and other accounts, £11,109,449; acceptances, credits opened and bills negotiated £309,881; assets, including cash on hand and at the Bank of England, £1,559,115; money at call and short notice, £1,297,777; investment in Consols, British and Indian Government securities, &c., £2,319,036, bills of exchange, £2,412,738; advances on current accounts and loans on security, £4,794,156.

CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK.—Liabilities on November 28 consisted of £30,788,816 on simple contracts and £789,940 on bills, and assets of £4,934,975 cash in hand and at Bank of England, £4,657,444 money at call and short notice, £5,157,199 Consols and other investments, and £17,527,567 bills of exchange, promissory notes and advances to customers.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended November 23, \$5,027, decrease \$587.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended October 27, \$17,184, increase \$1,410; aggregate from January 1, \$772,608, increase \$162,880.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 4, Rs. 77,465, increase Rs. 5,161; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 12,58,850, increase Rs. 1,57,626.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 7, \$114,500, increase \$16,100; total from July 1, \$1,803,100, increase \$401,200.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 4, Rs. 25,117, increase Rs. 2,669; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 4,53,847, increase Rs. 30,132.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 18, £661, increase £185.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of November, \$20,416, increase \$2,310; aggregate from January 1, \$735,613, increase \$5,620.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 4, Rs. 14,794, increase Rs. 5,121; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,37,074, increase Rs. 53,141.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended November 30 amounted to \$4,575.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending December 2, £1,207, increase £5; aggregate from July 1, £26,265, decrease £173.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending December 2, £805, increase £128; aggregate from July 1, £20,291, decrease £950.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for September, £4,376 decrease £335.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 2, £455, increase £21; aggregate from July 1, £7,638, decrease £331.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 1, £1,333, increase £422; aggregate from July 1, £30,371, increase £10,629.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 3, £6, decrease £1; aggregate from July 1, £505, increase £14.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 24, £4,340, decrease £14; aggregate from July 1, £106,176, decrease £2,018.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending December 1, £27,089, increase £5,768; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,295,732, increase £137,277; 439½ miles, against 414.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, £1,058, increase £125; aggregate from July 2, £24,611, increase £1,220.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 3, £95, increase £6; aggregate from July 1, £3,271, decrease £70.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 1, £88; aggregate from July 1, £2,798, decrease £26.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 1, £4,555, increase £199; aggregate from July 1, £112,054, decrease £618.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, £4,404, increase £261; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £232,950, increase £17,330.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 1, £202, decrease £20; aggregate from July 1, £5,554, decrease £386.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 30, £346.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, £216, decrease £17; aggregate from October 1, £2,610, decrease £464.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 25, £13,140, increase £1,963; aggregate from April 1, £509,844, increase £70,777. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, £20,431, decrease £375; aggregate from July 2, £509,221, decrease £10,991.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, £7,018, increase £207; aggregate from July 1, £171,289, increase £1,943.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 1, £189, increase £36; aggregate from July 1, £4,414 increase £224.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 3, £681, increase £176.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, £15,319, increase £1,031; aggregate from January 1, £645,168, increase £39,468.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of November, £10,748, increase £226.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to October 31, \$393,936, increase \$101,487. Net earnings from July 1 to October 31, \$184,298, increase \$73,276.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 3, £3,570, increase £712; aggregate from January 1, £166,722, increase £9,507.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 4, £1,679.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month October, \$236,900.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, Rs. 45,815, increase Rs. 6,466; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 9,45,168, increase Rs. 1,19,548.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Cartagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, £3,383, increase £146. Total to October 31, £41,146, increase £6,276.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of October, \$420,981, increase \$52,924; aggregate from January 1, \$3,903,668, increase \$327,440. Net traffic receipts, \$228,043, increase \$30,229; aggregate from January 1, \$2,132,581, increase \$236,759.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.			Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr	Dec. 3	£ 2,045	—	58	22	£ 45,630	—	2,345
Cambrian	" 3	4,780	+	25	22	161,556	—	7,015
Central London	" 2	6,939	+	2	22	138,123	—	961
City and South London	" 3	2,994	+	97	22	58,815	+	300
Furness	" 3	9,461	+	1,153	22	235,262	+	23,618
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 3	70,631	+	6,217	22	1,588,851	+	108,429
Great Eastern	" 3	101,700	+	2,100	22	2,491,700	—	20,800
Great Northern and City	" 2	1,802	+	264	22	34,143	+	7,666
Great Northern	" 2	111,000	+	2,090	22	2,605,588	+	32,786
Great Western	" 3	213,200	+	2,700	22	5,467,700	+	93,100
Hull and Barnsley	" 3	9,385	+	467	22	215,676	+	1,654
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 3	98,610	+	5,203	22	2,541,365	+	71,631
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 2	56,217	+	726	22	1,188,503	—	2,266
London & North Western	" 3	269,000	+	9,000	22	6,487,000	+	146,000
London & South Western	" 3	78,700	+	1,500	22	2,141,000	+	115,400
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 3	7,545	+	19	22	234,246	+	1,698
Metropolitan	" 3	17,130	—	318	22	377,732	+	1,838
Metropolitan District	" 3	7,882	+	505	22	154,153	—	2,915
Midland	" 2	226,957	+	6,442	22	5,082,101	+	154,761
North Eastern	" 2	176,006	+	17,729	22	4,119,076	+	53,267
North London	" 3	9,021	—	190	22	195,472	—	5,142
North Staffordshire	" 3	18,465	+	1,663	22	393,785	+	11,493
Rhymney	" 3	5,443	—	575	22	124,521	—	1,946
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 2	80,627	—	673	22	2,184,363	+	24,613
Taff Vale	" 3	17,850	—	1,684	22	398,804	—	9,006

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Dec. 3	83,470	+	5,056	18	1,585,276	+	27,359
Glasgow & South-Western	" 2	30,903	+	777	18	652,080	+	1,743
Great North of Scotland	" 2	9,499	+	169	18	179,864	—	1,365
Highland	" 3	8,114	+	37	19	200,923	+	458
North British	" 3	87,342	+	2,669	18	1,697,786	+	6,539

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Dec. 1	2,176	—	103	22	72,571	+	2,500
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 1	1,656	—	275	22	40,944	—	16
Great Northern	" 1	17,262	+	9	22	450,890	—	2,519
Midland Great Western	" 1	11,862	+	1,148	22	254,082	—	8,106

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Nov. 27.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Nov. 27.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
4 1/2	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	May Consolidated	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	2 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Apex	5 1/2	5 1/2	7 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Goch	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Barnato Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Pref.	23/6	23/6	7 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
11 1/2	Crown Reef	11 1/2	11 1/2	2 1/2	Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Driefontein	3 1/2	3 1/2	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
3 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	East Rand	6 1/2	6 1/2	2 1/2	Roodpoort United	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
18 1/2	Ferreira	18 1/2	18 1/2	10/6	Sheba (New)	10/6	10/6
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Geduld	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Steyn Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
10 1/2	Glencourt	10 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	6 1/2	6 1/2	2 1/2	Treasury	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	3 1/2	3 1/2	3	Van Ryn	3	3
1 1/2	Henry Nourse	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Vogelstruis	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Welgedacht	5 1/2	5 1/2
3 1/2	Jubilee	3 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Wemmer	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Jumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Lancaster	2 1/2	2 1/2				
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2				
DEEP LEVELS.							
1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Nourse Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Bouanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	5 1/2	5 1/2
2 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Roodpoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
8 1/2	Deep	8 1/2	8 1/2	5 1/2	Rose Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
2 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Knight's Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
3 1/2	Nigel Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
RHODESIANS.							
2 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia, Ltd. (5/ pd.)	2 1/2	2 1/2
15 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	15 1/2	15 1/2	3 1/2	Do. Exploration	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Lomagunda Development	2 1/2	2 1/2	5/6	Selukwe	5/6	5/6
2 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	2 1/2	2 1/2	5/6	Tanganyika	5/6	5/6
2 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	2 1/2	2 1/2	10/6	Wankie Coal	10/6	10/6
17 1/2	De Beers Deferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	12 1/2	Willoughby	12 1/2	12 1/2
17 1/2	Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	13 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	13 1/2	13 1/2
4 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	4 1/2	4 1/2				
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2				
4 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	4 1/2	4 1/2				
4 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2				
10 1/2	Kamfersdam	10 1/2	10 1/2				
DIAMONDS.							
1 1/2	Koffyfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	1 1/2	1 1/2	13 1/2	Do. Pref.	13 1/2	13 1/2
10 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	10 1/2	10 1/2	9			
WEST AFRICAN.							
1 1/2	Abbotiakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	5/6	Gold Coast Agency, new	5/6	5/6
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Ankobra	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/ paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2
8/6	Do. Goldfields	8/6	8/6	1 1/2	Goldfields East'n Akim	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Ashanti Sansu	2 1/2	2 1/2	6/6	Hunan Concessions	6/6	6/6
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	5/6	Obbassi Syndicate	5/6	5/6
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	1 1/2	1 1/2
16 1/2	Brommassie	16 1/2	16 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Effueta (Wassau)	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Takwah and Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2
9/9	Fanti Consolidated	9/9	9/9	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2	3/1			
AUSTRALIAN.							
1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	8/6	Ida H.	8/6	8/6
2 1/2	Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	8	Ivanhoe South	8	8
2 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	2 1/2	2 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
3 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
9/9	Brownhill Extended	9/9	9/9	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	9/6	London & W.A. Explor.	9/6	9/6
6 1/2	Cosmopolitan Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	6 1/2	8/6	Mount Boppy	8/6	8/6
6 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Links	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	1 1/2
7 1/2	Great Findall	7 1/2	7 1/2	2 1/2	W.A. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	3/1	W'str lia Mt. Morgans	3/1	3/1
2 1/2	Hampton Plains	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2	4/6			
MISCELLANEOUS.							
1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
33 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	33 1/2	33 1/2	37 1/2	Mount Lyell	37 1/2	37 1/2
12 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	12 1/2	12 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
60 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	60 1/2	60 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, ros.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	3 1/2	3 1/2
5 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	10/1	Do. West, 19/	10/1	10/1
30 1/2	Champion Reef, ros.	30 1/2	30 1/2	10/1	Do. Wynaad, 19/	10/1	10/1
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Copapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	3 1/2	3 1/2	27/6	N'ndydroog, 10/ shares	27/6	27/6
5 1/2	Esperanza	5 1/2	5 1/2	17 1/2	Oo'eugum	17 1/2	17 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
14 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	14 1/2	14 1/2	60 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	60 1/2	60 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	9/6	St. John del Rey	9/6	9/6
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Tharsis	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Wailu	6 1/2	6 1/2
4 1/2	Limares, £3	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 1/2	Ymir	8 1/2	8 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.
Alcey and Gandia	Dec. 2	Ps. 19,000	+ Ps. 2,000	**	Ps. 672,100 + P. 14,400
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Oct. *	\$1,200,000	+ \$296,000	**	\$9,695,000 + \$218,000
Argentine Gt. Western	Dec. 1	14,106	+ 4,092	**	274,381 + 45,477
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	Nov. 25	Ps. 26,724	- Ps. 3,965	**	Ps. 681,610 - Ps. 82,825
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	Dec. 2	30,760	+ 8,834	**	583,136 + 166,384
Buenos Ayres & Ros' and Cen. Argentine	" 2	78,608	+ 16,396	**	3,697,535 + 189,481
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 3	74,370	+ 21,657	**	1,449,852 + 249,793
Do. Western	" 3	35,260	+ 11,737	**	665,939 + 124,778
Do. Ensenada	" 3	402	+ 94	**	7,041 + 36
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 2	11,090	- 590	**	164,189 + 1,935
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 2	2,961	+ 523	**	33,688 + 5,097
Do. Northern Ex.	" 2	1,305	+ 345	**	23,059 + 5,541
Do. Western Ex.	" 2	1,830	+ 165	**	24,485 + 4,742
Cordoba Central	" 3	3,580	+ 1,180	**	145,230 + 300
Do. Northern Ex.	" 3	7,600	+ 2,360	**	319,290 + 28,780
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 3	2,050	+ 1,085	**	92,685 + 11,970
Cordoba and Rosario	" 3	4,925	+ 2,125	**	98,555 + 3,800
Costa Rica	" 3	4,079	- 784	**	85,383 + 1,909
Cuban Central	" 2	4,688	+ 512	**	105,765 + 21,027
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 2	14,156	+ 4,621	**	402,404 + 163,654
Entre Rios	" 2	3,721	+ 538	**	66,238 + 14,787
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	Nov. 30	\$131,000	- \$23,980	**	\$2,398,500 + \$23,720
Leopoldina	Dec. 3	22,613	+ 6,832	**	1,035,872 + 308,211
Mexican	Oct. *	\$530,000	- \$5,000	**	\$2,087,500 + \$138,060
Mexican	Dec. 2	\$131,500	+ \$27,800	**	\$2,629,600 + \$114,300
Do. Southern	Nov. 21	\$20,664	+ \$923	**	\$1,070,486 + \$30,729
Do. Central	Oct. *	\$2,436,318	+ \$178,684	**	\$9,058,875 + \$318,509
Do. Do.	" *	\$821,989	+ \$69,687	**	\$2,824,927 + \$10,794
Manila	Dec. 2	\$25,045	- 3,421	**	\$1,613,484 + \$261,73
Nitrate	Nov. 15	23,775	+ 3,930	**	477,992 + 95,990
Ottoman	Dec. 2	5,982	+ 1,236	**	181,115 + 12,755
Peruvian Corporation	Nov. *	\$616,350	+ \$37,050	**	\$7,364,325 + \$371,625
San Paulo	" 26	36,407	+ 7,951	**	773,291 + 126,416
Salvador	Dec. 3	\$17,250	- \$3,250	**	\$187,211 + 31,43
United of Havana	" 2	7,909	+ 649	**	53,598 + 7,163
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 2	1,216	+ 720	**	99,137 + 4,59
Western of Havana	" 2	3,120	- 720	**	99,137 + 4,59

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000

TOTAL INCOME over £940,000

LARGE BONUSES.

NOTICE.—Owing to Christmas Day THE INVESTORS REVIEW will be published on Friday morning, December 22nd and the office will be closed from Friday evening until the following Wednesday morning.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

On Monday seven-day money cost the borrower $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., to-day the rate was 2 per cent. A sudden drop like this implies a diseased market, because it is produced not by increase in wealth, a larger Bank reserve, but by purely credit influences, and in the teeth of dearer markets elsewhere. The whole change arises, first, from the action of the Japanese Government in lending and investing part of the proceeds of its loans, and next by the Exchequer bond transactions of the Treasury. This week's puzzle has been how much new money did the redemption of the £14,000,000 of expired Exchequer bonds really give the market. We think about £2,000,000. That is to say, £10,000,000 of the £14,000,000 redeemed were renewed last April, and to this extent the repayment made yesterday was, therefore, merely the substitution of one batch of credit instruments for another. Then on the same day that the £14,000,000 of expired Exchequer bonds were paid off £2,000,000 of new Treasury bills were raised, so that the National Debt Commissioners really had only a balance of £2,000,000 to find out of "Transvaal contributions" and other odds and ends of old loan balances indicated as available by Mr. Austen Chamberlain last April. As the new Treasuries were taken by the Japanese Government it may be said that £4,000,000 came into the market over and above the credit available there immediately before Thursday, but of that sum our Treasury could only have provided £2,000,000. If this conclusion approximates to the truth, as it must, then we shall soon see short credits dearer again, and this afternoon it was said in several quarters that the contents of the credit well seemed getting near the bottom again. It can hardly be otherwise with money so dear in New York—rising yesterday to 27 per cent., and likely to be erratically dear right to the end of the year—and with the German Bank rate probably to be raised to 6 per cent. on Monday—the open market discount rate having gone up to 5 per cent. in Berlin to-day—also with the Paris Money market growing more and more embarrassed by the effects of the Russian political upheaval. It is not to be believed in these circumstances that mere credit induced cheapness on our Money market can last, no matter how freely Mr. Shaw may lend Washington Government balances to the hard-driven Yankee banks.

For one thing, if bankers' money remains cheap with us we shall have a revival of gold exports, and we simply cannot afford to let a couple of millions in gold go at the present time. The total stock in the Bank is only £33,511,000, and the banking reserve stands merely at £23,169,000; this is all there is between us and formidable convulsions should the much-distended fabric of international banking credit "snap a tie rod"

at any point. This view finds expression in the attitude of the discount market. Promptly enough the bill brokers lowered their allowance on deposits yesterday by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on call and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on seven-day notice loans; but they have striven to keep up the discount rate, and, although partly beaten, still continue to grasp at every chance of checking the decline. In the early part of the week they were able to get $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on a certain proportion of the three months' remitted paper offering, and to-day, after the worst of the credit deluge had been experienced, they still secured $3\frac{1}{8}$ and $3\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. as a minimum on such paper; but this afternoon, owing to the above-mentioned report about the coming advance in the German Reichsbank rate, some of them gave us $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as their minimum, and one leading house said $3\frac{1}{16}$ — $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Short-dated bills were $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. steady throughout the day, and it looks probable enough that before many days are over we shall see the rate up again to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., if not higher. Six months' bills of this class have all the week been dear to the buyer, never more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount, and falling yesterday and to-day to $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. as a maximum, and sometimes $3\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. The whole market, however, closes firmer, and yesterday's large withdrawal of gold for the Argentine Republic, coupled with the fact that the Bank of England stock fell about £49,000 within its week ended on Wednesday night, in spite of an influx of £527,000 from abroad, gave credit jobbers the necessary leverage by which to hold rates up. They cannot be too vigilant, for the market is treacherous.

SILVER.

As we explained a week ago, the upward rush of quotations for bars was due to large orders for shipment in time to reach the Far East for the Chinese New Year, and immediately the opportunity for such deliveries was over prices relapsed. The fall took them down to 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. for cash, and 28 $\frac{9}{16}$ d. per oz. for future positions, and after a temporary rally to the extent of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or so on bazaar support, the market once more weakened, and closing values were the lowest of the week. Applications on Wednesday for the Rs. 80,00,000 Council drafts on India amounted to Rs. 4,61,00,000 in bills and Rs. 1,80,00,000 in telegraphic transfers, when Rs. 57,52,000 were accepted in bills and Rs. 22,48,000 in transfers. Tenders, at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per rupee respectively received about 12 per cent. Next week another Rs. 80,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 6, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 50,279,765	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	31,829,765
		Silver Bullion	—
	£50,279,765		£50,279,765

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 17,038,989
Reserve	3,221,762	Other Securities	34,270,281
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	11,369,973	Notes	21,488,265
Other Deposits	45,238,632	Gold and Silver Coin	1,680,928
Seven Day and other Bills ..	95,096		
	£74,478,463		£74,478,463

Dated December 7, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE Chief Cashier

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Saturday, Bars	£27,000	Thursday, S. America ..	£650,000
Monday, "	£136,000	" Gibraltar	£9,000
Tuesday, "	£58,000		
Tuesday, Egypt	£200,000		
Wednesday, Bars	£134,000		
Thursday, "	£44,000		
Nett Efflux	£60,000		
Total	£659,000	Total	£659,000

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Dec. 7.		Nov. 29, 1905.	Dec. 6, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,177,145	Rest ..	3,196,398	3,221,762	25,364	—
7,632,085	Pub. Deposits ..	12,667,519	11,369,973	—	1,297,546
41 145,452	Other do. ..	43,034,560	45,238,632	2,204,072	—
130,661	7 Day Bills ..	83,313	95,096	11,783	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,609,872	Gov. Securities	17,039,131	17,038,989	—	142
28,562,003	Other do. ..	33,203,214	34,270,281	—	1,067,067
22,466,468	Total Reserve ..	23,292,445	23,169,193	123,252	—
				2,364,613	2,364,613
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,869,245	Coin and Bullion	28,717,135	28,791,500	74,365	—
31,885,713	Proportion ..	33,559,580	33,510,693	—	48,887
45½ p.c.	Bank Rate ..	4½ p.c.	4½ p.c.	—	—
3 "		4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £527,000 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
Week ending				
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,726,000	27,856,000	—
" 18	270,692,000	226,552,000	44,140,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,631,000	15,589,000	—
Nov. 1	270,695,000	250,973,000	19,722,000	—
" 8	216,916,000	195,045,000	21,871,000	—
" 15	260,846,000	241,533,000	19,313,000	—
" 22	222,090,000	176,593,000	45,497,000	—
" 29	217,274,000	253,726,000	—	36,452,000
Dec. 6	315,761,000	216,663,000	99,098,000	—
	11,589,644,000	9,857,854,000	1,731,790,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1905.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	—	Jan. 2 ?	—
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 3
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 16 8
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	3 1 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	2 10 6
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 9 4
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 16 1
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 11 10
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 9 0
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	—
25,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	3
Berlin ..	5½	November 3, 1905	4½
Hamburg ..	5½	November 3, 1905	4½
Frankfort ..	5½	November 3, 1905	4½
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	2½
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3½
Vienna ..	4½	October, 1905	4½
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	5
St. Petersburg ..	5½	February, 1904	7½
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	4
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	5
Stockholm ..	5	September 22, 1905.	4½
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4½
Calcutta ..	6	November 30, 1905	—
Bombay ..	6	November 30, 1905	—
New York call money ..	8	—	—

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1905	Nov. 16, 1905	Dec. 1, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion ..	4,815,120	4,847,880	4,899,520	4,938,400
Other securities ..	24,494,920	23,509,760	23,043,840	22,937,560
Note circulation ..	28,485,640	27,193,640	27,379,120	26,549,840
Deposits ..	2,936,200	3,036,240	2,522,880	3,228,760

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs.	25'14	25'12	Antwerp ..	short	25'23½	25'21½
Brussels ..	chqs.	25'22	25'21	Italy ..	sight	25'08	25'10
Amsterdam ..	sight	12'13½	12'12½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'05	110'05
Berlin ..	chqs.	20'42½	20'40½	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	168½	168½
Do. ..	3 mths	20'22	20'22½	Valparaiso ..	90 dys	148d.	148d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20'41½	20'39	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort ..	short	20'41	20'39½	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna ..	sight	24'02	24'03	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2/1	2/10½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'70	93'70	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/2	2/2
New York ..	60 dys	4'82½	4'82	Singapore ..	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Lisbon ..	sight	50½	50½	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid ..	sight	33'08	32'05				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Dec. 2.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs ..	National Debt Services ..
Excise ..	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges ..
Stamps ..	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion ..
Property and Income Tax..	Supply Services ..
Post Office ..	Bullion Advances ..
Telegraphs ..	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands ..	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds ..
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds ..
Miscellaneous ..	Uganda Railway ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works ..
Uganda Railway ..	Naval Works ..
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts ..
count ..	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts ..	ings) ..
Naval Works Acts ..	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts ..	Act ..
Land Registry Acts ..	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act ..
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Ways and Means ..	in reduction of debt ..
Deficiency ..	Cunard Agreement ..
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Deficiency Advances re-
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	paid ..
Transvaal and Orange River	Ways and Means Advances
Colony. Repayment of	repaid ..
Temporary Advance ..	Increase in Exchequer
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	balances ..
tion payments ..	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances ..	
1,187,853	
£3,327,214	£3,327,214

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1905.	Nov. 15, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand ..	42,147,750	43,763,050	41,872,900	50,015,250
Bills discounted ..	49,669,400	47,438,550	49,621,150	39,582,000
Advances on stocks ..	3,211,450	2,517,200	2,742,250	2,585,850
Note circulation ..	66,505,100	64,727,600	66,950,750	64,697,050
Public deposits ..	27,774,000	27,661,150	25,460,450	26,357,600

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 8/21, 1905.	Nov. 1/14, 1905.	Oct. 23/Nov. 5 1905.	Nov. 8/21, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	87,449,495	87,618,529	81,565,971	85,411,118
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	3,676,338	3,641,494	3,764,488	6,675,378
Advances and bills discounted ..	42,607,349	42,742,235	40,823,044	39,902,695
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	6,950,420	7,002,926	7,023,847	5,940,571
Notes in circulation ..	110,706,204	123,557,622	110,461,974	83,316,960
Deposits and current account ..	48,420,840	47,416,869	46,993,283	45,498,617
Treasury account ..	7,229,194	7,260,276	5,014,835	20,302,517

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Dec. 2, 1905	Nov. 25, 1905	Nov. 18, 1905	Dec. 3, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	15,002,779	14,996,324	14,989,805	14,878,488
Silver ..	22,866,815	22,768,864	22,587,259	19,969,345
Foreign Bills ..	3,297,147	2,994,906	2,942,484	1,684,859
Discount and Short Bills	45,766,088	45,740,743	45,993,103	44,386,112
Treasury Account ..	20,855,030	20,858,111	20,810,108	22,038,790
Notes in circulation ..	61,901,748	62,214,679	62,708,286	64,344,740
Current Account deposits	22,066,122	22,663,736	22,254,590	24,517,069
Dividends Interests ..	3,988,755	2,809,805	2,909,080	3,027,104
Government Securities ..	6,424,555	5,479,941	5,249,807	7,235,338

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1905.	Nov. 15, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve ..	44,901,208	45,467,166	45,308,458	48,678,208
Silver Reserve ..	12,080,708	12,039,208	11,950,750	12,140,083
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,897,333	1,897,541	2,152,416	1,886,500
Note circulation ..	72,179,416	70,865,000	72,886,583	69,733,000
Bills discounted ..	23,349,375	22,056,083	22,746,000	18,313,166

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1905.	Dec. 8, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£115,554,520	£115,651,560	£115,976,000	£106,746,600
Silver in hand ..	43,509,160	43,650,080	43,680,720	44,195,560
Bills discounted ..	31,731,360	40,481,760	29,641,560	23,399,520
Advances ..	19,699,640	19,101,360	18,821,800	20,297,080
Note circulation ..	180,652,240	185,961,800	178,471,280	171,852,560
Public deposits ..	14,380,480	16,708,960	15,918,200	8,694,080
Private deposits ..	22,411,720	22,799,360	20,653,153	20,647,320

Proportion between bullion and circulation 88 per cent. against 85½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Nov. 10, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 20, 1905.	Nov. 10, 1904.
Reserve ..	£29,193,520	£26,902,240	£28,310,680	£25,282,640
State notes and small changed ..	488,240	486,920	518,600	516,240
Discount and loans ..	14,619,960	15,537,840	14,177,480	11,703,360
Public stock and State loans ..	8,293,320	8,309,960	8,395,360	8,385,960
Credits ..	6,896,880	7,423,400	6,620,720	7,039,760
Note Circulation ..	40,432,440	41,958,760	40,306,440	36,458,000
Current account ..	2,407,440	2,633,040	2,660,640	3,825,280
Deposits ..	3,983,640	4,402,680	4,290,840	3,374,680

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Dec. 2, 1905.	Nov. 25, 1905.	Nov. 18, 1905.	Dec. 3, 1904.
Specie ..	£35,968,000	£36,894,000	£35,922,000	£42,512,000
Legal tenders ..	14,903,000	14,897,000	14,615,000	15,588,600
Loans and discounts ..	204,780,000	202,460,000	203,420,000	218,122,000
Circulation ..	10,813,400	10,920,600	10,938,000	8,425,400
Net deposits ..	201,440,000	199,816,000	199,814,000	225,580,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £511,000 against an excess last week of £1,832,000.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 28.	Nov. 30.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 7.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam ..	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. ..	3 months	12'5	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'48½	25'48½	25'43½	25'47½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'71	20'70	20'70	20'69
Berlin & German B. Places ..	3 months	20'71	20'70	20'70	20'69
Paris ..	cheques	25'15	25'15	25'12½	25'12½
Do. ..	3 months	25'38½	25'37½	25'36½	25'35
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'38½	25'37½	25'36½	25'35
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'51½	25'50	25'50	25'50
Austria ..	3 months	24'36	24'34	24'34	24'34
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24'1½	24'1½	24'1½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24'1½	24'1½	24'1½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'48½	25'47½	25'46½	25'46½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ..	3 months	30½	30½	30½	30½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'41	18'40	18'40	18'40
Christiania ..	3 months	18'42	18'41	18'41	18'41
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'42	18'41	18'41	18'41

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.]

Per cent

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	3½-3½
Three months ..	3½-3½
Four months ..	3½
Six months ..	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills ..	3½-3½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	3½-4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	4
" " short loan rates ..	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	2½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	2
" for call loans ..	1½-2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

A good deal of investment business has been going on, and should continue under stimulus of the present spell of cheap credit; but the markets are still overshadowed by the chaos in Russia, and until there is some glimmering of light through the thick darkness in which that country is wrapped we cannot be sure of anything from one hour to another. Nor is it possible to ground any forecast of the future upon the present condition of our Money market, which is one the reverse of healthy. The ease, in other words, now visible there is altogether the product of credit operations; on the one hand those of the Japanese Government, and on the other those of the home Government. Our vanished or vanishing Chancellor of the Exchequer first pinched credit jobbers by gathering up money borrowed on new Exchequer bonds, and now

deluges the market with this credit, released in payment of bonds whose term has expired. At the same time the Japanese Government, with an anxious forethought, from some points of view highly commendable, has put itself in possession of many millions of money not immediately required by it, and portions of this money it has been systematically lending to the market, either through the banks with which it keeps accounts or by direct purchases of our Treasury bills, until the present condition of Lombard Street is one of helpless glut. We cannot look for a prolongation of this state of affairs. Either the way will be open to large exports of gold or we shall have securities from overloaded markets like those of New York, Paris, and Berlin placed in pawn here to an extent that will again bring us to comparative poverty. That being so, we do not like to discuss future prospects in any part of the Stock Exchange, and rather lean to the opinion that in most directions prices are quite full value now. Only in the Kaffir Circus, oddly enough, are some quotations getting down to a point which gives promise of fair treatment to the speculative investor. Into this, however, we shall not enter now, partly because the reports of various mining companies are flowing in on us so fast as to fairly crowd us out of our usual editorial columns. All that we should like to add is that a continuance of the present ease in the Money market to the end of the year is sure to bring out a flood of prospectuses, and perhaps to stimulate buying speculative and other securities in markets now lamentably neglected, say, in the Commercial and Industrial market, where there are a few bargains to be picked up by the vigilant. But in a week's time money may be again comparatively scarce.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The increasing gravity of the situation in Russia—postal and telegraphic communication between St Petersburg and the rest of Europe having at length been completely cut off—caused Continental bourses to open in a very nervous condition, and the unrest was quickly reflected on our markets. Russian stocks were knocked down in a most alarming fashion, helped, it was said, by "bear" sales on this side on behalf of bourse operators and the possibility of the Government being compelled to default on the external debt was again discussed. Some said that a moratorium of perhaps three years might have to be granted, but no one seriously believes that matters have yet become so bad as that, and when M.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	90	89½xd
91½	87½	Do. Account (Jan. 4)	50½	89½xd
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89	88½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1905 ..	100	100
95½	89	Irish Land (2½) ..	92½	91½xd
101½	96½	Local Loans (3) ..	100	99½xd
96½	92½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	99	98½xd
96½	98	Do. Account (Jan. 4) ..	99½	98½xd
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99	99½
308	297	Bk. of England Stock. (9 p.c.) ..	295½	295½
109	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	105	105xd
99½	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1948 ..	98	97xd
85½	80½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock. red. 1926 ..	81½	81xd
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65½	66

Rouvier, the French Premier, asserted that the deposits of the Russian Government in French banks alone would ensure the payment of interest for three years, a much more cheerful mood prevailed, and prices began to pick up. They continued with a better tendency to the end, aided in no small degree by the pronounced ease which came over the Money market after the exchequer bond repayment, so that the pending fortnightly settlement can be faced with more equanimity than at one time seemed likely. Business in Consols showed signs of broadening out, and after a moderate set-back on Monday the quotation went steadily ahead closing substantially better. Other British Funds, such as annuities, Irish Land stock,

War Loan, Exchequer bonds, Transvaal 3 per cent., and India Sterling issues were also firm in tendency, and, although changes were few, nearly all the movements in the Home County and Corporation list were to the good with a pretty fair business in Water Board and L.C.C. issues. There was also a moderate trade at higher prices in some of the leading Colonial Inscribed stocks.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	99½	102½	103	103½
102½	97½	100½	101	101½
106½	100½	101	101	101½
104½	98½	101½	101½	102½
93½	85½	92½	92	91½
93½	85½	86½	89	88½
92½	85½	86½	89	88½
104½	99½	100½	100	100
92½	82½	87½	37½	87
101	94	96	98	97½
106	101½	104½	104½	105
91½	82	88½	88½	88½
102½	93½	101½	101½	101
97	87½	97	97	97
98½	89½	98½	99	98
96½	88½	93½	94	94
102½	96	101½	101½	101½
98½	91½	95½	95½	95½
107	100½	106	106½	106½
106½	100½	102½	103	102½
100½	92½	99½	99½	99½
106½	90½	104½	104½	104½
59½	28½	53	53	53
51½	24½	45	43	43
48½	26½	43½	43½	43½
109½	104½	105½	105	104½
107	104	104½	104½	104½
105½	95½	102	102½	102½
106½	102½	105	105	104½
91½	86½	87½	88	88
54½	47	53½	53½	52½
55½	46½	54	54	53½
44	38½	41½	41½	41
54½	47	—	52	51
100½	96½	96½	96	96
106	102½	105	105	105
104½	88½	103½	104	103½
103½	88½	100½	101	101
93½	76½	92½	92½	92½
106½	97	102	102	102
106½	102½	103	103½	103
70½	79½	70	70	69½
95½	79½	87	85	82
83½	76	—	82	82
95½	89½	92½	93½	92½
103	100	101½	101½	101½
106	100½	103½	103½	103½
92	80½	90	90½	90½
74½	63½	72½	72½	72½
99	86½	95½	95	95½
51½	42½	49½	51½	52

The outstanding incident in the Foreign Government market was the collapse in Russian bonds, the 4 per cent., 1889, the best known issue on this side, being knocked down to 77½. A strong rally followed the first breakdown, the price at one time reaching as much as 83½ on Paris buying, but the tendency was weak again at the close on the stories of a bourse panic in Petersburg. Other leading Continental stocks, like Spanish, Turkish, Greeks, and Portuguese were naturally unable to resist the prevailing depression, but they all closed well above the worst, the recovery in Turkish being assisted by statements that the Sultan had yielded to the demands of the Powers. Argentines, Brazilians, and Chilians also recovered from early weakness, and Central American issues felt the influence of that part of President Roosevelt's message to Congress dealing with the question of default. Chinese were rarely mentioned, but Japanese were depressed by stag selling of the new loan when the allotments were issued. No application for less than £600 was considered at all, and the general rate of allotment was so small—only 1½ to 2 per cent. of the amount asked for—that many dealers did not think the amount worth keeping. The older loans went back in sympathy, but picked up again before the end. Buenos Ayres Cédulas marked a small rise on a statement that the bonds will be exchanged on a 4 per cent. basis, and Peruvians were a better market.

Dealings in Home Railway ordinary stocks have been on a very small scale this week, and the market has been swayed more by events in other sections of the Stock Exchange than by actual business. Prices were driven down at first owing to the fears aroused by the condition of affairs in Paris, and naturally re-

covered somewhat on the reassuring statements regarding Russia's ability to meet her obligations made by M. Rouvier. The improvements, however, were far from sufficient to counterbalance the earlier losses, and in spite of the help afforded by satisfactory traffic returns quotations, where they moved at all, generally showed losses of ¼ to ½. On North-Western and

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	139	140	140
165	152½	157	157	157
131½	116½	127½	127½	127
120	111	117½	118½	118
83½	77½	78	78½	78½
41½	33½	40½	41½	40½
94½	86½	94	94	94
67½	77	87	86½	86½
17½	15½	17	17	16½
47½	37½	46	47	46
71	51	65	65	65
39½	28½	38	38½	37½
93½	80½	86½	87	87½
108½	98½	103	103	102½
45½	35½	44	45½	45½
145½	135½	142½	143½	143
56½	51½	—	50½	50½
49½	41	46½	47	47
112½	104	109	110	109½
100	88½	90	90	89
42½	34½	38	38	37½
71	65½	69½	69½	69
74	62½	72½	73	73
83½	76½	77½	77½	77½
49½	45½	46½	47½	46½
146½	134	144½	145½	144½
161½	147	159½	161	160½
96	84½	93	93	89
135½	122½	132	132	126
60½	48½	57½	56½	54
171	156	164	164½	164½
111½	104½	108	108	108
60½	52½	57½	58	57

South-Western deferred the loss reached the full £1, and was even heavier on Great Central preferred and Great Eastern. Underground stocks shared in the general weakness, as the result of yet another hitch in the working of the District. The terrible accident at Charing Cross caused dealers to take a most gloomy

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	90½	89½	89½
108½	102	107	106½	106½
120½	104½	117	115½	115½
102	97½	99½	99	99
61½	46½	56	55½	56½
193½	173½	184½	183½	182½
38½	27½	35½	35½	38½
93½	85½	90½	90½	92½
54½	35½	50½	50½	49½
87½	77½	83½	83½	82½
80½	59½	77	76	75½
187	156	182½	182	182½
161½	140½	156	155½	155½
39½	24½	38½	37½	39½
109½	140½	154½	154½	150½
90½	77½	89	87½	86½
96½	94	95	95	95
65½	41½	54½	54½	54
76½	67½	72	72	71½
73½	40½	71	71	69½
49½	46	—	48	47
51½	43½	—	51	49
74	59½	70½	70½	69½
39½	28½	36	35½	35½
104½	97½	102	102	102
142½	110½	141½	140½	139½
102½	98½	100	100	100
24½	18½	21½	21½	21
49½	37½	42½	42½	42½
86½	69½	76	78	78
182½	133	179	180	178½
109	102½	—	106½	106½
112	108½	110½	110½	110½
26½	19½	22½	23½	23½
104½	99	101½	102	102
115½	107½	112	112½	112½
107	97	102½	103½	104½
62½	47½	56½	57½	57½
109½	107	107½	107½	107½

view of the outlook with regard to Chatham and South-Eastern issues, as a heavy outlay on repairs, if not on rebuilding the station, is inevitable, while the claims for compensation are likely to be very large, and this expenditure cannot be charged to capital. It is expected that the companies will meet the cost by establishing a suspense account, to be gradually liquidated; but even if this course is followed the prospects are none too hopeful, and South-Eastern stocks were knocked down from 3 to 6, while Chatham ordinary lost about £1.

Wall Street began the week in a very nervous mood, partly because it did not quite know what to expect with regard to the President's message to Congress, and partly because dealers dreaded lest the weakness of Russians should upset European markets. After a pause, New York decided to support the market, and although this at first was done in a hesitating fashion, the movement soon gathered strength when the Union Pacific report came out. This showed that 11½ per cent. had been earned on the common stock after providing for betterments, and its appearance gave the signal for an outburst of buying, which spread next to Denver issues on the theory that the recent advance in the price of silver would benefit the company. The President's message, too, was more conservative, or, in other words, less dangerous to the railroad bosses, than had been feared, and the speculative buying broadened out until it embraced Erie, Missouri, and Chesapeake, and practically the only blot in the list was Milwaukee, which fell back on rumours that the company had been selling Treasury stock. Then the rate for call money jumped to 25 per cent, and as the public refuses to help the professionals to carry their load, the carefully-engineered improvement disappeared.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10).. ..	219½	219½
321	144½	Do. Def. (15)	315	315
130½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	126	126
131	113½	Do. Prfd. (5)	126	126
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Prfd. ..	83	83
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137½	138
133½	127	Do. Prefce (5)	127	127
142	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	130	130
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	114	114
110½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	105	105
115	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	112½	112½
107½	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	105½	106½
176½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	164	163
109½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	108
142½	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	133	133
93	79	Central Uruguay (4) ..	86	86
109	110	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	105xd	106xd
95½	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	93	93
76½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	93xd	71xd
37	28	Costa Rica	2½	2½
78	59	Cuban Central	7½xd	7½
128	108½	Do. Pref. (5½)	11½	11½
107½	104	Do. Deb. (4½)	105	105
76½	72	East Argentine (4)	94	94
27½	58½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	52	52
84½	508	Leopoldina (3)	81½	82
90½	86½	Do. Deb. (4)	98	98½
110½	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	110	110
165	104½	Do. "B" (6)	106	106
29½	198	Mexican Ord. Stk.	22½	24
122½	103½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	113½	117
57	36½	Do. 2nd Pref.	44½	48
69½	48½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	52	54
17	10½	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	16	15½
108	16½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	18½	18½
220	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	205½	205½
226	122	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	219	219

In spite of a more satisfactory traffic return than had been expected, Grand Trunk stocks at first dwindled in common with everything else. The decline, however, was checked before it had gone very far, and although there was never sufficient business in them to bring about much of a recovery, prices at the end were fairly steady. Canadian Pacific shares, after being about \$1½ down in the beginning of the week, picked up most of the loss, only, however, to fall away again when the squeeze for money began in Wall Street.

The sudden advance which took place in Mexican Railway stocks in the end of last week was ascribed by some to bear covering in a narrow market, and by others to talk of changes in the board and the prospects of the full dividend being paid on the first preference. Whatever was the cause, prices went back on Saturday almost as sharply as they had risen, but began to creep up again as the second view became more generally adopted, and the improvement made further progress on the increase of \$27,800 in the traffic return. Interoceanic of Mexico prior lien and "B" debenture stocks were likewise harder, as well as Mexican Southern ordinary. United Railways of the Havana stock was pushed up to 221 on expectations that some statement would be made at the meeting with regard to the value of the bonus in connection with the Car-

denas and Jucaro scheme, but, as nothing definite was said, the price was allowed to fall back to about 219. Business in Argentine Railways has again been confined to a few selected stocks, amongst which Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred were the most prominent. The largest movement, however, was in Cordoba and Rosario second preference, which was lifted to 44, or a rise of 5, while no other change amongst the active securities exceeded £1. Since their brief spell of popularity Cordova and North-Western debentures have gone steadily back, and this week show a further loss of 3, and Paraguay Central debenture stock has also ceased to have any attraction for the gambler. Leopoldina stock has been bought pretty freely on the rise in exchange, but other Brazilian stocks were either just steady or inclined to give way. Nitrate Railways weakened on the announcement that the arrangements for the continuance of the combine amongst producers had fallen through, although why this should have an adverse effect on the railway is not clear. Russian Railway issues have naturally been flat, and the Moscow-Windau-Rybinsk bonds dropped as much as 1½.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	Allsopp Ordinary	19½	22
71	40	City of London Ord.	60½	59½
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540	530
27½	21½	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	21½	21½
28½	3	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	28	28
37½	3	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	38	34
68½	48	Watney, Combe, Pl. Or. St. (4) ..	58½	59½
35	15	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	17	17
105	99	London & Ind. Docks Pl. St. (4) ..	100	100
78½	56½	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	61	60
27½	6	Aerated Bread (32½)	6	6
7½	7½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	6xd
6½	5½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pl. (5½) ..	6½	6½
1½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
25/6	25/6	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
3½	28	Brunner Mond (35)	7½xd	7½
8	5	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11½	11½
11½	9½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	11½	11½
11½	11½	Coats Ordinary (20)	58	57½
50½	48½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	500	500
18/3	18/3	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	3½	3½
23/6	23/6	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	1½	1½
13½	10½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6½	6½
4	4	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13	13
26/9	26/9	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4	4
107½	107½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	11½	11½
22/9	22/9	Do. Debenture (42)	108	108
6	6	Lipton Ordinary (7)	18	18
26/9	26/9	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	6	5xd
18/0	18/0	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	11½	11½
13/6	13/6	Russian Petroleum	8	8
13/6	13/6	Savoy Hotel (5)	8	8
10/3	10/3	Sweetmeat Automatic	11½	11½
17/9	17/9	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	15½	15½
104½	104½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	104½	104½
77½	77½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	78	79
44½	44½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	45½	43½
104½	104½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	105½	105½
98	98	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pl. (1½) ..	9	9
11½	11½	Do. Debentures (6)	11½	11½
11½	11½	National Discount (10)	11½	11½
6½	6½	Union Discount (11)	6½	6½
11½	11½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	12	12
101½	101½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	101½	101½
133	133	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½) ..	133	133
37½	37½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	37½	37½
34	34	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	34	34
1½	1½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	1½	1½
138	138	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	138	138
107½	107½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	107½	107½
107½	107½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (9½) ..	107½	107½
28½	28½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	28½	28½
107½	107½	Do. Preference (7)	107½	107½
28½	28½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	28½	28½
132	132	Cunard Steam	132	132
245½	245½	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	245½	245½
46	46	Royal Mail	46	46
110½	110½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	9	9
110	110	Anglo-American Telegraph—Pref. Ord. (2½) ..	110	109½
17½	17½	Do. Def. Ord.	17½	17½
145½	145½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	145½	145½
14½	14½	Eastern Extension (7)	14½	14½
109	109	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	109	109
14½	14½	Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
10	10	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	10	10
8½	8½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	8½	8½
113½	113½	London General Omnibus (8) ..	113½	100½
10½	10½	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	10½	10½

Miscellaneous markets were very idle, and prices generally were disposed to give way. Pronounced weakness was again shown by London General Omnibus stock, which fell pounds at a time, and was actually sold below par. At one time this year the price touched 129, and there is no doubt at all that the business of this slow-going old company is being

severely hit by the new motor enterprises. Road Car shares, however, did not further recede, and in a circular issued during the week the directors made it clear that they are doing their utmost to meet the new competition. Motor 'bus shares were steady. Nitrate shares were another weak spot on the breakdown of the negotiations for the renewal of the output restricting combine, but a slightly better tendency prevailed at the end on the feeling that some way out of the difficulty will be found. Anglo-American Telegraph stocks were heavy, and London Docks deferred rose sharply, closing steady, while Iron and Steel shares displayed some irregularity. British Westinghouse preference met with enquiry, and had a small rise. Textile securities were exceptionally quiet, but Hope Bros. rallied a little. Caterers were harder here and there and Meat shares came into some request. United Alkali issues were supported on rumours that a reorganisation of the capital is about to be carried through. Hudson's Bays were very moderately dealt in, but had a hardening tendency, and Chinese Exploration and Land shares were again inclined to rally. Nobel Dynamites were rather flat, and in the Brewery division Bieckert's had another sharp rise.

Stock markets have been at best stagnant to-day, with a tendency to droop towards the close. Russian affairs are alone to blame for this, or, at any rate, only these are blamed, and as Paris continued flat for Russian securities and Berlin apprehensive there was no disposition to put things up elsewhere. Even the London County loan was quoted $1\frac{1}{2}$ —2 premium this afternoon, instead of 2 per cent. firm, and the premium on Japanese new scrip left off at $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. premium. Monday next is contango day in Mines, and Tuesday the regular contango day in all the other sections of the market except the Consol market, so it is quite natural that business should fall off. Much interest is felt in the chances of Stock Exchange borrowers to get credits cheaper next week. "If money is only 2 per cent. in Lombard Street, why should it be 4 per cent. or more in Throgmorton Street?" the market is asking. We cannot say why without giving a lecture, but the probability is that very few people will be able next Tuesday to borrow on Stock Exchange securities to the end of the month at 4 per cent. If the Berlin tension increases their loans will be as dear as ever.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Superficially the Kaffir Circus has looked brighter. At the opening of the week the environment was gloomy and prices fell heavily. Insiders attributed this condition to the absence of news from Russia, to alarming rumours from St. Petersburg and to the uneasiness on the Continental bourses. Subsequently came the message from M. Rouvier, which, without looking into it deeply, was accepted with considerable relief in Paris and London. It dispelled many dark forebodings, particularly in regard to a possible immediate default on Russian Government coupons, and in the light thus created, illusionary though it might be, hopes were revived. Paris stopped selling and even showed some inclination to buy. This encouraged operators here, and dealers put prices higher with the usual motive of attracting the coy and cautious. "Bears" helped them by their covering and, as we say, the aspect of the market looked more cheerful. But beneath the surface conditions have in no wise improved. They are as unstable and as unreliable as ever. The genuine, solid kind of business that would give firm support to the frail superstructure is lacking. Dealers and magnates cannot, strive as they may, induce the public to lend them a hand, and so long as outsiders keep at a distance we shall ever see symptoms of struggle and distress. Even the brightness we have mentioned was but momentary. It quickly changed to a murky dullness, and the week closes in no invigorating atmosphere. In the stereotyped descriptive language of the market, the rise was followed by a reaction. The political situation here has had no perceptible influence on business; neither has the present ease in Lombard Street. Even professionals foresee that a Liberal victory and a Liberal Government are assured, and are most agreeably resigned to the change. It has greatly encouraged them to look for more active times with the turn of the year, for,

with the Christmas holidays approaching, the less inclined will the public be to interest themselves in market dealings. Towards the end of the week Paris sold again, and, of course, this tended to upset professional nerves. The following is the solitary dividend declared:—

	Dividend.	Issued Capital.	Amount.
Nigel Gold	20 per cent. ...	£224,000 ...	£44,800

Premier Diamond deferred have again fluctuated considerably. It is feared that the output of diamonds will for some time to come be considerably reduced; in fact, the November yield is much below that for October—38,517 carats from 84,258 loads, against 56,155 carats from 105,854 loads. This diminution appears to be necessitated by the preparations now in hand for the new gear, which will not be working regularly for some months.

Rhodesians have sympathetically declined with Kaffirs. The public have shown no jealous eagerness to suckle the new offspring of the Banket company. Indeed, they are quite indifferent to its babyish charms, and are content to leave its nursing and nurturing to the professional experts. As for the parent, there is no affection whatever lost upon that. No one feels grateful that it has burdened the market with an infant that was not wanted, that will need its sustenance from a very scanty source. This week we deal with two or three Rhodesian company reports, all of which tell the old story of penury and misery, of futures without hope or promise, of the heart-rending certainty of a hand-to-mouth existence.

Nothing has happened to arouse the West African and Egyptian sections from their torpor.

West Australians end the week in better spirits than they opened, but business here is as limited as elsewhere. Great Fingalls were conspicuously weak at one time, but have since recovered. One or two of the other leading shares have gained 2s. 6d. or so.

In the miscellaneous section the shares of the Broken Hill group have again attracted considerable attention on the continued strength of the metal markets, but the drop in silver afterwards frightened some holders into selling. Amongst Americans, Esperanzas, El Oros, and Camp Birds have been flat. Coppers have displayed all-round strength, Rio Tintos, Anacondas, Cape Coppers, Boston Coppers, and others finishing higher. Champion Reefs, in the Indian list, have steadily recovered from the decline in the previous week.

NOURSE DEEP.—Operations in the twelve months to July 31 gave a considerably increased profit over that of the preceding year, due to the fact that in the second half the company was able to run its full complement of 100 stamps. The quantity of ore crushed was 162,590 tons, the yield from the mill being 45,393 fine ozs., and from the cyanide works 30,387 fine ozs., a total of 75,780 fine ozs., of an average value of 9.33 dwts. per ton. This gold realised £318,417, or nearly £1 19s. 3d. per ton, whilst working costs amounted to £217,170, equal to £1 6s. 9d. per ton. Whilst there was an improvement in the revenue of 2s. 2.8d. per ton, there was an increase in costs of 2.0d. per ton. Thus the working profit was £101,247, or nearly 12s. 6d. per ton. As usual, no allowance is made for depreciation. Interest, £2,274, raised the surplus to £103,522, and an unappropriated balance of £64,387 was brought in. The appropriation account is also credited with £107,902, proceeds of 40,000 South Nourse shares sold, so after paying a dividend of 15 per cent., taking £67,500, allowing for profits tax and other outgoings, as much as £146,763 is carried forward. Readers might take special note of this wholesale selling of South Nourse shares.

LANGLAAGTE DEEP.—In May last the directors of this Wernher-Beit company issued 50,000 new shares, thus increasing the issued capital from £750,000 to £800,000. The money was wanted to erect a further 80 stamps and additional cyanide and tube mill plant, enlarging the battery to 200 stamps. Surplus over was applied to the reduction of the liabilities. In the twelve months ending July 31 120 stamps crushed 237,121 tons, producing from the mill and cyanide works 79,913 fine ozs., of a value of £336,083, equal to £1 8s. 4d. per ton, an increase of 8.15d. per ton over 1903-4. Working costs totalled £248,782, averaging nearly £1 1s. per ton, an advance of 2.48d. over the figure of the preceding year. This left a working profit of £87,301. Interest required £11,942, so only £75,358 was taken to the appropriation account. This, after paying the profits tax and meeting other expenditure, wipes out the debit in the balance-sheet, and enables the company to start the current year with a clean sheet. No allowance, however, is made for depreciation, which is the common practice of the companies in the same group. At the date of the accounts a sum of £9,933 was owing to the parent company—the Rand Mines—and £38,241 to sundry creditors, the liquid resources being very slight. However, a small dividend may be possible some time in the future.

GLEN DEEP.—The average number of stamps working in the financial year ending July 31 was 95, these crushing 173,490 tons, giving the following results:—From mill 41,421 fine ozs., from cyanide works 33,019 fine ozs., total 74,440 ozs., averaging 8.58 dwts. per ton. Compared with the previous year there was an improvement of .437 dwts. in the yield per ton. This gold realised £313,084, equal to £1 16s. 1d. per ton, an increase of 1s. 9.38d. over that of 1903-4. Total working costs were £212,358, equivalent to £1 4s. 5.7d. per ton, an increase of 3s. 9.2d., more than neutralising the improvement in the yield. This left a gross profit of £100,727, or only 11s. 7.34d. per ton. It is admitted by the manager that the higher costs are due principally to the introduction of Chinese coolies. An interim

dividend, No. 2, of 10 per cent. was paid in July, and there remains a credit of £46,401 to take to the current year, comparing with £29,357 brought in. Nothing is allowed for depreciation. Financially the company is comfortably to do. According to the manager, the year's development operations east of No. 2 shaft have exposed ore of a normal grade, whilst in the vicinity a number of large faults have been encountered which have made progress slow. In the western part of the mine the results up to the present have continued to be disappointing.

KNIGHT'S DEEP.—This is a member of the Consolidated Gold Fields group, which in the year to July 31 ran 125 stamps, crushing 242,950 tons, for a total yield from all sources of 93,123 ozs., averaging over 7 dwts., or £1 12s. 3d. per ton. The value of the gold was £391,808, whilst working costs, inclusive of development redemption, absorbed £337,843, equal to the high figure of close on 27s. 10d. per ton. Thus the gross profit was only £53,966. Sales of water gave an additional £24,599, and sundry revenue £6,373, bringing the surplus to £84,938, reduced to £78,802 after allowing for the profits tax for two years. Debenture interest then takes £16,932, war expenditure written off £14,517, stamp duty £729, and when allowance is made for the old debit of £1,634, there remains a credit of £44,989 to go to the current year. The company has ample cash resources. There is still £122,983 war expenditure to be charged to future profits, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

SIMMER AND JACK EAST.—As crushing did not start until July last this company's income in the year to July 31 amounted only to £5,059 from various sources, and as expenditure absorbed £46,828, there was a deficit of £41,769. This is debited to the reserve fund, which consists of profit on the sale of investments "for the general purposes of the company's business in terms of the debenture trust deeds." Other outgoings have likewise been charged to this fund, which now stands in the books at £214,275. In addition, there is a premium account of £95,000. Current liabilities include a loan of £79,861—owed evidently to the Consolidated Gold Fields—sundry creditors £18,749, drafts in transit £87,000. On the other side cash totals £23,262, loans amount to £31,523, with "investments" valued at £290,808. During the twelve months 50,000 out of the 100,000 reserve shares were issued at a price of £2 per share. At present 100 stamps are running, and it is proposed to extend the present joint mill to 250 stamps, 200 of which are expected to be in operation at the end of the current financial year. Ore reserves are estimated at 710,000 milling tons of a probable average value of 8 dwts. per ton.

TANGANYIKA CONCESSIONS.—An interim report is issued by the directors of this company, recording nothing of a startling nature, nor anything to justify the market rigging of a few weeks ago. It merely says that work upon the mines has continued regularly on the lines laid down in the last report. The recovery of surface gold from the Ruwe mine proceeds steadily, the output for September reaching 408 ozs. To that date the total output was 7,050 ozs., realising £28,200. Further developments upon the Ruwe reef have been carried on along the strike at water level, and up to the present the width and values are well maintained. Additional important discoveries have been made of tin areas, so the directors now consider it a well established fact that a tin belt second only in importance to the copper belt has been found. No further development work has been done on the copper areas in Katanga, the engineers being agreed that the 26 cross-cut tunnels already run in depth have sufficiently exposed the great bodies of high-grade oxidised ores. Good progress has been made with the building of the Benguella railway, and the contractors say that it has now reached Lengue.

ENTERPRISE GOLD MINING AND ESTATES COMPANY.—This Rhodesian company, like many another, is waiting for things to improve in that land of lost hopes, and we fear its patience will never be substantially rewarded. In the financial year ending March 31 some shares were sold for a profit of £3,744, interest and dividends yielded £1,323, rents and hut taxes £208, and transfer fees £21, or £5,293 all told. Expenditure on this and the other side amounted to £7,268, so a profit of £1,725 brings down the deficiency to £5,543. The sum owing to sundry creditors is only £706, while cash and debtors total £32,536. Claims owned by the company now number 350, 20 having been recently abandoned.

ZAMBESIA EXPLORING COMPANY.—We note the important fact recorded in the report of the directors of the Zambesia Exploring that they have decided to stop all work in South Rhodesia, and to utilise all funds for increasing the company's holding in the Tanganyika Concessions. The claims in Southern Rhodesia were further examined to ascertain their value and to decide whether further work should be done upon them. On the advice of their engineer, the directors abandoned many of their claims, which is a telling commentary upon the optimistic talk at the Chartered meeting. This is only one of dozens of companies that have had to abandon worthless claims. The financial results of the year are, therefore, not brilliant. Interest, rents, &c., brought in £6,040 and transfer fees £305. Expenditure came to £16,587, including such items as £2,141 written off abandoned claims and £852 loss on realisation of shares. By crediting the profit and loss account with £1,000 premium on an issue of shares, the loss they show is £8,334, which reduces the credit balance to £28,430. At the end of June the financial position was very weak, but since that date the authorised capital has been increased by 150,000 £1 shares, of which 100,000 shares have been issued. This enabled the directors to purchase the half interest in the Benguella Concession.

EXPLORING LAND AND MINERALS COMPANY.—The heartrending confession is made by the directors that the past year—to June 30—did not favour profitable dealing; in other words, they could not gamble with substantial success. Whilst waiting for opportunities that never came, the assets depreciated, and probably have further shrunk in marketable value since the date of the accounts. Income amounted to a miserable £1,059 from dividends, transfer fees, rents and royalty, but the directors managed to scrape in a profit of £11,628 on the realisation of some of their share assets, enabling them to show, after meeting outgoings, a nett profit of £5,030. As, however, they write down shares and debentures by as much as £32,987, they carry a loss of £27,957 to the balance-sheet, where the deficit is thereby raised to £131,449, a staggering figure! There are loans from bankers and others for £50,377, whilst creditors are owed £5,531, to say nothing of heavy contingent liabilities. As the company has only £7,277 in cash, with £2,459 owing to it, reconstruction is probably not far ahead.

MURVEN (RHODESIA) COMPANY.—Here is another to be added to the heavy list of Rhodesia's failures. Many a time have shareholders been encouraged to hope that the Murven would shed glory upon a perishing industry, and pour inexhaustible wealth into their own gaping pockets. They now learn that such hopes will never fructify; that they will never handle a golden dividend. Though during the year to June 30 16,040 tons were treated for a yield of 9,852 ozs., realising £38,701, the directors confess that their expectations, based on the general manager's information, have not been fulfilled. Development work has opened up "a certain tonnage of good payable ore," but the results met with in the early stages have not been maintained in the middle reef, whilst the Baby reef pay shoot is not considered of sufficient importance to justify great outlay on development work. Little work has been done on the Mikado property, so it seems as if this is not deemed to possess promising possibilities. Under the dismal circumstances thus disclosed the directors intend to extract and mill all the payable ore they can get, supplementing it with the rubble deposits. This is a low-grade stuff, averaging about 3.96 dwts. per ton, the treatment of which, the directors think, may yield a "fair" profit. There is no consolation in so poor a prospect to compensate for the abandonment of all hopes of dividend-earning.

SCOTTISH MASHONALAND GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Helped by a profit of £5,598 on the realisation of shares, this company received an income of £6,485 in the year ending June 30. Expenditure took £1,851 only, so the nett profit was £4,635. This is not available for division, but has to go in reduction of the past deficit of £21,112, which now stands at £16,478. We may be sure it will take a few years to wipe out this, for the "investments," of a book value of £99,789, give but limited scope for profitable gambling in the Rhodesian market. As the company's holdings are mainly in the Banket Company and the Consolidated African Copper Trust, revenue from dividends is not likely to grow for many a year. Cash is only £3,857, with £480 owing by debtors, against bills payable £1,400 and creditors £346.

GIANT MINES OF RHODESIA.—This is the Rhodesian company in which the Consolidated Gold Fields has so large an interest, and of whose prospects it purports to hold a high opinion. In the report to June 30 the directors pretend to rejoice over the fact that the holders of the option of 25,000 of the reserve shares waived their rights—which is hardly flattering to the company—thus enabling the board to get the 45,000 reserve shares subscribed for at par. They do not divulge the secret as to who the subscribers are. The work done during the twelve months was, as usual, shaft sinking and development. Satisfactory progress was made, so the report assures us, the reef having been cut in the fifth level of good width and value. The limits of the dyke intrusion are becoming known, "and indicate that no great disturbance of the lode takes place, the value of the ore appearing to improve in depth. Mr. Bell estimated at the end of June that the ore in prospect and in sight amounted to 135,000 tons of an average value of 12.3 dwts., whilst Mr. Piper computes that at the end of this year sufficient ore can be relied upon to supply the present reduction plant for four years. The erection of this plant, consisting of 15 stamps, three tube mills and cyanide plant, is almost complete. Trial crushings are expected to commence in the present month of December. No profit and loss account is issued. Capitalised expenditure totalled £7,583 against £393 from interest and transfer fees, so a deficit of £7,180 is added to £9,310, making £16,500 to be debited to future profits. Cash and debtors are only £4,240; whilst bills payable and sundry creditors amount to £7,483. In addition, there are contingent liabilities for £3,117.

ANGLO-FRENCH MATABELELAND.—In the year to May 31 1,024 ozs. of gold were recovered from 3,054 tons milled, realising £4,350. Working profit was £701, to which are added £2,371 from interest, £765 profit on the sale of debentures, and £97 from transfer fees and other sources. Including depreciation, London and Johannesburg administration expenses came to £6,070, so there is a loss of £3,036, which converts the previous credit into a debit of £1,450.

ASHANTI GOLD FIELDS CORPORATION.—It is a disappointing report the directors issue for the year to June 30, but readers well know how we doubt the company's future and how severely we have criticised the directors' past financial policy, which has ended in so much loss for the shareholders. Though the gold won realised £172,962, against £161,100, the nett profit fell from £56,794 to £25,561, which the old debit reduces to £21,237. We regret to see that, despite recent experience, the directors are again charging mine development, redemption, and depreciation to the share premium account. Writings off absorbed £32,151,

or considerably more than the profit shown. It is most discouraging to learn that the lower profit is the result of a decline in the grade of the ore. On the other hand, working costs have been appreciably reduced. In order to replenish exhausted funds the directors issued £80,000 7 per cent. debentures in July last, so heavy floating liabilities have been written off. The auditors draw attention to the fact that nothing has been allowed for depreciation of plant and machinery, which stand in the books at the full amount expended thereon since June 30, 1902. It seems, therefore, as if the directors will not profit from a bitter experience, and shareholders must not be surprised if it brings new troubles and involves fresh losses.

TAKUAH AND ABOSSO GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Development work is proceeding on the Takuah mine, which is, the directors assure us, opening up in a satisfactory manner. Meanwhile, the Aboosso company, in which the Takuah holds a large interest, has reached the producing stage, 20 stamps being started on March 1, increased to 30 stamps—the full mill—on September 1. At the Takuah the general manager estimates there are 59,360 tons already in sight, which should grow to 170,000 tons by the time crushing commences. This date is expected at the end of 1906. Before then a mill and other plant must be installed, and plans are now being considered for a battery of 50 stamps. To provide for the cost of this, likewise for further development work, the directors last month placed the 40,980 unissued shares at 30s., less 6d. brokerage. Should present estimates not be exceeded, they hope they will not have to make a further call on the shareholders. Expenditure in West Africa and London—still capitalised—totalled £9,382, whilst the income from various sources was £6,038. This excess outlay of £3,344 advances the aggregate to £25,763. The company has some Government securities, which cost £57,142, partly pledged for a loan of £36,375.

ABOSSO GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This Jungle company has now commenced to produce gold, 20 stamps starting on March 1 last. To the end of June a profit of £6,850 was earned, greatly increased, say the directors, since the close of the financial year. Working costs have simultaneously been reduced. Since September 1 30 stamps have been running. According to the general manager, 74,652 tons of ore were developed at the end of June of an average assay value of 1 oz. 3 dwts. 3 grs. per ton, equivalent to 19 months' supply for the 30-stamp mill.

ASHANTI CONSOLS.—The report and accounts cover the long period of nineteen months from April 1, 1904, to October 31 last, during which time the capital has been reduced owing to the cancellation of the deed of charge on the capital in respect of its sub-guarantee in connection with the Gold Coast Government Railways. Shares are held in such concerns as the Obenemasi Goldfields and the Surinam Gold Concessions. No profit and loss account is yet issued by the Consols Company. Expenditure in London totalled £2,670 against £15 from transfer fees, and to the deficit of £2,655 has to be added £14,551 loss on investments, making £17,206. This is reduced to £11,954 after deducting the credit in the previous balance-sheet. Cash is only £169, with a trifle owing by debtors to be set against liabilities of nearly £6,000. £5,212 had to be written off shares.

CHAMPION REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The recent fall in the shares of this leading Indian company gives more than usual interest to the annual report. The causes of the decline seem mysterious, and the market itself has to conjecture them. One report says that a large deceased account has been in process of liquidation; another surmise is that the "bears" have been more than usually active; whilst another is that insiders may be in possession of important information denied to the shareholders. There is certainly no alarming information in the report to September 30, whilst there is much that is distinctly reassuring. The mills crushed 215,167 tons of quartz, yielding 188,596 ozs. of bar gold. A further 2,617 ozs. were obtained from the plates and the old No. 2 mill, which was dismantled last April, making a total production of 191,213 ozs. comparing with 181,948 tons and 183,209 ozs. respectively in the preceding year. In the cyanide works 177,000 tons of tailings were dealt with, resulting in a recovery of 25,589 ozs. compared with 241,996 tons and 32,470 ozs. in the foregoing twelve months. The average extraction per ton of ore milled was 17 dwts. 12 grs. and per ton of tailings and slimes 2 dwts. 21 grs. against 19 dwts. 23 grs. and 2 dwts. 16 grs. respectively, thus showing a depreciation in the value. This decline, however, of 2 dwts. 11 grs. is neutralised by a saving in working costs, which has made it possible to crush profitably ore of lower grade. The gold now realised £825,263, a total exceeding the production of any previous year. As the expenditure took £322,844 the nett profit was £467,583, being £5,002 in excess of that earned in 1904. This includes £3,833 from interest, £1,311 from rents, £589 from rebate on freight and £242 from transfer fees. A small balance of £1,425 was brought in. The dividend paid aggregates the same as in 1904—viz., 4s. per share, or 160 per cent. Ore reserves have been depleted in the twelve months, and at the end of September were estimated at 378,916 tons against 419,895 tons a year previously. This is due both to the increased quantity of ore milled and to less development done in Garland's section, where the reef, say the directors, has again assumed its normal condition. Ore of good width and value continues to be opened up in the deepest levels at Garland's shaft, while in Ribblesdale's and the workings therefrom a large quantity of rich ore has been developed. Last year a falling off was reported in the value of the lode in the neighbourhood of Carmichael's shaft. This has proved to be but temporary, as ore of a distinctly better grade has been met with in the two lowest levels. In the northern

section of the mine quartz of fair width and value has been opened up south of Rowe's shaft, whilst northwards high-grade ore has been driven upon up to the boundary. "It is apparent," the directors say, "that the success which has so consistently attended the operations of the company has been well maintained in the year under review, and they look forward to continued good results." The superintendent writes:—"It gives me the greatest of pleasure to congratulate the shareholders on the excellent result of the work in the year under review, which has been a record one in the history of the mine, for over 33,000 tons more stuff were crushed and more gold was produced than in any previous year, and although a slight decrease in the grade of the ore may be expected, there is every prospect of our present monthly output being maintained during the coming year." It may be pointed out, however, that at the present yield of over 14 per cent. it will take seven years before the principal is returned. No one knows, of course, how long the mine will last; this is the principal uncertainty which investors must be prepared to face.

CAPE COPPER COMPANY.—The directors admit that the strength of the metal market is mainly responsible for the increased earnings of the Cape Copper Company in the past financial year. Copper ores and metal realised £333,257, the profit from the railway was £15,861, that from the Tilt Cove establishment £14,831, interest and discount gave £6,108, whilst other income raised the aggregate credits to £373,974, on which the gross profit was £263,562 against £183,795. Income-tax takes £5,039 and the colonial tax £6,077, whilst £15,000 goes to the landed estates and buildings sinking fund. The large sum of £113,313 was brought in. A final dividend of 10s. is to be paid next month on both preference and ordinary shares, making 13s. on each for the year, against 8s. 6d. in 1903-4. In fact, such a distribution has been exceeded once only in the company's history—in 1901-2—when 15s. was the figure. Shareholders should take note of the important fact that the company's principal mines appear to be getting exhausted rapidly. For some considerable time past the directors have been on the hunt for another promising property, but their diligence has not so far been rewarded. The option on a mine in Chili has been abandoned, and an option has been secured on another property somewhere in America, on which exploratory work has started.

KALGURLI GOLD MINES.—This company, which appears to be steadily improving, treated 66,123 tons in the year ending July 31, or nearly 6,000 tons more. There was a slight decline in the yield per ton, offset by a reduction in the costs from 24s. 4d. per ton to 21s. 10d. The gold recovered amounted to 48,148 ozs. against 45,418 ozs., realising £202,886. Interest and discount added £1,063 and fees £97, making the total revenue £204,046 compared with £192,158. As, however, a much larger sum is allowed for depreciation, the nett profit is £1,000 less at £81,462. Dividends again aggregate 10s. per share, and £74,076 is carried forward against £52,613 brought in. On account of the current year an interim dividend of 2s. 6d. per share was paid last October, and a second interim of 5s. per share, with a bonus of 2s. 6d., is recommended to be paid on the 6th prox. Ore reserves have greatly increased, and the manager is sure there are now approximately 548,000 tons of ore opened up, from which gold of the value of 61s. per ton can be recovered. This figure compares with 408,800 tons, worth 59s. per ton, at the end of July, 1904.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY COMPANY.

Seeing that the independent existence of this big undertaking will cease on December 31 of the current year, proprietors will doubtless first turn their attention to that portion of the half-yearly report just issued devoted to the question of purchase by the Government. As is already well known, the purchase price has been agreed at £154 15s. 5d. for each £100 of existing consolidated stock to be payable in India 3 per cent. stock, taken at £96, to the extent of £133 12s. 6d., and the balance in the capital of the new company to be constituted. This capital will amount to £2,000,000 bearing 3 per cent. guaranteed interest, and repayable at par at the end of a new contract running for 25 years, the company in addition being offered certain proportions of the future nett earnings of the lines worked by it. This offer, however, the directors did not regard as an adequate return for the responsibilities to be undertaken in working the lines on behalf of the Secretary of State, and counter proposals have been submitted with regard to which the directors are still in communication with the Government. The task of settling the business will now, we suppose, fall on Mr. Brodrick's successor. During the half-year ended June 30 the gross earnings of the company's own line were Rs. 1,05,13,764 or Rs. 7,67,037 more than in the corresponding period, and as the expenses were smaller by Rs. 2,04,117 at Rs. 41,92,381, the nett earnings show an improvement of Rs. 9,71,154 at Rs. 63,21,383, the ratio of expenditure to income being 5.24 per cent. less at 39.87. Coaching traffic showed an increase of Rs. 3,10,377 owing principally to an advance in the numbers carried of 544,755, and merchandise business was better by Rs. 4,73,939, but telegraphs and sundries each showed some falling off. The improved earnings from

general goods mainly arose from cotton, food grains, metals, fodder and salt, neutralised to some extent by a reduced carriage of oil seeds and sugar. The saving in working expenses was distributed over all items, none of which calls for special mention. After providing for interest on guaranteed capital stock and bonds and on overdrawn capital balances, the amount of surplus profits divisible equally between the Government and the company is Rs. 34,72,214. Indian income-tax having been provided, the proportion belonging to the company was Rs. 17,11,203 compared with Rs. 12,43,419 for the corresponding period. Of this Rs. 16,71,200 has been withdrawn from India, realising £111,778, and the directors propose to pay a dividend of £1 10s. per cent. on the consolidated stock, requiring £113,524, the difference to be met from the undivided balance in hand. Including guaranteed interest, the total distribution for the half-year will be £4 per cent. as compared with £3 11s. per cent. a year ago. On the State lines the gross income went up by Rs. 32,06,926 to Rs. 1,48,11,206, and the working expenses by Rs. 6,00,778 to Rs. 59,05,189, leaving the nett revenue larger by Rs. 26,30,148 at Rs. 89,06,017, the whole of which belongs to the Secretary of State. Only a very small part of the additional receipts came from coaching traffic, but goods traffic went up 367,645 tons and Rs. 29,71,637 in money, due largely to a big carriage of food grains, which raises fears that the famine in the Bombay districts is again becoming acute.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY.

The half-year to June 30 last proved a prosperous period for this big undertaking. Gross receipts reached Rs. 3,49,94,483 or Rs. 27,13,015 more than in the corresponding period, against which the working expenses went up only Rs. 8,17,415 to Rs. 1,54,49,691, leaving the nett revenue larger by Rs. 18,95,599 at Rs. 1,95,44,791. There was an increase of rather more than 1,000,000 in the number of passengers carried, bringing in an extra revenue of Rs. 7,11,189, and improvement likewise occurred in season tickets, luggage and parcels and extra Post Office services, but a big falling off took place in the troop and police traffic and a smaller one under special trains and miscellaneous, so that the nett gain in coaching business was reduced to Rs. 6,88,550. Public merchandise lifted was larger by 180,692 tons, with an increased take of Rs. 21,27,997, and there was also a little additional money from the carriage of the company's construction materials; but revenue stores and livestock showed sharp declines, and from all sources the goods traffic yielded Rs. 19,74,975 more, the balance of the total gross gain being in telegraph services and sundries. Principal contributors to the larger merchandise business were raw cotton, cotton seed, manganese ore, jawari and bajra, salt, coal and coke, and other articles, while important decreases occurred under rape and mustard, linseed, til or jinjili, grain and pulse, wheat and sugar. These figures seem to indicate that, apart from those products which are governed by the effect of the monsoon on the crops, business showed fair general development, the most prominent incident of the half-year being the big traffic in cotton and cotton seed due to unusually abundant crops and good demand for export. Most of the increase in expenditure was in maintenance of way and works, just where we like to see it, owing to heavier renewals of the permanent way, the relaying of about 40 miles of track with heavier rails, the strengthening of 30-foot girders, and the reconstruction of the Mumbra bridge. A small saving in carriage and wagon expenses was due to the postponement of ordinary work, so that a quantity of new stock might be erected as quickly as possible. Surplus profits depend upon the results for the entire year, and we find that the nett profit for the twelve months to June 30 was Rs. 38,03,364 larger at Rs. 3,00,85,232, of which Rs. 92,74,177 is divisible between the Government and the company, the latter's one-twentieth share being Rs. 4,63,708. After deducting income-tax, the sum remaining of Rs. 4,51,633 has been remitted home, realising £30,236. Add £184 brought forward and the sum for disposal is £30,421, from which the directors propose a dividend of £1 3s. 6d. per cent. in addition to the guaranteed interest, being 8s. 6d. more than for the corresponding period, leaving £165 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure for the half-year was Rs. 53,46,886, and as the capital account on June 30 was overdrawn £409,423 an arrangement was come to with the Secretary of State whereby the sum of £500,000 was placed to the credit of the company on July 1, interest to be paid at the rate of 3¼ per cent.

INDIAN MIDLAND RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This company's lines are worked by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and its receipts included in the accounts of that system, but as a separate report is published it may as well be accorded a brief reference. For the half-year to June 30 the total revenue was Rs. 51,89,644 or Rs. 3,81,972 less than in the corresponding period of 1904, but the working expenses were reduced by Rs. 2,53,623 to Rs. 22,71,833, so that the shrinkage in nett earnings was only Rs. 1,28,349 at Rs. 29,17,811. All classes of goods traffic showed a falling off, public merchandise and military stores going back Rs. 4,46,924, company's construction materials Rs. 4,921, revenue stores Rs. 7,382, and miscellaneous Rs. 39,378. Revenue from sundries was also down by Rs. 28,721, and but for an increase in coaching business of Rs. 1,44,745 the fall in income would have been a great deal larger. Passenger traffic itself returned an extra Rs. 1,77,215, and the Post Office mail service improved by Rs. 4,215, but troops and police, luggage and parcels, special trains, and miscellaneous all showed decreases. In the goods traffic the principal declines were in wheat, grain and pulse, linseed, rape, tilseed, railway plant

and rolling stock and sugar, the falling off in leading staples being chiefly attributable to the unsatisfactory seasons experienced during the last few years in the districts served by the railway. All commodities, however, did not do worse, as increases occurred under coal, cotton, jawari and bajra, jagree, salt and timber. Nett earnings have been paid over to the Government for distribution, and fell short of actual payments by Rs. 1,43,077.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the half-year ended June 30 this great system received a gross revenue of Rs. 4,01,07,336 an increase against the corresponding period of last year of Rs. 92,830, but the working expenses went up by Rs. 5,52,043 to Rs. 1,37,23,658, so that the nett receipts are smaller by Rs. 4,59,213 at Rs. 2,63,83,678. That means an increase in the ratio between expenditure and income of 1.30 to 34.22 per cent., still a remarkably low proportion, and it would not matter if it were sensibly higher because we are not sure that the undertaking is conducted entirely in the interest of the travelling and trading community. Only very little extra was spent on maintenance and locomotive and rolling stock, but carriage and wagon expenses went up owing to a special effort having been made to clear off the arrears which had accumulated during previous half-years in consequence of the removal of the shops. Traffic charges also showed a moderate advance, additional facilities being required to cope with the increased traffic, which, by the way, was the largest ever handled, and an extra sum went in general and miscellaneous and special outlay. There was some shrinkage in the passenger traffic entirely third-class, leading to a drop of about 1½ lakhs in receipts, but the goods earnings went up Rs. 1,64,344, due to a big rise in the coal traffic as the merchandise business fell off by 183,850 tons and Rs. 8,25,429 in revenue. Other than coal the principal increases were in cotton, edible grain, hides and skins, iron and ironmongery, oils, piece goods, railway plant, rice, stone and lime, but on the other hand there were sharp declines in seeds and wheat and smaller losses in jute, salt and sugar. After making provision for sums payable to other lines, all interest charges and contribution to the provident institution the sum remaining is Rs. 1,03,24,577, of which Rs. 92,88,315 belong to the Government and Rs. 10,36,261 to the company. The company's share is reduced to Rs. 10,08,852 by the deduction of Indian income-tax and has produced £67,476, which enables the directors to pay a dividend on the deferred annuity capital and class "D" stocks of £1 0s. 9d. per cent. in addition to the guaranteed interest against £1 1s. 6d. per cent. a year ago. Capital expenditure for the half-year was Rs. 1,10,45,604, and since the issue of the last report £1,500,000 of 3 per cent. debenture stock has been placed at 92 per cent.

MADRAS RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the six months ended June 30 this company's revenue was £610,735, or just £833 more than in the opening half of 1904, but the working expenses went up by the considerable sum of £25,709 to £349,393, so that the nett earnings of £261,342 show a decline of £24,876. In the coaching business there was an increase of £12,323, of which £10,471 came from passengers in response to an improvement in numbers of 268,760. Goods traffic, however, fell away by 28,280 tons, causing a drop in income of £12,616, the contributing factors being a short crop of cotton and a reduced demand for coal on the goldfields, owing to the closing down of some of the less profitable mines. These two commodities alone accounted for a loss of £22,087, and it is fortunate that the shrinkage was counterbalanced by a revival in the leather industry, the development of the kerosene oil traffic, which gives promise of a further increase, and an increase in the timber hauled owing to the opening up of the Cochin forests. The increased expenditure is due to the abnormal outlay on replacements of rails, bridges, rolling stock, and workshops now in progress. Net revenue, after making adjustments, was £264,801 at 1s. 10d. per rupee, a decrease of £19,879, and represents a statistical return of £4 10s. 6d. per cent. per annum on the capital bearing interest, compared with £4 17s. in the corresponding period. The regular dividends on the company's stocks at rates varying from 5 per cent. to 4½ have been distributed as usual. The question of Government purchase is, of course, ever before the directors' minds, and they remind shareholders that the period for determining the value of the company's undertaking should the Government decide to purchase in 1907 began to run on April 1 last, the price being determined by the mean market value in London of the stock during the three years expiring on March 31, 1907. How the purchase will be effected, provided it takes place, it is too early yet to predict, but attention is called to the fact that with the Bombay-Baroda system the annuity method, which caused so much dissatisfaction in the case of the Great Indian Peninsula, has not been followed.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking continues to make steady progress, and during the half-year ended June 30 earned a gross revenue of Rs. 65,08,725, or Rs. 3,38,234 more than in the corresponding period of 1904. Working expenses, however, increased by Rs. 5,68,659 to Rs. 32,65,234, so that the nett balance goes down Rs. 2,30,425 to Rs. 32,43,491. The big increase in outlay means an advance in the ratio between expenditure and income from 43.70 to 50.17, and is due to the renewal of 20 miles of line, the replacement of nine locomotives, and increases in the numbers and pay of the staff. Nearly all the improvement in revenue came from the coaching traffic, which went up nearly 3 lakhs, in consequence chiefly of an advance in the number of passen-

gers carried of 291,951. In goods the gain was Rs.46,895, and the directors have to report the receipts from these sources of traffic the largest ever earned. In the merchandise business fruit and vegetables, grain, and pulse and hemp did best, offset to some extent by declines under oil seeds, spices, stone and lime, and general articles. After making sundry adjustments, the surplus profits amount to Rs.32,39,773, from which interest charges and contribution to the provident fund absorb Rs.13,78,062, leaving Rs.18,61,711 divisible between the Government and the company. Of that the latter is entitled to Rs.2,99,456, which at 1s. 4½d. per rupee realised £19,483, and with the addition of £15,372 brought forward and £134 interest on deposits the total for disposal is £34,989. So the directors again propose a dividend of 2½ per cent., making, with the guaranteed interest, 3¾ per cent. for the half-year, or at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £13,614.

SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

For the half-year ended on June 30 the gross receipts amounted to Rs.59,33,749, or Rs.19,718 more than in the same period of 1904, against which the working expenses went up Rs.2,31,219 to Rs.35,00,378, so that the nett revenue is less by Rs.2,11,501 at Rs.24,33,371. Passenger traffic exhibits a general improvement over the figures of the opening half of last year, the number carried being up 522,740 and the receipts Rs.2,71,144, but the goods traffic fell away rather severely, chiefly due to less extensive movements of oil seeds and cotton. The number of tons lifted showed a drop of 43,287, bringing down the receipts by Rs.2,68,853, but notwithstanding this loss the income under all heads was the largest ever gathered. Renewals of rails and sleepers, heavier ballasting, the rebuilding of two bridges, and greater expenditure on repairs of buildings and goods vehicles accounted for the rise in outlay. After deducting the proportion of nett receipts applicable to those railways not included in the contracts the balance is Rs.19,82,224, which is increased to Rs.19,84,343 by adjustments on account of previous half-years. One-fourth of this sum, or Rs.4,96,086, belongs to the company, of which Rs.8,181 is required for Indian income-tax leaving Rs.4,87,304. Converted into sterling this gave £32,614 and the directors propose a dividend of 15s. per cent., in addition to the £1 15s. payable from the Government, making a total of £2 10s. Reserve fund is increased from £80,142 to £88,352.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY.

In the year ended June 30 last this company earned gross \$67,690,000, and working expenses, excluding taxes, which came to \$1,377,000, took \$44,711,000, leaving \$22,979,000 as the nett earnings from working the line. The total length of the lines was at the end of the year 4,026 miles, an increase of only 39 miles on the previous year. Dividend and interest received on securities owned, \$2,618,000, was added to this nett income, together with sundry other small receipts, so that the entire free income of the company was \$25,956,000, out of which interest and rentals took \$9,978,000 and various other charges about \$2,300,000, or \$12,282,000 in all. This left \$13,674,000 as the disposable income, out of which the preferred stock has received its full 4 per cent. for the year, and the common stock a dividend of 2½ per cent. These aggregated \$5,507,000, and \$2,500,000 has been taken from revenue to pay for additions and improvements, so that altogether \$8,007,000 falls to be deducted from the above-mentioned free revenue, leaving a surplus of \$5,667,000 at the end of the year, which, added to the surplus of \$7,312,000 brought forward, together with sundry small adjustments, gives an accumulated surplus of \$13,336,000, from which, however, \$1,500,000 has been written off for depreciation on rolling stock, and \$2,485,000 withdrawn to pay a dividend of 2 per cent. on the common stock on March 1 last. This and other adjustments leave the aggregate book surplus at \$9,135,000. This seems a very satisfactory exhibit in all respects, and the business of the company shows substantial expansion, while at the same time the working charges seem to be carefully supervised. Nevertheless, the expenditure of capital over and above all credits from current income continues important, and amounted in the past year to \$8,624,000. This was \$2,928,000 less than in the previous year, but still a sensible item, of which upwards of \$6,000,000 was charged to capital account in one form or other. A number of adjustments of accounts have been made to simplify the exhibit for the future, the most important of them being the wiping out of capital of the Baltimore and Ohio South-Western road held by the parent company in exchange for the absorption by this parent of the South-Western road's equipment, which was taken over on June 30 last at a valuation of \$10,828,000. Much information about the business of the road and the extensions and improvements going on is conveyed in the report, which from that point of view is admirable, but the high scale of earnings suggests overcharges upon the users of the road.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE RAILROAD COMPANY.

The 4,229 miles of this agglomerate earned in the year ended June 30 last \$22,223,000 at a cost of \$14,190,000 in expenses and taxes. This left the nett income from working the roads at \$8,033,000, and \$2,277,000 was added from investments, making the entire nett revenue \$10,310,000. Interest and rentals took \$5,591,000 of this, and after deducting sundry miscellaneous charges, the free balance was \$4,670,000, out of which the preference stock has received 5 per cent., and the common stock also 5 per cent. Not satisfied with this reasonable-looking return, it appears that the directors of the company decided in November, 1904, not only to add an extra 5 per cent. dividend out

of the surplus earnings of the common stockholders, but to give them a sort of bonus dividend of 20 per cent., payable in common stock. In order to do this \$50,000,000 of additional common stock was created and added to the capitalisation of the company. Whatever justification the earnings may have furnished for such a distribution surely this is not the proper way in which to make it. To create stock in this manner and distribute it by way of dividend is a form of clapping mortgages upon the future earnings of the community served by the road from every point of view to be deprecated. The total capital expenditure, measured by bonds alone, appears to be about \$132,000,000, and the share capital on June 30, 1905, stood at \$45,707,000, of which \$42,980,000 was common stock, but this figure cannot represent the increase caused by the 20 per cent. dividend mentioned above.

ALABAMA GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

All classes of traffic showed fair improvement during the 12 months ended June 30, and the gross receipts were \$208,855 higher at \$3,308,300. On the other hand, maintenance of way cost \$18,238 more, maintenance of equipment \$91,919 more, and traffic expenses were \$124,355 heavier, the total increase in operating expenses and taxes being \$232,454 at \$2,706,975, or 81.82 per cent. of the receipts compared with 79.84 per cent. Nett earnings, therefore, came to \$23,600 less at \$601,325, or £123,729, compared with £128,585. To this was added interest on investments, &c., making a total of £134,270, and after deducting interest on bonds and debentures and other charges, the total available, including £152,643 brought forward, was £219,512. A sum of £20,576 was written off for securities of the Gadsden and Attalla Railway, and out of the balance dividends on all the "A" preference shares are paid up to date, leaving £160,236 to be carried forward. Accompanying the report is a letter from the president of the Southern Railway Company, suggesting that as that undertaking has acquired a working majority of all the outstanding shares of this company, the necessity for the continued maintenance of an English holding company no longer exists. He proposes, therefore, that the company should be wound up, and that the holders of the English shares should receive in exchange an equivalent amount at par in shares of the same class of the Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company. In order to carry out this scheme it is necessary to provide for the debenture debt of £134,000 and the funded arrears of preference dividend, which will amount in round figures on February 1 next to £81,000. The debentures are secured on debentures of the American company which mature on August 15, 1906, but the Southern Railway Company is prepared to find a purchaser of the American bonds for cash as at February 1, 1906, at a price to pay off the principal and accrued interest of the outstanding English debentures. In addition to this the Southern Railway offers to guarantee the absolute amortisation of the funded arrears, together with the accrued interest to date, in five years' time from February 1, although these certificates are now only redeemable out of surplus earnings.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

A brief reference was made in last week's issue to the operations of this company for the year ended September 30 last, and we can now proceed to refer to the company's affairs in greater detail. Comparison of results is still rendered somewhat misleading by the adoption, in rendering the accounts, of the actual par of exchange instead of the old figures of 2s. per rupee and 4s. 2d. per dollar, which involved large provision for loss on exchange; but dealing with the actual figures so far as possible for the purpose of comparison, it is satisfactory to note that the passenger revenue again shows an increase over that of the previous year. The improvement is not very large, only £26,000 at a total of £984,687, but we must not overlook the disturbance to the Far-Eastern passenger traffic caused by the war. On the other hand, freights, charters, and miscellaneous showed a further shrinkage of £37,000 to £1,508,784, due to a smaller amount of casual chartering by Government for the conveyance of troops. Other sources of revenue were Government contract services £344,153 and interest, discount, and exchange £83,787, while £10,535 was brought forward, making a total of £3,011,947 compared with £3,008,656. Expenses of navigation were much the same at £1,125,997, and other items of outgo calling for mention are provisions £279,227, Suez Canal dues £321,274, general administration £177,727, and repairs and general maintenance £245,316. The fixed allowance of 5 per cent. for depreciation on the fleet comes to £366,040, but the directors set aside an extra amount of £170,000, making £536,040 in all, or 7½ per cent., which should be quite sufficient. Interest on debenture stock takes away a further £63,000, leaving £219,746 as nett profit, and this provides the 5 per cent. dividend on the preferred stock and 13 per cent. on the deferred stock, carrying forward £10,946. Without going into extended details, it can be said that the board steadily pursues its sound and thoughtful policy of keeping the fleet right up to date by means of new construction and extensive refits of vessels already in the service, and must feel considerable satisfaction in announcing that the business has been carried on without accident or delay of any kind. The cargo capacity of the fleet has been fairly well utilised—albeit rates have ruled very low—except during the last few months of the year at Bombay and Calcutta, where there was a great deficiency of cargo owing to the injury done by exceptional frosts to the crops. Australian trade is again improving, thanks to the more favourable seasons, but freights have failed to respond, and while the outward trade to China and Japan has been good the homeward business is unequal

to the employment of the tonnage loaded outwards. Unless there is a marked expansion in the export trade from China and Japan, of which there is no particular indication at the moment, this route will, like that of Australia, be overdone with tonnage. Excluding tenders and tugs, but counting in five ships building of an aggregate tonnage of 34,400, the total of the fleet is 400,874 tons, valued in the balance-sheet at little more than £8 11s. per ton, a very conservative figure; and when it is considered that the company has reserves of £1,500,000 as well, there can be no doubt that the financial position is exceedingly strong. Sundry floating liabilities come to about £646,071, and against that the liquid assets are over £2,650,512 or an excess of fully £2,000,000.

THE PERUVIAN CORPORATION, LIMITED.

No settlement has yet been come to with the Peruvian Government in the matters of dispute between it and this Corporation. Negotiations, as we mentioned at the time, were entered into, and the then agent of the Corporation in Lima reported certain proposals which had been made to and accepted by the Government, but which the directors of the Corporation found inadmissible. They made counter proposals, as set forth in the report before us, and these the Government declared to be "unacceptable even as a point of departure for a discussion." It is a pity that this wrangle should go on and apparently be prolonged indefinitely, but the Corporation does manage to gradually increase its revenue, and in the past year earned £275,532, after providing debenture interest at the reduced rate of 4 per cent. Adding in a balance of £156,788 brought forward, the entire disposable amount came to £432,320, out of which £75,000 was set aside to the reserve fund, raising it to a total of £400,000, the whole of this money being employed in lieu of new capital, which the Corporation is unable to raise. From the balance it is proposed to pay the additional 2 per cent. on the debentures, making up the interest for the year ended March 31 next to 6 per cent., and to distribute 1½ per cent. upon the preference stock. These charges met a balance of £166,707 will be left to carry forward. The company's railways did well last year, taken as a whole, and yielded a net income of £242,039, the Chimbote Railway alone showing a small deficiency of £1,508, caused partly by expenditure rendered necessary by the floods of the preceding year, and partly by a reconstruction of the rolling stock. Extensions are being carried out in spite of the want of fresh capital, but some at least of these are Government enterprises, such as an extension of the Central Railway from Oroya to Huari. The Peruvian Government for these extensions is paying a monthly sum, not exceeding £6,000, in proportion to the work done. It is mentioned in dealing with the Southern Railway that the amount owing by the Peruvian Government to the Corporation in respect of advances for the purposes of the Guauqui-La Paz Railway and the Bajada Electric Railway amounts, with interest, to £108,613. Last year's revenue from guano was £9,907 more than that of the preceding year at £186,684. Sales exceeded by about 20,000 tons those of the preceding year, but the shipments consisted principally of low-grade guano. Freights ruled on an average about 2s. per ton higher than in the previous year. The balance-sheet mounts up to an aggregate of £21,032,926, but of this £7,500,000 is preference and £9,000,000 ordinary shares, converted into stock, and the real capital of the company consists in its debenture bonds, amounting to £3,700,000, and its reserve, now up to £400,000. The Corporation possesses Peruvian Railway securities to the amount of £4,244,123, and has spent on these railways £3,305,450. It is continually spending money which in ordinary circumstances would be charged to capital account, and is, therefore, naturally kept rather short of funds. Still, its investments in high-class securities amount to £246,000, and on June 30, at the date of the balance-sheet, the cash in hand or on deposit amounted to £12,554. Heavy work is being carried out at the port of Mollendo, in order to improve the terminal facilities of the Southern Railway there. Up to the date of the balance-sheet £63,052 has been sunk in sundry railway extensions, money to be refunded some time by the Peruvian Government. Several railway companies also owe the Corporation £114,151 for advances to pay for stores and as working capital.

NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY COMPANY.

In its year ended June 30 last this company claims to have earned a profit of £121,952, after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts and for all expenses. This, with the modest sum of £758 brought forward, gives a free balance of £122,710, and after meeting the prior lien and second debenture stocks interest enough is left to give the third debenture stock its full 4½ per cent., leaving £5,151 to be carried forward, out of which £3,548 has been taken to write down the costs of the Act of Parliament obtained in 1904 for dealing with the trustees' certificates, that curious device by which the essential insolvency of this concern has been disguised. To understand these figures, however, it is necessary to take into account the New Zealand Land Association, which was formed with a nominal capital of £505,466 to deal with the derelict properties of the Loan and Mercantile Agency Company. Its report is accordingly enclosed with that of the parent, and tells us that owing to its purchases of the above-mentioned trustees' certificates the Land Company now has a deficiency of £60,247, towards which the directors have appropriated the £12,812 representing the profit for the year ended March 31 last, together with £28,122, the surplus realised from sales of properties and stock. Even so £28,313 of a deficiency is left. It seems to us that these facts do not quite justify the directors of the Loan and Mercantile

Agency Company in making the profit exhibit they do, since part of the loss of the Land Association for the past year arose from its purchases of these trustees' certificates. The operation consists in first buying the certificates and then converting the proceeds into shares of the Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, which are taken over at 10s. apiece. Hence the deficit. As for the balance-sheet of the Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, it is of the usual complexion telling us practically nothing. The share capital is now a mere £135,122, but the total outstanding debenture stock amounts to £3,296,345, of which, however, about £458,000 has been bought in by the Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, and now forms some portion of its assets. Besides there are liabilities of £108,000 on bills payable, of £211,175 on current accounts, and of £223,000 on deposits of the New Zealand Land Association. As for assets, the company appears to be fairly well supplied with cash, the total of which is £264,356, including £117,170 on consignment trust account, and besides this there was £97,000 out on short loan in London. Then £52,418 falls to be received on bills running against the £108,000 due on bills payable. Advances on wool and produce on hand and afloat come to about £302,000, and what is described as secured loans and other advances to £1,069,696. The company has £192,319 sunk in properties and stock taken over, about £133,000 in merchandise, and £531,000 in current accounts, which seem to be further advances, but what the real value of all these items may be who shall assess? Investments, all in good securities, come to about £165,000, and its holdings of New Zealand Land Association debenture stock and shares aggregate £552,658, while the company's offices in London and the colonies, wool stores and premises are down to the figure of £303,356, the balance-sheet footing up to a total of £4,120,497.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

This bank managed to hold its own very well during the half-year ended September 25, the nett profits being only £127 lower at £24,718, and as it brought forward the substantial balance of £37,584, the total at the disposal of the directors was £24,077 larger at £62,302. Of this, £12,500 was taken to pay a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum compared with 17½ per cent. a year ago, and £25,000 was put to reserve raising that fund to £325,000 against a paid-up capital of £125,000, and after distributing £3,350 to the officers as a bonus the amount carried to the new account was reduced by £5,836 to £21,452. Deposits not bearing interest rose by £19,454 to £1,126,747 and those bearing interest by £326,766 to £884,433, making total liabilities under this head £2,011,177, against which specie and bullion in hand was increased by £278,926 to £1,114,764 or nearly 55½ per cent. Notes and bills in circulation were £8,323 up at £147,053 and balances due to other banks were £16,159 higher at £107,111, but, on the other hand, bills receivable and other advances increased by £158,729 to £1,424,458, while notes and cheques on other banks and remittances in transit showed decreases of £12,835 and £17,474 respectively at £28,495 and £21,296, and the holding of public securities was unaltered at £100,200. The report therefore is a decidedly satisfactory one, and well maintains the reputation of the bank.

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK, LIMITED.

A further splendid increase of £65,714 to £440,430 is shown in the gross profits of this bank for the twelve months ended September 30, and as this was earned at the cost of an advance of £23,532 only in general charges, the nett profits, including 34,256 or £3,112 less brought forward, were higher by the substantial sum of £39,070 at £259,325. Of this large sum at their disposal, the directors appropriate £9,000 to paying an additional 1 per cent. making 20 per cent. against 19 per cent. and 18 per cent. in the two preceding years, and after writing £25,000 or £15,000 more off premises account and doubling the contribution to pension and benevolent fund at £10,000 are still able to raise the balance carried to the new account by £10,070 to £44,325. The great prosperity enjoyed in the countries where the bank carries on its business is indicated by a further advance of £1,007,580 to £17,705,670 in current and deposit accounts. Acceptances are £839,282 up at £3,823,524 and drafts in transit come to £570,343 more at £1,752,052, while the local currency emission in Monte Video is down £413,862 at £223,115. On the other hand, cash is £260,413 higher at £6,551,210 and bills receivable, advances, &c., have risen £1,663,117 to £18,912,432. Bank premises, after deducting the amount now written off, will stand at £171,511. Bills for collection on account of customers and Buenos Ayres Clearing Banks' balances, which appear on both sides of the account, show an increase of £265,176 at £1,847,628 and a decrease of £86,742 at £583,475 respectively.

THE AMALGAMATED PRESS, LIMITED.

This great Harmsworth agglomerate made a nett profit of £255,519 in its financial year ended October 31 last, or £2,363 more than in the preceding year, so that the directors are able to bring the dividend again up to 40 per cent. for the year, including a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share. Last year they paid only 35 per cent., including the bonus which was then only 1s. 6d. per share. This handsome distribution is made after writing £25,000 off for depreciation on plant and machinery, and the directors are also able to put aside £25,000 to the reserve, raising it to £200,000. Nothing is mentioned this year about any of the company's publications, while a year ago the directors congratulated the shareholders on the advent of a sixpenny monthly magazine called *The World and His Wife*. All they say now is

that most of the weekly publications of the company are growing rapidly, and certainly it appears to be drawing immense revenues from somewhere. The balance-sheet, though, still puzzles us a little, for in spite of the writings off mentioned above the additional expenditure on leasehold buildings, together with the purchase of £7,000 worth of new leasehold premises in Broadway, Ludgate Hill, has brought up the value of the assets set forth in the balance-sheet, exclusive of the £780,000 at which goodwill and copyrights continue to stand, by about £28,000 during the year. Twelve months back, that is to say, the total value of the property and plant together with goodwill, &c., was £892,641 and now it is £920,660. Other items in the balance-sheet do not require much notice, but it is interesting to observe that the debtors to the company owe it £31,342 more at £95,758 than they did a year ago. Also we observe among the investments £42,580 set down as the amount of the Amalgamated Company's risk in the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company. Its holding of Consols and North-Western debenture stock still appear to be over-valued, but this has been at last corrected by writing off £45,004 from the total book value of these investments. Cash, however, has shrunk almost to a corresponding extent, being at £155,740 down £42,167, so we cannot be sure that the prosperity exhibited in the report and emphasised by the dividends is in all respects as solid as it looks.

DUNLOP PNEUMATIC TYRES CO., LIMITED.

We never handle a report of this renowned and notorious undertaking without a feeling of regret that such a splendid business should have fallen into the hands of a crowd of promoters whose moral attributes are of such a distinctly low order. Last year was the first in which the enterprise had to stand on its own feet; that is to say, the expiry of the patents, for which many millions were paid, subjected it to unrestricted competition, and revenue received no help from the payment of royalties. Yet so good is the actual trade that with the aid of a semi-fictional profit of something like £10,000, derived from the cancellation at par of debentures standing at about 85 or less, the company reaped a net income during the 12 months ended September 30 of £138,060, compared with £131,403 in 1903-4, when an unnamed sum was also received from royalties. Dealing in the shares was a little brisker, so that transfer fees gave an extra £48 at £327, and with £266,406 or £30,865 more brought forward the total balance is £404,794 compared with £367,224. Directors' and trustees' fees absorb the sum of £3,200, but the redemption of debentures reduces the interest by £1,633 to £14,566, and £926 less at £5,243 is written off plant, furniture, fittings, and premises, so that after providing the audit fees of £500 the actual sum for disposal is £40,129 better at £381,285. Preference dividend having been provided, the directors therefore propose a distribution of 4 per cent., or 1½ per cent. more on the 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares, allowing a further £25,000 for the purchase of debentures and carrying forward £266,536. Actual trade done, we are told, was larger than ever, and while all grades of tyres in public demand were produced in the mills, the directors are gratified to find that the lower grade tyres are less favoured, the tendency being markedly in favour of the better qualities now produced at such popular prices. Just as we predicted when dealing with the thing in June last, the directors are encountering no end of difficulties in connection with their capital reorganisation scheme, and are receiving so much fresh counsel from dissatisfied shareholders that each day the confusion seemingly becomes worse. That the ordinary shareholders will accept the agreement in its present shape is very hard to believe, and despite the "generous response" of the ordinary and deferred shareholders—vendors' deferred shares?—we fancy something more equitable will have to be devised before the huge mass of promoters' booty can be cut away. This accounts for such a great slice of the so-called assets—£3,894,080 out of £4,826,112—that there is little to be said about the remainder. A sum of £1,141 written off the freehold and leasehold premises brings them down to £44,505, but the plant, machinery, fittings, &c., are somewhat higher, £6,735 having been added against £5,273 sold and allowed for depreciation. Investments at or under cost, as valued by the directors, are put in at £436,574, a purely arbitrary figure, and against creditors of £130,224 debtors owe £147,633. Stock is entered at £152,054 and cash and bills reach £125,542. The debenture debt has been further reduced by £62,000 to £338,700, the original amount having been £100,000.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND DUDLEY BREWERIES, LIMITED.

Including £8,796 from rents, the gross profits for the year ended September 30 came to £47,486, of which £4,106 was written off for repairs and renewals, £5,825 for depreciation and £617 for bad debts, leaving net profits at £36,937 or a further decrease of £536. A much larger balance of £4,595, however, was brought in, and with £12 from transfer fees the amount available after providing for administration charges and debenture and other interest, was no less than £8,142 up at £25,737, so that the directors are not only able to maintain the dividend on the ordinary shares at 11 per cent. per annum and to increase the allocation to reserve by £1,000 to £6,000, but can even spare £500 for the superannuation fund and still have £6,487 or £1,892 more to carry forward, subject to the payment of £400 additional remuneration asked for by the board. Expenditure on the property during the year was only £9,538 compared with £12,989 spent in the previous twelve months, and as the depreciation allowance was slightly increased at £2,024, the item now

stands at £411,896 against £404,381. New brewery, maltings and stabling are evidently not considered to have reached the stage of dilapidation where provision for depreciation is necessary, as they remain at the old figure of £26,858, but plant, machinery, &c., have been written down to £21,587. On the other hand mortgages and loans have been further reduced by £1,538 to £37,897, and liabilities to sundry creditors are £2,370 smaller at £15,146, while sundry debtors show an increase of £698 at £12,291 and cash has risen by £376 to £3,495.

BENTLEY'S YORKSHIRE BREWERIES, LIMITED.

Owing to the trade depression in districts served by this company the total revenue for the year ended September 30, including £26,263 from rents, was £3,445 lower at £122,988. Against this there was a slight saving of £468 at £38,450 in general expenses, and after providing £16,277 for repairs, renewals and depreciation and meeting other charges, the net profits came to £52,673 compared with £55,975. A rather smaller balance of £2,058 was brought forward, making the decrease in the amount available £3,553 at £54,731, of which debenture and loan interest took £26,596 or £331 more, but the directors again put £4,000 to reserve, and, as the compensation charges imposed by the Licensing Act of 1904 became payable for the first time in October, they increase the balance forward by £2,466 to £4,524, although this step involves cutting down the dividend from 5 per cent. to 4 per cent. Freehold and leasehold properties, machinery and plant have been increased by £9,250 to £1,004,789, and as stocks stand at £65,521, while the company seemingly has to give a considerable amount of credit, it is rather hampered for funds, and in addition to its share capital of £471,850 and a debenture debt of £600,000 the reserve fund of £37,000 is, of course, all in the business, and a sum of £53,401 has been borrowed on the properties. Liabilities to sundry creditors are down £7,497 to £37,001, a fairly moderate amount under the circumstances, and against this there is £88,009 or £3,478 more to come in from sundry debtors. Cash is up a trifle of £564 at £18,798, but of this no less than £18,312 is held on debenture trustees' account.

STRETTON'S DERBY BREWERY, LIMITED.

The directors congratulate the shareholders on the satisfactory result of the trading for the year, although this was nothing much to boast of. An agency of some licensed property in the Bradford district was taken, and profits from this source for three months are included, but notwithstanding this help, the total profits for the year were £4,606 lower at £49,425. Some compensation was found in improved returns from the ordinary shares of Alton and Co., which accounted for an increase of £1,003 to £9,241 in the income from investments, &c., and after writing off £6,495 for repairs and £2,434 for depreciation, compared with £6,151 and £2,742, the net profits showed a shrinkage of £2,964 at £45,514. Interest on debenture stocks, loans, &c., and preference dividends having been provided, the balance available, including £7,909 brought in, is £23,084, out of which the ordinary shares again receive 10 per cent., £545 is written off for cost of licence lost, and £7,500, or £2,251 less, is put to reserve, leaving £8,539 to be carried forward. Outlay on additions and improvements, less an unmentioned amount written off for redemption of leasehold properties, &c., was £8,006, bringing the total up to £546,095, in addition to which the company holds shares in the Midland Brewery and Alton and Co., valued at £81,890 and £62,134 respectively, and has £5,586 employed as working capital at the Bradford agency. Mortgages and loans, including interest, are £1,194 up at £37,204, and liabilities to trade and sundry creditors come to £4,215 more at £22,020, while, on the other hand, book debts and loans due to the company stand at £31,580 or a decrease of £796, but stocks are small at £13,624 and cash has dwindled from £2,704 to £902. The company, it is true, has £7,112 to come in from dividends in its share holdings, but interest accrued on the debenture stocks requires £4,250, and the preference and ordinary dividends just declared will take another £12,400, so that the free assets seem very inadequate.

ST. LOUIS BREWERIES, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended September 30 this company's sales of beer reached 689,094 barrels or 15,290 less than in the preceding year, a decrease to be expected in view of the comparison with the World's Fair period, but the directors say it would not have occurred but for the rigorous enforcement of the Sunday Closing Ordinance, to which reference was made in a circular issued in June last. This enactment out of the way, and the American management says the sales would have gone up quite 30,000 barrels. Including £6,608 interest on investments and other receipts, the profit earned amounted to £226,500, from which £42,679 or £6,724 less was allowed for repairs, £20,963 for depreciation and £60,870 for interest on mortgage bonds, leaving £101,988, a decline of £10,773. As £20,081 was brought forward the total net balance is £122,069, from which dividends amounting to £101,877 have been declared by the American company, leaving £20,192 to be carried forward. Of this dividend the English company's share is £101,849, and after providing London charges, &c., and adding sum brought forward, interest, and transfer fees, the aggregate for disposal is £108,426. From that the directors pay a full year's preference dividend and 3 per cent. on account of arrears, 11 per cent. in all, carrying forward £9,426. Last year the total payment was 12 per cent. and the amount now in arrear is 7 per cent.

BARTHOLOMAEW BREWING COMPANY (OF ROCHESTER), LIMITED.

In referring to an increase of 11,410 barrels in the sales of beer for the year to September 30 the directors of this company say that the advance is to be attributed partly to better weather and partly to an increase in loans, a policy which has been necessitated by the altered conditions of the trade. Moreover, the excellent quality of the beers and ale has been maintained, we are told, and prospects are brighter than for some time past. Profits of the American company are returned at £74,978, say £2,000 more than in the previous twelve months, from which £24,865 was allowed for repairs and depreciation, £20,601 for debenture interest and £16,907 for head office charges, leaving £12,604. To that must be added the sum of £1,758 brought forward, making £14,362, and the directors declare a dividend of £12,320, carrying forward £2,042. Said dividend is brought into the accounts of the English company, and with £271 from interest, transfer fees, &c., gives a disposable balance of £12,591. London office expenses having been met with £1,341, the directors proceed to pay 3 per cent. or 1 per cent. more on the preference shares, carrying forward £1,845. The financial position of the American company shows slight improvement, but its earning capacity can never justify the enormous capitalisation placed upon it, and the directors might usefully devote a little time to devising a workable scheme of capital reorganisation.

GENEVA TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

There was a slight improvement in this company's position for the twelve months ended September 30, but so small as to be hardly worth speaking of, and it is safe to say that an adequate return on the huge capital involved will never be forthcoming. Number of passengers carried by the Swiss company increased 1,461,662 to 13,928,429, meaning an increase in revenue from 1,953,486f. to 2,132,051f., and as the expenditure was reduced 71,596f. to 1,670,441f. the profit on working shows an advance of 250,162f. to 461,610f., the ratio of expenses to revenue going down 10.84 per cent. to 78.34 per cent. Including balance brought forward and other income, the total for disposal is 526,167f., and after making the necessary contributions to amortisation, renewal and reserve funds and providing sundry expenses the balance over is 362,618f., enabling the directors to pay a dividend of 1 per cent. amounting to 200,000f. and leaving 162,618f. The last-named sum together with a further amount from the current year's earnings, has been set aside for the purpose of providing additional rolling stock at a cost not exceeding 250,000f. The dividend declared brings to the English company a sum of £7,951, while another £17 was received from interest and transfer fees, making £7,968. But debenture interest alone requires £40,417, a further £1,250 is allowed for directors' fees, and general expenses required £572, so that the revenue account produces a deficit of £34,271. Previous deficiencies being £117,289, the total adverse balance to date is £151,559, and we may remark that, although the full charge for debenture interest is naturally allowed, the payment of practically the whole of it is deferred, so that income certificates or interest accrued to date are owing to the amount of £109,653. How is that to be liquidated? No answer can be given to the question, and one begins to wonder what must be the eventual fate of a company performing as badly as this one, and whose property account stands at the enormous figure of £1,699,840.

UNITED FRUIT COMPANY.

This Boston, United States, Corporation, which controls in great measure our banana trade and also the tropical fruit trade of the United States, earned last year \$1,618,000 nett, and paid four quarterly dividends, aggregating 7 per cent. for the year, which left \$465,000 as surplus to be added to the previously accumulated surpluses, raising the total thereof to \$3,623,000. In regard to this figure, however, sundry adjustments have to be made, including the writing off of \$150,000, part of the company's banana investment in Cuba, so that the nett final surplus is \$3,494,000. The capital stock of the company is \$17,485,000, and it has a convertible 5 per cent. bonded debt of \$2,396,000.

NEW TAMARUGAL NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended July 31 this company's total revenue was £43,171 compared with £35,792 in the previous year, and after providing London expenses and income-tax the balance remaining is £40,023. Of that £23,400 is required for service of the debentures leaving £16,623, from which the directors propose to pay interest at 4 per cent. on the income bonds, increasing the carry forward from £1,321 to £12,972. The sum above mentioned added to the balance existing at July 31, 1904, increases the debenture service fund to £77,030, and after deducting £7,666 for interest and £9,133 cost of £8,860 debentures purchased the sum still left is £60,231, and as practically the whole of that sum has since been used in cancelling £54,340 debentures at 105 per cent., the arrears of redemption have now been made good, leaving the debt at £66,000. The directors endeavoured to get an extension of time within which the debentures are to be paid off but the proposals were not accepted, and it became necessary to arrange for an issue of £75,000 second mortgage debentures, because funds must be provided for the new works to be erected at La Palma. The fresh bonds bear 5 per cent. interest, and are redeemable at par at the rate of £6,250 half-yearly, commencing January 1, 1908. In the balance-sheet, property account is entered at £479,235, but it has since been largely reduced by the repayment of debentures just noted. Less than £19,000 is owing to sundry creditors or

on bills payable, and although debtors are small at £781 stocks and stores are valued at £34,260.

CALLARD, STEWART, AND WATT, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended September 30 this catering business earned a trading profit of £20,099, and as £1,371 was brought forward, while £23 came in from transfer fees, the total revenue reached £21,493. Out of that the general charges absorbed £3,770, income-tax and interest £1,284, mortgage bond interest £340, and leasehold redemption £721, leaving a nett income of £15,378. So after providing the preference dividend the directors place £500 to leases reserve, set aside £250 as a contribution to the employees benevolent fund, and pay an ordinary dividend of 10 per cent., carrying forward £1,473. Nothing is added to the general reserve, and the total accumulations of £35,435 are not very lavish considering the ever-increasing capital outlay, but we must not omit to remark that the cost of temporary premises, loss in removals, and other expenses in connection with the Bond Street rebuilding, expenses of mortgage bond issue, and interest on works in progress have been written off the funds. That seems a legitimate use of the moneys gathered together. Including the £40,633 spent on the new premises in Old Bond Street, the valuation of the property account is £286,864, apart from short leasehold interests worth £3,047, and as the company has been keeping itself going on borrowed money, in June last the directors made an issue of £50,000 4½ per cent. mortgage bonds, which was fully subscribed. Up to date the amount received is £39,167, leaving less than £11,000 to come in, but that should suffice for any further outlay and still leave something over to go in reduction of loans, which now stand at £34,000. Sundry debtors owe about £4,000 more than the sum due to creditors, cash stands at £7,846, and stock is entered at £5,882.

ARGENTINE SOUTHERN LAND CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking continues to make progress, and so far as we can tell the outlook seems favourable enough. Better prices have been secured for cattle and although there was a rather sharp falling off in the number sold this was due to a delay in the delivery of some large lots, which rendered it impossible to include them in the accounts for the twelve months to June 30. They will, however, go to swell the sales of the current year, which up to the end of October had reached 8,300 head or 2,338 more than the entire business for the period under review. There is no doubt at all that the marked prosperity of the Argentine during the last few years has greatly enhanced the value of the company's properties, and should the construction of certain projected railways take place in the proximate future the operations ought to show really good results, especially as the water difficulty is in a fair way of being solved by the sinking of wells at a moderate depth. Revenue from all sources in the twelve months was £21,021, and after providing general charges and income-tax together with interest on debentures the nett balance is £16,807. From that the directors propose a dividend of 5 per cent., adding £5,000 to reserve and carrying forward £11,869 compared with £7,062 brought in. Reserve will now be £20,000, a fair, if not a large, accumulation, and we should judge that the 1,619,050 acres of freehold land possessed by the company were fully worth the £102,136 put down in the balance-sheet. Live stock is valued at £66,758, and with floating liabilities very light the company has enough liquid resources to keep itself going.

MANITOBA LAND CO., LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended June 30 this small concern gathered a revenue from rentals of £1,884, from which expenses, including taxes, repairs, insurance, &c., took £814, leaving £1,070. Interest on mortgages raises this to £1,344, and after providing general expenses, commission, &c., there was a balance over of £1,042. The company also received a profit on the sale of 160 acres of farming land at \$4 per acre—the only transaction of the year—of £33, and a few pounds came in from interest and transfer fees, so that all told the revenue reached £1,092. General expenses in London, debenture interest, and loss on exchange, reduce this to £860, which is added to what the directors call the suspense account, raising it to £7,788. All debentures, as well as the mortgage on the Westminster building, were extinguished during the year, and the company has no floating debts beyond a trifling sum owing to sundry creditors. Capital, including calls paid in advance, is no more than £10,920, and on the other side the principal assets are "Westminster building" and site £11,294, mortgages £3,848, farming land £1,378, and cash £1,818.

LONDON SCOTTISH AMERICAN TRUST, LIMITED.

With £9,773, or £2,174 more from profit on realisation of securities, the gross receipts for the twelve months ended October 31 rose by £4,653 to £78,417, and as the balance brought in was £398 larger at £3,082, while debenture interest and management expenses were only increased by £555, it follows that the net revenue showed an increase of £4,496 to £56,054. The dividend on the preferred stock having been paid, the deferred stock is again given 6 per cent., but £15,000 is put to reserve against £11,000 a year ago, and the amount carried forward is raised to £3,648. According to the summary of the securities which is all the directors provide for the shareholders' information, the investments in United States Railroad bonds and shares have been reduced by £32,871 and £12,645 to £404,131 and £46,672, shares in other American companies are down by £33,790 to £139,163, and Mexican securities by £5,785

to £48,339 against increases of £34,169 to £376,983 in bonds of American undertakings, £15,376 to £97,684 in South American things, and £12,954 to £195,857 in miscellaneous investments. At the same time, there is an advance of no less than £102,027 to £108,051 in temporary loans, which may or may not be due to the contangoing of securities in the Yankee market here for all the directors have to say on the subject. The total of the investments as shown in the balance-sheet is £79,433 up at £1,416,880, and on this occasion the information is vouchsafed that the market exceeds the book value by about 6 per cent.

RALEIGH CYCLE CO., LIMITED.

This business pulled itself together in very gratifying fashion during the twelve months ended August 31, and there is no need now to put forward a long list of excuses for bad results, as on the last occasion. Trading profits are arrived at after providing maintenance, general expenses, bad and doubtful debts, &c., and amounted to £12,659 compared with £3,614 only in the previous year. Add £11 for transfer fees and the total revenue is £12,670, from which debenture interest takes £1,262, depreciation £4,613, income-tax £547, and directors' fees £420, while £145 is written off depot installations, leaving a nett balance of £5,682. In dividing this the directors commence well by adding £3,264 to the reserve, as that sum is several hundreds more than the amount required to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. as recommended. Nothing at all was paid a year ago, and the credit now carried forward is £3,169 compared with £3,207 brought in. No additions were made to the freehold land and factories, and the 2½ per cent. wastage written off leaves them at £61,216, but £2,268 was spent in new machinery, tools, &c., so that despite a depreciation allowance of £3,265 the valuation is only about £1,000 less at £31,654. Against this capital outlay the reserve is £12,000, which is very fair, because the goodwill, trade marks, patents, &c., of £24,031 have already been extinguished. Floating liabilities are just ordinary at £14,393, against which there are debtors £31,122, materials and stocks £29,493, and cash £2,102. Balance of depot installations still to be extinguished is £583.

ARON ELECTRICITY METER, LIMITED.

The year to September 30 last witnessed a further moderate improvement in the business of this company, the directors reporting a healthy trade in Germany and Austria throughout the twelve months. In France and England matters were not so good, but the outlook is considered distinctly hopeful, and with economy and care the business in these countries will doubtless improve. Gross profit on trading is returned at £25,287 or about £2,000 more than in 1903-4, and with dividends, interest, transfer fees, &c., the total revenue is brought up to £26,432. From that the entire outgo reached £14,758, including such items as depreciation £5,121, maintenance of patents £2,983, debenture interest £2,604, and small sums written off for debenture issue expenses and discount, or provided for premium on those to be redeemed. Balance of nett profit comes out at £11,724, making with £412 brought forward a total of £12,136, and after setting aside £2,500 for the debenture sinking fund the directors propose to pay 4½ per cent. on account of preference arrears and to carry forward £4,016. That is 2 per cent. better than a year ago with a big increase in the balance over, and indicates a certain amount of improvement, but as the preference shares carry 6 per cent. interest arrears are being steadily piled up, and at the close of the company's year amounted to the formidable sum of £26,853. Capital expenditure for the year was £4,825 making the total to date £206,865, which is brought down to £201,744 by the £5,120 allowed for depreciation. This allowance works out at about 2½ per cent., and is none too lavish when we bear in mind that no accumulations are possessed beyond the capital reserve of £7,514, and the debenture sinking fund of £7,126. Moreover, there are sundry expenses and other "assets" of £5,500 carried forward for future writing off. Floating liabilities, however, are very light, and on the other side there are such items as sundry debtors £35,027, loans against securities £19,000, cash £4,186 and bills receivable £1,809. Certain undescribed investments are valued at £13,187, and stock of meters, clocks, &c., is considered worth £49,132.

VINOLIA CO., LIMITED.

For the year ended August 31 the nett profits after writing off £3,906 for depreciation amounted to £18,689 showing a substantial increase of £4,657 over the preceding twelve months, and with £285 brought in the total available was £18,974. Preference dividend having been paid, the ordinary shares are given 7 per cent. for the year and £3,000 is put to reserve leaving £900 to be carried forward. Although business seems to be improving, the company's position is none too good, as in addition to £48,285 due to sundry creditors £23,500 has been borrowed from the bank, while sundry debtors come to £40,090 and cash is very poor at £1,192. Consols of the nominal value of £26,010 are brought into the balance-sheet at £25,989, but apparently some provision has been made for the depreciation in this item, as the reserve of £15,000 is stated to include reserve for depreciation on investment. Stocks seem to be heavy at £71,995 and these no doubt explain the necessity for leaning so greatly on borrowed money.

FREEHOLD AND LEASEHOLD INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

A further portion of the land held was developed during the year ended July 31, and 53 houses built thereon, and the directors once more have recourse to the questionable proceeding

of utilising this work to swell the income. According to the auditors' report, £1,265 derived from a revaluation of the land covered was added to the revenue account, together with £1,766 from the realisation of a portion of a building estate, and by this means the income was brought out at £20,858 or an increase of £823. Interest, administration expenses, and £545 credited to sinking fund for leaseholds absorbed £11,302, so that the nett profits were only £61 larger at £9,557 and as £33 less at £4,024 was brought forward the balance available showed an improvement of no more than £28 at £13,581. After paying the preference dividend, the ordinary shares again receive 5 per cent., and the directors and manager get £181 in addition to their fees, and £1,000 is put to reserve leaving £4,050 for the new account. Freehold property is valued at £315,085 or £9,080 more, and leasehold property is £788 up at £110,499, so that the sinking fund provided seems very inadequate, notwithstanding the claim that it is based on actuarial calculation. Mortgages, loans, and deposits are £18,500 up at £85,100, and sundry creditors show an increase of £711 at £1,891, but the amount due on building contracts has been reduced by £8,790 to £2,055, and the sum due for rates, ground rents, &c., is £1,518 smaller at £1,026. The reserve fund of £14,000 is pitifully small, and even that is all in the business, while to meet the current liabilities the company can scrape together no more than £928 due by sundry debtors and £3,391 in cash.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LAND AND INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking issues a report covering the first period of its working to September 30 last. Total area of lands purchased to that date aggregated rather more than 479 feddans—a feddan being about an acre—at a cost of £127,950, averaging £266.965 per feddan. In addition, the directors have, in conjunction with two other Egyptian land companies, acquired a valuable property in the province of Gharbieh, comprising 1,577 feddans at £233½ per feddan, payable in eight annuities, with the intention of acquiring further contiguous properties as occasion offers. This company holds a one-sixth interest. No sales have yet been effected, it being the intention to first thoroughly develop the properties, either by setting out as town or building sites, or by irrigation and drainage as agricultural land. Complete satisfaction is expressed with the purchases so far made, and in January last the capital was increased by £150,000 to £250,000 in £1 shares, which were placed at a premium of 20s. each, so that the directors may be in a position to buy further considerable tracts of land when certain extensions of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways are commenced. During the period under review, that is from April 20, 1904, to September 30 last, the revenue was £1,077 and the expenditure £1,856, leaving a debit of £779. Cash at bankers and in hand reaches the big sum of £168,105. In the future the accounts will be closed on March 31.

FOURTH CITY MUTUAL BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.

During the year ended September 30 £11,002 was received on investing shares against £7,115 repaid, but withdrawals exceeded deposits by £4,011 at £79,930, leaving the total liabilities to shareholders at £255,646 and to depositors at £272,701, while the society also owes £7,000 to its bankers. Loans on mortgages up to £500 have increased by £10,708 to £254,966, but the total advanced is £1,221 smaller at £514,366, spread over 1,362 mortgages. Properties in hand are valued at no more than £14,118, of which £3,906 represents five mortgages which have been in the society's possession upwards of 12 months, and £10,212 11 mortgages where the payments are more than 12 months in arrear but the property was not taken over until last year. Undivided profits came to £14,462 compared with £14,286, and after transferring another £1,000 to reserve and providing for interest on deposits and on the last two issues of shares in accordance with the terms upon which they were allotted the original shareholders again receive 4¾ per cent. for the year.

MINING RETURNS.

Abosso Gold.—Crushed 4,163 tons, including 509 tons from the dump, 2,630 ozs.; tailings treated 3,388 tons, 875 ozs.
African Gold Dredging.—343 ozs. recovered.
Anterior (Matabele) Gold.—Crushed 1,110 tons, 741 ozs.; cyanide treated 736 tons, 174 ozs.
Ashanti Goldfields.—Obuasi mill: crushed 3,070 tons, 2,530 ozs.
Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary.—Gold recovered 250 ozs.
Associated.—Milled 7,290 tons; slimes 3,713 tons.
Associated Northern Blocks (W.A.).—Milled 3,288 tons, treated 709 tons of slimes; yield, £15,809 sterling.
Balaghat.—4,300 tons, 3,427 ozs.; tailings 2,750 (cyanide), 317 ozs.; total, 3,744 ozs.
Barrett.—395 ozs. valued at £1,600.
Bogoso.—Result, 334 ozs. from 546 tons crushed.
Bonanza.—Crushed 8,350 tons, 3,089 ozs.; cyanide and slimes 8,970 tons, 1,814 ozs.; total, 4,903 ozs.
Briseis Tin.—Black tin cleaned up, 84 tons, in addition to New Brothers Home No. 1 Company 30 tons. Briseis Company's proportion of total output, 101 tons.
British Broken Hill Proprietary.—Crude ore 6,036 tons produced 980 tons concentrates, containing approximately 588 tons lead and 27,440 ozs. silver.
Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—Treated 12,012 tons ore, producing 1,738 tons concentrates, containing 1,078 tons lead and 55,616 ozs. silver.

Burma Ruby.—Washed 151,000 loads, producing rubies valued at Rs.126,000; royalties, Rs.13,000.

Cape Copper—Ookiep.—1,233 tons of 15 per cent., equal to 185 tons fine copper; Nababep: 4,085 tons of 4.3 per cent., equal to 175 tons fine copper.

Cassel Coal.—Output 16,567 tons.

Champion Reef.—Stone, 19,540 tons, 15,491 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 17,469 tons, 2,271 ozs.; total, 17,762 ozs.

Commonwealth Jumbo.—Crushed 305 tons, 167 ozs.

Crown Deep.—Crushed 29,482 tons, 7,652 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 21,200 tons, 3,434 ozs.; slimes, 8,028 tons, 684 ozs.; total, 11,770 ozs.

Crown Reef.—Crushed 19,588 tons, yield 5,193 ozs.; from sands and concentrates, 3,973 ozs.; from slimes (current and accumulated), 1,408 ozs.; from dump process, 880 ozs.; total, 11,454 ozs.

Daylesford.—Crushed 120 tons, 60 ozs.

Durham Prospect.—Crushed 522 tons, rubble 285 tons, 247 ozs.

Durban Navigation.—Output 8,750 tons.

Durban-Roodepoort.—Quartz milled, 11,195 tons, 3,792 ozs.; tailings 7,620 tons, 907 ozs.; total 4,699 ozs.

Durban-Roodepoort Deep.—Crushed 9,600 tons, 4,498 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 7,120 tons, 1,406 ozs.; slimes 2,860 tons, 267 ozs.; total 4,171 ozs.

Elands Laagte Collieries.—Output 12,888 tons.

Ferreira.—Crushed 20,100 tons, 8,602 ozs.; concentrates, 1,120 tons, 467 ozs.; sands 13,440 tons, 2,484 ozs.; slimes 6,027 tons, 714 ozs.; yield from dump, 137 ozs.; total, 12,404 ozs.

Ferreira Deep.—Crushed 19,154 tons, 8,223 ozs.; sand and concentrates by cyanide 13,600 tons, 3,301 ozs.; slimes 5,704 tons, 526 ozs.; total 12,050 ozs.

French Rand.—Crushed 18,300 tons, 3,556 ozs.; tailings treated, 19,038 tons, 2,648 ozs.; total, 6,204 ozs.

Gaika.—Mill crushed 1,068 tons, 637 ozs.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Crushed 24,050 tons, 5,863 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 17,430 tons, 3,692 ozs.; slimes, 7,476 tons, 686 ozs.; total yield, 10,241 ozs.

Geldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 10,825 tons; from mill, 4,321 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide, 2,228 ozs.; from slimes, 639 ozs.; total, 7,188 ozs.

Glen Deep.—Crushed 15,140 tons, 3,692 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 10,285 tons, 1,849 ozs.; slimes, 5,049 tons, 411 ozs.; total, 5,952 ozs.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output, 8,034 tons.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,050 tons, 552 ozs.; cyanide, 1,476 tons, 552 ozs.; slimes, 574 tons, 152 ozs.; total, 1,256 ozs.

Golden Horseshoe.—19,442 tons, 13,220 ozs.

Golden Pole.—Crushed 1,677 tons, 1,527 ozs.; sands (cyanided) 1,271 tons, 292 ozs.; slimes (cyanided) 981 tons, 224 ozs.; total, 1,677 tons for 2,043 ozs.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—12,327 tons, 13,677 ozs.; tailings (old) 1,921 tons, for 388 ozs.; total yield, 14,065 ozs.

Hainault.—Crushed 4,495 tons, 761 ozs.

Hannan's Main Reef.—Crushed 480 tons, 162 ozs.; assay of tailings, 6 dwts. per ton; estimate copper plates absorbed 20 ozs.

Henry Nourse Gold.—Crushed 11,280 tons, 3,674 ozs.; cyanide 8,175 tons, 1,642 ozs.; slimes 3,479 tons, 321 ozs.; dumps 67 ozs.; total, 5,704 ozs.

Hutti (Nizam's).—641 ozs. from 2,100 tons crushed; tailings 263 ozs. from 2,000 tons; total, 1,104 ozs.

Ivanhoe.—Crushed 16,410 tons of ore, 3,582 ozs.; sands 8,170 tons, 1,783 ozs.; slimes 7,140 tons, 3,047 ozs.; concentrates 1,100 tons, 2,201 ozs.; total, 10,613 ozs.

Jumpers Deep.—Crushed 15,679 tons, 2,890 ozs.; sand and concentrates by cyanide 11,786 tons, 2,269 ozs.; slimes 4,731 tons, 405 ozs.; total, 5,564 ozs.

Jumpers.—Crushed 11,360 tons; obtained from mill, 2,956 ozs.; obtained from concentrates, 153 ozs.; obtained from tailings by cyanide, 1,447 ozs.; total, 4,556 ozs.

Kalgurli.—Treated 8,503 short tons, 6,207 ozs.

Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Returns from the dredger, 143 ozs.

Koffyfontein.—3,200 carats of diamonds.

Lace Diamond.—Loads of blue ground floored, 48,374. Total loads of blue ground on floors, 666,214.

Lake View.—10,325 tons, 3,202 ozs.; old tailings, 3,380 tons, 736 ozs.; total, 3,938 ozs.

Lancaster.—Crushed 14,234 tons, 3,092 ozs.; cyanide 9,933 tons, 1,556 ozs.; total output, 4,648 ozs.

Lancaster West.—Crushed 6,350 tons, 1,538 ozs.; cyanide, 5,210 tons, 838 ozs.; total, 2,376 ozs.

Langlaate Deep.—Crushed 19,007 tons, 4,381 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 14,202 tons, 2,107 ozs.; slimes, 4,396 tons, 245 ozs.; total, 6,733 ozs.

Le Roi.—Shipments 8,000 tons, containing 2,550 ozs. gold, 4,350 ozs. silver, 187,600 lbs. copper.

Le Roi No. 2.—Shipped 1,184 tons; net receipts \$20,450, being payment for 950 tons shipped and \$2,111 for 57 tons concentrates shipped—in all \$22,561.

Lloyd Copper.—Crushed 5,700 tons for 72 tons copper.

May Consolidated.—Crushed 13,650 tons, 3,708 ozs.; treated by cyanide 9,680 tons, 1,970 ozs.; slimes 3,796 tons, 314 ozs.; total 5,992 ozs.

Merton's Reward.—Crushed 2,543 tons, 751 ozs.; sands cyanided 1,302 tons, 213 ozs.; slimes 1,376 tons, 168 ozs.; total, 1,132 ozs.

Mills' Day Dawn.—Crushed, 1,793 tons; value, £4,800.

Mount Boppy.—5,100 tons, 1,394 ozs.; cyanide, 3,204 tons, 868 ozs.; slimes, 1,665 tons, 806 ozs.; concentrates, 26 tons, 135 ozs.; total, 3,203 ozs.

Myalls and Peak Hill Gold.—Peak Hill: Crushed 40 tons; actual extraction, cyanide process, 80 per cent.

Mysore.—16,400 tons, 15,266 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 13,875 tons, 1,804 ozs.; total, 17,010 ozs.

Mysore West and Wynaad.—Crushed 2,042 tons, 1,029 ozs.; cyanide, 2,700 tons, 108 ozs.

Natal Navigation Collieries.—Output, 20,789 tons.

New Hillgrove.—205 tons, 792 ozs., and 2 tons of concentrates, value 14 ozs.; value of the tailings is 4 dwts. 14 grs. per ton.

New Vaal River Diamond.—Diamonds registered by the diggers on the Vaal River Estate, £3,800.

New Rhodesia.—Ophir Mine: Crushed 585 tons, 296 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—Treated 1,920 tons crude ore, producing 395 tons of concentrates, containing 271 tons 7 cwts. lead, and 7,110 ozs. silver.

Nourse Deep.—Crushed 14,740 tons, yield 3,776 ozs.; sands and concentrates treated by cyanide 10,373 tons, 2,595 ozs.; slimes treated 4,089 tons, 405 ozs.; total, 6,776 ozs.

Nundydroog.—6,800 tons, 4,970 ozs.; 6,750 tons tailings, 637 ozs.; total, 5,607 ozs.

North White Feather.—Crushed 1,900 tons, 1,137 ozs.; cyanide 1,656 tons, 167 ozs.; total output, 1,304 ozs.

Ooregum.—10,276 tons stone, 4,679 ozs.; 10,098 tons tailings (cyanide) 863 ozs.; total, 5,542 ozs.

Oroya Brownhill.—Crushed 10,067 tons, 12,784 ozs.

Peak Hill Goldfield.—5,341 tons crushed, and 6,840 tons slimes and sands by cyanide. Yield from battery, 485 ozs.; yield from sands and slimes, 692 ozs.; total, 1,177 ozs.

Penbalonga Proprietary.—Crushed 4,650 tons, which yielded over the plates 674 ozs.; concentrates 63 tons, 340 ozs.; total, 1,014 ozs.

Princess Estate.—Crushed 5,600 tons, 1,680 ozs.; cyanide works, 4,197 tons, 971 ozs.; total, 2,651 ozs.

Raub Gold Mines, Malay Peninsula.—690 ozs. gold, from 5,080 tons of ore crushed.

Red Hill, Westralia.—1,514 tons; yield, 602 ozs.

Robinson.—Crushed 28,600 tons, 11,541 ozs.; tailings (by cyanide) 4,840 ozs.; own concentrates (by chlorination), 750 ozs.; slimes (estimated), 1,459 ozs.; total from own ore, 18,590 ozs.

Robinson Central Deep.—Crushed 13,994 tons, 6,592 ozs.; sands and concentrates treated by cyanide 10,800 tons, 2,214 ozs.; slimes treated 3,481 tons, 415 ozs.; total, 9,221 ozs.

Rodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,472 tons, 2,187 ozs.; cyanide, 5,069 tons, 852 ozs.; total output, 3,039 ozs.

Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—84,258 loads, yielding 38,517 carats diamonds.

Rose Deep.—Crushed 26,500 tons, 5,731 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 17,600 tons, 2,615 ozs.; slimes 8,620 tons, 671 ozs.; total yield 9,017 ozs.

St. David's Gold.—Crushed 1,316 tons, 138 ozs.

St. George's Coal.—Output 9,927 tons.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £20,950; yield per ton, '53 of an oz. troy.

Selukwe.—Crushed 6,000 tons, 1,604 ozs.; cyanide 3,912 tons, 468 ozs.; total, 2,072 ozs.

Sheba Gold.—3,240 ozs.

Sons of Gwalia.—Crushed 10,916 tons, 3,770 ozs.; tailings by cyanide 6,567 tons, 967 ozs.; concentrates 218 tons, 583 ozs.; totals, 5,322 ozs.

South Kalgurli.—Crushed 7,110 short tons, 3,310 ozs.

Star of the East.—Crushed 265 tons, 113 ozs. Estimate plates absorbed additional 20 ozs. Average sample of tailings assays 93 dwts. per ton.

Surprise.—Crushed 2,838 tons, 1,088 ozs.; cyanide 614 ozs. from 3,882 tons.

Talisman.—Ore 3,800 tons, value £20,408.

Tanganyika.—Ruwe Mine.—Output by sluice boxes for October, 482 ozs.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained 800 tons lead, 137,000 ozs. silver, 271 ozs. gold.

Tolima.—50 tons, value £3,000.

Tomboy Gold.—Mill crushed 8,800 tons, yielding \$53,500; concentrates shipped, 477 tons, estimated to realise \$30,000.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—Output, 30,250 tons.

Transvaal Gold Mining Estates.—Crushed 8,494 tons, 1,849 ozs.; central cyanide, 3,815 tons, 730 ozs.; central slimes, 2,570 tons, 426 ozs.; Kameel's cyanide, 1,365 tons, 281 ozs.; Kameel's slimes, 695 tons, 171 ozs.; from old slimes, 910 tons, 269 ozs.; from by-products, 31 ozs.; total, 3,757 ozs.

Vogelstruis.—Quartz milled 5,250 tons, 1,635 ozs.; tailings 3,850 tons, 400 ozs.

Victoria Proprietary.—242 oz. from 611 tons crushed.

Village Deep.—Crushed 16,509 tons, 3,603 ozs.; sands and concentrates treated, 11,700 tons, 2,015 ozs.; slimes, 3,847 tons, 363 ozs.; total, 5,981 ozs.

Wanderer (Selukwe).—Cyanide 13,578 tons, 2,328 ozs.

Wankie Rhodesia Coal.—7,852 tons, sales 5,797 tons.

Westralia Mount Morgans.—Crushed 1,620 tons for 243 oz., cyanided 1,005 tons for 367 ozs., slimes 2,400 tons for 288 ozs., guests 32 ozs.

Windsor.—Crushed 4,644 tons, 513 ozs.; cyanide works 3,602 tons, yielding 655 ozs.; total, 1,168 ozs.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Crushed 25,500 tons, 7,180 ozs.; sands and concentrates treated by cyanide 25,660 tons, 3,224 ozs.; total, 10,404 ozs.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Foundations of Political Economy. By Wm. Bell Robertson. (Felling-on-Tyne: Walter Scott Publishing Company.) Price 5s.

Sugar Convention, Its Cost and Consequences. By G. Mathieson. (London: Clark, Nicholls and Coombs, Limited, Hackney Wick, N.E.)

COMPANY MEETINGS.

TYNE VALLEY COLLIERY.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Tyne Valley Colliery, Limited (Transvaal), was held on Monday at the offices of the company, 3, Gracechurch-street, E.C., Mr. Roger C. Richards (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. L. Castleden) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It is not my intention to detain you at any great length this morning. We have a very modest report to present to you, but although it is a modest one, I hope I may venture to say that it is a business-like one. You will notice that we have certainly arrived at that point that we are able to recommend the payment of a modest dividend. We have been able to do this partly owing to two reasons. First, because we have been careful in the past to write down by very heavy depreciations. That has put us well in hand. In the second place, because of an arrangement made with the railway company as to the expropriation of a considerable portion of the unworked coal, and that has brought us into a realisation of a profit earlier than would have been the case otherwise. We have, therefore, taken, after full consideration, a portion of the payments made to us by the railway company as being profit made during the year, in respect to which we are able to pay the dividend which we propose. We are particularly pleased with the position in which the company is now placed, because, you will no doubt have noticed, we have in hand an amount a little bit exceeding the total amount of the debenture issue. If you take the two items cash on hand at mine, in London and at Johannesburg, and cash at call in Johannesburg, you will see that that totals £21,808. Then we have sundry debtors £11,000, and, on the other hand, sundry creditors £3,800. If you take these varying items you will find that they come out at between £29,000 and £30,000 as actual cash in hand. That amount has been increased by the profits made since June 30, so that at the present moment we stand at between £31,000 and £32,000 in hand, as against a total debenture issue of £28,000. Thus you will see that the property and the machinery and your stocks are perfectly clear, and we have got them over and above the debenture issue. That is a satisfactory position, and it would be even more so if it were not, as pointed out to you in the report, that we must be ready—we hope the time may be deferred—but still it is our duty to be prepared for the time when we shall have exhausted the coal on our present property. We have been anxious to obtain the latest information as to how this matter stood, and we have received a cable from Johannesburg: "District 3—Rapidly pushing forward developments towards borehole. Quality of coal shows gradual improvement. We expect to produce marketable coal out of this district during the present six months." That would tend to show that there will be a prolongation of the life of the mine—(hear, hear)—but we have felt it our duty to look out elsewhere, and, as pointed out to you in the report, we have been able to make an arrangement which is advantageous to us, and, at the same time, is advantageous to the Henderson Company, with whom we have made it. The Henderson Company is, as you know, by far and away the largest shareholder in this undertaking. They have come forward at all times to assist this company's interests, and on terms which I think this company could not have got elsewhere. (Applause.) You remember when the debenture issue was made the debentures were found by the Henderson Company on terms of simple payment of interest. This is the reason why this company has reached its present successful position, and in the arrangements which have been made with regard to the selection of a new mining area the same consideration has been shown. The coal has been proved to a certain extent, and since then we have cabled out instructions to immediately proceed with the boring, and if that boring proves to be successful, as we hope it will be, we shall have a very large property, and we shall be able to commence working upon it. It may be that we shall elect to start there before we have exhausted our present property, in order to have a new field upon which to work. I think and hope that we shall be able in the future to have a prosperous career. (Applause.) I am not pessimistic, but I do not personally think that we can look forward to very large profits out of the colliery industry in the Transvaal for the next few years. I do not think that the mining industry will keep pace with the enormous area of coal available. Still, the developments in South Africa are rapid, and I hope it will be possible that other miscellaneous industries will spring up, and so make a demand for coal and coal products. When this takes place we may undoubtedly look for a very prosperous coal trade, but until that time comes, speaking for myself, I shall be very content with modest dividends and steady growing business. With these few remarks I have very great pleasure in proposing that the report and accounts as presented to you be received and adopted. (Applause.)

Mr. W. Bryson Butler seconded the motion, which, after the Chairman had replied to a few questions from Mr. Bush regarding the acquisition of the new property, was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved: "That a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum be and is hereby declared for the year ended June 30, 1905."

Mr. Bryson Butler seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

The Chairman, in moving the re-election of Mr. Bryson Butler as a director, said that that gentleman was always in the office, and upon him was placed the great bulk of the work. Mr. Butler

was always active, energetic, and devoted to their interests.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The Chairman moved the re-election of Mr. J. F. Arnot as a director, and this motion was seconded by Mr. Danssen, a shareholder, and agreed to.

The retiring auditor, Mr. W. R. Taylor-Carr, was reappointed, and

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the directors for their services in the past year.

HENDERSON'S TRANSVAAL.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Limited, was held yesterday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. J. C. A. Henderson, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. L. Castleden) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditor,

The Chairman said:—Last year I told you that the prolonged period of depression continued to exist, but I was then hopeful that the progress in the mining industry would be such that the markets on this side and business generally would improve. Now I have to admit that my anticipations were not realised. The work on the Consolidated South Rand Mines Deep shows that this must be a waiting proposition. With regard to the Daggafontein Gold Mining Company, it gives me great pleasure to speak of this as one of the most promising of the company's offspring. Tin is much to the fore, and you will be interested to know that it has been found on some of your properties. Much attention has been devoted during the past year to the tin discoveries in the bush veldt and other parts of the Transvaal. As we informed you, development has proceeded on the Oshoek claims of your company. The result obtained up to date of the cessation of work did not demonstrate the values we had hoped for. As to the No. 2 Tin Syndicate in the bush veldt area, we were able to arrange that certain properties of the Corporation should be investigated by a syndicate, in which your company has an interest, which was formed in Johannesburg to explore the district. The operations of that syndicate upon the properties have resulted in discoveries of such a promising character that the Johannesburg Syndicate were able to make favourable terms with an important London group under which the latter obtained the option to deal with the properties in question in the event of their being satisfied with the developments which are still in progress. If the options in which you are interested are exercised, of course it will be with a profit, although, as we are only interested as option holders in three of the properties in question, it will naturally not be of the character it would have been had we been owners of them all. Our engineers are at present engaged in the examination of the Palmietfontein property, which is a black reef proposition situated to the south of Johannesburg. No doubt you are aware that this line of reef was worked some years ago with good results for a time on the Orion property to the east of Palmietfontein, and we have received information that it is again being worked with good results. Our consulting engineer has advised the unwatering of our shafts and drives, and the examination of the working faces, and on this we are at present engaged. At present we only know that the results of the examination are favourable, and we gather from a cable from our Johannesburg representative that arrangements are in progress with tributors to work the mine. A suggestion has been made to us in regard to tributating alluvial gold deposits on this property, and we have cabled to our representatives the terms upon which we are prepared to grant rights for this. The portion of the Palmietfontein which belongs to this company is 4,000 acres in extent, while the Corporation is the owner of 2,000 acres. On the general question of prospecting operations on the properties in which you are interested you will see an important decision which has been come to, and of which we informed you in the report. It is that in combination with other companies a large number of your properties should be thrown open to public prospecting on terms which would attract individual prospectors, who would be rewarded by certain rights which they would be able to exercise if the property is found sufficiently valuable. As we have indicated in our report, the settlement with the Government of Swaziland is proceeding, and we trust that ere long the more definite conditions will enable our large interest there to be handled. The Delagoa Bay Development Corporation, in which the company holds a very large interest, has obtained funds for the purpose of undertaking the introduction of a new water supply to the town of Lourenço Marques, which should enable it to reach a lucrative point. As you are aware, the Corporation owns a very large area of coal-bearing land, from which great benefit is expected to accrue. The chairman moved that the reports and accounts be received and adopted.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditor having been re-elected, a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

BRILLIANT CENTRAL GOLD.—The output for the half-year to September 14 was 15,954 tons for 9,162 ozs. of gold, of a value of £32,204; 14,372 tons of residues; worth £2,492; and 370 tons of concentrates, valued at £9,080; total £43,777; averaging £2 14s. 10.5d. per ton against £3 6s. 8d. per ton. Dividends paid amounted to £12,500, the net profit being £15,101. Mine workings at present show smaller bodies of stone of lower average value, whilst the stopes comprise shorter runs of stone, separated by blank areas. In regard to dividends during the current term, the directors anticipate that monthly payments will be maintained, made possible only by the strictest economy.

THE TAQUAH AND ABOSSO GOLD MINING COMPANY

(1900), LIMITED.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

To be presented at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS to be held on the 15th December, 1905.

In submitting to the Shareholders their Fourth Annual Report, with the accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1905, the directors have pleasure in reporting considerable progress during the year. The Taquah Mine is opening up in a most satisfactory manner, the Abosso Company—in which your Company holds such a large interest—has now entered the productive stage, and the two dredgers of the Ankobra Company are in full operation.

TAQUAH.—The report of the General Manager and plan of the Taquah Mine as at 31st October, 1905, are appended. The Shareholders have been regularly kept advised by circular of the progress of development work. The results are of a most satisfactory character, on account both of the width and the value of the reef disclosed. In the four levels the total footage is 1,605 ft., of which 1,295 ft. in Nos. 2 and 3 Levels have been assayed to the date of latest advices, and show an average assay value of 1 oz. 2 dwts. 11 grs. per ton of 2,000 lbs. over an average width of 5 ft. 0.1 in. Drilling is now proceeding at the rate of 100 ft. per week, which, it is expected, will shortly be increased. The shaft is about to be sunk deeper to allow of further levels being started. The General Manager estimates that the tonnage already in sight is 59,360 tons, and that by the time crushing commences the ore available for the mill should be approximately 170,000 tons. The 10-head Battery taken over from the old Company has been re-erected, and during September and October last returned 678 ozs. of bullion from 895 tons of unsorted rock from development work, the untreated tailings averaging 6.5 dwts. per ton. This result from actual treatment is a noticeable confirmation of the assay figures given above. 445 ozs. of bullion have also been obtained from 1,340 tons of old tailings by the Cyanide process. The policy of the Directors has been to develop the property and assure that ample reserves of ore were available before incurring the heavy expenditure for a large crushing plant. In view of the work now done, supplemented by the milling test above referred to, the time has arrived when, in their opinion, the installation of a permanent plant is warranted, and they are considering, with the General Manager, the plans for a mill of 50 stamps of 1,500 lbs. each, which it is hoped will be working on the property before the close of 1906. In order to provide for the cost and erection of this plant, and for the mine development, the Directors have pleasure to announce that they placed last month the balance of 40,980 unissued shares at 30s. per share, less 6d. brokerage. The proceeds of these shares and other financial resources of the Company will now, in the opinion of the Board, be sufficient to bring the mine to a productive condition (if the present estimates are adhered to) without calling further on the Shareholders.

ABOSSO COMPANY.—This Company has made an excellent commencement as producing mine. Twenty Stamps were started to work on 1st March, and the full 30 stamps on 1st September. During the eight months, March to October, 23,025 tons of 2,000 lbs. treated for a yield of 19,850 oza. of bullion, realising £79,621. For the four months ending 30th June an average profit per ton of 15s. 3½d. was made, which was increased in the four succeeding months to an average of 23s. 3½d., and this rate, it is hoped, will shortly be further increased by a reduction in expenditure, which at first has of necessity been high. The development of the mine is well in advance of the mill requirements and is being vigorously pushed on, and at 30th June 74,652 tons of an average assay value of 1 oz. 3 dwts. 8 grs. were in sight. For the information of Shareholders, the Company's Annual Report, with the General Manager's Report, schedules showing the returns and costs, and the mine plans, are appended.

ANKOBRA COMPANY.—During the year this Company's dredging operations have been retarded by the exceptional lowness of the Ankobra River. From July to October, however, their No. 1 dredger has obtained 698 ozs. of gold, valued at £2,836 7s. 1d. The Company's No. 2 dredger has been transported to its destination on the upper section of the river, and commenced operations in November. With both dredgers working, the position of the Company will be much improved. A certificate of validity has been granted by the Concessions Court for the Ankobra River Concession, and for the Tintinaah Concession.

GENERAL.—Fuel, labour, and other general matters are referred to in the General Manager's Report, and it only remains to the Directors to congratulate the Shareholders on the excellent prospects of the Company, and to express their high appreciation of the zeal and energy shown by the Staff at the mines, and particularly by their General Manager, Mr. Geriard A. Stockfield. Mr. E. H. Bayldon resigned the position of Managing Director on the 1st of February, 1905, and was succeeded by Mr. E. H. Bayldon, Engineer, for twelve months from that date at a fee of £200. Mr. E. H. Bayldon retired from the Board on 8th February, 1905. The vacancy has not been filled up.

Mr. Mark Attenborough and Mr. D. H. Bayldon retire under the Articles of Association, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election as Directors. The Auditors, Messrs. Cooper Bros. and Company, retire, and offer themselves for re-election.—By order of the Board,

T. J. FOSTER, Secretary.

13, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 4th December, 1905.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th JUNE, 1905.

Dr.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Capital Account								
Authorised 350,000 shares of £1 each	350,000	0	0					
Issued 308,986 shares				308,986	0	0		
To Fractional Certificates unconverted				34	10	0		
Unissued—								
40,980 shares.								
34 shares reserved against balance of fractions unconverted.								
41,014								
To Income Bonds issued equivalent to \$7,500 shares.								
				309,020	10	0		
To loan against Government securities, per contra To Sundry Creditors—				36,375	0	0		
In Europe	552	19	2					
In Africa	3,249	6	8					
				3,802	5	5		
To Bills Payable				849	12	0		
To Reserve against realisation of Abosso Gold Mining Co., Limited, and Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development Syndicate, Limited, Shares, as per Contra				112,883	15	3		

C. RUAN-SMITH,
MARK ATTENBOROUGH, } Directors.
T. J. FOSTER, Secretary.

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1900, we certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with, and we report to the Shareholders that we have audited the above Balance Sheet, with the Books in London, and with Accounts received from West Africa, signed by the General Manager. In our opinion, such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs as shown by the Books of the Company.

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Property Account—			
Being cost of Taquah Concession and interest in other Concessions, included in the Agreement with the Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development Syndicate, Limited, and sundry Mining Plant (including £5,000 previously written off in respect of Maintrain Shares)	100,309	9	6
By Taquah Mine Development—			
As per last Balance-sheet, 30th June, 1904, £18,021 0s. 2d.; Mining Work for the year to 30th June, 1905, £17,683 8s. 6d.	35,704	8	8
By Machinery, Plant, Buildings, Tramways, Furniture, etc., at cost, including Maintenance to date	30,163	0	5
By Shares and Debentures in Companies—			
140,000 fully-paid Shares of The Abosso Gold Mining Co., Limited, at par, £140,000; £14,000 Abosso Gold Mining Co., Limited, 6 per cent. Debenture Stock, £14,000; 30,000 fully-paid Shares of the Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development Syndicate, Limited, at par, £30,000; Sundry Shares at cost, £1,250	185,250	0	0
By Stores and Materials—			
Goods and Timber on hand in Africa and in course of Transport, at cost	2,573	2	10
By Cash—			
London—In Bank, £4,185 16s. 9d.; In hand, £3 4s. 7d.	4,189	1	4
Africa—In Bank, £31 19s. 3d.; Balance of Manager's Cash Account, £79 3s. 2d.	111	2	5
	4,300	3	9
By Government Securities at cost	57,142	5	9
By Sundry Debtors—			
In Europe—The Abosso Gold Mining Co., Limited, Loan, since repaid, £12,311 16s. 2d.; the Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development Syndicate, Limited, Loan, £8,738 15s. 7d.; Sundries, £445 14s. 8d.	£21,496	6	5
In Africa	229	3	6
	21,725	9	11
By General Expenditure—			
As per last Balance Sheet, 30th June, 1904	22,419	1	6
For year to date—			
Africa—General Expenses, including Management, Office Staff, Medical Expenses, Cost of Remittances, Travelling Expenses, Cables, Postages, and Incidentals, £4,016 5s. 5d.; Legal Expenses, £355 15s.; Clearing Bush and General Surface Work, £447 2s.; Surveying, £316 2s. 1d.; Rent of Concessions, £68; Amount unrecovered on Town Allotments sold in year 1902-1903, and since forfeited, less Allotments resold, £900; Less Native Town and Ground Rents accrued to date, etc., and Concessions Rents, 1903-1904, written back, £760 9s. 6d.—£139 10s. 6d.	£5,342	15	0
Europe—Management and General Expenses: — Directors' Fees, £1,271 7s. 6d.; Consulting Engineer's Fees, £50; Balance of Managing Directors' Fees and Offices and Staff, less Transfer Fees, £1,356 5s.; French Share Tax and Agency Fee, £332 18s. 9d.; Legal Expenses, £18 11s. 10d.; Cables, Postages, Audit Fee, Liverpool and Paris Agencies, Stationery and Printing, and Incidental Expenses, £1,010 11s. ..	4,089	14	1
	9,382	9	1
Less Interest and Dividends, £2,600 18s. 9d.; Profit realised on Abosso Shares received in exchange for Debentures, £3,437 10s.	6,038	8	9
	3,344	0	4
	25,763	1	10

The Investors' Review

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BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE:

Its Advantages and Feasibility.

Compiled by

ERNEST DE RODAKOWSKI.

250 pp., 10/6. Super Royal 8vo.

4 MAPS, 6 CHARTS, 30 PLATES, AND 19 TABLES.

This work deals with the question of unbroken railroad communication between this country and France. A Train-Ferry across the Channel is selected as the best means of effecting the object in view.

It is claimed that unbroken railroad communication

Will enable travellers to journey in through carriages from London to the principal centres of the Continent.

Will materially increase the trade with Continental Europe, and especially the British exports, by obviating the double handling of goods, and by cheapening rates for the transport of merchandise.

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- (2.) Details and Information concerning 35 Train-Ferry lines at present in existence.
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The Appendix contains extracts from the opinions of eminent men on the question of unbroken communication between this country and France.

HARRISON & SONS, 45, Pall Mall.

The Investors' Review.

The New Ministry.

Its reception has been such that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and his Cabinet may already almost be inclined to bethink themselves of the biblical exclamation, "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you!" It is a strong Ministry, though, and in some respects the most democratic ever seen in this country. We do not say this because for the first time a representative of labour in the person of Mr. John Burns has entered the Cabinet. Mr. Burns earned a right to such a position by his services in other fields than those merely relating to the interests of the class to which he belongs. His strenuous opposition to the South African War, when such large numbers of the working classes—as of the clerics, *vide* Mr. Alfred Mark's pamphlet—were hounding the late Government on to enter upon it and applauding every act of aggression, would have entitled him to a high place in the new Government which we regard as one framed to promote peace and concord, not only amongst the warring factions at home, but throughout the empire and between England and other nations great and small. The Cabinet is democratic because it leans upon the House of Commons much more than upon the non-representative House. This is as it should be, and we trust there will be no going over to the Peers amongst

any members of the Cabinet, at any rate until their work is done. If any of them think it nice to be belorded afterwards by their fellow travellers towards oblivion it is not for us to question their tastes or predilections.

In other respects the Government is a strong one in spite of a rather larger fusion of Rosebery imperialism into its composition than we quite relish, and not least is it strong in having Mr. Asquith as Chancellor of the Exchequer. "He is only a lawyer," some people have said to us, and the remark implied that he could not know anything about finance. But the late Sir William Harcourt was "only a lawyer," and his tenure of the Exchequer was one of the most successful in our modern history. And Mr. Asquith is a man who has shown by his speeches against the protectionist faction a grasp of economic principles and a breadth of view in national finance that warrant us in looking to him for reforms in taxation, for economies in public expenditure, a reversal of the habits of profligate extravagance by which the nation has been half ruined. He ought to be ably backed also by Mr. Haldane, who to many is likewise regarded as "merely a lawyer." He unquestionably is a lawyer, probably one of the greatest lawyers now living, but he is also a man of the world, of strength of character, and of definite views, let us hope, as to what our army should be and how it should be governed. Probably, therefore, he is the very best man that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman could have selected to take in hand the herculean labour of bringing order out of chaos into which everything military has fallen. He ought to be independent of the military faction in Pall Mall, and he will begin his task free from the meddlesome administrative incompetence of Earl Roberts. We shall therefore look for a great reduction in the next War Office estimates, formidable though the opposition of the permanent officials to any such change is sure to be. Of Lord Tweedmouth as an administrator we can know nothing definite, but his position on platforms has been sound and his loyalty to his chief is unquestioned. We therefore expect that he will prove as useful in assisting his colleagues, and above all the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, to lop off needless millions from the navy budget as Mr. Haldane at the War Office. Another appointment that ought to turn out well is that of Mr. John Morley to the India Office. Essentially Mr. Morley is a man of letters, and we have never been quite able to regard him as a practical politician and skilful administrator. In the India Office, however, he may not have much administrative work to do, but only to cultivate the art of saying "No" with effect. The business of a Secretary of State for India is to sit upon the military faction now dominant at Simla, to cultivate friendly relations with Afghanistan, with any other neighbours we may have in India, and above all to foster the beginnings of domestic self-governing institutions, so that India may not continue to be the sport of the alien bureaucrat, the experimental ground where the European hierarchy tests all sorts of theories of absolutism and otherwise crushes down the natural development of civic life within the peninsula. As a sympathetic friend of the Indian people, Mr. John Morley has his opportunity to become a great success. If he fails—but we will not talk of failure yet.

Of the other members of the Cabinet it is hardly becoming in a journal of this description to say much. Our interests are all on the economic side, but it must never be forgotten that economics relate to the arterial blood of the body politic, and that at no point can your politician get away from the interests of the purse. The bearings of every political change, every reform in the economic position of the people, come back to the question of ways and means, touch the budget of the mean household more vitally than that of the great. From this point of view there is an enormous amount of reform work lying to the hands of Mr. Herbert Gladstone in the Home Office, Mr. Lloyd George at the Board of Trade, Mr. Burns at the Local Government Board, Earl Carrington at the Board of Agriculture,

and Mr. Augustus Birrell at the Board of Education. Even Mr. Sydney Buxton at the Post Office may do not a little to improve matters there for toilers and users alike. He might give us that ocean penny post that Sir Henniker Heaton has so long laboured to introduce, and do something, perhaps, to popularise the telephone by reducing the rentals charged for it, to the benefit of the community and, we believe, the profit of the Exchequer. More passing interest has been shown in the appointment of Mr. John Burns to the Local Government Board than in any other selection made by the Prime Minister, and we at least have no doubt that his choice will be justified. No man living has taken a deeper, more conscientious or intelligent interest in the local affairs of the country than Mr. Burns. His labours on the London County Council have been not only disinterested, but unwearying and enlightened. He has not been the tool of any party or the special advocate of any class. Whatsoever made for progress, for the improvement of the lot of his fellow citizens in London, for the uplifting of the labouring classes among whom he lived and from whom he has sprung, these things John Burns has furthered with heart and soul. We should therefore be beyond measure disappointed were he to fail as an administrator upon the larger field into which he has now entered. But we do not believe he will fail, for his capacity and breadth of view, his assiduous self-education likewise, amply qualify him for the duties he has taken in hand.

Altogether Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is to be congratulated upon his selections, and in spite of the praise bestowed upon him and his colleagues by the Tory Press we are disposed to think the new Government one not only likely to stand the test of time and wear and tear, but to accomplish much for the restoration of the nation's finances and the removal of grievances piled up mountains high by the mismanagement of the Administration now gone. But a strong Ministry must have a clear programme, and the first duty of the new Cabinet will be to frame and lay before the country a policy which will contribute to strengthen its position in the new House of Commons. It is not for us to suggest what the planks of this programme are to be, but a reference to one or two general considerations may be permissible, and the first is that too many zeals should not be put forward, paraded as reforms to be at once effected. The essential thing is to turn the nation towards peace and retrenchment, and beyond that to put before it the prospect of a diligent cultivation of feelings of goodwill, not only towards France but towards Germany, towards distressed Russia, towards the United States and every power with whom our world-wide empire has relations. The one purpose is corollary to the other. By cultivating goodwill, concord between nations, a pretext for indulgence in excessive military and naval expenditure is removed and the way made easier for reductions in the national budget, reductions rendered imperative, as we continually insist, if we are to escape the danger implied in a return to protectionism. Of domestic interests there is the smothering away of the revolting and most Christian sectarian conflict over the education of the young, there is the better rendering of the national accounts so that we may see where we stand, and it may be the opening up of the land to settlement, if we may use a colonial phrase. What is wanted, however, to rouse the country is a brief and energetic statement of the leading principles which the Ministry is to be guided by. Helped by such a declaration we have no doubt at all that a new House of Commons of a much higher type than the one now dying will be brought into existence, by help of which this strong Ministry may carry the country forward some few steps towards the higher democratic ideal. A victory at the polls great enough to enable the House of Commons to give the law once more to our now dominant and all too domineering permanent services would be of the greatest service to the Government. The law of evolution in organic society tends constantly to place all power in the hands of the bureaucrat in every

modern State, and in the United Kingdom, thanks to a weak and demoralised House of Commons, our only counterpoise, the popular assembly, has of late years been reduced to unusual impotence. The permanent official has been dictator, but he trembles still and fears the electorate. A new House of Commons, bringing an emphatic mandate to overhaul and retrench, would consequently be the greatest help a well-designing Ministry could have. By its help alone can we hope to see the over-mastering bureaucrat and his insatiable demands brought back to humility and moderation.

The Exchequer and the Money Market.

Last week's Exchequer accounts are remarkably instructive in some ways. The mere revenue came to only £2,676,000, of which £879,000 was drawn from Customs, but the aggregate out and in movements of the week reached £12,529,000. This was because of that Exchequer bond redemption transaction of which so much has been heard, and the figures relating thereto present more than one puzzle. Only £10,000,000 of Exchequer bonds were redeemed, instead of the £14,000,000 which the late Chancellor of the Exchequer told the House of Commons were to be paid off on December 7. What has become of the other £4,000,000? Did none of the "balances" expected from the Transvaal become available? Have the £4,000,000 been renewed by the permanent departments in whose hands they were understood to be? Perhaps our new officials will find out and let the country know. As there was less than £2,700,000 gathered in from revenue to meet this large payment, and since the National Debt and supply services took about £2,500,000, it is obvious that the whole £10,000,000 had to be reborrowed in some way. Well, we know that Mr. Austen Chamberlain issued £10,000,000 of new Exchequer bonds last April for the purpose of meeting this £10,000,000 liability on expiring bills, but he had meanwhile utilised the money thus raised in other directions, so that there seems to have been only £4,103,000 left in the Treasury which could by any possibility be regarded as money in hand with which to effect the redemption. Accordingly, on the same day when the £10,000,000 was repaid £2,000,000 of new three months' Treasury bills were issued and bought by the Japanese Government, and in addition £750,000 was borrowed on Ways and Means account, either from the Bank of England or from the Post Office or some other public department in funds. Then £1,000,000 was raised on account of the Cunard Agreement Act, whether in new Exchequer bonds or not we do not know, £450,000 on account of the Telegraph Acts, £1,275,000 for naval works, £185,000 for military works and £90,000 on account of land registry and public building expenses. This provided another £3,000,000. All these moneys were held in to enable the Government to pay off this £10,000,000 of Exchequer bonds, and now, of course, the incoming revenue will have to pay back the Cunard money and the various public works assignments. It is a pretty story, and rather shameful when one comes to think of it, but such is the Tory finance, of which we hope the last has been seen for many a year.

Last week, in estimating the probabilities of the Money market in relation to this Exchequer bond transaction, we came to the conclusion that other deposits might be augmented by some £2,000,000. We were quite out in this calculation, but then it was only possible to deal with known facts. Had we understood that £3,750,000 was to be provided by such expedients as have just been narrated, our conclusion would have been very different. As it is, the Bank return issued on Thursday afternoon indicates that altogether £5,191,000 was temporarily added to the resources of the market almost entirely by this Exchequer bond redemption, so called. This was £200,000 more than the decrease in the public de-

posits, which were down only £4,993,000, but that was because Government securities rose £200,000. All this increase did not, however, go on to the other deposits, which rose on the week only £3,628,000, because there was a decline of £972,000 in the banking reserve and of £591,000 in the market borrowings on other securities. Apparently gold went into the country as well as out of it, for almost the whole of the decrease in the reserve is due to the diminished stock of coin and bullion. Enough banking credit, however, remained to swamp the Money market and drive rates for call loans down to 1 and 1½ per cent. Seven-day money commanded only 2 per cent. for the best part of a week, and the over-burden of unusable credits became so oppressive that discount rates were being pressed down towards 3 per cent. Business in three months' remitted paper was actually down at 3½ per cent., and some say less. While this was so the nervousness of foreign markets increased, both the Berlin and Paris rates of exchange fell, threatening the Bank of England's stock of gold, and all the raw metal in the open market was bought for export at a price ominous of coming pressure on the Bank's own small stock. To the most casual observer it became plain that a dangerous state of affairs had been brought into existence by the credit legerdemain of the Treasury, and at last, apparently, this view struck the governor of the Bank of England.

Be this as it may, the Bank on Wednesday afternoon made up its mind to clear the market of loose floating credits, and this it did with such a sweep on Thursday—borrowing £4,000,000 of the Argentine Government money in the hands of the Barings, it was said—as to wrench the market up and force borrowers to go to the Bank itself for accommodation. As warning what to expect, it charged them 5 per cent. instead of 4½ for seven-day advances, and the day closed with everybody restless and inclined to fear the morrow. Surely the Bank might have displayed more foresight. Why did it not make arrangements to draw off the Treasury deluge of credit in good time so as to prevent the market from becoming defenceless against the pressure from other markets? Everything combined to inculcate vigilance, circumspection—the plight of Russia, the commitments of German and French banks in Russian national finance, the overloaded account on Wall Street, and the unprecedented dependence of both American and German speculators upon the credit facilities of our market to enable them to sustain their play or their load. It is much to be regretted that stock was not taken of near probabilities, for the result now is a heightening of the nervous feeling, a growing dread that something ugly is about to happen. "The Bank rate will be put up to 5 per cent. before the year is out, after all," people are saying. Well, let it be; worse things have happened than that without breaking the market, and worse may again. But credit is entering on a period of anxiety and trial which may test many solid-looking structures before we get back to peace again.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

MINOR GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS, AND THE COOLIE QUESTION.

As far as we can judge they are all to be commended. It is anyway pleasant to see Mr. Edmund Robertson again at the Admiralty, for throughout the dreary years of Opposition he has been a steadfast, enlightened and consistent critic of the policy followed by the men in possession. Mr. Herbert Samuel will be a good Under-Secretary at the Home Office, and Mr. Winston Churchill at the Colonies stands at the opening of what should be a great career. Mr. John E. Ellis is also an excellent second to Mr. Morley at the India Office, and the legal appointments so far made will all commend themselves to the party and we believe to the country. We are specially pleased to see Mr.

Thomas Shaw Lord Advocate for he fought the same fight that we did all through the dark time. One of the first thorny questions taken up by Lord Elgin and Mr. Winston Churchill must be the question of the Chinese slaves on the Rand. They ought to have the assistance of the Foreign Office in a preliminary investigation into the methods by which the unhappy Chinese have been beguiled into accepting the bondage contracts of the Rand magnates. Our Consular agents in China ought to be instructed to investigate the facts, for clearly these unfortunate victims have been misled by abundant lying. In this connection a pathetic figure emerges in a recent letter from Mr. Tom Naylor published last week by the *Daily Chronicle*. It is that of a Chinese artist who was induced to ship as a mine coolie by stories to the effect that there were many ladies in the Transvaal waiting to get him to paint their portraits. To put such men, any men, down a mine and compel them by cudgel or lash to undergo exacting physical labour there is an abominable cruelty. Well might this artist, a poor, lean, haggard figure, complain that his fingers were losing their delicacy, rendering him unfit to follow his profession. Fortified by such facts as we have no doubt our Consular agents could easily procure, there ought to be no difficulty in putting an end at once to further shipments of these poor creatures to the slave pens on the Witwatersrand. And there is another reason why this step should be taken promptly. It is to be found in that remarkable communication published in Tuesday's *Times* from its correspondent in Shanghai indicating that a spirit of independence is awakening amongst the Chinese, a growing restlessness amongst students and the merchant classes, an inclination on the part of the Chinese governments, central and provincial, to stand up to the foreigner, to refuse further concessions to foreign syndicates, and to assert the right of China to govern herself. Clearly if the open sore of Chinese labour in the Transvaal is allowed to continue, and if the repatriated wretches are permitted to tell their story to their fellows, this feeling of antipathy towards the English at least will be greatly intensified. High Imperial interests in the Far East demand that this infamy should forthwith be ended. And this is but one of the appalling tasks lying before the Ministry of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Wherever it turns it has mischief to undo before it can make much progress in building up a new and better spirit, new and better methods, in public affairs domestic or foreign.

THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY.

Our sympathies are entirely with Sir Marcus Samuel and his board in their fight against the American Standard Oil octopus. The story he had to tell last Tuesday at the shareholders' meeting was much what we should have expected. It is thanks to the Rockefeller berserker band that this company has had such enormous difficulties thrown in the way of the legitimate pursuit of fair profit in its business. At every point, but especially on the Continent, the Standard Oil Company has fought the Shell Company, and done the utmost possible to ruin it. It must have lost an enormous amount of money in so doing, but what do the Rockefellers care, with all those mushroom trusts in New York at their beck and call, with many banks in their grip; above all, with the funds of the great American life offices at their mercy? "Our sales," said Sir Marcus Samuel, "in Europe for the period 1894 to April, 1905, amounted to 110,000 tons, and by these sales the Shell Company lost £112,000." In the same period the Standard Oil Company and its working dependent or screen, the Consolidated Company, sold 2,325,000 tons, so that on the same basis its loss must have amounted nearly to £2,500,000, but the fight goes on, and threatens to become ruinous. No dodge or tool is considered too mean or abominable to be laid hold of in order to beat off a rival. We hope the Shell Company will win, and believe that it must win if its shareholders stand by it, and one of the most significant indications of the chance of victory is the fact, also mentioned by Sir

Marcus, that the company was able to send Eastern benzine to the United States in considerable quantities, and to obtain for it a better price than could be secured in Europe, this thanks entirely to the malicious action of the Standard Oil Company. Wherever it gets its hand in this Yankee enterprise is a pure curse to trade, a sort of modern dragon, living only to prey and devour.

BRITISH WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC AND MANUFACTURING.

It is not yet possible to speak of any material change for the better in the fortunes of this gigantic semi-American enterprise, and if our worst fears have not, fortunately, been quite fulfilled, there can be no doubt that the business has fallen into a state of disorder from which it will not be easily rescued. We fear that the undertaking is being built up on thoroughly unsound lines. These columns have time and again been used to point out the dangers and risks involved in accepting big contracts, payment for which would not be readily forthcoming, because taking the shape of securities more or less realisable, which must be nursed until a favourable opportunity arises for their sale. A typical example was the electrification of the Mersey Railway by the Westinghouse company, and after the remarks we have made when dealing each half-year with the railway company's accounts, will anyone be surprised to learn that this venture has involved the construction company in a loss of £43,550? We think not, and it would be most instructive to learn to what extent other work has been taken under similar conditions. Competition in the electrical industries is exceedingly keen, we know, and the most strenuous efforts are called for if a fair share of the work is to be obtained, but it is possible to be too pushful, and if half the stories we hear are true this company's methods are not likely to result in the creation of a durable and profitable business. Up to a certain point the operations for the twelve months ended July 31 showed improvement on those of the preceding year, the nett profit being returned at £113,239 or £62,689 more, and with a few pounds for interest and transfer fees the total for disposal is £113,409. Debenture and loan interest, however, increased by £5,691 to £41,237, and as above mentioned, there was a loss in connection with the Mersey Railway contract of £43,550, these two items alone accounting for nearly £85,000. In addition, £25,000 has been written off a total experimental expenditure of £133,254 incurred during the year, the balance to be chargeable against future profits, a sum of £5,340 for exhibition and sundry outlays is also extinguished, and £16,500 or £6,000 more is allowed for depreciation of machinery, plant, tools, and works at Manchester, so that after using up the trifling balance of £2,810 brought forward there is a deficiency in the profit and loss account of £15,407. That is a very bad entry to begin the current year with, and notwithstanding the directors' protestations to the contrary, it is impossible to believe that the position has been fairly faced.

In saying this, we are, of course, alluding to the financial side of the business, and the question of adequacy of the wastage allowance. The board tells us that care has been exercised to have the works equipment efficiently maintained, and, in addition, a very considerable sum has been charged to profit and loss account for the maintenance of large machine tools and machinery. Also all patterns, drawings, and patents acquired have been charged against revenue, and the directors therefore hold the opinion that the sum of £16,500 allowed for depreciation, which includes £5,000 in respect of the buildings themselves, is adequate. Well, let us look at some of the assets just to see how far this opinion can be made to accord with actual facts, bearing in mind that the auditors call special attention to this very question, besides the suspense account, and the shares held in other companies. To put the matter briefly, they can take no responsibility for the accuracy of these items. Passing

by the patents and goodwill, which stand at the old figure of £794,867, we come to the large works at Trafford Park, entered a year ago at £1,069,009. To that must be added the nett additions for the period under review £162, and £18,850 transferred from machinery, plant, and tools account, making £1,088,021. Would 5 per cent., or, say, £50,000, appear an excessive allowance for wastage on this great asset? We do not think so, but as before mentioned, the directors write off just £5,000, or less than half of 1 per cent. Nor can anything much more satisfying be told in connection with the machinery, plant, tools, &c., which are written down by £11,500 on a total of £910,752, in round figures about 1 per cent., and we still have a suspense account of £108,254 to take the gilt off future profits. Shares in other companies next attract attention, and we want to know what the increase of £101,358 to £355,159 really means. A decline in the contingent liabilities of £117,704 to £112,643 has not been overlooked, but shareholders ought to be told exactly what these securities consist of, whether merely interests in allied or kindred concerns, or in some way connected with the actual business. In plain words, is any part of the so-called profit locked up in this item, and what is its true value? It must be noted that premiums on shares, capital actually, have been used to write down these shares by £17,285, and a further amount of £20,184 appropriated to provide the discount and expenses of a further big issue of debenture stock. Thus preference shareholders have the supreme satisfaction of knowing that the premiums they years ago paid for the privilege of subscribing are now, conversely, disappearing in rectifying in the balance-sheet the company's rather poor credit. On this occasion we are not told the value of orders received during the year, but the volume was considerably in excess of the previous twelve months, and the contracts in progress appear at a nett sum of £478,691, compared with £372,953. Stock and material in hand are heavily lower at £587,950, and while trading accounts are now favourable against a heavy adverse balance a year ago, cash is still wretchedly poor at £15,806. No change has taken place in the share capital during the twelve months, which remains at £3,250,000, no part of it receiving a dividend, but the 4 per cent. debenture stock has been increased by £400,000 to £1,016,353, permitting a reduction in the temporary loans of £116,350 to £84,440. That is all we have to say at present, and we fear it is not more comforting than the directors' statement towards the end of the report, which alludes to the serious effect which the keen competition has on the business, and concludes with the hope that the revival in trade may improve the conditions. Why have Mr. J. W. Cloud and Sir Joseph Lawrence, M.P., left the board?

INDIA-RUBBER, GUTTA-PERCHA AND TELEGRAPH WORKS.

It is with more than ordinary satisfaction that we record a very substantial recovery in the profits of this ably-conducted enterprise for the year ended September 30 last. During the 12 months previous to that profits had fallen off to such an alarming extent that some of the shareholders were rendered quite nervous, and frequently sought our advice as to whether they should still retain their interest in the company in view of the fact that, owing to a variety of causes, the dividend had been knocked down from 10 per cent. to 5, the smallest return made for 20 years at least. Believing, however, that such a splendidly-organised business must soon recover the ground lost by special causes, we always counselled shareholders not to sacrifice their shares, and are now gratified to find that our judgment has not been at fault. Once more the general business of the undertaking shows an increase compared with the previous year, and while the price of raw material is still very high, the fluctuations have not been great, so that better prices could be obtained for manufactured goods. In addition, the cable department has evidently been very fully employed. Besides

smaller contracts it is at present engaged in the manufacture of 1,300 nautical miles of submarine telegraph cable to be laid by the company's steamer *Silvertown* between Shanghai and Manila in March next. The other vessels have been busy with repairing work during the period now being reviewed, and one of them is still under charter. Coming next to the question of profits, we think it will be well to reproduce our comparative statement, so that the extent of the recovery from last year's decline can be readily ascertained:—

	Year Ended September 30.				
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Trading profit	£ 135,236	£ 163,725	£ 190,096	£ 119,010	£ 169,452
General expenses	62,346	67,991	70,955	65,506	71,724
Income-tax, directors' fees, &c.	6,191	6,720	7,322	6,841	5,664
Depreciation	18,642	19,460	40,150	21,069	23,835
Debenture interest	12,000	12,000	12,000	14,250	16,500
Net balance	56,057	57,554	54,569	11,344	51,729
Brought forward	48,750	54,807	62,361	66,930	53,274
Total available	104,807	112,361	116,930	78,274	105,003
Dividend	50,000	50,000	50,000	25,000	50,000
Carried forward	54,807	62,361	66,930	53,274	55,003

From the above it will be seen that the actual trading profit went up by £50,442, and while it is still below the exceptional period ended in 1903 the revenue is well in advance of the years immediately preceding. General expenses were higher, a little more was allowed for depreciation, and debenture interest advanced £2,250 owing to the fact that the debentures issued in April, 1904, rank fully, but there were small savings in other directions and the nett balance improves by over £40,000. Sum brought forward was a good deal reduced, because the dividend paid twelve months back was in excess of the actual earnings, but even so the amount at the disposal of the directors is larger by £26,729 at £105,003. So they revert to the 10 per cent. dividend paid for so many years and carry forward a slightly greater sum at £55,003. In their certificate the auditors again intimate their inability to certify the value of sundry shares in other companies standing at £55,945, or an advance of £4,570 and remark that no depreciation has been written off the steamships which are included in the balance-sheet with other property, the whole being entered at £571,399, but, though it would be wise to write down, with a reserve fund reaching no less than £450,000, there need be no uneasiness about the position. Floating liabilities are little more than £71,000, and on the other side we have such assets as debtors £111,958, cash at bankers and on hand £64,183, stock-in-trade £421,540, and cash, stock, debts, &c., at Persian and agencies £287,816, so that the position all round is a very strong one. Capital expenditure for the year seems to have been £12,000, and while all the works have been maintained in their usual state of efficiency, considerable outlay must still be incurred at Persian to provide for the economical production of goods for the French market.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: CITY AND SUBURBAN.

The City and Suburban Gold Mining and Estate Company, which is a member of the group called the Natal group, because the head offices are at Pietermaritzburg, was formed in the year 1887, and is, therefore, one of the oldest on the Rand. It is also one of the few companies where it is the intention of the management not to employ Chinese. This is creditable to the directors, though they favour the employment of coolies elsewhere, and boast that the company has benefited indirectly from their importation. It is also a company in whose capital there is a considerable quantity of water, for which modern shareholders will probably have to pay dearly. The present figure is £1,360,000 in 340,000 £4 shares, all issued and fully paid. Originally the capital was only £50,000 in £1 shares, but in June, 1895—the year of the boom—the City and Suburban did what many other South African companies did—multiplied the shares to enable the then shareholders to take fullest advantage of the gambling furore. By a stroke of the pen the capital was increased from £85,000 in £1 shares to its

present amount, and it is really remarkable that it has been stationery since—that the directors have resisted the temptation to add a few more hundred thousands. Up to 1895 fair and regular dividends were paid, the final one on the old capital totalling 75 per cent., but since that memorable year they have been tiny. The following is the modern record:—1896, 5 per cent; 1897, 15 per cent.; 1898, 15 per cent.; 1899, 10 per cent.; 1902, 10 per cent.; 1903, 15 per cent.; 1904, 12½ per cent. Since 1896 the company has been crushing with a mill of 160 stamps, which may possibly in the future be enlarged to 200 stamps, or even 220 stamps. The mine results do not reach those of the early days of the company, the yield showing a gradual falling off. At the same time the management has succeeded in cutting down the working costs, but the profit is much below that of even recent years, as witness the following table:—

	Yield per Ton.		Cost per Ton.		Profit. per Ton.
	s. d.		s. d.		s. d.
1899.....	49 9	....	25 9	....	24 9
1901.....	56 0	....	27 3	....	28 9
1902.....	45 10	....	27 9	....	18 1
1903.....	42 2	....	20 5	....	21 9
1904.....	36 2	....	20 9	....	15 5

This shows that the value of the ore is becoming poorer in depth, making it probable that dividends on the average may not exceed the 12½ per cent. paid last year; may possibly fall below it. For the mine may last another eighteen years, during which period the ore may become much poorer. On the other hand, if another forty stamps be added this will increase profits and raise dividends, but it will proportionately shorten the life of the mine. The present price of the share is much below the average of the past ten years. If we take the yield at 12 per cent. and the life at eighteen years the return on £100 invested would be £216, leaving £116 for dividends or about 6½ per cent. per annum. As about £4 2s. 6d. would have to be set aside annually at 3 per cent. compound interest to redeem the principal in that period, the nett yield, allowing for capital redemption, would therefore be approximately 7½ per cent. per annum. At present prices and on current dividends the price of the share looks fair, especially as there is the asset of the estate to be computed, which might be put at about 10s. per share. Those, however, who bought at the high figures of the nineties might not find it a remunerative investment at the end.

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY.

We have long insisted that the particular brand of "frenzied finance" favoured by the controllers of this huge undertaking must inevitably lead to disaster, and the interim report just issued only tends to confirm that conviction. It is a matter of history how the company, in its greedy ambition to become a power in the electric traction world, has spread its tentacles far and wide in a fashion which has well earned it the name of the "Octopus," bullying or bulldozing corporations throughout England into granting it a monopoly of the tramways within their boundaries. Nor has it been content with that, but has reached out into the uttermost parts of the earth and laid hold of enterprises in countries so widely separated as India, New Zealand, and, by a recent purchase, Brazil. In pursuit of its aims a regular army of subsidiary companies has been created, many of which, through lack of public support, have had to be financed by the parent, with the result that the capital has been swollen out by successive issues until the whole concern is topheavy. Most of the "associated" undertakings, too, are weighted with capital far beyond their earning capacity, and to make matters worse the high-handed blusterings of the Trust have caused corporations to revolt with the result that several of the more remunerative lines have been lost. Birmingham was the first to throw off the yoke, an example which was followed by Bournemouth, and now Croydon has joined

the ranks of those local authorities which will have no further dealings with the company.

In the interim report issued a year ago the directors announced, with an air of great self-commendation, that they had resolved to confine their energies as much as possible to the works then in hand, and this statement was hailed as an indication that the gravity of the position had at last been recognised, and that genuine efforts were to be made to pull the company round before it was too late. The itching of the directors to be up and doing, however, has prevented them from carrying out their programme in its entirety, and in addition to the construction carried out between December and July 17½ miles of new or reconstructed tramways or light railways have been opened, and the company is now busy with lines at Penge and Croydon to Mitcham, at Cavehill near Belfast, in Middlesex as part of the system of the Metropolitan Electric Tramways Company, and in the Birmingham district. The Bombay horse tramways of about 17 miles also have been added to the list of associated undertakings, and the signs of retrenchment in this direction do not seem very conspicuous. Altogether, the group has now 439 miles in operation, and an attempt is made to convey an idea that the undertakings are flourishing which actual events prove to be wholly illusory. The directors estimate the total traffic receipts for the current year at £1,400,000, compared with £1,264,061 in 1904, but they refrain from stating what proportion of this they expect to retain as nett revenue, and merely anticipate that satisfactory profits will be made before the closing of the books on March 31 next. What is to bring about the change between now and that date we do not know, but it is evident that at present they have no free funds available, as they do not dare to declare an interim dividend. The excuse put forward that the substantial profit on the Bombay deal has not yet been received is too flimsy to bear close examination, as this profit was to be in paper pure and simple, and would not add a penny piece to their available resources.

In addition to the tramway and omnibus enterprises, which are proving such a burden, the Trust is largely interested in the Brush Electrical Engineering Company, a concern which does not seem to be in any more flourishing a condition, or likely to add appreciably to the income from investments. The volume of business carried out during the year is said to show a considerable increase, and improved returns are expected from both the rolling stock and general engineering departments, but (there seems to be a "but" in connection with all the Trust's doings) keen competition keeps the margin of profits small. Not to be behind the times, the Brush Company has a share in a tube railway to be constructed from the Marble Arch along the Edgware Road when the promoters overcome their nervousness about the future of London traffic. Work has not been proceeded with up to the present owing to the uncertainty which "prevailed in regard to the traffic question in London pending the issue of the report of the Royal Commission." The scheme, however, has not been abandoned, and a further Bill is to be promoted for an extension of time, and for authority to extend the line from the Marble Arch to Victoria. Still another iron in the fire is the British Automobile Developments Company, which has erected works at Loughborough for the manufacture of motor-omnibuses and heavy haulage vehicles, but no great progress seems to have been made in this direction, as the report merely states that there are indications that there will be a large demand for British made vehicles of this description, and that they believe the company will be in a favourable position to meet it.

THE VICTORIA FALLS ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT.

Professor Ayrton has replied to Mr. Wilson Fox with great effect in this week's *Times* "Engineering Supplement," and his letter, together with other evidence, justifies the editor of that sheet in coming to the conclusion that the Zambesi scheme appears excluded, at least for the present, from any prospect of practical

success. Professor Ayrton shows that Mr. Wilson Fox was under a singular misapprehension in citing Professor Kapp as a supporter of his fantastic proposal. Instead of being so, the Professor, writing to Mr. Ayrton on December 7, says: "I have never been asked to pronounce an opinion on the commercial success, or otherwise, of the Zambesi scheme. I authorise you to say that, in discussing the general question of the power transmission from the Zambesi to Johannesburg, I raised the question whether the competition of coal-driven stations was not to be feared. To this Mr. Wilson Fox replied that, owing to the price of coal and local conditions, we need not anticipate any such competition, and that, with the existing small stations, the real cost of power to the mine-owners, if they made up their accounts correctly, would come out at a very much higher figure than the figure which I found it would cost the transmission company to bring it to the mines." This statement is not borne out by the facts, and Professor Ayrton is able to adduce testimony to prove that were the consumption of coal to amount to from 80,000 to 100,000 tons per month the cost at the pit's mouth would run from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per ton, with everything included; in short, the actual power could be supplied at about £18 5s. horse-power per annum as against Mr. Wilson Fox's statement that the cost at most mines exceeds £40 per annum. Moreover, Professor Ayrton points out that it may be a simple matter to still further lower the cost of coal-generated power by laying down gas-pipes which would furnish a cheap supply only 90 miles from the point where it had to be distributed for use. "Whether the necessary energy be brought from the coalfields to the Rand by rail, by wire, or by pipe," Professor Ayrton winds up, "it is clear that when there is a vast cheap supply only 90 miles away, it is needless to speculate on bringing it more than eight times as far because a distant source of energy happens to be in the domain of the Chartered Company." Thus one more Chartered hoax is exposed, and it is really about time this company were allowed to fade peacefully into oblivion. It is rather a nuisance to all concerned.

THE SCOTCH RAILWAY FUSION.

Complete details of the agreement for the amalgamation of the Great North of Scotland and Highland Railways are now available to the shareholders, and it gives us pleasure to say that the scheme is set out and elaborated in a fashion to afford all concerned the fullest opportunity of comprehending the position. Nothing is omitted that should be stated or explained, and quite apart from the fact that the arrangement seems quite equitable, all circumstances taken into consideration, this frankness on the part of the directors may go far to convince stockholders that the permanent good of the systems involved is the principal object in view. We have not the space to spare to analyse in detail all the interesting material which the board provides, and must sum up the facts in a few brief sentences. Were difficulty to be encountered in arriving at a fair and equitable basis of settlement, it would naturally be chiefly found in connection with the ordinary stocks of the companies—that is, the preferred and deferred issues of the Great North and the undivided ordinary of the Highland—but in this case the business seems to have readily adjusted itself, and we do not think there is room for protest from either class of stockholders. At present the Great North has preferred converted ordinary stock of £1,063,653 carrying 3 per cent. interest and deferred converted ordinary stock to the amount of £1,166,475, which for the last two half-years has received a return at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, while for the same periods the £2,564,383 of Highland ordinary stock obtained dividends of 2 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum respectively. Under the scheme now submitted, the Great North preferred ordinary stock will remain as at present and will have consolidated with it one-half

or £1,282,191 of the Highland Company's ordinary stock. The remaining moiety will be joined to the Great North deferred stock, so that in future there will be £2,345,844 3 per cent. preferred stock and £2,448,667 deferred stock. Had the position been as here set out during the last two half-years, the nett revenue would have provided 3 per cent. on the preferred and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the deferred stocks, and Highland stockholders are reminded that such return would have been equivalent to their distribution for the six months to July 31 last. This takes no account of the advantages expected to accrue from the joining up, and the arrangement certainly seems fair. The position of the prior charges must next be accorded a few words, and naturally the directors aim at preventing needless duplication of stocks. Therefore all the debenture issues of the two concerns will be merged into one, to bear $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, a sufficient amount being given to provide the same amount of interest as that at present received. Thus the 4 per cent. will get £114 5s. 8.57d. of the new $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. £121 8s. 6.85d., and while it may seem rather generous to put the Highland $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. second debenture stock on the same footing as the older issues, such liberality is more apparent than real, and since the amount is no more than £250,000 the sacrifice may be made in the interests of uniformity. Preference and guaranteed issues follow debentures, and of these the Great North now has seven and the Highland eight, while after the fusion there will be five only—two guaranteed and three preference—all bearing 4 per cent. interest, with the exception of the last preference, which will carry $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Great North prior issues already bear 4 per cent. interest, and will therefore exchange for equal amounts, apart from the 1891 and 1894 emissions, which are to be merged into the new $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. issue, the shortage of interest being made good by an additional amount of capital. An adjustment of capital will also be necessary to permit the conversion of the Highland stocks carrying $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent. interest into the new $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 per cent. issues. There now remain two other securities to be considered—the Great North deferred ordinary No. 2, which will be offered £8, apparently in cash, for each £100, and the Highland Nairn 6 per cent. preference, possessing certain contingent rights, which will be cancelled for a cash payment of £2 10s. for each £100. To bring so many interests into line must have proved a matter of very considerable difficulty, but the question seems to have been handled with a good deal of skill, and, regarded from the shareholders' standpoint, we doubt if any genuine opposition will be raised against the consummation of the scheme. But there is, of course, the larger question to be considered, whether the fusion is likely to contribute to the public good. Past experience does not incline one to look favourably towards these proposals, and when the scheme is submitted to Parliament great care must be taken that the public interest is properly safeguarded.

THE MASHONALAND RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Somewhere in its offices in London Wall, we understand that the Chartered Company has a museum. Presumably the accounts of this bantling of the company are intended to be placed in that receptacle for the benefit of the curious. Neither the report nor accounts are of much use for anything else. The accounts only bring the figures down to March 31, 1904, so that they are nearly a year and nine months behind, and in the report, although there are allusions and estimated statistics bringing the story down to a later date, there is really little information worth printing between one cover and the other. Nay, perhaps this is scarcely the full truth; we do gather a few odds and ends of fact, or adumbrations of fact, which suggest interesting thoughts. For example, the accounts, whether *in extenso* or as summarised, make it appear as if the Mashonaland Railway made a nett income of £54,433 in the year ended September 30, 1904, while for the succeeding year to September

30 last, for which we have a summary although no accounts, the nett income is put at £73,290; but, obviously, these figures are altogether untrustworthy, because when we come to what is called the "analysis of traffic, revenue, &c.," we find the larger portion of the goods tonnage to consist of either the company's own material or (we infer) of goods of the Chartered Company, and the whole traffic is so tiny as to be ludicrous when we remember that upwards of 1,100 miles of railway are embraced in the traffic returns. Thus the total number of passengers carried by these much-distended lines was only 21,344 in the year ended September 30, 1904. That was a larger number than the total for the preceding year, but smaller by more than 1,000 than the number for the year ended September 30, 1902. Tonnage of goods is also down, and only came to 24,083 tons in the latest year tabulated, while tonnage of construction material, also down, figured for 21,577. Then there is an entry "tonnage of minerals (coal)," which fell from 13,585 tons in 1902-3 to 9,931 tons in the succeeding year. But this coal does not seem to be revenue yielding in the true sense of the word, for we find a footnote to the table called the "analysis of traffic, revenue, &c.," which appears to make known the fact that the mineral traffic is an inter-departmental charge, "not made prior to July, 1902." What this means we have not the least idea; but, obviously, there is not enough traffic of a genuine kind upon these railways—which include the Beira to Umtali line, the Salisbury to Bulawayo line, the line from Bulawayo to the Zambesi, and that from Umtali to Salisbury—to pay for axle grease, let alone to find directors' fees or interest upon the rapidly increasing debt with which these fantastic enterprises have been saddled. In the accounts as presented only £2,500,000 of debenture stock is set out, but the report tells us that another £2,560,000 in 5 per cent. debentures was issued in March last, and that out of the money thus furnished £50,000 was graciously permitted to be applied as working capital. From the rest so much was set aside to provide interest during construction, £170,000 was devoted to pay for rolling stock and permanent way material bought from the Rhodesian Railways, £300,000 was used to refund moneys advanced by the Chartered Company, and £50,000 devoted to the repayment of a loan of that amount secured by a like sum in second mortgage debentures of the Mashonaland Railway Company. Even as the accounts are given down to September 30, 1904, they show an accumulated deficiency of £271,594. Did the British Association's visit wipe this out or any of it? Nay, that visit was a "Chartered" advertisement, paid for most likely by borrowing. But it is glorious "Imperial" fooling for those who do not have to pay.

THE PEKIN SYNDICATE.

For four years the directors of this syndicate have published no accounts, but now they graciously do so, and it is to be hoped the shareholders will duly appreciate such condescension. True, they are brought up only to December 31 last, and are hoary with age, but yet one feels that they are better than nothing. The directors express their regret that the accounts are not made up to a later date, and plead that the great distance at which operations are carried on, and the complexity of the accounts in China rendered delay inevitable. Many may be satisfied with this plea, and many not, but all will have to make the most of it, and hope with energy. The auditors, too, write quite a lengthy and interesting report, pointing out that some of the accounts from China are unsupported by vouchers; that the agreements relating to the two concessions acquired by the syndicate are still deposited at the British Legation at Peking; that no inventories of the machinery, plant, stores, &c., at December 31, 1904, have been produced to them; that the directors tell them the company's operations are not yet sufficiently advanced to permit of a profit and loss account being prepared; and that it has not

been practicable to comply with Clause 135 of the articles of association, which requires the accounts to be made up to a date not more than six months before the general meeting. The accounts now sketched for the public eye cover four years. On the coalfields at Honan, including machinery, plant, construction, land purchase for railway, &c., the expenditure is put at £97,405; general expenses in China and London amount to £50,273 against receipts of £61,595, showing a surplus of £11,322, which reduces the old deficiency to £11,639. The principal asset is £614,600, the sum at which the Taokou Chinghua Main Line Railway has recently been taken over by the Chinese Government. Financially, the syndicate is in a strong position; but it is early days to attempt to forecast what success it may eventually achieve. The cost of the railway has been repaid by the issue of Imperial Chinese Government 5 per cent. Gold bonds, redeemable in 30 years by annual drawings commencing 1916, during which period the railway is to be worked by the syndicate for 20 per cent. of the annual surplus profits. In respect to the collieries at Honan the chief mining engineer anticipates that the main seam will be struck during the present month at a depth of about 560 ft. A recent telegram from him announces that excellent anthracite, 12 ft. thick, has been proved by advance boring at a depth of 592 ft. Good coal may, of course, be found, but profitable markets will have to be searched for. In reports issued by them, the syndicate's engineers are confident there will be no difficulties in selling the fuel at profitable prices.

Passing Events.

From a communication just received from their directors shareholders of the Bibi-Eybat Petroleum Company will be astonished to learn how little their position and prospects have been adversely influenced by the recent riots and incendiarism at Baku. The current financial year has, of course, been one of great difficulty, the severe strike in December, 1904, being followed in January by terrible snowstorms, in February by the massacres, in May by the political strike, and finally by the awful events at the end of August and all through September last. Nevertheless, the production of oil was maintained at a fairly good figure, work being resumed directly the disturbances stopped, and as the loss to the company when the Bibi-Eybat oilfields were burnt down was only about £4,000, the shareholders have much to be thankful for. Moreover, in October last a meeting took place of all the naphtha oil producers under the presidency of the Minister of Finance, the result of which was the taking of such measures as should prevent a repetition of recent disorders. Financial assistance, in the shape of loans at 5 per cent. extending over a period of 10 years, was also promised, but although the directors say nothing about the matter, it is feared that the dreadful happenings of the last few weeks, which render the raising of money an impossibility, must prevent the Government from carrying out its obligations at present.

On Friday next we shall know the result of the voting on the Le Roi amalgamation scheme. At a crowded meeting of shareholders the proposal has already been rejected with enthusiasm, and the directors have suffered something like a humiliating defeat. To demand a poll in face of such a manifestation of feeling; in face, too, of the tumultuous carrying of a resolution to appoint new directors, seemed *infra dig.*, but Sir Henry Tyler and his *confrères* are resolved to fight to the last ditch. From what we hear, Mr. McMillan thinks he has sufficient support to defeat the board on a poll. We hope he is not mistaken. Now that shareholders are in a better position to judge of the merits—or, rather, demerits—of the directors' case, it would be astonishing if the hesitating ones voted for it. As we have declared for months past, there is nothing weighty to be said in favour of the amalgamation. The arguments of the directors and

of Mr. Mackenzie were ridiculously illogical and far-fetched. No wonder some of them were received with peals of derisive laughter. It was admitted that the control of the company would be transferred across the Atlantic. If, of course, shareholders are foolish enough to hand their interests over to a band of Yankees, who by no wild sketch of fancy can be regarded as philanthropists, they must not subsequently whine over the consequences. But after the exhibition of feeling at the recent meeting we can hardly believe they will descend to any such folly.

Last week the Transvaal Miners' Association called a mass meeting to protest against the importation of Chinese. The speakers alleged that the Chinkees diminished the number of white skilled labour employed; the whites, in fact, were employed at from 5s. to 10s. per day in order to swell the labour returns, which were fictitious. It was also declared that the Chinamen had better quarters than the British, who had stolen the Transvaal from a nation that treated them all better than the present Government. The speakers urged upon the Government to take over native recruiting, which seems a most sensible suggestion, seeing that the mine bosses refuse to do such recruiting with energy. They also asked that the question of Chinese importation should be settled by a referendum vote in the colony, another capital idea. Finally, the following resolution was carried with only one dissident:—"That the time has arrived for stopping the importation of the Chinese and for repatriating them, when their time has expired, at the expense of the importers." The resolution likewise condemned the enforcement of the insurance policy by employers, by which the whites signed away their freedom, and urged the introduction of a Workmen's Compensation Bill. But the *Times* correspondent would have us believe that all this was faked.

According to an official statement issued by the secretary of the United Gold Mines of West Africa this company has made a good profit out of one transaction in which it took an interest. This is somewhat tantalising news, for neither the amount of profit nor the particular nature of the transaction is disclosed. Other information in the same communication is to the effect that the Kaapsche Hoop property in the Transvaal, in which the United has a large interest, is about to commence operations. It likewise has a large number of shares in the Vryheid Exploration Company, which, we are told, has recently acquired an interest in the Transvaal Copper Company. All these, however, are quite obscure and highly speculative concerns. On the West African concessions no work is being done, they are still being nursed. It is strange, however, to read, in these days of market dulness, that the work which this company is now undertaking is principally that of finance, "for which business there is far greater scope, having regard to the condition of the mining market." If there is far greater scope for doing business in the mining market, it is not flattering to the value of the other interests the company possesses.

The gracious announcement is made that the first ordinary general meeting of the Rhodesian Banket Company will be held on the 19th inst. This may enable some of us the more heartily to enjoy Christmas Day. Of course, the directors will submit a balance-sheet and a report? Heavens, no! Why should they go to that trouble and expense? Have not the hard-worked men quite enough to do to manipulate the market and bring bantlings into existence? They are not paid handsome fees to be literary slaves and to instruct clerks to prepare accounts. Besides, these might not be worth preparing. If they exhibited, as in all likelihood they would, big deficits, it might bring to nought their efforts to inflate the price of the share. In fact, such an exposure might burst the bubble. Such a risk must not be run. Then the meeting will be a kind of mummy show? No, no, no! The chairman has condescended "to take advantage of the opportunity to make a statement regarding the pro-

gress of developments on the company's properties." If a few minutes' talkee-talkie is not worth a year's salary then no labourer is worthy of his hire. Besides, look at the scope it gives for hyperbole and word-em-broidery. Better these than facts nakedly written in dry prose and columns of figures, eh?

In striking contrast with the optimism in a paragraph of the statement issued by the directors of the United Gold Mines of West Africa is the gloomy tenour of a circular sent out to their shareholders by the directors of the Sekondi and Tarkwa Company. Owing to the fact that this concern has no funds for developing its properties "and in the present condition of the mining industry in West Africa, seeing no prospect of disposing of them," the directors advise the shareholders to put the company in voluntary liquidation. The meeting to pass the necessary resolutions is convened for the 18th inst.

The past half-year seems to have been a tolerably good one for that outrageously capitalised combine, the Bleachers' Association, the nett profit being returned at £156,639 after charging £74,684 for maintenance and upkeep, £16,271 for sundry other purposes, and £50,625 for debenture interest. This revenue is a great deal larger than for the corresponding period, but is not relatively equal to that for the complete 12 months ended March 31 last. However, an extra £10,000 at £25,000 is placed to special reserve for depreciation, making it £145,000, two quarters' preference dividends are provided with £62,728, and with £17,619 brought in a sum of £86,530 is carried forward to be dealt with at the end of the financial year. Twelve months back only £21,252 was carried out, and if the textile trades keep brisk the vendor-held ordinary shares may later on get another 2 per cent.

Following on the circular of the London Road Car Company to its share and debenture holders, this company, with the General Omnibus, Associated Omnibuses, and Thomas Tilling, issued a protest against the claims of the new motor-buses that they have secured a monopoly of the supply of chassis. In this the four companies claim to have more than 100 motor vehicles now running as well as upwards of another 700 on order which will be rapidly supplied, and as they can now ensure a practically indefinite supply there does not seem to be much cause for fear that they will be driven out of business. The reply made by the motor-bus undertakings naturally lays stress on the handicap inflicted on the old companies by the large amount of capital sunk in the present type of vehicle, and reiterates the assertion that they, and they only, can secure the most serviceable type of chassis; but, none the less, the letter is a rather feeble document. Although so much is made of the superiority of the motor over the horse bus, we are by no means certain that this has been proved, and certainly they are no use under certain conditions. Was there not a story in the papers this week of how one of the famous "Vanguards" set itself alight in disgust at not being able to make its way through the fog?

We must say that the boards of the Baku Russian Petroleum and Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Companies seem to be acting straightforwardly towards Mr. Dvorkovitz, and although we cannot, perhaps, blame him for bringing forward his accusations as to excessive profits made in the promotion of these companies, a feeling exists in the mind that we do not quite know the origin of the accusation or of his zeal. At present it is unnecessary to say more, because a committee was duly appointed at a meeting of the Baku Company's shareholders last Tuesday to investigate the charges and report thereon. As far as we can judge, it seems to be a perfectly fair committee that may be trusted to do its duty, and looking at the formidable difficulties which have beset the Caucasian oil industry, not only because of the local conditions, but because of the unprincipled competition to which its products have been subjected by the Americans, our inclination is, meanwhile, to back the companies up. Moreover, we also have been making some in-

quiries here and there as opportunity offered, and they do not lead us to the conclusion which seems to have been definitely arrived at by Mr. Dvorkovitz. At the very best the industry was a speculative one when it was embarked upon, and it was not to be expected that large mercantile houses would risk their capital in it for nothing.

Famine is spreading in India, and the last telegram from the Viceroy, dated December 11, intimates that the numbers in receipt of relief then aggregated 68,177. Of these, 49,842 are in Ajmer and Rajputana, 13,342 in the United Provinces, 2,762 in Bombay, and 2,231 in Baroda. A mere recital of these names indicates that the area of scarcity is already very extensive, and the accounts as to the rainfall are most ominous. Thus in the United Provinces "no rain, prices high and rising." In Rajputana "no rain, spring sowings restricted, prices continue high." In Central India "no rain, spring crops withering in Bundelkhand, and autumn harvest much below the average, and to a less extent in Baghelkhand and Malwa." There was some rain in Bombay during the week, but it is still urgently wanted in the Deccan and the Karnatak. Scarcity appears also to be threatened in Haidarabad. Later news speaks of a fodder famine in the Punjab, and leaves of trees used to keep the cattle from dying. Altogether a distressing picture, and the new Secretary of State for India clearly has his work cut out for him.

Western Australia has issued its Budget, which shows that the year began with a credit of £83,000, and ended with a deficit of £46,000. This is not wonderful since the debt of this settlement now amounts to £18,043,000, and since it seeks to raise a revenue in the current year of £3,635,000 against an expenditure of £3,721,000. The deficit at the year's end will, therefore, be about £133,000, but it is consoling to know that "the gold produced last year amounted to 47 per cent. of the entire Australian yield," and that the area under crops rose from about 204,000 acres to 328,000 acres in 1905. The average yield is 14 bushels per acre, not a particularly brilliant exhibit.

We hope the Sultan of Turkey will really be brought to book now. There has been rather too much of the kid-glove style of treatment in this so-called coercion through ships of war sent to Turkish waters by the joint powers. It was finicking business to seize the Customs House at the Island of Mytelene, and the fleet, if they had meant serious business, should have at once made for Smyrna. The seizure of that important centre of trade would have at once brought Abdul Hamid to his senses. He is now said to have accepted the amended terms presented to him by the Ambassadors, and we hope this is true; but unless held to his pledge he is certain to wriggle out of it again, and continue to act as a blight upon all that remains of his dominions in Europe. When the Macedonian troubles are settled, if they are settled, he will have to be tackled in other parts of his empire. We have an obligation towards the Armenians which was shamefully shirked by the late Government.

Is Mr. Horatio Bottomley still a "Radical" candidate for Parliament in one of the Metropolitan constituencies? We thought the *Daily News* had driven him from the field, but his name figures still in a recent list published by *Reynolds's Newspaper*. We ask because Mr. Bottomley is again to the fore with his Joint-Stock Trust, a remarkable product of Mr. Bottomley's unusual financial skill. The future of the Trust, it is announced, "is not to depend solely on mining business." But we have had the impression that its past depended not on "mining business," but on mine and other share financial legerdemain of a brilliant and sometimes almost unique character. And all the ore body was in pockets.

Every newspaper proprietor and working journalist ought to feel grateful to Sir Edward Russell, of the *Liverpool Post*, for the courage with which he withstood the attempt of the Tory justices of that city to in-

timidate him and fetter the Press. Feeling the sting of some perfectly reasonable and amply justified comments made by the paper on the proceedings of the Liverpool justices in dealing with public-house licences, the J.P.'s indicted Sir Edward for criminal libel, and would have sent him to jail if they could. Mr. Justice Bray seemed disposed to think this fair fighting, but the jury took a better view, and Sir Edward was found "Not guilty." Had the verdict been "Guilty," the blow given to the liberty of the Press to deal with public grievances and all matters relating to the conduct of public affairs would have been most damaging, if not fatal. Thanks, Sir Edward.

Russia continues in a woeful state. That much is evident, but at the same time there is much wild exaggeration in the stories of imminent default on the foreign debt, of mutinies, strikes, massacres, and "plots" against the Tsar. The very season of the year is against any universal uprising of the masses, but it may be true that the landowners in the Baltic provinces are getting killed or driven out of the country, that troops, even the brutal Cossacks, and peasants are here and there fraternising and that the absolutists are bent on throwing the Tsar back on coercion and autocracy. But along with these sinister events we have still to note the growing power of the Zemstvo Congress and to insist that this gives hope of a better future for the Empire. The very fact of a rumour getting afloat to the effect that this public-spirited body was about to proclaim a constitutional government, to depose the Tsar and elect one of the princes Dolgorouki as constitutional monarch, at least serves to indicate the extent of its influence. The Congress has probably no such intention, but at the same time we should not sell "bears" of Russian bonds on the strength of the coming chaos. Even local autonomy may not be so dangerous to the fund-holder as it looks.

The commercial correspondent of the *Times* in New York tells us that Mr. Thos. W. Lawson, of Boston, he of "Frenzied Finance" fame, "announces that his pool has lost \$1,200,000 on its operations in copper and \$2,400,000 on its 'bear' speculations in Amalgamated." Really! And how much has Mr. Lawson himself lost? Surely he was never such a fool as to play into the hands of his Standard Oil foes by gambling on the lines indicated by his published opinions. If he did, he cannot be the astute man we felt disposed to take him to be. Had we been in his shoes and to gambling inclined, we should have taken the line of helping the Standard Oilers on the quiet to hoist the market in order to work their destruction, taking care always to get out first.

The French Ministry comes well out of the Moroccan imbroglio in the correspondence just published as a "Yellow Book" and admirably summarised in yesterday's *Times*. Steadily and loyally the French cabinet refused to interfere in the Sultan's domestic quarrels and bore with much patience the provocations furnished by Moorish raids on the French Oran frontier. Equally loyal was the spirit shown in the negotiations for an agreement with England, and Germany had never any real ground for dissatisfaction with the terms of the compact ultimately arranged between the two Powers, or with the manner in which the negotiations had been carried on. No discourtesy or undue diplomatic reticence was exhibited towards Germany by M. Delcassé, the French foreign minister, and the outburst at Berlin must therefore be regarded as alike uncalled for and unfortunate. The Kaiser and his ministers were playing with fire and nearly succeeded in setting Europe in a blaze. A boyish and sometimes petulant irresponsibility appears to mark the Imperial handling of foreign affairs, for which the German people must not be held responsible. In the circumstances, if Lord Lansdowne did give France a hint that we would stand by her, should the worst happen, we cannot much blame him, for thereby he may have warned the Kaiser to keep the peace.

We must give a word of welcome to the *Rhodesia Review*, "an independent quarterly for settlers and shareholders," the December number of which has just

reached us. It is edited by Mr. Percy Lindley, and if it goes on as it has begun, it will be most useful to all interested in the real progress of that unhappy country. It has a future we know, but will never get a chance to grow while the blight of the Chartered Company lies over it. In spite of its admiration for the late Cecil Rhodes, the "Open Letter to Dr. Jameson," entitled "Shareholders' Losses and Rhodes' Forgotten Promise," is very good reading indeed, and there are other excellent articles in the number we have not now space to deal with.

What appears a reasonable proposal for the reorganisation of capital has just been issued by the directors of the Crystal Palace Company. At present the enterprise is burdened with some very heavy liabilities, and nothing short of a thorough reconstruction will enable the directors to deal with these and still provide some very necessary working capital. The first and second debentures will remain as at present, but holders of the trifling third debenture debt, to the amount of £8,428, will be asked to accept in exchange newly-created preference shares at the rate of £60 in shares for every £100 debentures. Altogether £75,000 new 7 per cent. preference shares are to be created, of which £50,000 will be issued, £45,000 for cash, and £5,000 or thereabouts to satisfy the third debenture holders. In this way fresh capital will be provided, and it will perhaps entail no hardship for the existing £105,000 of non-cumulative 5 per cent. preference shares and £95,000 5 per cent. preferred ordinary shares to be merged into a single issue of £85,000 7 per cent. preferred ordinary shares, entitled, in addition, to half of any surplus profits. One new preferred ordinary share will be given for every two old preferred shares, and one for every three existing preferred ordinary. From the present profits the dividend on the new preference shares could be provided, and on the electrification of the Brighton Railway suburban service and the completion of the tramway extension from Croydon to the Palace sufficient additional revenue might be forthcoming to provide a dividend on the new preferred ordinary.

Something like a crisis seems to have been reached in the affairs of the Mazawattee Tea Company. For fully a couple of years now the company's formerly excellent business has been drifting into a condition of disorder, and shareholders will remember that about a year ago the directors adopted the desperate expedient of altering the entire status of the company's enterprise by launching into the retail provision trade in the hope of arresting the backward march. That the venture was unwise and thoroughly ill-considered admits of no doubt at all, as we said when the details were first made public, and the sequel to this and other alleged ill-judged actions of the board was the calling of a requisition meeting for Tuesday last, at the instance of Messrs. J. L. Densham, A. Jackson, A. C. Oswald, G. D. Densham, and Edward Densham, the object being to hear a statement by Mr. John L. Densham concerning the "policy and incapacity shown by the managing directors," and to request them to resign. As might be expected, the proceedings were decidedly animated, and although Mr. R. A. McQuitty and Mr. J. H. McLean, whom it was sought to remove, entered into a vigorous defence of their actions, the opposition proved victorious, carrying a resolution for their removal from office. Subsequently Messrs. Oswald and Jackson were reinstated in their positions as managing directors, and Mr. J. L. Densham and Mr. Henry Rose were appointed to the board. So ends a nice little squabble; but although the men responsible have gone, the policy, which must, we fear, be fraught with such disastrous consequences to the company, cannot be so easily reversed, and it remains to be seen in what manner the new men will handle the very difficult position with which they are faced.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING.—Liabilities on November 30, amounted to £43,340,404 on simple contracts and £3,800,849 on acceptances, against which the assets were £9,263,197 in investments, £8,576,094 in bills of exchange, £17,708,571 in loans and advances to customers, £7,107,925 in cash at the Bank of England and on hand, and £3,425,615 in money at call and notice.

Critical Index To New Investments.

MUNICIPALITY OF KRUGERSDORP, TRANSVAAL COLONY, SOUTH AFRICA.

Applications were received this week by the National Bank of South Africa for £100,000 4 per cent. inscribed stock at the price of 96 per cent. The loan was approved by the Government of the Transvaal, and is specially authorised for work on roads and streets, electric lighting, water supply, market house, hospital, town hall and sundry other works, and will be repaid on December 1, 1930. Krugersdorp, which lies about 20 miles west of Johannesburg, is the official centre for the western portion of the goldfields, and a large number of gold mining properties are within its boundaries. The official valuation of immovable property liable to rates in August, 1904-5, was £1,296,120, while the principal assets of the Council consist of town lands, buildings, &c., valued at £187,637, and the gross revenue for the year ended June, 1905, was £40,298, to which will now be added the income from waterworks, electric lighting, use of town hall, sports ground, &c. For the present year the municipal rate is 1d. in the £, but the Council has the right to levy a maximum rate of 3d. in the £.

LIBERIAN RUBBER CORPORATION, LIMITED.

A concern calling itself the Monrovia Rubber Company, with an issued capital of £30,082, was the owner of a concession from the Liberian Government giving the exclusive right to collect from the public lands in, and the sole right to export rubber from, the Republic of Liberia. Further working capital being required to the extent of £50,000, a very roundabout way has been adopted for obtaining it, and the help of the Consolidated Rubber Syndicate—a little £10,000 affair—has been called in. The syndicate first acquired 15,000 £1 shares of the Monrovia Company for £20,000 and then bought the properties and assets for 150,000 in shares and the obligation to pay the costs of liquidation together with the trade liabilities. Then the syndicate proceeds to form the present company with a capital of £270,000 in £1 shares, to which it resells for £150,000 in shares, £42,500 in cash, £20,000 in cash or shares according to the reception accorded to the company by the public, and the payment of the trade liabilities. Of the 120,000 shares offered for subscription, 100,000 have been underwritten for a commission of 7½ per cent. by the promoting syndicate, and the payment of the last £20,000 of the purchase price depends upon whether the odd 20,000 are subscribed or not. Rubber is, of course, in such great demand at the present time that supplies are readily absorbed at a fair price, but fresh sources are continually being found, and new plantations are springing up so rapidly in various parts of the world that there is danger of the industry being overdone. Experts speak enthusiastically of Liberia as a rubber producing country, and the officials of this company are equally optimistic in their forecasts of profits to be earned; but, none the less, the figures given are, after all, estimates only and the capitalisation is likely to prove a serious handicap.

RUBBER ESTATES OF CEYLON, LIMITED.

This is a more modest proposition than that put forward by the Liberian venture, and with a capital of only £100,000 in £1 shares is going very cautiously to work. In May last it offered 16,000 shares and in July a further 16,000 were subscribed, while 10,000 were issued in part payment for two of the estates bought. The opportunity of purchasing two more properties at prices if anything under the value put upon them by the company's own expert having arisen another 40,000 shares have been issued, of which 10,000 were allotted as part of the purchase consideration, and 30,000 were offered at par. Some of the estates taken over have a proportion of their area planted with tea, cocoa or coconuts, and it is expected that the returns from

these should be sufficient to provide a small dividend during the development of the rubber which is now being planted, while a further source of income has been found in the plumbago on one of the estates which has just been leased on the basis of a royalty of Rs. 70 or about £4 14s. per ton. Of the £30,000 now raised £3,200 will be applied in repayment of money borrowed from the bank for the purchase of the Kalugalla estate, £12,000 is required for the cash portion of the £22,000 paid for the Debatgama group, £2,000 for transfer expenses and advances for labour and £9,600 for cost of planting 800 acres on the two estates with rubber, leaving £3,200 to provide for the underwriting commission of 5 per cent. paid on the issue and for contingencies. It is estimated that a rubber yield of 1 lb. per tree, or 200 lbs. per acre, selling at 3s. 6d. per lb. against a present selling price of over 6s. per lb., would mean a profit of £25 per acre, and as the directors state that they are aware of much larger profits now being earned on neighbouring estates they have certainly been modest in their calculations.

ARGYLL MOTORS, LIMITED.

The cars manufactured by this company seem to have caught the taste of the motoring public, and although it was only established in its present form as recently as March last, it has already been found necessary to increase the works. For this purpose an issue of £100,000 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock was offered for subscription at par, of which £5,000 will be used to pay off an existing heritable bond upon a part of the property, and £50,000 will be spent on additional works, machinery and plant, leaving £45,000 for further working capital. The stock is secured by a trust deed upon upwards of 52 acres of freehold land with factories and buildings at Alexandria, Dumbartonshire, and on factories and premises at Hozier Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow, valued at over £200,000; and is redeemable at 105 per cent. on December 31, 1926, but may be paid off at any time prior to that date at 107 per cent. on six months' notice. For the year ended September 30 the profits were £32,532, and the directors state that on the orders already booked, amounting to over £500,000, they estimate the profits for the current year at about £80,000. A sum of £7,000 per annum is to be provided for the service of the debenture stock for the payment of interest, and the formation of a fund for the redemption of the stock, so that the stock seems a very fair investment.

PALACES LIVERPOOL, LIMITED.

This company originally had a share capital of £50,000 in £1 shares, of which £31,661 were issued with £37,900 first mortgage debenture stock, and £14,000 second mortgage debenture stock as part consideration for three Liverpool music-halls, and the goodwill of two of them, and apparently 157 shares and £100 first mortgage debenture stock were subscribed for in cash. It was recently decided to increase the capital by an issue of 24,000 preferred ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 5,930 have been disposed of and 18,070 are offered for subscription to provide the balance of the funds necessary for the rebuilding of the Tivoli Palace and for the redemption of the second mortgage stock. The cost of the rebuilding is to be £12,000 towards which £5,000 now in the bank will be applied, £4,000 may be paid either in cash or by a 5 per cent. mortgage, ranking immediately after the first debenture stock, and £3,000 will be satisfied by an allotment of preferred shares. Profits at the Tivoli for the 15 months from January 1, 1897, to March 31, 1898, when the hall was closed, are certified to have been £3,484, and on the other two halls for the four years and seven months, from August 28, 1900, to March 25, 1905, £8,429, and on this basis an average annual profit of £4,626 is arrived at, but it is estimated that the new building alone will produce a profit of £11,596 per annum. This build-

ing will be so arranged that, in the event of the anticipated profits not being realised, it can be easily converted into shops, warehouses, and other business premises, which would let for a sum sufficient, with the takings at the other two establishments, to meet debenture interest, and pay a good dividend on the preferred ordinary shares. The shares none the less are far from attractive, as the properties, exclusive of goodwill, are only valued at £65,563.

GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS 3½ PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK.

Tenders are invited by the Crown Agents for the Colonies for £150,000 of the above stock at a minimum price of 97 per cent. to meet the cost of the Black River Railway extension, the cost of drainage and waterworks, and other railway and public works. The loan is secured on the general revenues and assets, ranking after a charge of £24,000 a year in respect of the guaranteed loan of £600,000, and is in addition to the existing public debt of £1,171,890. It is a trustee stock under the Colonial Act, and is redeemable at par on December 31, 1955, by a sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum, but may be paid off after December 31, 1930, on six months' notice.

LAND COMPANY OF CHIAPAS, MEXICO, LIMITED.

An area of 4,275,077 acres in the State of Chiapas held under colonisation concessions from the Mexican Government is acquired by this company from the Mexican Land and Colonisation Company for £200,000, payable as to £170,000 in cash and £30,000 in shares. Apparently the sale is due to the desire of the vendor company, which has not had a very successful career, to pay off some of its liabilities, as out of the cash portion of the purchase price £153,000 is to be handed over to Messrs. Greenwood and Co. in settlement of the claims of that firm and other secured creditors. The capital of the new undertaking is £350,000 in £1 shares, but only 220,000 shares are at present offered for subscription, out of which about £47,000 will be left for working capital, and this it is proposed to spend on such development as may be necessary to render the property available for realisation. Coffee is the principal product of the State, but tobacco and cocoa are also cultivated, and, most tempting bait of all at the present time, not only is rubber said to be indigenous to Chiapas, but its cultivation from seed has been commenced on a large scale. A railway now being constructed from the Pacific end of the Tehuantepec Railway to the Guatemalan frontier is expected to reach Tapachula, the headquarters of the company in Soconusco, by September next, and will bring the southern portion of the Chiapas lands into connection with the general railway system of the Republic. Under the concessions one colonist must be established for each 2,000 hectares or nearly 900 in all, and of these a certain number have already been settled. The venture may prove a success, Mr. Luis Camacho, financial agent of the Mexican Government in London seemingly believes it will as he is on the board, but time alone can tell, and at present the shares can only be looked upon as a speculation.

BRITISH, FOREIGN AND COLONIAL AUTOMATIC LIGHT CONTROLLING CO., LIMITED.

This huge mouthful of a title indicates that the company has purchased the patent rights of certain inventions for lighting and extinguishing all descriptions of gas lamps, and for improvements in apparatus for opening and closing electric circuits at a predetermined time. The vendor company was formed in 1898 for the purpose of proving the utility of the inventions, but does not seem to have done any important business for several years, as the accountants content themselves with giving particulars of the gross income for the two years and ten months to October 31 last. In 1903 the gross revenue from controllers and sundries sold and controllers hired or sold under hire

purchase agreements was only £618, in the following year it amounted to £2,119 and in the final ten months to £3,438, but it is explained that only during the last four months was there any practical organisation at work for extending the sales of the apparatus. By adding the annual value of hiring and hire purchases entered into in that period, and the value of orders in hand a gross income of £12,088 is brought out, and on this flimsy basis the vendors ask £50,000, including £2,000 for goodwill, payable as to £20,000 in cash or preference shares and as to £30,000 in ordinary shares. The total capital is £100,000 divided equally into ordinary shares and preference shares of £1 each entitled to a non-cumulative dividend of 6 per cent., and half of any surplus profits after the ordinary shares have received a like distribution, and the present issue consists of 35,000 preference shares. Numerous lighting authorities throughout the country, it is said, have adopted the controller, either by purchase or under contracts for hiring for times varying from one to five years, and in only one case was an annual contract discontinued on expiration. In spite of this testimony the venture is not very attractive, and as the vendors seemed inclined to rely upon Bristol for a response to their offer of shares, the issue may be left to that city without much regret.

Answers to Correspondents.

L. B. A.—The shares you mention seem as promising as any other in the Kafir group. No. 8 also looks fairly attractive at present low prices.

MITHRA.—(1) Seeing that the subsidiary has not yet been registered, and that its property has to be thoroughly developed, it is too early to pass an opinion upon ultimate prospects. However, you may as well take up the proportion to which you are entitled, if only on the strength of the parent company. The price of the share is about $\frac{1}{4}$ premium. (2) We know very little of this concern, as official information is too scanty. It is impossible to say whether the price of the share is likely to go up or not. Yes, the Earl is chairman.

H. B.—(1) This is a moderately good company, which has always paid fair, if not regular, dividends, and a small investment might do no harm. Neglect of reserves is the weak spot. (2) A company that has lately sprung into prominence, said to have good prospects, but at present prices the shares are not cheap. (3) These shares are going up, and are talked higher, but we deem them fully priced. They are being rigged too much to our liking. (4) This mine is as promising as any in the Kafir list, and has the advantage of having a much longer life than most. (5) One of the best businesses of the kind in the country, and as the assets are said to be worth much more than balance-sheet figures, you might risk a small sum. Yes, it will be quite possible for you to deposit the sum named to be used for queries as occasion arises.

Celt.—(1) There is no occasion to sell these shares. Although the business has not done so well of late years it is still very good, and the financial position, take it altogether, is strong. (2) Keep for the present. The company has encountered a good deal of misfortune, and may later on do better. (3) Without doubt a very good company, but the shares look a little dear now, and are hardly likely to rise much further.

R. S. M.—It would not be advisable to sell these shares as the business is a pretty good one, and position generally pretty sound.

T. C. W.—No particulars of the internal issue are published in our reference books, so that we cannot say if your broker is right in drawing the distinction between the two. The bonds, however, seem to be well secured, and the external issue is a fair semi-speculative investment.

E. H. W.—(1) No; the shares are too much the plaything of speculative cliques to be a desirable investment. (2) This should be a perfectly safe purchase at the present price. (3) We fear there is not much prospect of you ever seeing the whole of your money back, but there has recently been a slight recovery in the quotation, and you might hold on a little longer.

CAN. PAC.—Safe enough, no doubt, but dear.

R. H. (Chelsea).—(1) A very fair selection for such a high yield. (2) This is a miserable concern, which should be left alone. (3) The alternative you suggest is the better security, perhaps, but the difference is not great enough to make it worth your while to sell out at a loss in order to make the exchange.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.—Liabilities on November 29, consisted of £51,358,002 on simple contracts and £502,243 on notes or bills, against which were held cash in hand and at Bank of England £7,828,035, money at call and short notice £3,861,220, English Government and other securities £15,171,847 and bills of exchange, promissory notes and advances to customers £30,299,143.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and December 9, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Dec. 9, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Dec. 10, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	24,179,000	25,482,000
Excise	30,200,000	20,992,000	21,410,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	8,855,000	9,185,000
Stamps	8,000,000	5,537,000	4,993,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	430,000	560,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	6,253,000	6,555,000
Post Office	16,500,000	10,510,000	10,060,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	2,910,000	2,710,000
Crown Lands	470,000	340,000	370,000
Receipts from Suez Canal:			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	679,305	608,652
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	948,336	878,371
*Revenue	142,454,000	81,633,541	81,812,023
Total, including balances		89,063,819	86,075,865
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		380,000	350,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		550,000	820,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		1,675,000	1,419,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		945,408	1,400,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		115,000	98,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,475,000
By issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	5,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5) ..		5,250,000	20,900,000
Total		109,048,423	128,693,855
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	81,633,541	12,023
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,090	99,824	106,027
Excise	5,291,000	3,426,851	3,300,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	2,953,839	2,990,242
Total	9,756,000	6,480,514	6,306,942
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	88,114,055	88,118,965
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Dec. 9, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Dec. 10, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 18,504,865	£ 18,085,041
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,118,626	1,068,993
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	71,186,409	75,515,946
Expenditure	142,084,000	91,464,866	95,324,910
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		240,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		135,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		600,000	450,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		2,483,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,000	109,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		356,433	20,000
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	5,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		—	10,150,000
		106,350,299	123,654,410
Balances in Exchequer:—	1905. Dec. 9.	1904. Dec. 10.	
Bank of England	£ 2,016,754	£ 4,352,868	
Bank of Ireland	681,370	686,577	
	2,698,124	5,039,445	
Total	109,048,423	128,693,855	

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended December 7, \$4,413, increase \$692.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 10, \$19,889, increase \$19,889; aggregate from January 1, \$808,497, increase \$169,089.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 11, Rs. 81,481, increase Rs. 18,448; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 13,42,102, increase Rs. 1,79,845.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 7, \$97,700, increase \$11,800; total from July 1, \$2,353,100, increase \$553,100.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 11, Rs. 28,601, increase Rs. 10,689; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 4,84,662, increase Rs. 43,035.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 18, £661, increase £185.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 1st week of December, \$9,899, decrease \$933; aggregate from January 1, \$745,512, increase \$4,687.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 11, Rs. 10,321, decrease Rs. 1,802; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,49,049, increase Rs. 32,993.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended November 30 amounted to \$4,575.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending December 9, £1,298, increase £103; aggregate from July 1, £27,563, decrease £70.

Cookermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending December 9, £719, increase £131; aggregate from July 1, £21,010, decrease £819.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for September, £4,376 decrease £335.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 9, £392, decrease £41; aggregate from July 1, £8,030, decrease £372.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 8, £1,339, increase £348; aggregate from July 1, £31,710, increase £10,977.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 10, £6; aggregate from July 1, £511, increase £14.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 8, £4,705, decrease £171.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending December 8, £28,095, increase £6,102; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,323,827, increase £143,379; 441½ miles, against 425½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 9, £1,087, increase £144; aggregate from July 2, £25,698, increase £1,364.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 10, £89, decrease £4; aggregate from July 1, £3,359, decrease £74.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 8, £87, decrease £13; aggregate from July 1, £2,885, decrease £39.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 8, £4,770, increase £254; aggregate from July 1, £116,824, decrease £384.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 9, £4,595, increase £574; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £237,546, increase £17,904.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 8, £200, decrease £22; aggregate from July 1, £5,755, decrease £409.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 7, £330.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 9, £229, increase £28; aggregate from October 1, £2,839, decrease £582.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, £13,354, increase £1,478; aggregate from April 1, £523,199, increase £70,511. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 9, £21,608, increase £582; aggregate from July 2, £530,829, decrease £10,408.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 9, £7,577, increase £655; aggregate from July 1, £178,867, increase £2,516.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 8, £184, increase £7; aggregate from July 1, £4,597, increase £231.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 10, £826, increase £350.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 9 £15,724, increase £958; aggregate from January 1, £660,892 increase £40,426.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114; decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of November, £10,748, increase £226.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to October 31, \$393,936, increase \$101,487. Net earnings from July 1 to October 31, \$184,298, increase \$73,276.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 10, £3,405, increase £19; aggregate from January 1, £170,127, increase £9,356.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 11, £1,482.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month November, \$277,300.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 9, Rs. 45,636, increase Rs. 2,536; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 9,90,804, increase Rs. 1,22,084.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, £3,383, increase £146. Total to October 31, £41,146, increase £6,276.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of October, \$420,981, increase \$52,924; aggregate from January 1, \$3,903,668, increase \$327,440. Net traffic receipts, \$228,043, increase \$30,229; aggregate from January 1, \$2,132,581, increase \$236,759.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Dec. 10	£ 2,262	—	96	£ 47,892	—	2,444
Cambrian	" 10	5,024	—	405	166,580	—	7,420
Central London ..	" 9	7,166	—	67	145,289	—	894
City and South London ..	" 10	3,295	—	17	60,110	—	283
Furness	" 10	9,536	+	1,527	244,798	+	25,145
G. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 10	67,026	+	3,746	1,655,877	+	112,166
Great Eastern ..	" 10	101,300	+	2,500	2,593,000	—	18,300
Great Northern and City ..	" 9	1,801	—	198	35,944	—	7,864
Great Northern ..	" 11	107,500	+	245	2,713,088	+	33,031
Great Western ..	" 10	213,800	+	3,700	5,681,500	+	96,800
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 10	9,592	+	803	225,268	+	2,437
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 10	100,485	+	3,559	2,644,850	+	75,190
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 9	53,253	+	1,546	1,541,756	—	720
London & North Western ..	" 10	203,000	+	14,000	6,750,000	+	160,000
London & South Western ..	" 10	79,600	+	1,600	2,220,600	+	17,000
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 10	7,872	+	61	242,118	+	1,759
Metropolitan ..	" 10	17,941	+	254	395,673	+	2,092
Metropolitan District ..	" 10	8,078	+	502	162,461	+	3,417
Midland	" 9	213,538	+	9,689	5,297,639	+	104,450
North Eastern ..	" 9	172,231	+	8,742	4,291,307	+	62,000
North London ..	" 10	9,044	—	63	204,516	—	5,079
North Staffordshire ..	" 10	18,740	+	1,182	412,525	+	12,675
Rhymney	" 10	5,811	—	194	130,331	—	2,140
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 9	76,728	+	2,178	2,261,091	+	26,791
Taff Vale	" 10	17,285	—	466	416,089	—	9,474

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Dec. 10	80,781	+	5,450	19	1,666,057	+	32,800
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 11	29,826	+	1,012	19	681,906	+	2,755
Great North of Scotland ..	" 9	8,749	+	756	19	188,604	—	609
Highland	" 10	7,612	+	161	19	208,535	+	619
North British	" 10	84,745	+	3,626	19	1,782,531	+	10,165

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Dec. 8	2,301	—	69	23	74,872	+	2,431
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 8	1,524	—	264	23	42,468	—	279
Great Northern	" 8	16,312	+	348	23	467,202	—	2,171
Midland Great Western ..	" 8	11,527	+	785	23	265,609	—	7,411

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Dec. 11	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Dec. 11	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
4	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	May Consolidated	3 1/2	3 1/2
5	Anglo-French Ex.	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
5	Apex	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Modderfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
5	Aurora West	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Do. B.	4 1/2	4 1/2
4	Bantjes	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	New Goch	3 1/2	3 1/2
4	Block B.	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	New Primrose	3 1/2	3 1/2
4	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Nigel	3 1/2	3 1/2
2	Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
6	Cons. Goldfields	6 1/2	6 1/2	5 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	5 1/2	5 1/2
1	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
21	Crown Reef	21 1/2	21 1/2	17 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	17 1/2	17 1/2
3	Driefontein	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	East Rand	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	East Rand Extension	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Rodepoort United	2 1/2	2 1/2
1	Ferreira	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Salsbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sheba (New)	1 1/2	1 1/2
4	Geduld	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
4	Goldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
4	Ginsburg	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Steyn Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2
4	Glencairn	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Transvaal Development	3 1/2	3 1/2
4	Harmony Proprietary	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	3 1/2	3 1/2
4	Henderson's Transvaal	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Treasury	3 1/2	3 1/2
4	Henry Nourse	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
3	Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Vereniging Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	Johannesburg Con. In.	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	Jubilee	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Welgedacht	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	Jumpers	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Wemmer	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	Kleinfontein	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	West Rand Consols	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Woluter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	Lancaster	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2
3	Langlaagte Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Nourse Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Village Main Reef	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2

RHODESIANS.

7	Bechuanaland Ex.	7 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia, Ltd. (5 pd.)	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Selukwe	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witloughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

3 1/2	De Beers Deferred	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Koffyfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Do. Preferred	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Lace Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Premier Diamond Def. 13	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Do. Preferred	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Do. do. Pref. 9	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Kamiersdam	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbotiakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	5/6	Gold Coast Agency, new	5/6	5/6
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2	Do. Amalgamated	2	2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	2/9	Gold Coast (Wassau)	2/9	2/9
3 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	1/1	Deep	1/1	1/1
3 1/2	Do. Goldfields	3 1/2	3 1/2	1/1	Goldfields East'n Akim	1/1	1/1
3 1/2	Ashanti Sansu	3 1/2	3 1/2	1/1	Himan Concessions	1/1	1/1
3 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	1/1	Obbussai Syndicate	1/1	1/1
3 1/2	British Gold Coast	3 1/2	3 1/2	1/1	Frestea	1/1	1/1
3 1/2	Broomassie	3 1/2	3 1/2	1/1	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1/1	1/1
3 1/2	Eluenta (Wassau)	3 1/2	3 1/2	1/1	Taqaash and Abosso	1/1	1/1
3 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	3 1/2	3 1/2	1/1	Wassau	1/1	1/1
3 1/2		3 1/2	3 1/2	1/1	W. A. Gold Trust	1/1	1/1

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	8/1	Ida H.	8/1	8/1
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	4	Ivanhoe South	4	4
1 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgarli	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brownhill Extended	1 1/2	1 1/2	9/6	Lancefield	9/6	9/6
1 1/2	Chafers	1 1/2	1 1/2	1/9	London & W.A. Exploration	1/9	1/9
1 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	1 1/2	1 1/2	6/3	Mount Boppy	6/3	6/3
1 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/3	North Kalgarli	2 1/3	2 1/3
1 1/2	Golden Links	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/3	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/3	2 1/3
1 1/2	Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	1/3	Peak Hill	1/3	1/3
1 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgarli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Great Fingall	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	W.A. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	2/6	W'strlia Mt. Morgans	2/6	2/6
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2	1/6	White Feth'r M'n Rf.	1/6	1/6
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2	4/1			

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Balaghat, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Mount Lyell	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Mysore Goldfields	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	9/9	Do. West, 19/-	9/9	9/9
1 1/2	Champion Reef, 10s.	1 1/2	1 1/2	9/9	Do. Wynaad, 19/-	9/9	9/9
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Copiapu, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	N'dydroog, 10/- shares	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Esperanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oo. egum	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Do Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	9/3	St. John del Rey	9/3	9/3
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Tharsis	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Waiki	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Linares, £3	1 1/2	1 1/2	5	Ymir	5	5

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	
Alcoy and Gandia	Dec. 9	Ps. 15,000	- Ps. 500	Ps. 687,100	+ Ps. 13,900	
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Oct. 8	\$1,200,000	+ \$296,000	\$9,695,000	+ \$218,000	
Argentine Gt. Western	Dec. 8	11,972	+ 2,979	286,353	+ 45,456	
Algebras (Gibraltar)	2	Ps. 29,307	- Ps. 872	Ps. 710,917	- Ps. 90,700	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	9	29,687	+ 8,197	612,823	+ 174,581	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	9	71,076	+ 10,541	3,768,611	+ 200,022	
Buenos Ayres G. Schn.	10	78,951	+ 18,543	1,528,803	+ 268,336	
Do. Western	10	36,884	+ 8,017	702,821	+ 132,795	
Do. Ensenada	10	540	+ 205	7,581	+ 169	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	9	11,100	+ 132	175,289	+ 2,067	
Do. Eastern Ex.	9	2,750	+ 84	36,438	+ 4,435	
Do. Northern Ex.	9	1,471	+ 106	24,530	+ 5,435	
Do. Western Ex.	9	2,186	+ 830	26,671	+ 5,572	
Cordoba Central	10	2,795	+ 135	141,035	+ 135	
Do. Northern Ex.	10	7,685	+ 1,920	326,975	+ 30,100	
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	10	1,485	+ 435	94,170	+ 13,405	
Cordoba and Rosario	10	3,975	+ 635	102,530	+ 4,435	
Costa Rica	9	4,012	+ 1,134	89,305	+ 775	
Cuban Central	9	4,182	+ 553	109,947	+ 23,474	
Gt. West. of Brazil	9	14,311	+ 4,833	416,715	+ 168,487	
Entre Rios	9	3,297	+ 576	69,535	+ 15,363	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	7	\$108,200	+ \$300	\$2,566,700	+ \$24,000	
Leopoldina	9	22,822	+ 8,691	1,058,694	+ 316,902	
Mexican	Oct. 9	\$530,000	+ \$5,000	\$2,037,500	+ \$138,000	
Mexican	Dec. 9	\$129,500	+ \$19,400	\$2,737,500	+ \$133,700	
Do. Southern	Nov. 21	\$20,664	+ \$923	\$1,070,486	+ \$20,729	
Do. Central	Oct. 9	\$2,436,318	+ \$178,084	\$9,058,975	+ \$812,509	
Do. Do.	9	\$821,989	+ \$69,687	\$2,824,927	+ \$410,794	
Manila	Dec. 9	\$26,484	+ \$628	\$1,639,968	+ \$261,107	
Nitrate	Nov. 15	23,775	+ 3,930	477,992	+ 95,990	
Ottoman	Dec. 9	6,677	+ 1,864	187,792	+ 10,891	
Peruvian Corporation	Nov. 9	\$616,350	+ \$37,050	\$3,064,325	+ \$371,625	
San Paulo	Dec. 3	34,691	+ 6,024	807,982	+ 132,440	
Salvador	9	\$22,500	+ \$3,500	\$310,426	+ \$3,456	
United of Havana	9	7,994	+ 343	195,205	+ 31,087	
Villa Maria & Rufino	9	1,318	+ 386	54,916	+ 7,549	
Western of Havana	9	3,305	+ 220	102,442	+ 4,37	

* Month ended.

† Fortnight ended.

‡ Nett.

§ From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
NAME	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. 1904.		
Bengal Nagpur.	Nov. 18	Rs. 4,29,377	+ Rs. 1,00,245	R. 76,79,006	+ R. 14,69,602		
Bengal & N.-W.	11	Rs. 2,73,170	+ R. 73,476	Rs. 37,12,926	+ R. 1,31,563		
Bombay & Baroda	Dec. 9	Rs. 3,72,000	+ R. 15,000	R. 70,27,000	+ R. 2,45,000		
Do. State Lines	9	Rs. 5,67,000	+ R. 100	R. 1,13,15,090	+ R. 14,04,000		
Burma	Nov. 11	Rs. 2,67,322	+ Rs. 19,264	R. 48,62,977	+ R. 10,091		
Delhi Umballa	Dec. 9	Rs. 36,000	+ Rs. 2,044	Rs. 8,73,647	+ Rs. 28,947		
East Indian	19	Rs. 14,92,000	+ R. 1,48,000	R. 3,24,95,000	+ R. 5,77,000		
G. Indian Penin.	9	Rs. 10,34,500	+ R. 19,259	R. 1,73,47,847	+ R. 3,27,050		
Indian Midland	11	Rs. 2,44,000	+ R. 44,208	R. 40,93,460	+ R. 2,33,227		
Madras	9	Rs. 25,117	+ R. 2,700	Rs. 54,042	+ R. 169		
South Indian.	Nov. 11	Rs. 3,57,918	+ Rs. 49,111	Rs. 46,59,407	+ R. 13,15,515		
South Behar	18	Rs. 9,654	+ Rs. 57	Rs. 2,10,330	+ Rs. 12,504		
S'th'n. Mahratta	18	Rs. 2,42,132	+ Rs. 76,777	Rs. 39,77,062	+ R. 93,592		
Southern Punjab	Dec. 2	Rs. 51,850	+ Rs. 3,766	Rs. 11,83,275	+ R. 1,41,706		

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

1.—INCREASED RESERVES.

2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS NEARLY **£6,000,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

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Edinburgh: 39, St. Andrew Square.

London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over **£1,000,000.**

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

NON-CONTENTIOUS POLICY CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

NOTICE.—Owing to Christmas Day THE INVESTORS
REVIEW will be published on Friday morning, December
22nd and the office will be closed from Friday evening
until the following Wednesday morning.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Beyond what has been said in another column there is little more to write about the Money market. It felt to-day the effect of yesterday's action by the Bank of England, and was in some places so pinched for means that a fairly large business was done at the Bank in loans at 5 per cent. and in discount at 4 per cent. In the open market call money ranged between 3 and 4½ per cent., but bill brokers said they got their week to week loans at 3½ per cent. and sometimes at 3¼ per cent. Under pressure of dear money and the low foreign exchanges discount rates were quoted firm, most leading houses striving for 4 per cent. and few of them working under 3¾ per cent. on three months' remitted bills. Holders offered bills at 3¼ per cent. and could not always do business. The French exchange was a little firmer at 25.11½ and there is talk of the Argentine Government money borrowed in Paris coming over here, an operation which might have a temporary soothing effect upon our market's nerves at the new year unless it goes back in payment for funding bonds held in France. The amount at first talked of was £4,500,000, but it can hardly be that.

The bullion situation remains as before and the price of bars in the open market has risen to 77s. 10½d. per oz., or ¼d. more than the figure at which the supply to hand last Monday was disposed of, chiefly to German buyers. The competition promises to be as keen for

the £400,000 due in next Monday, and it is entirely within the bounds of probability that further drafts upon the Bank of England stock will be made, if not for the Contipent, at any rate for South America.

SILVER.

Supplies have been very hard to come by, more especially for prompt delivery, and the market has consequently been firm throughout most of the week. There was a slight relapse on Wednesday, as "bears" seemed to have finished their covering operations for the time being, and Indian support was also withdrawn, but buying was resumed on Thursday, and the loss was more than wiped out, the cash price closing hard at 30½d. per oz. forward metal being steady at 29½d. per oz. A keen demand for money sprang up in Bombay, and in addition to Rs. 17,00,000 specially allotted in telegraphic transfers on Tuesday applications for the usual Rs. 80,00,000 of Council drafts amounted to Rs. 4,66,50,000 in transfers and Rs. 3,21,00,000 in bills. Of these Rs. 19,45,000 were allotted in bills and Rs. 60,55,000 in transfers, tenders at 1s. 4½d. and 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee receiving about 12 per cent., and further special sales of Rs. 12,40,000 in transfers at 1s. 4 5-32d. have since been made. Next Wednesday the amount to be offered is increased to Rs. 1,00,00,000.

JAPANESE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS.

It seems that the forecast about Japanese financial requirements recently noticed in these columns was really official and the best friends of Japan may well extend their sympathy alike to Government and people, for the war has obviously entailed a most crushing burden upon the country, as will be seen from the following estimates:—The normal expenditures, apart from the war, are put at £23,000,000, to be met by normal revenues. As for the war, including debt charges, annuities, pensions, maintenance of garrisons in Manchuria and Korea, &c., they are estimated at £80,000,000, to be met by revenue drawn from extraordinary or war taxes and other resources consisting of the proceeds of loans already issued, the sale of booties and other disused articles, plus another loan of an aggregate amount estimated at £43,000,000. The whole of that loan, however, is to be issued internally. £20,000,000 to begin with apparently to replace other debt including Exchequer bonds falling due, and the remainder as to £15,000,000 to be delivered in bonds as grants in recognition of war services, and as to £8,000,000 to be emitted gradually and taken up by the Government Savings Deposit Bureau. These estimates are exclusive of the reimbursement by Russia of the expenses for the maintenance of prisoners of war, the total of which is not yet ascertained. Whatever it is it will be utilised as a set-off against the new debt here specified. In order to meet the charges for principal and interest of the loans already issued or to be hereafter issued in connection with the war, £11,000,000 per annum will be set aside from revenue so as to repay the whole of the war debts in about 30 years. Further, another £3,600,000 per annum is to be applied to meet the interest and redeem the principal of the loans existing before the war. The entire annual Budget will therefore foot up at £37,600,000. A special office is to be created to manage the debt, and the Government adds that with strictest economy it is determined to carry out the scheme thus outlined, although the figures may be subject to some alteration in detail. We wish it success, but trust these figures are a maximum.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, December 13, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£	Government Debt	£
..	49,399,395	..	11,015,500
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	30,949,395
		Silver Bullion	..
	£49,399,395		£49,399,395

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	17,238,989
Rest ..	3,232,030	Other Securities ..	33,678,978
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	20,596,120
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,601,020
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	6,377,335		
Other Deposits ..	48,866,406		
Seven Day and other Bills	86,336		

£73,115,107

£73,115,107

Dated December 14, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE Chief C hier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Dec. 14.		Dec. 6, 1905.	Dec. 13, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,181,135	Rest ..	3,221,762	3,232,030	10,268	—
7,925,715	Pub. Deposits ..	11,369,973	6,377,335	—	4,992,638
40,453,192	Other do. ..	45,238,632	45,866,406	3,627,774	—
113,450	7 Day Bills ..	95,096	86,336	—	8,760
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,609,872	Gov. Securities	17,038,989	17,238,989	—	200,000
28,613,258	Other do. ..	34,270,281	33,678,978	591,303	—
22,003,362	Total Reserve ..	23,169,193	22,197,140	972,053	—
				5,201,398	5,201,398
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,674,700	Coin and Bullion	28,791,500	28,803,275	11,775	—
31,228,062	Proportion ..	33,510,693	32,550,415	—	960,278
45 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	40 p.c.	40 p.c.	—	4 p.c.
3 "		4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £610,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
Week ending				
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,726,000	27,856,000	—
" 18	270,692,000	226,552,000	44,140,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,631,000	15,589,000	—
Nov. 1	270,695,000	250,973,000	19,722,000	—
" 8	216,916,000	195,045,000	21,871,000	—
" 15	260,846,000	241,533,000	19,313,000	—
" 22	222,090,000	176,593,000	45,497,000	—
" 29	217,274,000	253,726,000	—	36,452,000
Dec. 6	315,761,000	216,663,000	99,098,000	—
" 13	201,126,000	182,495,000	18,631,000	—
	11,790,770,000	10,040,349,000	1,750,421,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	—	Jan. 2 †	—
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
25,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Tuesday, Bars ..	£5,000	Thursday, S. America ..	£350,000
		" " Continent ..	£100,000
Nett Efflux ..	£445,000		
Total ..	£450,000	Total ..	£450,000

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	3
Berlin ..	6	December 11, 1905	5 1/2
Hamburg ..	6	December 11, 1905	5 1/2
Frankfurt ..	6	December 11, 1905	5 1/2
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	2 1/2
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3 1/2
Vienna ..	4 1/2	October, 1905	4 1/2
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	5
St. Petersburg ..	5 1/2	February, 1904	7 1/2
Madrid ..	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4
Lisbon ..	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5
Stockholm ..	5 1/2	December, 1905	4 1/2
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4 1/2
Calcutta ..	7	December 14, 1905	—
Bombay ..	7	December 14, 1905	—
New York call money ..	10	—	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs.	25 1/2	25 11 1/2	Antwerp ..	short	25 2 1/2	25 19 1/2
Brussels ..	chqs.	25 2 1/2	25 19 1/2	Italy ..	sight	25 10	25 07 1/2
Amsterdam ..	sight	12 1/2	12 09 1/2	Constantinople	3 mths	110 05	110 05
Berlin ..	chqs.	20 40 1/2	20 37 1/2	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	163 1/2	163 1/2
Do.	3 mths	20 22 1/2	20 20 1/2	Valparaiso ..	90 dys	141 1/2	141 1/2
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20 30	20 36	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1 4 1/2	1 4 1/2
Frankfurt ..	short	20 39 1/2	20 35	Bombay ..	T.T.	1 4 1/2	1 4 1/2
Vienna ..	sight	24 03	24 00 1/2	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2 10 1/2	2 10 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93 70	93 70	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2 10 1/2	2 10 1/2
New York ..	60 dys	4 82	4 82 1/2	Singapore ..	T.T.	2 1/2	2 1/2
Lisbon ..	sight	50 1/2	50 1/2	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2 0 1/2	2 0 1/2
Madrid ..	sight	32 05	31 90				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Dec. 9.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	in reduction of debt
under Cunard Agreement	Cunard Agreement
Act	Deficiency Advances re-
Ways and Means	paid
Deficiency	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	repaid
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	Increase in Exchequer
Transvaal and Orange River	balances
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£12,529,229	£12,529,229

* Exclusive of £211,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £6,480,514.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1905.	Dec. 8, 1904.
Coin and bullion ..	£4,938,840	£4,815,120	£4,847,880	£4,900,480
Other securities ..	22,396,920	24,494,920	33,509,760	22,536,320
Note circulation ..	27,024,920	28,485,640	27,193,640	25,952,320
Deposits ..	3,468,560	2,936,200	3,036,240	3,370,200

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£41,369,550	£42,147,750	£43,763,050	£49,980,550
Bills discounted ..	46,743,500	49,669,400	47,438,550	38,074,450
Advances on stocks ..	2,675,550	3,211,450	2,517,200	2,527,750
Note circulation ..	64,838,650	66,505,100	64,727,600	63,942,320
Public deposits ..	26,230,400	27,774,000	27,661,150	26,203,000

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 23, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1904.
Gold Reserve ..	£44,937,958	£44,901,208	£45,467,166	£48,622,541
Silver Reserve ..	12,018,583	12,080,708	12,039,208	12,114,875
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,989,291	1,980,333	1,897,541	1,917,041
Note circulation ..	70,503,666	72,179,416	70,805,000	68,185,166
Bills discounted ..	22,546,708	23,349,375	22,056,083	17,852,291

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Dec. 9, 1905.	Dec. 2, 1905	Nov. 25, 1905	Dec. 10, 1904
Gold	£ 15,011,990	£ 15,002,779	£ 14,996,324	£ 14,883,082
Silver	22,746,928	22,866,815	22,768,864	19,848,216
Foreign Bills ..	3,381,629	3,297,147	2,994,906	1,729,133
Discount and Short Bills	45,887,648	45,766,088	45,740,743	45,414,224
Treasury Account ..	20,857,691	20,855,030	20,858,111	21,847,323
Notes in circulation ..	61,841,939	61,901,148	62,211,679	64,037,516
Current Account deposits	22,225,193	22,066,123	22,663,736	24,000,814
Dividends Interests ..	2,662,150	2,988,755	2,809,805	2,585,994
Government Securities	6,797,997	6,424,555	5,479,941	6,801,082

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 14, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Dec. 15, 1904.
Gold in hand ..	£ 115,401,280	£ 115,554,520	£ 115,651,560	£ 106,601,280
Silver in hand ..	43,514,960	43,509,160	43,650,080	44,242,760
Bills discounted ..	33,529,120	31,731,360	40,481,760	23,388,320
Advances	19,783,400	19,699,640	19,161,360	19,888,280
Note circulation ..	179,619,560	180,652,240	185,061,800	171,806,720
Public deposits ..	14,940,600	14,380,480	16,708,960	9,291,880
Private deposits ..	23,607,200	22,411,720	22,799,360	19,700,280

Proportion between bullion and circulation 87½ per cent. against 88 per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Nov. 10, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 20, 1905.	Nov. 10, 1904.
Reserve	£ 29,193,520	£ 28,902,240	£ 28,310,680	£ 25,282,640
State notes and small changed	468,240	486,920	518,600	516,240
Discount and loans ..	14,649,960	13,537,840	14,177,480	11,703,360
Public stock and State loans..	8,293,320	8,309,960	8,395,360	8,385,960
Credits	6,886,880	7,423,400	6,620,720	7,039,760
Note Circulation ..	40,432,440	41,058,760	40,306,440	36,458,800
Current account ..	2,407,440	2,633,040	2,660,640	3,825,280
Deposits	14,940,600	14,380,480	16,708,960	9,291,880

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Dec. 9, 1905	Dec. 2, 1905	Nov. 25, 1905	Dec. 10, 1904.
Specie	£ 34,706,000	£ 35,968,000	£ 36,894,000	£ 42,394,000
Legal tenders	14,657,200	14,903,000	14,897,000	15,382,000
Loans and discounts ..	203,280,000	204,780,000	202,460,000	216,420,000
Circulation	10,653,800	10,813,400	10,920,600	8,506,800
Net deposits	198,448,000	201,440,000	199,836,000	223,600,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £248,800 against an excess last week of £511,000.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 7.	Dec. 12.	Dec. 14.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½
Hamburg	3 months	20'70	20'69	20'68	20'68
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'70	20'69	20'68	20'68
Paris	cheques	25'12½	25'12½	25'12½	25'11½
Do.	3 months	25'36½	25'35	25'35	25'35
Marseilles	3 months	25'36½	25'35	25'35	25'35
Switzerland	3 months	25'50	25'50	25'48½	25'48½
Austria	3 months	24'34	24'34	24'34	24'34
St. Petersburg	3 months	24'½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'46½	25'46½	25'47½	25'47½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	36½	36½	36½	36½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Christiania	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'41
Stockholm	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'41

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-4
Three months	3½-4
Four months	3½-4
Six months	3½-4
Three months fine inland bills	4-4½
Four months	4-4½
Six months	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
short loan rates	5
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
7 and 14 days' notice ..	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½-3¾
for call loans	3-4½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Our stock markets continue wonderfully serene all things considered. Members base their confidence upon the belief that the speculative positions here are sound. "We have no unwieldy speculation open in London," they always say, and the inference is that no matter what may occur on other markets we shall get through the crisis unscathed. We should rejoice to think this

probable, but it is impossible not to have doubts when we get glimpses of the extent to which the "pyramided" accounts created by other markets are now sustained by the help of our banking credit. Most striking amongst these foreign accounts is that in American Railroad shares, and we have made several efforts to try to find out its magnitude. There is no means of doing so because, as has often been explained, speculative accounts are not now carried inside the Stock Exchange to anything like the extent formerly prevalent, but we can see from the contango rates charged upon such portion of the Yankee Railroad and other gambling accounts for the rise as do find their way inside the Exchange that the commitments of British banking in that one direction alone must be wholly beyond any previous experience. And it is therefore certain that were the towering structure reared by the American gamblers to collapse, our banking credit must be seriously compromised. But will American speculation collapse? Is it not the case that the harvests have been magnificent in most parts of the Union, that prices for raw produce exported are good and likely to be maintained both in cotton and in cereals, let alone copper which is a profound mystery? Is it not also the case that the disorganisation of Russia will give American farmers a better European market for their cereals than they have had for years past, and is it not reasonable to infer that the money thus rolling in from the sale of raw produce exported will do much to sustain the present Wall Street speculation in stocks and shares? Doubtless this is a strong probability in favour of a continuance of the present demented looking gamble for the rise.

Against this, however, we have to set the important fact that neither in the United States nor here is the general public joining to any appreciable extent in the play. It is all what is called "professional" play, and the object of the professionals always is to fleece the unfortunate outsider who ventures into the arena. They do not stop there, so far as we in London are concerned, for they fleece our jobbers with a ruthlessness that is driving more and more of them to give the Yankee market a wide berth. Now if the public continues to abstain from joining in the play, its natural conclusion must be the exhaustion of the professional gamblers. They are eating each other up, and one of these days a group with its banks and trusts will come crashing down, perhaps involving the whole market temporarily in ruin. Consequently the danger to our market is by no means slight, and the more we see prices for Railroad shares, Copper mine shares, and Steel Trust shares bounding upwards the more do we dread coming events.

But we are also carrying a considerable mass of German speculation, and the rise in the Reichsbank rate to 6 per cent. is a proclamation of the fact that German money markets have more than enough to do to maintain a semblance of unbroken strength. The commitments of German credit companies in Russian finance alone must be far greater than is convenient to them, in view of their already too extensive involvements in domestic and alien industrial enterprises. It is said that some of the Berlin banking houses have had to renew £15,000,000 worth of short term Russian Treasury bonds, and something of the kind is probable enough, because Russia cannot find any of the money to liquidate them with. Russia as a debtor is master of her creditors who, whether in Germany or France, must pay, renew or perish. Accordingly no small portion of the speculative account originating on German bourses in Russian, American and other international securities is said to have been transferred to London, with the result that the Germans are pulling upon our cash reserves and utilising our banking credit to an extent so unusual as to be fraught with danger.

France gives us other causes for anxiety. The rich French market does not require to come here and borrow our banking credit, but the dead calm that has come over the French bourse and the deadlock in Russian securities that has overtaken the French banks

are compelling these banks to draw away the capital usually employed by them on our market. It is because of this withdrawal that the French exchange is now down at gold point against London, that there is such strenuous competition for the supplies of raw gold in the open market and that the Bank of England stands in danger of being compelled to submit to a sensible depletion of its already utterly inadequate metallic reserve. No wonder our stock markets are nearly devoid of business, that speculation in them has withered up and that investment business is spasmodic and hesitating. Until it is seen that we are going to escape the dangers here summarily indicated—or to put it another way, until the present competition among foreign nations for gold in London has abated and given place to an ease that permits the Bank to begin again to accumulate the metal—we stand in danger of further complications both in our banking credit and stock markets. And the Kaffir Circus? Bah, let it alone.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The Stock Exchange has already begun to wear a holiday aspect, and business in most departments has shrunk to very small proportions. The rise in the Berlin bank rate to 6 per cent., although generally expected, helped to create a rather dull tendency at the start, and with the weather throughout the week not of the kind to promote cheerful feelings, markets never became really bright. Here and there a vigorous effort was made to drive prices up, Central American bonds in particular receiving attention from the Continent; but when the Bank of England took steps to absorb some of the credit with which the money market had become flooded in order to prevent a continuance of the dangerously low rates, prices were disposed to fall away all round, the Yankee market alone excepted.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	80½xd	89½
91½	87½	Do. Account (Jan. 4)	80½xd	86½
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905	88½	88½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907	100	100½
95½	89	Irish Land (2½)	91½xd	90½
101½	96½	Local Loans (3)	99½xd	99
90½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.)	98½xd	99½
90½	98	Do. Account (Jan. 4)	98½xd	98½
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	99½	99
308	297	Bk. of England Stock (6 p.c.)	295½	294½
109	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1931	105xd	104½
99½	95	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948	97xd	96½
85½	80½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926	81xd	80½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper	66	66

There the manipulation proceeds as merrily as ever, and people are beginning to wonder to what heights quotations will be lifted before the crack comes. Owing to the plentiful supply of credit when fortnightly Stock Exchange loans were arranged, bankers did not succeed in getting more than 4½ per cent. as a rule, and although 4½ per cent. was occasionally paid, some money was obtained as low as 4 per cent. Everything was carried through with the usual ease. The new account now entered upon it not likely to be very busy unless something unforeseen happens; but the intervention of the Christmas holidays will cause its adjustment to extend over eight days, mining contango day being Friday, December 22, and pay day December 29. Consols did not attract very much business, and closed lower, being followed down by other British Funds, such as annuities, Irish Land stock, War Loan, Exchequer bonds, Transvaal Three per Cent., India sterling issues, and Bank of Ireland stock. Home County and Corporation loans were sometimes rather better, but L.C.C. issues were not affected by the result of the tenders for the new loan of £1,500,000. Total applications were £3,452,110, at prices varying from 96 to 92, the minimum, and tenders at £93 5s. 6d. received about 12 per cent. of the amount asked for and above that price in full. The average price obtained was about £93 10s. 9d. Colonial inscribed stocks were inert, and rarely altered. Continuation rates on these ranged from 4½ to 5½ per cent.

In the Foreign Bond market the Central American group of securities was supported from the Continent, especially Amsterdam, the buying apparently being induced by hopes that after President Roosevelt's utterances the United States will be compelled to take the finances of these republics in hand. Colombian, Guatemalan, Venezuelan, and Honduras all had a good lift, and although not closing quite at the best, show substantial gains. Peruvian Corporation issues were also strong again, and the more solid South American bonds displayed strength. Cédulas closed better. Nothing of particular consequence happened amongst Continental

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	99½	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886	103½	103½
102½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	101½	101½
106½	100½	Do. 6 p.c. Funding	101½	101½
104½	98½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c.	102½	102½
93½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	91½	91½
93½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	88½	88½
92½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	88½	88½
104½	99½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres		
		5 p.c. Debs.	100	100
92½	84½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	87	87
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail		
		5 p.c.	97½	97½
106	101½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	105	105
91½	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees		
		1902	88½	88½
102½	93½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1902	101	101½
97	87½	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885	97	97
98½	89½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886	98	98
96½	88½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895	94	94
102½	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	101½	101½
98½	91½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver	95½	96
107	100½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	106½	106½
106½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	102½	102½
100½	92½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold	99½	99½
106½	99½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	104½	104½
59½	28½	Costa Rica A	53	53
51½	24½	Do. B	43	43
48½	26½	Colombian External	43½	46
109½	104½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	104½	105
107	104	Egypt Unified 4 p.c.	104½	104½
103½	95½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref.	102½	102½
106½	102½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain	104xd	104
91½	88	German 3 p.c.	86	86
54½	47	Greek, 1884	52½	52½
55½	48½	Do. Monopoly Loan	53½	53
44	38½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	41	40½
54½	47	Do. Funding	51	51
100½	96½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	96	96
106	102½	Italian 5 p.c.	105	105
104½	88½	Japan 5 p.c.	104½xd	104
103½	88½	Do. 1901-2	101	101
93½	76½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	92½	92½
100½	97	Do. 6 p.c.	102	102
106½	102½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	103	103
70½	79½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	66½	70
81½	79½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	81	81
83½	70	Servian 4 p.c.	82	82
95½	89½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	92½	92½
103	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute	101½	101½
106	100½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	103½	103½
92	86½	Do. 4 p.c. United	90½	90½
74½	63½	Uruguay 3½ p.c.	72½	72½
99	80½	Do. 5 p.c.	95½	96
51½	42½	Venezuelan, 1881	52	51

things, but they kept tolerably good until near the close, when the tendency all round was inclined to become adverse. Japanese loans gained ground to a very slight extent, and Chinese easily maintained previous figures. Rates in this division were much as before, all leading South Americans being taken at 4 to 6 per cent., along with Peruvian deferred. On Central American things and Peruvian preference and ordinary the charge was 5 to 7 per cent., Japanese 1902 and the two 6 per cent. series were done at 4 to 6 per cent., the 4½ per cent. first series at 3 to 5 per cent., and the sterling at 4 per cent. Amongst Continentals the rate on Italian and Turkish was "even" to 2 per cent., on Russian, 2 to 4 per cent., and on Spanish 3 to 4 per cent. In the making-up list the principal feature was the heavy losses, ranging from 5½ to 7 in Russian issues. Argentine 1881, Brazil 4 per cent. 1883, Chinese Shanghai-Nanking, Costa Rica "B," Egyptian State Domain, Japanese 1895-6 and 5 per cent. Consolidated, and Mexican 1904 also showed sharp declines, but in nearly every case the fall was merely the result of dividend deductions. Other Argentine loans moved irregularly, the Buenos Ayres Water issue being up 1½ and some of the Cédulas 2½ to 2½, Honduras rose 1½, Uruguay 1896 ½, and several Chinese ½ to ½.

Home Railway stocks have been quiet and dull all the week, without much sign of interest anywhere, and even the fairly satisfactory exhibits made by the majority of the traffic returns failed to infuse any life into

the market. All the heavy stocks were flat, with declines of 10s. to £1, and the fall was shared by nearly everything in the list. Metropolitan and District stocks in particular relapsed sharply owing to the reduction of fares forced upon the companies by the competition of the motor 'bus, and South-Eastern deferred showed a further drop of $\frac{3}{4}$. The ordinary and preferred stocks of the South-Eastern company, however, recovered part of the substantial loss occasioned by the Charing Cross disaster, on the increase of £2,000 in the weekly figures, as the closing of the station had caused dealers to look for a decrease of £3,000. Furness, too, was substantially better, but these three were the only favourable changes of any importance. The largest

to 7 per cent., rising to 8 per cent. on Midland preferred and dropping to about 5 per cent. on Metropolitan and Great Central.

The Associated Banks' return on Saturday was altogether ignored by Wall Street, and that market was equally indifferent to the facts that rates for call loans were still very stiff and that exchange was rapidly rising to a point which threatened withdrawals of gold. Play was begun with Union Pacific, which, it was asserted, were worth considerably more than the current quotation on the position shown by the report, and so vigorous was the support that they advanced to 147 $\frac{3}{4}$. Southern Pacific were next lifted on calculations that a dividend would be paid on them next year, and then New York Central, Erie, Atchison, Milwaukee, Reading, Ontario, and Louisville all came in for their turn. The manipulation was patently professional, and as each group was pushed up the opportunity was seized upon to unload in other directions. Sellers rather got the upper hand on Wednesday, and a slight set-back was noticeable; but by Thursday the "bulls" had again secured control of the market, and notwithstanding the violent wrench in our money market and the uneasiness regarding the position in Germany, quotations were sent flying upwards once more as merrily as if neither dear money nor anything else needed to be

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	140	140
105	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157	157
131 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	127	126 $\frac{1}{2}$
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	118	118 $\frac{1}{2}$
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	94	94
87 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
171 $\frac{1}{2}$	151 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	161	151 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	46	46
71	51	Furness (4 p.c.) ..	65	67
30 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	151 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	181 $\frac{1}{2}$	181 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
45 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1) ..	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
145 $\frac{1}{2}$	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	143	142
50 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
46 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	47	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
112 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	87	Metropolitan (5 p.c.) ..	89	87
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	36
71	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	69	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
74	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	73	72
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
146 $\frac{1}{2}$	134	North-Eastern (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	144 $\frac{1}{2}$
161 $\frac{1}{2}$	147	North-Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	160	159
96	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	89	90
135 $\frac{1}{2}$	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	126	128
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	54	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
171 $\frac{1}{2}$	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	164 $\frac{1}{2}$	164 $\frac{1}{2}$
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
		Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	57	57

movements in the making-up list on Tuesday were naturally in South-Eastern and Chatham issues, where the serious accident at Charing Cross was reflected in heavy declines, South-Eastern ordinary being 4 and the preferred and deferred 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ down and Chatham ordinary $\frac{7}{8}$ and the two preferences 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ lower. Other big changes were losses of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in Great Eastern, 2 in Metropolitan, and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in District, while

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	108
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$
102	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	99	100
61 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	173 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	182 $\frac{1}{2}$	184 $\frac{1}{2}$
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie Shares ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
87 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	83
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$
187	156	Illinois Central (7) ..	182 $\frac{1}{2}$	182
161 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	157 $\frac{1}{2}$
39 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
169 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	New York Central (5) ..	156 $\frac{1}{2}$	161
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (3) ..	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	95	95
63 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ontario Shares (3) ..	54	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (6) ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
73 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reading Shares (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	72
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	Do. 1st Prefd. (4) ..	47	47
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Prefd. (4) ..	49	49
74	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
39 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (4) ..	139 $\frac{1}{2}$	147 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Wabash ..	21	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. ..	42	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Debs. ..	78	78
182 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	178 $\frac{1}{2}$	178 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	107
112	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Do. Guar. (4) ..	202	102
115 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
107	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	104	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
62 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108

Great Northern deferred and "A" stocks were $\frac{1}{4}$ higher and Furness recovered 1. Notwithstanding the easier rates for money, contangos still ranged from 6

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	Antofagasta (10) ..	219 $\frac{1}{2}$	215 xd
321	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (15) ..	315	310 xd
131	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	126	131
131	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	126	131
84 $\frac{1}{2}$	77	Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	85	85
148 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	138	138 $\frac{1}{2}$
133 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	127	128
142	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	130	132
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	114	116
115	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	105	105
109	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	114
170 $\frac{1}{2}$	161	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	166 $\frac{1}{2}$	169
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	163	165
142 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108	106 xd
93	79	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	133	134
109	110	Central Uruguay (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	86	86
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	106xd	107
		Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	93	91 xd
76 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	71xd	72
38	28	Costa Rica ..	28	28
78	58	Cuban Central ..	74	74
128	108	Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	114	114
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	105	105
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	East Argentine (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	94	94
78	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	54	54
84 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina (3) ..	82	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	110	111
108	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. "B" (6) ..	106	106
29 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	24	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
121 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	117	117 $\frac{1}{2}$
57	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	48	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	54	54
17	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nitrato Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ottoman (Smyrna to Adria) (4) ..	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	19
220	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	205 $\frac{1}{2}$	205 $\frac{1}{2}$
226	122	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	215	215

taken into consideration. So far from the account carried on this market being reduced, as some alleged, the indications pointed to a further shifting of the speculative account from Wall Street to this side, and as at the same time German bankers were believed to have cabled in large amounts, the demand for accommodation was naturally keen. Rates, consequently, although never more than 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent., were firm at those figures, and there was no sign of any easing off, as at the last settlement. Union Pacific shares having been so largely used by the Wall Street speculators for their demonstrations, finished with a gain of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the fortnight; and New York Central, which were also the subject of manipulation, put on 4. Denver issues rose 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Missouri and Kansas, Reading and Southern Pacific, common and preferred, were 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ higher; but no other gain reached as much as 1, and, on the other hand, Northern Pacific fell 3, Norfolk Common 2, and Erie issues and Illinois Central were $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 down.

An increase of \$281,000 in the weekly traffic figures sent the price of Canadian Pacific shares up to 179, and although there was an immediate relapse it was not allowed to develop serious proportions before New York took hold of the shares and drove them up again along with the other favourites. Grand Trunk stocks

improved steadily during the first few days, and in spite of a little set-back owing to the traffic figures being below expectations, the three preferences show substantial gains, while the ordinary was fractionally up. Canadian Pacific shares lost a fraction or two during the fortnight, but Grand Trunk stocks were all firm and higher under the lead of the 2nd preference, which advanced $1\frac{1}{4}$, the 1st and 3rd preferences being 1 and $1\frac{1}{4}$ up, and the ordinary and guaranteed $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ better. Carrying-over charges on the 2nd preference were often under 4 per cent., and on the other issues rarely rose to as much as 6 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	22	22	20
71	40	—	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$
566	505	—	530	530
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	—	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	20
23 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	32	32
35	15	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	59	—	17	17
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	100	100
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	60
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	6
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ nd	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	25/3	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	—	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	10/9	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	102/-	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
502 $\frac{1}{2}$	483 $\frac{1}{2}$	500	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	500	500
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	23/3	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	13	13
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	4	4
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	26/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	—	108	108
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	23/3	—	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$ nd	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	27/3	—	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	8	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	18/-	10/9	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
89	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79	80
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
208 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	9	9
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
134 $\frac{1}{2}$	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	133
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
209 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	108 $\frac{1}{2}$
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
15	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13
249	214 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	240 $\frac{1}{2}$	239 $\frac{1}{2}$ nd
47	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	46	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	—	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	109
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	9	10	8
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
129	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

A decided revival of activity took place in Argentine Railways, stimulated by the traffic receipts, and a large number of them show very substantial improvements on the week. Cordoba and Rosario second preference went up in the most sensational fashion, having been dealt in as high as 56, and the first preference was lifted 3. Argentine Great Western ordinary and preferred, too, were considerably higher and large gains were likewise recorded by Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary and first preference, Buenos Ayres and Rosario deferred and Entre Rios ordinary and second preference. Cordova and North-Western debentures were influenced by the bustle and recovered to 40, and a fair number of advances of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 were recorded in the rest of the lists: Antofagasta ordinary put on $2\frac{1}{2}$, and San Paulo ordinary 1, and Leopoldina debentures were harder but the ordinary stock dropped back a fraction

or two, and United Railways of the Havana ordinary receded £2 or so on a little selling pressure. Mexican Railway stocks were firmer, the old company's issues putting on $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, and Inter-oceanic "B" debenture stock gaining 1. Russian Railways showed some recovery without very much business doing in them here. Money on South American Railways cost from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent., or much the same as last time, and the same rates were current on Mexican Railway things. Amongst Argentine Railways, Cordoba and Rosario first preference stock gained $7\frac{1}{2}$, but the 6 per cent. and income debenture issues fell $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 4. Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred rose 2, Bahía Blanca and North-Western preferred, Buenos Ayres and Pacific first preference 1 each, Buenos Ayres Western ordinary $1\frac{1}{4}$, and Villa Maria and Rufino preference shares $2\frac{1}{2}$; but Cordova and North-Western debentures lost another $3\frac{1}{2}$. Antofagasta ordinary slipped back $1\frac{1}{2}$, United Railways of the Havana declined $3\frac{1}{2}$ and Paraguay Central 3, and although most Uruguayan stocks were easier, the 7 per cent. preference stock of the Northern Company put on $1\frac{1}{2}$. Leopoldina ordinary improved $\frac{1}{2}$ and the debenture stock $1\frac{1}{2}$, but San Paulo ordinary was 1 lower. Mexican Railways ordinary put on $1\frac{1}{2}$ and the two preferences $3\frac{1}{4}$ and 4, and Inter-oceanic preference were $\frac{3}{8}$ up but the B debenture stock of the latter receded 1. Nitrate Railways suffered indirectly from the breakdown of the negotiations for a renewal of the combine and dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$.

The most noteworthy incident in the Miscellaneous markets was the sharp fall in British Electric Traction shares on the passing of the interim dividend. This has created fears that matters are in a bad way, and the market is inclined to view the outlook with considerable misgiving. Horse omnibus securities were better on the reassuring statement issued by the directors and the motor companies' shares were as a consequence rather heavy. Pekin Syndicate and allied shares continue to lose ground, but Hudson's Bays, after going back, recovered. P. and O. deferred, from which the dividend was taken off on Thursday, was again marked higher, and other investment securities such as Gas Light and Coke and the leading Telegraph stocks were firm. Anglo-American deferred was much less active and showed quite unimportant movements. British Westinghouse preference shares collapsed to 2 on the report, the dividend again being passed and the Iron and Steel group of securities just maintained previous figures. Textiles were a little irregular and Catering and Meat shares lost ground in a few instances, but Lipton's firmed up and Sweetmeats were better on an increase of £475 in the receipts for November. Changes in the Brewery list were few and unimportant, but the tendency was again downward. Russian Oil shares were also heavy. Some slight declines were noticeable in the Nitrate group, and United Alkalies did not quite retain an early advance. Price's Candle shares finished £1 lower and William Griffiths ordinary fell below 2, while there was a sharp jump of 20 in the stock of Salvati Jesurum. Rates at the settlement were much the same as on the last occasion, and making up prices revealed few notable movements. California Oilfields showed a gain of $1\frac{1}{2}$, Allsopps ordinary rose $1\frac{1}{2}$, Bieckerts Brewery ordinary 2 and the preference 5; Watney, Combe first preference 5 and the preference 1, Hudson's Bays $1\frac{1}{4}$, and Great Northern Telegraph preference $2\frac{1}{2}$. On the other hand, Apollinaris and Johannis fell $\frac{3}{4}$, B.E.T. ordinary 1 and the preference $\frac{3}{4}$. County of London Electric ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$, Lagunas Nitrate $\frac{3}{4}$ and the Syndicate $\frac{1}{10}$, Lautaro Nitrate $\frac{1}{4}$, Metropolitan Electric ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$, Santa Rita Nitrate $\frac{1}{4}$, Allsopp preference and 4 per cent. debenture stocks 1, Pekin Syndicate ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$, Anglo-American ordinary and Anglo-Egyptian Bank 1 and National Bank of Egypt $\frac{1}{2}$.

Stock markets were inert to-day, under the influence of yesterday's wrench to the money market, and left off inclined to recede, although the last prices were not in all cases the lowest. American Railroad shares were flat at one time, but at the end New York came

in to support some of its special playthings, and they left off above the worst. Copper shares, however, did not rally much, and the fluctuations in Anacondas were ominous of a terribly artificial position. There was also great play made with Geduld shares in the Kaffir Circus. They were depressed some days ago, and then suddenly driven up on rumours mentioned elsewhere, only to again go clattering down to-day, but they rallied at the close. Japanese bonds were steady, and in Home securities scarcely anything went on.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The past week opened with the carry-over, and the work was not made the more pleasant by the foggy and dismal weather. Even sunshine would not have rendered it a cheering function, seeing how depressed most sections were during the fortnight and the miserable state of the making-up list. On one or two of the leading shares rates were a little stiffer than at the preceding settlement. Gold Fields were arranged at 6—7 per cent., against 5—6 per cent., whilst the charge on East Rands was 6—7 per cent., compared with 5½—6½ per cent., the latter again being the rate on such things as Rand Mines, Modderfonteins, Johnnies Investment, Simmer and Jacks, and South African Gold Trust. The general figure was, as before, 6—8 per cent. In the diamond group De Beers were again carried over at 4½—5½ per cent., but the Jagers' rate was 6½—7½ per cent., compared with 4—5 per cent. Rhodesians were mostly continued at 6½—7½ per cent., West Africans at 6—7 per cent., and Egyptians at 6—8 per cent. Many of the leading Westralians were arranged at 6—8 per cent., with one or two at 5—7 per cent.

In the South African making-up list, Premier deferred were the chief sufferers, with a fall of 1½, the other conspicuous losses being ½ in Bankets, ¾ in Premier preferred, ¾ in Gold Trusts, ¾ in Apex and South African Gold Mines, and ¾ in De Beers deferred, Rhodesia Exploration, Simmer Wests, Ayrshires, and Rice Hamiltons. Against these there were gains of ¾ in Modderfontein, ¾ in Knights, Central Gedulds, and Rietfonteins, ¾ in Geduld Props, Crown Deep, and Wemmers, and ¾ in North Gedulds, Nigels, Robinson Deep, and Witwatersrand Deep. Amongst West Africans, Wassaus fell 7-32, but Taquahs advanced 3-32. In the Westralian group Great Fingalls made up ¾ lower, and there were falls of 5-32 in Associateds, ¾ in Kalgurllis, and 3-32 in Ivanhoe Souths, Golden Poles, and West Boulders. Amongst miscellaneous assortments, Le Rois dropped 7-8, Esperanzas moved up ¾, Talismans 6s. 6d. Copper shares were exceptionally strong, Anacondas advancing 1¾, Rio Tintos ¾, Capes 7-8, and Mason and Barry ¾.

Business for the new account has again been extremely limited, and prices hardly keep up. This was to be expected, in face of the approaching holidays, the fact that next Friday brings another carry-over, and that the weather is anything but exhilarating. Against such influences a good output and the declaration of several dividends go for nothing. Premier deferred have again been conspicuously weak, the Cape especially selling freely. South African Gold Trusts have been another prominently dull spot, on rumours that no dividend is to be paid and that a poor report is likely to be issued. Gedulds, too, have relapsed heavily. These shares are largely held in Germany, and the Germans have evidently been alarmed by the news of the splitting up of the reef where it has been struck in the shaft owned by the North and Central Geduld subsidiary companies; also by the delay in cabling assays. Maybe the monetary stringency in Berlin accounts partly for the weakness, together with the fact that the time for the declaration of the end-of-the-year options is approaching, Gedulds being a favourite option counter. When the assays came to hand later, showing high figures, there was an immediate recovery. The delay was officially explained as due to the necessity of taking check assays, but, for all that, the violent movements up and down look somewhat suspicious, as if some people or some one knew more than others suspected.

The following dividends have been declared:—

	Dividend.	Issued Capital.	Amount.
	%	£	£
Salisbury	10	100,000	10,000
City and Suburban.....	5	1,360,000	68,000
Geldenhuis Deep.....	20	300,000	60,000
Rose Deep.....	10	425,000	42,500
Crown Deep.....	40	300,000	120,000
Geldenhuis Estate	40	200,000	80,000
Ferreira.....	137½	95,000	130,625
Bonanza.....	32½	200,000	65,000
Robinson Central Deep	25	440,000	110,000
Van Ryn	10	500,000	50,000
Robinson Gold.....	9	2,750,000	247,500
			983,625

The figures of the Crown Deep and Geldenhuis Estate compare with 30 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively, but in the cases of the Geldenhuis Deep and Rose Deep there are reductions respectively of 10 and 5 per cent. The dividend of the Salisbury is the same as a year ago, but there is a reduction of 2½ per cent. in the City and Suburban's declaration. The Robinson's is 1 per cent. more, and the Bonanza's 2½ per cent. less, whilst those of the Ferreira and Van Ryn are the same as a year ago.

The only section in which there has been marked strength is the copper market, which has reflected the sharp rise in the price of the metal. All shares have moved upwards, particularly Rio Tintos and Anacondas. It is said that the Amalgamated Copper Company is buying up all the Anaconda shares it can get, thus leaving dealers short of stock. There is much plausibility in such a report. Anyway, it is a fact that the Yankees are pulling the strings vigorously and cleverly, as usual.

As there is little or nothing to say of the other sections, we need not waste space over them. Broken Hill descriptions continue to attract the attention of the gamblers, who are pushing them higher, but the activity here is not so excited as it was some weeks ago. West Australians remain steady, but flatness still rules in the Rhodesian, West African, and Egyptian departments.

TRANSVAAL GOLD YIELD.—The November output for the Rand was much better than was generally expected, or than was foreshadowed by the very poor return for October. Although November was a shorter month by one day there was an increase of 9,230 ozs. in weight and of £39,206 in value, the actual figures being 424,757 ozs., worth £1,804,253, compared with 415,527 ozs. and £1,765,947 respectively. The labour returns show a net loss of 713 natives against a shrinkage of 1,950 in the previous month, making the total at work at the end of November 82,962. In addition, according to press telegrams, 45,804 Chinese coolies were employed, since when 1,907 more have arrived on the Rand by the steamer "Katherine Park."

LUIPAARD'S VLEI ESTATE AND GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This member of the Consolidated Gold Fields group is slowly approaching the production stage, and some months hence it may actually be turning out some gold. In the year to June 30 the main shaft was sunk 681 ft. According to the general managing, some 530,039 tons of ore were developed up to October 31, of which 413,275 tons average about 8½ dwts. to the ton, whilst 116,764 tons cannot be deemed payable under present conditions. On the advice of the consulting engineer, the directors have decided to erect a 60-stamp mill and two tube mills, which it is estimated will crush 11,000 tons per month. Part of the battery has been erected, and it is expected that crushing will commence in April next. Shares are held in the Windsor mine, the results from which, it is admitted, have been disappointing. Licences brought in £9,966, interest £1,164, rents £742, and transfer fees £131, a total of £12,003. Expenditure absorbed £11,286, leaving a small surplus of £717 to be added to the old credit balance of £17,811. Liabilities are rather heavy, bills payable amounting to £11,100, £4,007 owing to creditors, with contingent obligations of £33,268. On the other side cash stands at £8,800, debtors appear for £8,930, there is a loan of £4,000, and the company has some shares which cost £33,402.

JOHANNESBURG GOLD FIELDS.—Though this concern is now several years old, the auditors are informed that it is not yet practicable to prepare a profit and loss account; accordingly the ordinary expenditure continues to appear on the credit side of the balance-sheet. The accounts cover the financial year ending June 30, the prevailing tendency during which period, say the directors, "has been towards lower values, and the time has necessarily not been opportune for any considerable realisation of the company's investments." On the other hand, some of the shareholdings have been increased "at prices which, upon the termination of the present period of depression, will, in the opinion of the board, show satisfactory results." So the directors are hopeful that the slump will end some time or other. A scheme that was formulated to open up the company's freehold property Rietfontein has been abandoned, as it was considered inimical to the ultimate interests of the company. Revenue in the shape of dividends, interest, profit on shares sold, rents and transfer fees, amounted to £2,151, whilst the expenditure in South Africa and London came to £1,277, showing a tiny profit of £874, which brings down the deficit to £20,299. The company is being financed by the General Mining and Finance Corporation, to which it owes £13,225.

WEST RAND CENTRAL GOLD MINING COMPANY.—During the twelve months ending September 30 30,268 tons of ore were milled, producing 5,885 ozs. of fine gold, and 23,850 tons were dealt with by the cyanide process, yielding 5,547 ozs., making 11,432 ozs. The value of this was £48,482, added to which by-products fetched £1,450, giving a total return for the year of £49,932. The net profit was £8,572, making, with £4,831 brought forward, a credit of £13,403, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of 7½ per cent., which will leave £7,101 to be carried forward. Though the yield of the ore improved, the value is still below that obtained in the pre-war years. The question of extending the life of the undertaking by the acquisition of additional ground is still under consideration.

LISBON-BERLYN.—This company is still unable to make ends meet. The value of the gold produced in the year ending June 30 was £24,834. Working expenses took £21,632; redemption of development, £5,340; general charges, £4,066; and London expenditure, £1,340. After adjusting the balance by sundry debits and credits, the working account shows a loss of £10,140, to which has to be added £1,284, payments in arrears

for concession dues. The directors attribute these unsatisfactory results to a deficiency of labour, which suspended crushing; to the wet condition of the ore in some of the stopes, its pyritic nature in others, and to the appearance of copper in the ore which affected the recovery by cyanide. These are troubles which threaten to be more or less serious in the future, we should say, and we are as doubtful as ever that this company will become successful. The deficit is now £10,982, and cash is only £321.

CENTRAL NIGEL DEEP.—Operations on the property of this company—which is a member of the Consolidated Gold Fields group—were confined in the past financial year ending July 31 to caretaking and general maintenance—not a profitable kind of labour. Income totalled £20 10s. 6d., most of it from transfer and remove fees, and as expenditure amounted to £12,051 there is a further loss of £12,031 to add to the already huge debit of £74,044, making it £86,075. What it may reach before the company can hope to undertake profitable operations the directors would probably not like to say. Anyway, it will mean reconstruction long before then. Loans amount to £130,172, with £2,123 owing to creditors, and the company has the colossal fortune of £45. What a blessing it has such a wealthy parent as the Gold Fields to finance it!

CONSOLIDATED AFRICAN COPPER TRUST.—During this company's financial year development work has been concentrated on the Edmundian and Umkondo mines, and the directors consider the results satisfactory. Anyway, they have decided that both properties are sufficiently developed to justify their flotation as creditable subsidiaries. A profit and loss account has not yet been prepared. Income during the twelve months was only £768 from interest and transfer fees, and as the expenditure was £2,701, a further loss of £1,933 goes to swell the previous debit of £4,262, making it £6,195. The company has some contango loans, amounting to £24,000, with cash totting up to £3,514, against bills payable £2,500 and creditors £1,604. If only we could work up a Rhodesian boom, this company might be able to reap a good promoting harvest, but the public are in no mood to buy Rhodesian mining paper.

DELAGOA BAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.—Receipts from all sources in South Africa in the financial year ending June 30 amounted to £30,645, and as the expenditure took £32,715, there was a loss on working of £2,069. This is increased to £12,868 by London and Lisbon expenses, interest paid and accrued, and by the writing off of the corporation's outlay on the Seaforth Concession. The balance-sheet now carries a deficiency of £18,666. A year ago the directors intimated that they were considering the method of raising further capital to repay temporary advances and to provide funds for the construction of the additional water supply. During the past year, therefore, they have issued £180,000 6 per cent. debentures. The question of writing off the cost of this issue, also the balance of the formation and registration expenses, as well as depreciation on various undertakings, is held in abeyance until the directors can be guided by the results obtained from the additional capital expenditure and from the efforts now being made to reorganise working expenditure. Though there was a small increase in the sale of water the electric tramways continue to show a loss. Current liabilities are heavy at a total of over £37,000, but there are loans out for £97,843, in addition to £8,654 in cash and £3,153 owing by debtors.

CONSOLIDATED DEEP LEADS.—We learn from the report for the year to September 30 that no important operations have so far been undertaken upon the Option Blocks belonging to this company, which are still held in reserve until neighbouring properties have reached the producing stage. With the view to the eventual flotation of the Option Blocks into an independent concern, an arrangement of some kind has been entered into with the Loddon Valley Company. The Consolidated Deep Leads has share interests in the Moorlort Goldfields, the Australian Commonwealth Trust, and the Loddon Valley, through which it is interested in the Victorian Deep Leads, the Berry United and other deep lead undertakings. In view of the advanced position of the operations on the Loddon Valley mine, this property has first been taken in hand and the directors agreed to advance £30,000 on debentures to enable the company to start on the programme that had been sketched out. In the first place, arrangements were made for the erection of an auxiliary pump, with a capacity of about 2,000,000 gallons per day, thus increasing the pumping capacity to about 7,000,000 gallons daily. Secondly, it was decided to sink a new and deeper shaft. The results from the new pump the directors consider are already very satisfactory. According to the balance-sheet—for no profit and loss account is issued—general expenses amounted to £4,108 in the twelvemonth against £3,554 from interest, dividends, profit on the realisation of shares, and transfer fees, showing an excess expenditure of £645. Cash and other liquid assets appreciably exceed the moderate current liabilities, but there are contingent liabilities representing unpaid calls to the tune of £17,700.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH TRUST.—The report and accounts cover the period from the incorporation of this Trust—December, 1903—to June 30 last. This undertaking was formed to act as a development and financial corporation in connection with several deep lead companies of Victoria. Interests have been acquired in the following:—Berry United, Great Berry Consolidated, Moorlort Goldfields, Loddon Valley Goldfields, Option Blocks, and Victorian Deep Leads. In the eighteen months the company received a total income of £11,505, £11,161 of which is described vaguely as "profits realised, after deducting amounts written off." Expenditure, including depreciation and £2,740 spent on abandoned options and shares, came to

within £4,288 of the receipts, which credit is carried forward. There is nothing in the balance-sheet that calls for comment.

PAHANG CORPORATION.—Though this concern treated a larger quantity of ore last year compared with the previous financial period, which ends on June 30, the nett results are not so good. At the battery 24,685 tons were crushed, producing 471½ tons of black tin, of a value of £33,994, against 22,770 tons, giving 452½ tons, worth £32,063. The operations gave a profit of £2,301 compared with £3,076, and after making allowance for depreciation and income-tax, the surplus is reduced to £159, to be added to the previous credit of £6,113, giving a balance to go to the current year of £6,273. It might be mentioned that the whole cost of shaft sinking, the development of mines, cost of maintenance of and repairs to machinery and expenses in connection with the reopening of Pollock's and the Jeram Batang mines, from which there have been no returns yet, have all been charged to revenue. The causes mainly responsible for the small profit are higher costs of working and a diminution in the grade of the ore, the average assay being as low as 1.91 per cent. compared with 3 per cent. a few years ago. This represents a difference of £20,000 on the year's output, and the ruling price of tin. The management is powerless to prevent the continued rise in working expenses. However, the directors are determined to face and, if possible, solve this problem. They fear that the cost of running the works by electricity would be too costly, so they favour the introduction of oil fuel. This scheme would cost approximately £10,000. Hence they propose to ask some of the larger shareholders to meet, and confer with them at an early date to discuss the position and consider the best means of raising the money.

CASSEL GOLD EXTRACTING COMPANY.—This company continues to flourish and earn substantial profits, the shareholders receiving a 30 per cent. dividend for the fourth year in succession. The accounts for the year ending September 30 show a credit balance of £29,498, out of which the directors put £6,000 to reserve, pay the above-mentioned dividend—5 per cent. of which is a bonus—and carry £5,874 forward. Though the average price realised by the company's cyanide was the lowest in its history, it was met by economies in production. As the directors think the time has arrived when effect may be given to suggestions made by shareholders in respect to the reserve fund, they propose to submit to special meetings the following scheme:—To change the name of the company to the Cassel Cyanide Company; to increase the nominal capital to 800,000 shares of 5s. each, and out of the company's reserve fund to pay a special dividend of 50 per cent., absorbing £29,375 (out of £46,000). At the same time shareholders will be offered 117,500 5s. shares at par, which they can pay for with the special dividend, the shares to be at once fully called up. The offer will be in the proportion of one share for every two. This will bring the paid up capital to £88,125, and leave 447,500 shares, valued at £11,875, available for future issue, should circumstances necessitate it. It is officially believed that the proposed alteration in the name will serve to identify the company more closely with the cyanide manufacturing industry, in which it holds the leading position.

SULPHIDE CORPORATION.—The financial results of the year's working to the end of June show a moderate improvement on those for the preceding year. Nett proceeds of sales in Europe amounted to £461,962, and in Australia to £68,560, total £530,522. Products in transit, since realised, are valued at £183,736, bullion on hand £41,943, concentrates, &c., £62,762, in all £818,963. Mining, milling, and smelting expenses took £700,556, leaving a working profit of £118,407. To this is added £969 interest on investments. After deducting administration expenses, which include £50,030 written off capital outlay, and £5,000 for interest on debentures, the nett profit is £52,392, against £43,506 for 1903-4. Adding £96,613 brought forward, there is a total credit of £149,005 compared with £137,863. The directors recommend that the full dividend be paid on the 10 per cent. preference shares against 7½ per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively in the two previous years, leaving a slightly smaller balance at £94,005 to be carried forward. Average prices of lead, silver, and zinc were very favourable during the twelve months and promise to continue so. It is pointed out that the question of the disposal of the zinc concentrates is one of primary importance to the company. In view of the extreme difficulty of effecting sales to existing works, the directors consider that it is essential for the Corporation to be provided with an assured outlet for a substantial portion of its future production. Accordingly, they advise the immediate formation of a subsidiary company to erect zinc distilling works of adequate capacity in England, and to enter into a contract with the Corporation for the purchase of a large annual tonnage of zinc concentrates. At the forthcoming meeting special resolutions, providing the necessary powers, will be submitted.

SPASSKY COPPER.—The directors issue a circular covering extracts from the report made by the consulting engineers after the visit of Mr. Pellew-Harvey to the property. Only the Yuspensky mine is described in detail. But the company has twenty-five other mines or claims upon which copper is said to exist, and from some of which large quantities of metal have been extracted at shallow depths. Work so far has taken the direction of developing the Yuspensky mine, maintaining production with an inefficient plant, which is liable to frequent breakdowns, by erecting buildings, preparing for and ordering new machinery, and general reorganisation. Hence it has been impossible to devote attention to the other copper-bearing areas and the coal measures of Kara-Gandy and Garan. It is intimated, however, that in the coming year shareholders will probably be asked to approve of a policy for dealing with these properties based upon the recommendations of the engineers.

The work of the company, the circular adds, has been but slightly affected by the state of confusion in Russia, temporary delays in the transit of machinery being the principal inconvenience. No difficulty has been experienced in disposing of the company's product in Russia at advancing prices. All this, however, does not justify any rigging of the shares.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

*. The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

A substantial recovery of £16,026 to £404,582 in gross profits during the year ended October 31 was accompanied by a slight reduction in charges and the nett profits were £16,428 pp at £244,395. At the same time a larger balance of £31,951 was brought forward, so that the directors had £276,346 or £19,395 more at their disposal, and after paying the customary dividend of 20 per cent. and repeating the allocations of £20,000 to officers' pension fund and £5,000 to depreciation of furniture they put £30,000 to the credit of investments as a general provision against any further fall in values and carry £21,346 to the new account. Deposits have increased by £205,104 to £14,024,773, and acceptances, endorsements, &c., are £124,879 higher at £295,913, but the note circulation has been further reduced by £20,410 to £1,008,934. On the other hand, specie in hand and cash balances at the Bank of England are £76,434 down at £1,025,260, but money in London, at call and short notice is £253,237 larger at £2,705,936 and short loans on securities have risen by £501,410 to £2,659,515. Advances on accounts and bills discounted show decreases of £283,843 and £119,443 at £3,679,173 and £3,051,511. British Government securities held are £6,802 up at £1,143,021, but other investments have been reduced by £163,222 to £1,999,613. Property owned, including bank premises at the head office and branches, is valued at £415,950.

NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Nett profits for the year ended November 1 fell off by £9,042 to £221,194, but with the larger balance of £38,558 from the previous account, the reduction in the amount available was only £5,562 at £259,752. The directors therefore pay the usual dividend and bonus, making 20 per cent. for the year, and by putting only £10,000 to pension fund against £20,000, they are able to write £10,000 or £3,244 more off heritable property, and increase the carry forward by £1,194 to £39,752. A further heavy shrinkage of £928,922 to £14,133,647 has taken place in deposit and current accounts; the note circulation is again a trifle down at £891,527, and acceptances are £69,961 lower at £710,427. Against these there are decreases of £237,742 to £1,396,167 in coin, notes of other banks, and balances at the Bank of England, &c., and £739,574 to £4,824,332 in advances on cash credit and current account while money at call and short notice in London is up £111,813 to £2,270,000, bills discounted are £152,229 higher at £2,033,041, and loans on securities show a small increase of £51,889 at £3,048,246. British Government securities held are very much the same as a year ago, but other investments come to £290,709 less at £2,202,819, and bank premises and heritable property are valued at £530,000.

AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Only a very small decline took place in the gross profits of this bank for the half-year ended September 30 against the corresponding period, the respective totals being £96,948 and £99,693. The balance brought forward, however, was down £5,433 to £2,954, so that the total credit is smaller by £8,180 at £99,901. General charges were brought back £2,710 to £69,391, but rebate absorbed an extra £657 at £8,563, and after allowing £970 for depreciation of office furniture only £20,380 compared with £26,644 is left. Nevertheless, the dividend is maintained at 6 per cent. per annum, so that nothing against £10,000 can be placed to reserve, the directors instead adding £2,000 to the staff guarantee and savings fund and carrying forward £1,736 more at £6,380. Reserve will therefore remain at £140,000 against a paid-up capital of £400,000. Note circulation has gone up nearly £50,000 to £254,351, and there is a sharp increase of £421,017 to £4,776,099 in the current accounts and deposits, but drafts, acceptances, endorsements, and bills rediscounted show a decline of £249,061 to £480,249. On the other side there is a considerable shrinkage in the "cash" holdings, cash and notes on hand and in transit being £251,992 less at £909,513, cash at bankers down from £236,534 to £141,558, and money at call and short notice less by £25,000 to £250,000, the smallest reduction being where we should have liked the largest. Investments, however, have gone up from £355,949 to £418,465, bills of exchange purchased are larger by £155,145 at £1,431,424, and bills discounted, loans, and advances have been increased by £380,685 to £2,761,700. Bank premises, &c., are still on the increase, and the total of the balance-sheet is £6,078,300 against £5,854,965.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

The gross profit earned by this institution during the twelve months ended September 30 amounted to £109,547, or fully £10,000 more than in the previous year, and as the rise in ex-

penditure was only £2,722 to £47,604, nett profits gain to the extent of £7,422 at £61,943. Against this, however, there was a decline in the sum brought forward of £5,216 at £10,776, so that the total credit at the disposal of the directors of £72,719 is not so very much larger. The distribution, therefore, will be on the same lines as before, the total dividend being 8s. per share, with £15,000 to reserve, and the regular £4,000 paid to the Persian Government. Income-tax next requires £2,695 compared with £737, rather a startling advance, and the carry forward is very slightly increased to £11,024. Reserve fund will now be £130,000, and the paid-up capital is £650,000. The balance-sheet reveals some rather striking movements. Note circulation is nearly £46,000 larger at £526,479, and both deposits £426,118, and bills payable, endorsements, and adjustments £217,765, show small increases, but none the less has the actual cash held and in transit been reduced £73,348 to £524,485. Another reduction, this time a commendable one, is in the money at call and short notice, down £319,514, a drop that has enabled the board to add £231,635 to the bank's investments, bringing them to the very fair total of £396,404. Then bills discounted, loans, and advances have been increased by £207,770 to £778,115, and bills receivable are greater by £40,461 at £140,339. Bank premises, we note, have a tendency to increase, standing at £32,042 or £1,704 more, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £1,986,368 compared with £1,897,674.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Another important advance took place in the gross revenue of this progressive railway during the half-year to June 30, the total being Rs.1,33,51,583 compared with Rs.1,01,14,158 in the corresponding period. Part of the gain was due to an increase in the mileage of 128 miles, but by no means all, because the average takings per mile come out at Rs.258 against Rs.209. Working expenses were also higher, as might be expected, the advance being Rs.12,64,455 at Rs.57,81,723, but the ratio between expenditure and income was down 1.36 per cent. to 43.30 per cent., and the net revenue shows an improvement of Rs.19,72,970 at Rs.75,69,860. There was an increase in the passenger traffic of over 18 per cent., that is, 668,274 in number and Rs.5,23,843 in revenue, while the goods traffic went up 449,934 tons or over 31 per cent., meaning an additional income of Rs.27,01,221, say 46 per cent. These are very remarkable figures, and the details of traffic show that big increases were secured in coal, cotton, myrobalams, wheat and wheat-flour, rice, gram and pulse, jute, iron and steel, kerosene oil, linseed, salt, and timber. As mentioned above the nett earnings came to Rs.75,46,827, which was Rs.20,41,789 in excess of the guaranteed interest, but the actual surplus profits depend on the nett revenue for the whole year ending December 31 exceeding the guaranteed interest for the same period. During the half-year a sum of £597,000 was raised on debentures and £223,585 advanced by the Secretary of State, against which the outlay was £444,460 and as further important extensions are contemplated further sums must later on be provided as the credit to the capital account is not a very large one.

PARAGUAY CENTRAL RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the past few months a considerable rise has taken place in the market value of this company's dividendless debenture stock, based on the assumption that certain important developments in connection with the undertaking were pending. The annual report unfortunately gives no encouragement to these predictions, and it is disappointing, though not surprising, to find that even the scheme of arrangement in connection with the debenture debt has not yet reached maturity. Every effort has apparently been made to press forward the proposal, but up to the present without definite result. The revolution in Paraguay, which lasted from August to December, 1904, naturally had an adverse influence on the results for the year ended April 30, the number of passengers carried going down 89,059, and the goods and parcels traffic by 718 tons. As a result the revenue from passengers was less by \$57,819, and parcels fell off \$1,010, but goods and miscellaneous returned more, and from all sources the income was smaller by \$40,938 at \$2,194,244. Against that there was an increase in the expenditure of \$25,836 to \$1,397,849, as frequently happens during troublous times, so that the nett revenue was smaller by \$66,774 at \$796,395. This at the alarming exchange of 1.046 per cent.—making the dollar worth about 4½d., instead of the par value of 4s.—yielded £15,227, which has, as usual, been employed in the purchase of plant and materials for the renewal and upkeep of the rolling stock and property. Consequently the receiver has again to report that no money has come into his hands during the year for distribution to the debenture stockholders, whose unpaid interest now reaches the nice little fortune of £686,789. Credit to revenue account is also put down at £737,759, but practically all this money is due from the Paraguayan Government, which owes £1,372,839, and it remains to be seen what sort of an arrangement is arrived at. Chronic imppecuniosity must prevent the authorities from doing anything really fair, even if they were so minded.

ISLE OF THANET ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS AND LIGHTING CO., LIMITED.

We hope the number of visitors to the pleasant little seaside towns embraced in the Isle of Thanet has not become less since Mr. Harry Marks was elected to represent the constituency, but the falling off in this company's revenue for the twelve months ended September 30 is dreadfully significant. Compared with the preceding twelve months the traffic receipts fell off by almost £3,000 to £32,081, and although owing to the prevailing gloom at the electors' unhappy choice the sale of electricity went up

by £490 to £2,781, the revenue from all sources was no more than £35,194 compared with £37,620. Against that the general expenses came to £11,280, the working of the power station cost £6,231, and £4,399 was spent on maintenance, so that after providing £425 for directors' fees—£475 being waived—and £42 for the auditors, the balance of profit is £12,816, or a drop of £677 only, an all round saving having been effected in the outlay, not by sacrificing efficiency let us trust. From this credit has been deducted debenture and other interest £8,609, one half-year's preference dividend £2,609, and sundry small charges, leaving £671, which is insufficient to provide the preference dividend for the remaining half of the year. The payment must, therefore, be passed over, and the ordinary shareholders are naturally still wondering when a first return will be forthcoming on their part of the capital. There was, however, a balance of £1,559 brought forward, making with the above-named £671, a total of £2,230. Of that £465 was absorbed in connection with an accident prior to last year, £300 was written off improvement of cars account, and £417 went in the costs of the unsuccessful promotion of a lighting order for Ramsgate, leaving £1,047 to be carried forward. A lengthy reference is made to the serious accident at Madeira Hill this year, when a car plunged over the cliff, and the directors say that in future none but the most experienced men will operate the cars on the steep gradients. It will be remembered that the board of Trade expert attributed the accident to the want of experience on the part of the driver.

WORTHINGTON AND CO., LIMITED.

This great Burton brewery business does go to the length of providing its preference share and debenture holders with a balance-sheet, but the directors permit it to contain only a minimum of information. The credit side consists of just four entries, of which the principal is the investments, loans, interest, and cash, standing for £1,542,923 on September 30 last, or £39,646 more than at the end of the previous financial year. To jumble up in this fashion such an important bunch of assets is to render almost nugatory the issue of a statement at all, and we are certainly very little wiser for discovering that the land, brewery, malt-houses, offices, railways, plant, fixtures, horses, harness, wagons, goodwill, and a host of other assets are entered in the books at £780,580 compared with £784,534. What is the objection to setting these items out in detail, showing the additions and depreciations for the year? Book debts £178,423, being a rise of £5,705, are fairly enough set out, and the stocks, £123,344, a drop of £14,324, complete the balance-sheet total of £2,625,269. No change has occurred during the year in the share capital, £1,034,000, or the debenture debt, £516,000, but it is pleasant to note a reduction of £44,714 to £45,027 in the mortgages and trade investments. Creditors, including interest on debenture stocks and preference shares, are up from £366,476 to £414,884, and we judge that business has not been quite so good, as the trading revenue is returned at £149,009 or £8,426 less. But that is still a very excellent profit and must provide the vendors with a handsome dividend on the £268,000 of ordinary shares, because no more than £62,850 is required for interest on debenture stocks and preference dividends. With the balance remaining after meeting these payments, the total undivided profits, together with special reserves, reach £365,359, besides the fixed reserve of £250,000, so that the position looks sound enough. Our only regret is that insufficient details are provided to enable us to make sure.

BARNUM AND BAILEY, LIMITED.

This company's accounts cover a period of 53 weeks to October 28 last, and it is pleasing to learn that the American tour of the Greatest Show on Earth for the season 1905 produced considerably increased receipts. A start was made at Madison Square Garden, New York City, on March 23, and the tour concluded at Little Rock, Arkansas, on October 28, when the accounts were closed. Certain moneys were also received under the agreement with Messrs. Cody and Bailey, but this time we get the nett amount instead of the gross receipts and payments, as shown a year ago, and consequently the actual income appears at £304,824 only compared with £322,780 in the previous 49 weeks. We wonder why this is done. Was the nett profit under the arrangement so very small? General expenses, however, were down from £297,820 to £250,781, and after deducting from this outlay the provision for working expenses already made £30,000, the nett balance comes out at £84,043 against £59,960. Sundry general charges have to be met out of the working surplus and £15,000 is provided for depreciation, but £13,126 was brought forward and transfer fees and interest gave something over £2,000 so that the directors have at their disposal a sum of £76,476. Estimated working expenses now set aside take £30,000, and £10,000 is allowed to provide additional cost of new spectacular production, but it is still possible to increase the dividend by $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., paid on a portion of the capital only, as frequently referred to, and to raise the carry-forward to £16,476. After providing for depreciation the purchase account stands at £495,435, and the wardrobe, etc., at £6,984, against which might be set the reserve of £150,000 except that two-thirds of it consist of premiums on shares and is therefore capital. Sundry creditors are little more than £4,000 and the cash balance is nearly £126,000.

PALMER TYRE, LIMITED.

It is impossible to say anything useful about this well-known business, because no accounts are published, not even the most meagre balance-sheet, but it does not really matter as practically

all the shares are held by the India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Works Company, whose position is analysed elsewhere. Profits, however, seem to jump about in a rather extraordinary fashion, as, after showing an advance of £5,097 to £12,655 for the year to September, 1904, they are now down again to £6,253 for the twelve months just closed, a shrinkage of £6,402, or more than 50 per cent. So, in order to add even £2,000 to reserve against £8,000 written off goodwill a year ago, the dividend must be reduced from 10 to 6 per cent., with a decline in the carry-forward from £1,712 to £1,365 in each case subject to directors' fees.

CAMWAL, LIMITED.

Last summer should have offered a fair chance for making profits in the kind of business carried on by this company, but it unfortunately made no great progress, and an excuse has therefore to be sought. The directors find it in the "unfortunate continuance of tight money," which by curtailing the general public expenditure affected the sales of mineral waters. Profits for the twelve months ended September 30, including £86 from interest and transfer fees, rose by £1,289 to £17,515, but expenses, debenture interest, &c., including £240 written off for bad debts, were decidedly heavier, and as £689 less at £953 was brought in the nett profits were only £79 up at £5,571. Some sort of dividend, however, must be paid, and the reserve fund has once more to be neglected in order to repeat last year's distributions of 5 per cent. on the preference and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares, equal to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the original shares, and to carry forward £84 more at £1,037. Gross profits are said to have been arrived at after providing for depreciation, and although the amounts written off the various items are not stated, a comparison of the balance-sheet with that for the previous year would appear to indicate that the allowance made is extremely small. Freehold and leasehold land, buildings, proprietary rights, trade marks and goodwill, for instance, at £97,732 show a decrease of £1,396, or under $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., plant is £115 down at £12,112 and horses, vans, &c., are valued at only £35 less at £2,255. Stocks of syphons, bottles, cases, soda fountains, &c., are £376 smaller at £37,911, but syphons, &c., on loan have risen by £3,242 to £34,266, and as both of these items are taken at selling price these figures mean that profits have been anticipated to the extent of the difference between actual cost and balance-sheet values. Against these two entries there is an increase of £775 to £30,565 in the reserve, but where this increase came from or what the entry represents is not clear. Liabilities to sundry creditors are much about the same at £2,680, and although sundry debtors have been reduced by £1,323 they still stand at the substantial amount of £14,903, while a decrease of £751 to £2,244 in investments is considerably more than offset by a gain of £1,443 at £7,264 in the cash.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The week has been dull and generally inactive in almost all the markets. Cargo buyers have again lapsed into indifference, and except for a little inquiry as to red wheat on passage, have shown no desire to operate. Spot parcels have maintained their prices, at first even slightly advanced for spring wheats, but have moved slowly, and speculative positions have fluctuated according to outside influences. English wheat has been firmly held as a rule with supplies a little smaller. Farmers' deliveries were 82,752 qrs., averaging 28s. 6d., against 93,510 qrs., averaging 28s. 8d. the week before. Imports last week were less, 353,756 qrs. against 461,207, and the estimated quantities on passage a little smaller also, 2,055,000 qrs., against 2,155,000. American markets have experienced a fluctuating week, steady or higher at first in news, for one thing of smaller world shipments, and the decrease in the visible supply, and Bradstreet's estimates for another. The former is placed at 34,711,000 bushels, against 36,943,000 last week, and the latter at 61,694,000 bushels in sight east of the Rockies, against 62,402,000 last week. Later business declined under the influence of heavy receipts and a bearish "Prices Current" report.

WOOL.—The last two days of the London Colonial sales showed no new development, and prices all round at the close may be said to have remained at September quotations, in spite of fairly large supplies, at any rate of merinos. But stocks were so bare before the sales commenced that even yet they are not so large as to cause any lasting fall in values. The total available quantity was 109,000 bales, of which 107,000 were sold, leaving only 2,000 to be carried forward to next series. Of this quantity it is estimated that 51,000 bales have been taken by home buyers, 54,500 by Continental and 1,500 by American. Merino assortments were excellent, the new clip showing an improvement over that of last season's, but crossbreds have been in small supply throughout, and consisted mainly of slipped wools. Trade everywhere is quiet just now, and up to the present buyers are still unconvinced as to the steadiness of prices, and therefore continue their hand-to-mouth policy. Spinners, however, are fairly busy, particularly those working on crossbreds, and piece manufacturers are well employed.

LINEN.—The desire on the part of Continental spinners to get all the early supplies they can, coupled with the anxiety as to the possibility or impossibility of getting any from Russia, has had a decided effect during the week upon the upward move in flax, both foreign and home produce. Yarns naturally have followed suit. The advance in Continental prices has been, in little over a month, from 3d. to 6d. per bundle in lines and 3d. in tons: good warps also have increased in value as well as in demand. High prices do not apparently lessen the demand for manufac-

tured goods, which keep in their usual satisfactory condition. Even unions, in spite of the difficulties which beset their path, show no sign of falling off. In bleached and finished goods, trade, which generally grows slack about the middle of December, has scarcely suffered at all this year, though prices might with advantage improve. The United States has again sent a large amount of new business. South American, Colonial, and Continental markets are all stronger.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—We have experienced an unsettled week in our market owing largely to the fluctuations in the raw material in Liverpool. The quotation for middling on the spot on Monday was 6.27, but on Tuesday a decline of 19 points took place, followed on Wednesday by an advance of 9 points, and a further advance of 6 points on Thursday, bringing the official quotation to 6.27. Transactions have been generally disturbed by these fluctuations, and although rather more business was done on Thursday, taking the week altogether a quiet time has been experienced. Discussion still goes on as to the extent of the American crop, but the reports from the States are contradictory, and merchants here hardly know what to believe. Manchester, however, looks forward to a crop of about 11 millions of bales, and with the "carry over" from last season there should be plenty of cotton to go round. In piece goods for export the sales have not been very important, but buyers for Calcutta on Thursday entered the market with fairly extensive orders. The other markets in India, however, show few signs of activity. China continues almost inactive. Small lots have been dealt in by the smaller markets. Egypt and South America are sending some fair offers. A healthy demand continues for home trade cloths of a miscellaneous character. A marked feature is the demand for velveteens and in cotton printed goods, tartan checks. Cops made from American cotton for home consumption have moved slowly, and spinners have had considerable difficulty in maintaining an adequate margin of profit. Yarn from new mills is coming on to the market, and users have not much trouble in finding an easy seller. Export yarns have not been in great demand for the Far East, and buyers have hardly been in a position to operate at current rates. Cops for the Continent have been sold to a fair extent. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton in the Bolton district and South Lancashire have not been very active, but the demand has run on small lots for early delivery, which is not easily arranged owing to the extensive engagements of producers.

The publication of the Ginners' report, giving the number of bales ginned up to December 1 at 684,000, made a favourable impression, and prices in New York fell sharply. A partial recovery followed. This was helped by the covering of a large "bear" on the Continent, and by the rumour that the next Ginners' report will show a crop of less than 10,000,000 bales, and an exhaustion of the present crop. Bears were scared by this. Messrs. Neil Bros., in their circular of the 12th inst., consider it increasingly difficult to form a reliable opinion in regard to this season's growth from the receipts to date, owing to the large surplus left over from last season.

Closing prices are:—December-January, 6'23d.; January-February, 6'26d.; February-March, 6'30d.; March-April, 6'35d.; April-May, 6'38d.; May-June, 6'42d.; June-July, 6'43d.; July-August, 6'45d.; August-September, 6'36d.; September-October, 6'07d.; October-November, 5'99d.

COAL.—Trade continues firm and active for all qualities. House varieties are in good request, the deliveries of gas coal continue heavy, and prices for them in the open market show an advance over those of contract. Steam coals also in the North are up to 9s. 6d. best, and seconds 8s. 6d. f.o.b., and a good many collieries are booked with orders for the next half-year. The railway arguments over locomotive fuel are not yet settled, nor show much prospect of being so, since companies and coalowners alike stand out for their demands. Scottish trade is better, and Welsh also shows signs of improvement.

Copper.—The upward movement in prices made further pronounced headway, and there is no evidence as yet that any particular reaction can be expected. Quotations opened strong on the firm American advices, and went steadily upward on a good general demand and covering by the shorts, who must be experiencing a very bad time. Refined copper is now very hard to come by, and only the scarcity of metal prevents business from becoming decidedly animated. As it is, very fair quantities change hands each day at constantly advancing prices, and the close was strong as ever at £80 2s. 6d. for cash and £79 10s. for future delivery.

Tin.—The market opened strong and active assisted by a rise in Eastern prices, and the demand both for near and forward delivery was exceedingly keen. After the opening outburst there was a tendency towards reaction, especially for future metal, but any softening of quotations quickly brought in buyers and some big purchases for all deliveries especially cash were effected. The close, therefore, was firm with prices sharply up on the week at £166 5s. for spot, and £1 less for three months forward.

IRON AND STEEL.—There is no abatement of the activity in the iron and steel trades throughout the country, demand in all producing centres still tending to outrun supply. In some places the new business available is greater than manufacturers can undertake. Consumers are pressing for the execution of orders in hand, with a strong demand for the completion of some specifications prior to the holidays. There are additional inquiries for the next quarter. In the pig-iron trade the stocks in consumers' hands are low, and although the output has recently been enlarged, yet the supply is by no means

in excess of the demand; indeed, in some instances it does not come up to that level. There has been a stronger demand for hematite iron, and prices have advanced accordingly, with every prospect that prices will further improve. Many good judges believe that 75s. will be reached early in the new year. This view is based on the fact that it will not be possible to increase the output of pig-iron to any appreciable extent, and because the known requirements of consumers will be larger than they are now. The steel trade is busy on shipbuilding material, orders being liberally offered.

TEA.—Indian auctions were again heavy, numbering 40,895 packages, but the market was steadier, and though, according to Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's circular, no advance can be quoted in any particular grade, any move that was made ruled in sellers' favour. Good liquoring teas between 7d. and 9d. were strongest, but common sorts about 5d. received a good demand. Export orders were practically nil; 36,703 packages were sold averaging 6.99d. against 7.10d. last week. Ceylon teas also showed a distinctly firmer tone, notwithstanding the inferior quality of some of the invoices. 19,139 packages were put up, and these averaged for the week 7.71d. against 7.46d. Java sale was the last for the year, and the 3,117 packages had a firm market, especially for the better grades.

Sugar.—This market continues inactive, prices going back 2d. or so, owing to the circulation of more tenders and more offers of next crop. Refiners abroad are less eager to buy after the large business, and for a similar reason makers are indifferent sellers at prices which are not remunerative. Besides, as Mr. Czarnikow points out, a Bank rate of 6 per cent. in Germany does not favour warehousing, though it cannot prevent it. Mr. O. Licht observes that after the forward contracts last spring and summer, which nearly covered the cost of dear roots, contracted, there is not much loss on sales now from own grown roots. Consumption in Germany has been very good, and fairly so in other countries. Exports were influenced in Germany by local demand, but altogether they are satisfactory. The visible world's consumption is 640,000 tons, against 575,000 tons, and if next month it should be from 575,000 tons to 600,000 tons, against 426,000 tons, it shows what consumption may be able to do. The American market has disregarded the dulness on this side, and the demand from consumers has compelled refiners to pay an advance on spot and near sugars. Landings in the three ports for the week were only 8,000 tons, and meltings 30,000 tons, reducing stocks to 184,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

- Abbontiakoon Block 1.—Treated 2,900 tons, 1,488 ozs.
Akrokerri (Ashanti).—Crushed 1,270 tons, 952 ozs.; assay of tailings, 4 dwts.; 870 tons of sands, 125 ozs.; total, 1,077 ozs.
Alaska Treadwell.—Crushed 82,747 tons, value 75,339 dols.; saved 1,635 tons sulphurets, value 70,870 dols.
Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development.—Total, 198 ozs.
Angelo.—Tons milled 13,853, 4,520 ozs.; tons of sands 10,055, 3,164 ozs.; tons of slimes 1,844, 281 ozs.; total, 7,965 ozs.
Ayrshire Gold.—1,880 ozs. from 9,314 tons crushed; 1,010 ozs. from 6,160 tons cyanided.
Bibiani Gold Fields.—Crushed 2,534 tons, 1,723 ozs.; 3,360 tons of tailings, £2,794.
Brilliant and St. George United.—Crushed 2,213 tons, 1,991 ozs.
Brilliant Central.—Crushed 2,400 tons, 1,426 ozs.; cyanide, £504; concentrates, £1,616.
British Exploration of Australasia.—105 ozs. from 50 tons crushed.
Burbank's Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 630 tons, 377 ozs.; 720 tons cyanide, 83 ozs.
Burbank's Birthday.—Tons crushed 2,123, 616 ozs.; tons cyanided 1,376, 61 ozs.
Chillagoe.—Treated 1,581 tons copper ore and 1,268 tons lead ore, producing 86 tons copper matte and 154 tons lead bullion, containing 68 tons copper, 154 tons lead, and 16,555 ozs. silver.
City and Suburban.—8,688 ozs., tons crushed, 23,700.
Consolidated Gold Fields of New Zealand.—Progress—Crushed 4,894 tons, value £7,829. Golden Fleece—Crushed 1,200 tons, value £2,226. Wealth of Nations—Crushed 1,090 tons, value £1,813.
Consolidated Main Reef.—Crushed 17,505 tons, 6,339 ozs.
Copiapo.—830 tons copper ores, averaging 13 per cent.
Coronation Colliery.—Output 15,217 tons.
Dharwar Reefs.—Tons crushed 100, 93 ozs.; tailings assay, per ton, 12 dwts.
Driefontein.—Tons milled 20,058, 4,520 ozs.; tons of sands 15,319, 3,103 ozs.; tons of slimes 3,881, 404 ozs.; total, 8,027 ozs.
East Gwanda.—East Gwanda—Crushed 3,067 tons, 982 ozs.; concentrates 66 tons, 126 ozs. Geelong—Tributed produced 641 ozs. West Nicholson—Cyanide 2,350 tons, 71 ozs.
Elandslaagte Gold.—Milled 2,500 tons, cyanided 2,100 tons; total, 440 ozs.
Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 6,222 tons, 3,422 ozs.; tailings, average assay value per ton, 3.63 dwts.; cyanide, tons 4,000, 627 ozs.; total, 4,049 ozs.
Great Fingall.—Tons 18,451, 8,223 ozs.; tons of tailings 18,117, 2,258 ozs.; tons of concentrates 334, 2,001 ozs.; total, 12,482 ozs.
Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Tons crushed 605, 311 ozs.; royalties, £195.
Ida H. Gold.—Crushed 1,400 tons, 1,118 ozs.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—New Primrose—7,106 ozs., 15,403 tons treated. Glencairn Main Reef—3,905 ozs., 12,704 tons treated. Consolidated Langlaagte—5,656 ozs., 16,472 tons treated. New Rietfontein—4,559 ozs., 8,523 tons treated. New Unified Main Reef—2,735 ozs., 8,610 tons treated. Buffelsdoorn—502 ozs. from 2,600 tons of slimes. Ginsberg—3,084 ozs., 6,951 tons treated.

Killarney Hibernia.—Crushed 3,790 tons, 1,517 ozs.

Knights Deep.—Tons 21,181, 7,570 ozs.

Lachlan Gold Fields.—Crushed 725 tons, £1,150.

Lancefield.—Tons 2,300, 104 ozs.; tons of sands 1,818, 630 ozs.; tons of slimes 482, 83 ozs.; tons of old slimes 1,139, 196 ozs.; ounces from slag, 57; tons of concentrates 648, 377 ozs.; total, 1,447 ozs.

Langlaagte Estate.—Crushed 26,588 tons, 5,305 ozs.; concentrates, 485 tons, 678 ozs.; tailings, 17,600 tons, 1,671 ozs.; total, 7,654 ozs.

Maryborough Leviathan.—Crushed 681 tons, 179 ozs.

Meyer and Charlton.—3,244 ozs. from 10,700 tons crushed; 1,441 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,683 ozs.

Mitchell's Creek.—635 tons crushed, 290 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons, value £250.

Morven (Rhodesia).—302 tons, 353 ozs.

Montana.—Drumlummon—Shipping ore in course of treatment estimated to realise \$2,900; treated 1,121 tons of tailings and fines, 190 ozs. gold and 4,590 ozs. silver. Lucky Girl Group, Nevada.—Crushed 1,550 tons, 460 ozs. gold and 440 ozs. silver.

Mount Lyell.—31,985 tons treated, in addition to 1,990 tons of purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes. Converters produced 719 tons of blister copper containing copper, 710 tons, silver 55,253 ozs., gold 1,901 ozs.

Mount Morgan Gold.—Tons chlorinated 19,319, and 11,364 tons tailings, 11,808 ozs.

Mount Zeehan (Tasmania) Silver-Lead.—525 tons of silver-lead ore, containing 300 tons of lead and 36,700 ozs. of silver.

Mungana (Chillagoe).—1,126 tons ore, containing 65 tons copper, and 13,371 ozs. silver, and 141 tons lead, shipped.

New Comet.—Tons milled 15,702, 3,399 ozs.; tons of sands 11,592, 3,113 ozs.; total, 6,517 ozs.

New Goch.—Crushed 15,813 tons, 1,786 ozs.; cyanide, 1,535 ozs.; total, 3,321 ozs. fine gold.

New Heriot.—Crushed 8,770 tons, 3,586 ozs.

New Kleinfontein.—Tons milled 24,001, 5,707 ozs.; tons of sands 17,249, 2,296 ozs.; total, 8,003 ozs.

New Modderfontein.—Crushed 9,575 tons, 3,621 ozs.

New Queen.—Crushed 533 tons, 497 ozs.; 696 tons by cyanide; concentrates, £575.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 2,002 tons, £3,497.

Nigel.—Crushed 6,024 tons, 3,411 ozs.

Nigel Deep.—2,925 tons, 1,856 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—Treated 1,918 tons, producing 393 tons concentrates, containing 274 tons 6 cwts. lead and 7,310 ozs. silver.

North Randfontein.—Crushed 14,342 tons, 3,330 ozs.; concentrates, 1,410 tons, 502 ozs.; tailings, 8,460 tons, 1,660 ozs.; slimes, 4,656 tons, 483 ozs.; total, 5,975 ozs.

Porges Randfontein.—Crushed 13,121 tons, 4,069 ozs.; concentrates, 1,268 tons, 412 ozs.; tailings, 8,316 tons, 1,123 ozs.; slimes, 3,810 tons, 264 ozs.; total, 5,868 ozs.

Queensland Copper.—Ore treated 1,095 tons; production, 210 tons of matte, containing 121 tons fine copper.

Rhodesia Consolidated.—Nelly.—Crushed 1,600 tons, 788 ozs.; 1,145 tons by cyanide, 401 ozs.; total, 1,189 ozs. Sabi.—Crushed 605 tons, 189 ozs.; 534 tons by cyanide, 244 ozs.; total, 433 ozs.

Robinson Deep.—29,055 tons, 14,995 ozs.

Robinson Randfontein.—Crushed 14,277 tons, 3,250 ozs.; concentrates, 1,360 tons, 460 ozs.; tailings, 8,190 tons, 1,393 ozs.; slimes, 5,064 tons, 414 ozs.; total, 5,526 ozs.

Roodepoot United.—2,930 ozs. from 9,140 tons crushed; 1,231 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,161 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £7,750; yield per ton, 0.56 of an oz. troy.

Salisbury.—Crushed 5,400 tons, 1,860 ozs.

San Francisco Del Oro.—1,181 tons shipped, value £4,388.

Simmer and Jack East.—15,520 tons, 5,174 ozs.

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—51,700 tons, 19,648 ozs.

South Randfontein.—Crushed 13,332 tons, 3,709 ozs.; concentrates, 1,260 tons, 371 ozs.; tailings, 7,970 tons, 1,329 ozs.; slimes, 4,220 tons, 479 ozs.; total, 5,888 ozs.

Theta.—Crushed 1,500 tons, 518 ozs.; cyanide, 574 tons, 113 ozs.

Treasury.—Crushed, 8,100 tons, 2,906 ozs.

Tyee Copper.—Smelted, Tyee ore, 2,304 tons; customs ore, 265 tons; total, 2,569 tons; matte produced 220 tons.

Tyne Valley Colliery.—Output, 8,093 tons.

Um Rus.—Crushed 690 tons, 404 ozs.; 552 tons of tailings, of an average assay value of 3 dwts. per ton.

Van Ryn Gold.—Crushed 22,010 tons, 5,362 ozs.; 14,600 tons of tailings, 2,533 ozs.

Village Main Reef.—Crushed 24,700 tons, 6,335 ozs.; 18,415 tons of sands and concentrates, 2,787 ozs.; slimes, 6,710 tons, 430 ozs.; total, 9,552 ozs.

Wemmer.—Crushed 8,480 tons, 2,481 ozs.; 4,680 tons sands, 411 ozs.; 2,640 tons slimes, 129 ozs.; 206 tons concentrates caught, average assay value 63 dwts.; total, 3,675 ozs.

West Rand Central Gold.—Crushed 2,500 tons, 534 ozs.; 2,075 tons by cyanide, 565 ozs.

Witwatersrand Gold.—8,942 ozs., 28,250 tons treated.

Zeehan-Montana.—345 tons silver-lead ore, containing 170 tons of lead and 22,400 ozs. silver.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

INSURANCE.

Imperial Accident, Live Stock, and General.—For the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum.

London and Lancashire Life.—At the rate of 8s. 3d. per share per annum for the half-year ending 31st inst.

Royal Exchange.—Interim of 4 per cent.

MINES.

Bonanza.—Interim of 3½ per cent. (6s. 6d. per share) for the half-year to Dec. 31, payable Feb. 5.

Brilliant and St. George United.—6d. per share, payable 29th inst.

City and Suburban Gold.—5 per cent.

Crown Deep.—Interim of 40 per cent. for the half-year ending Dec. 31, payable Feb. 5.

El Oro Mining and Railway.—Interim of 1s. per share, payable 28th inst.

Ferreira Gold.—137½ per cent. (27s. 6d. per share).

Geldenhuis Deep.—Interim of 20 per cent. for the half-year ending Dec. 31.

Geldenhuis Estate and Gold.—Interim of 40 per cent.

Mount Lyell Mining and Railway.—No. 4, of 1s. 3d. per share and a bonus of 9d. per share.

New Queen Gold.—6d. per share, payable on Dec. 22.

North Broken Hill (No Liability).—No. 2, of 2s. per share, payable Jan. 19.

Robinson Central Deep.—Interim of 25 per cent. (5s. per share) for the half-year ending Dec. 31, payable Feb. 5.

Robinson Gold.—Interim of 9 per cent. (9s. per £5 share) for the half-year ending Dec. 31, payable Feb. 5.

Rose Deep.—Interim of 10 per cent. for the half-year ending Dec. 31, payable Feb. 5.

Salisbury Gold.—No. 22, of 2s. per share.

Van Ryn Gold.—Interim of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) for the year ending June 30, 1906.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Angela Nitrate.—Interim of 5 per cent., payable Dec. 19.

Blaenavon Company.—5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £19,772.

Bury Paper-Making.—At the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Nov. 25.

Castle Street Arcade Company.—At the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Nov. 31.

Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.—Semi-annual of 2½ per cent. on the preferred capital stock, payable Jan. 15.

Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph.—Interim for the quarter ended Sept. 30 of 2s. 6d. per share, payable 15th prox.

Eastern Telegraph.—Interim of 1¼ per cent. on the ordinary stock, in respect of profits for the quarter ended Sept. 30.

European Gas.—Usual interim of 8s. per share on the £10 fully-paid shares and 6s. per share on the £10 shares, £7 10s. paid, payable Feb. 1.

Electric and General Investment.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the capital paid up on the ordinary shares, being 1s. per share, for the six months ended 30th ult.

George M. Callender and Co.—Interim on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. for the six months to Sept. 30, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Hudson's Bay.—Interim of 10s. per share, payable Jan. 12.

Idris and Company.—10 per cent. on the A ordinary and 5 per cent. on the B ordinary for the year ended Oct. 31, carrying forward £2,241.

John Lovibond and Sons.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the half-year to Sept. 30.

Kayser, Ellison, and Co.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending Dec. 31.

Kelly's Directories.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

Lautaro Nitrate.—Interim of 6s. per share, payable Jan. 1.

London and New York Investment.—2 per cent. for the year ended Oct. 31, carrying forward £1,457.

Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 3.

National Bank of New Zealand.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year to Sept. 30.

Newcastle Breweries.—At the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Oct. 31.

Pearks.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Oct. 24, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable 21st inst.

Scottish American Mortgage.—Interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Nov. 30.

The "Bodega."—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share on the 40,000 ordinary shares of £5 each, fully paid, and 1s. 3d. per share on the 20,000 ordinary shares of £5 each, £4 paid up, being at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Victoria Pier and Promenade Hotel, Southport.—3 per cent. for the year ended Oct. 30, carrying forward £187.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION.

The sixty-fifth annual meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held on Tuesday at the offices, Leadenhall Street, Sir Thomas Sutherland, G.C.M.G., LL.D., chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary, Mr. George Frederick Johnson, having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: You will no doubt take the report as read, and therefore it becomes my duty now to move its adoption, and to add a few observations in reference to the general position of the company's affairs. In the first place, I think you will feel satisfied upon the whole with the statement of accounts which we lay before you to-day. We pay the dividend and bonus to which you have been accustomed for some years, and which averages, as you are aware, 9 per cent. on the paid-up capital of the company—I may say, the very moderate paid-up capital of the company. And this dividend, I may remind you again, as I think I have done on former occasions, you have earned not only in your capacity as shipowners, but as underwriters who bear the whole of the marine risk of one of the most valuable fleets in the world. I say that our capital is exceedingly small in proportion to the character of the business which we carry out; it amounts, in fact, to a very little over two millions sterling, and it is for that reason partly that we have been able for so many years to declare what I trust you consider to be an adequate return. In referring to the smallness of our capital, I do not forget that we have also a large borrowed capital in the shape of debenture stock amounting to £1,800,000, bearing interest at the rate of 3½ per cent., but I am glad to tell you that that capital may be considered practically in reserve for whatever future developments in the company's operations may be necessary, whereas you will observe by the accounts submitted to you on this occasion that while the annual interest on our debenture stock amounts to £63,000, there is, on the other side, a credit of interest on investments amounting to upwards of £83,000. (Hear, hear.) It is at all events gratifying to our *amour propre* as shareholders in this company that the market value of our debenture stock stands at least as high as, if not higher than, stock bearing a similar rate of interest issued by the greatest of our self-governing colonies, and that is owing in a great measure to the policy which we have pursued for many years, and which you have so enthusiastically endorsed, a policy of setting aside ample reserves, as we do in the present instance, because in addition to charging the normal 5 per cent. of depreciation on the original cost of our ships, we set aside an additional amount of £170,000, bringing the total sinking fund for the year up to the respectable figure of £536,000, and this is a policy which, as I have often said, is the very backbone of our business. It is the means by which we have been able to continue the improvement and the expansion of our fleet, and it is the means by which the company stands to-day in the financial position which, I am glad to say, it occupies. (Hear, hear.) Turning for a moment to the accounts, you will find our total revenue amounts to upwards of three millions sterling, being accounted for in this case by the very low rate of exchange for that large portion of our revenue which is payable in silver. In the revenue on the whole perhaps the most interesting item is that of our passage money, which amounts altogether to £984,695, and shows an increase over last year of the moderate but still sensible amount of £26,000. I am glad to say that this increase, following as it does upon a similar increase last year, shows that the general tendency of trade is towards improvement, because it is not an accidental increase attributable to any particular line, but is derivable from the general operations of the company. I am sorry at the same time to say that in the case of our Australian colonies the advance is far less than we expected. During the commercial crisis and the subsequent unfortunate seasons by which Australia was afflicted we naturally saw the whole of our passenger traffic on the down grade, and we have been hoping, with the return to better times, to find a larger increment in our passenger business than, as it happens, we have found this year, but all our advices from that part of the world tend to show that whatever increase we obtained in the past year is merely to be considered as an augury of better things in the immediate future.

One of the questions which we are always considering, and considering with a view, I need hardly say, to the interest of the public, as well as to a certain extent to your interests, is that of the fairness of our passenger fares in all respects. I daresay you may possibly remember a little joke which I attempted last year—and I very seldom indeed attempt a joke in meetings of this kind—in reference to the possibility of being carried round the world at the rate of 1d per mile with four meals per day included, and landing at the end of the journey in a very much better condition than that in which you started. I took the trouble this year to ascertain how much the public paid us per passenger mile on all our great Eastern lines of communication, but before giving you the figures, which are somewhat curious, I have to premise three considerations—in the first place that the longer the voyage is it is usually the more economical; in the second place that a most important influence on the result, so far as our revenue is concerned, is that of the relative proportion between first and second class passengers; and thirdly, and perhaps even in a more important degree, the extent to which our returns are influenced by the liberal manner in which

we deal with the question of return passages. I may perhaps remind you, and I believe I stated at the time, that some two years ago we placed our return ticket business on a most liberal basis by charging a fare and a-half, and allowing the return ticket to run for the long period of two years. Taking into consideration, as we must do, these factors in regard to our passenger receipts, I find that on our line to Bombay, which is our most expensive line, the return in passage money obtainable by the company is at the rate of 1¼d. per mile, the meals—the fattening process—of course going steadily forward. On our China line, our line to Shanghai and Japan, and our line to Australia the figures, strangely to us, work out in almost identical form, and amount to within a fraction on one side or the other of 1d. per mile; whereas on the Calcutta line, which is nowadays no longer a mail line, and which is carried out by vessels of lesser speed than those employed in the mail service, the actual return is, I may say, considerably below that famous 1d. per mile. I am quite sure that anyone who thinks about the matter will not consider that we are extravagantly remunerated by our passengers, and if it were possible for me—which, unfortunately, it is not—to tell you the other side of the account and to say how much our passenger traffic costs us, I fear that the residue of profit would be very slender indeed, more especially considering the very costly service which we have to carry on and the all-important fact that your steamers are never adequately filled except for the short period of three months on the outward voyage and for even a somewhat shorter period on the homeward journey.

The next item in our revenue account is that under the head of freight, charters, and miscellaneous services, and here the total amount earned is £1,588,784, and we find, as compared with last year, that we show a deficiency under this heading of £37,220, but, as the report carefully explains, we have in reality an increase in our freight business amounting to £24,000, while, on the other hand, we have a decrease in the casual business—which we obtain from Government of £51,000, a business over which we, of course, have no control whatever, and which works out the net deficiency at £37,220, as I have stated. Although we have this increase of £24,000, I am bound to say that, judging by the prospects which were before us this time last year, I hoped for a very much greater result. At that time the prospects of the Indian trade were better than they had been for two years; the homeward freights, which had been very low for two or three years, had risen very considerably; and, altogether, there seemed, both outward and homeward, to be the prospect of a considerable advance in our earnings in this important department, but an unexpected and altogether abnormal frost in the wheat and seed district—or in some of the wheat and seed districts—of India completely destroyed the prospect which then lay before us, and for several months of the financial year which we are dealing with the cargoes we obtained in Bombay and Calcutta were absolutely inadequate; and indeed wretched almost beyond previous experience. Then, again, we have in this trade, on the outward part of it, a very considerable fight, which has been going on for some months, and which still continues. It is a fight with a German line—a very important German line—which has been seeking to create a monopoly in the British Indian trade, not from Germany, if you please, but from the Port of Antwerp, which is a neutral port for all comers, in which we have been engaged for upwards of twenty-three years, and in which it is absolutely necessary that we should hold an important position, because, whether in the outward trade or in the homeward trade, it is nowadays actually impossible, as I think I have said before, for this company to fill their ships in the Port of London alone. And, after all, we must recollect that the Continent of Europe is a good deal bigger than Great Britain, and Antwerp occupies a commanding position in regard to the import and export trade of that part of the world. We have landed in Antwerp during the past year thousands and thousands of tons of cargo from the Far East, and the idea which appears to have been entertained by our German friends of being obliged to send our ships to Antwerp and bringing them away empty in order to foster their particular monopoly is one of those strange notions which, as the late Lord Dunsyre said, "No fellow can possibly understand." (Hear, hear.) In speaking of our freight business, I am sorry to say that the Australian trade is a considerable disappointment to us. We expected that the improvement in seasons in that part of the world would bring us a large increase in our business; but, unfortunately, the most valuable part of the Australian trade to mail steamers is that in connection with the conveyance of refrigerated produce—butter, and other items of a valuable kind—and I am sorry to say that the rates for this particular description of produce have been pulled down to a non-remunerative point, and, as far as I can see, they are, unfortunately, likely to remain at that point for a considerable length of time. And why? Simply because there are too many ships capable of carrying refrigerated produce in the Australian trade, and extreme competition has taken the place of that prudent agreement which had previously existed amongst shipowners engaged in that particular business. Still, notwithstanding these disadvantages, which I always make a point of putting plainly before you, we continue to survive, and, therefore, there must be some silver lining in the clouds to which I am now referring. We have had a most excellent trade in connection with China and Japan, and we have also had a very fair trade inter-colonially between India and China.

There are great hopes in the shipping world of a future development in connection with the trade of Japan and the farthest East, and I confess it appears to me that the develop-

ments in that connection have already been so great that any speedy increase appears to me almost unlikely. In 1895 the foreign trade of Japan amounted only to 26½ millions sterling, in 1904 the foreign trade rose to the enormous figure of 69 millions, and we must bear in mind that that trade is not a trade by any means with Great Britain, or even with Europe, but is a trade which largely belongs to America and to Canada, and whether it is likely to increase to any serious extent or not within the next few years is a matter as to which I should find it difficult indeed to prophesy if I were disposed to do so. But at all events the present state of the Far Eastern trade is that we employ a greater amount of tonnage on the outward voyage than we can find work for on the homeward voyage, and the consequence is that there is now something in the shape of a scramble for freight on the homeward voyage from the farthest East. From these observations you will understand that I am not quite so sanguine as to shipowning prospects during next year as I was a year ago, but in this respect I hope I may prove to be of too cautious a disposition, and that a change may take place which will be greatly for the better. There is one bright spot, however, on our little horizon, and that is that from January 1 next the Suez Canal Company reduces the impost on ships passing through the Suez at the rate of 75 centimes per ton, and that will enable this company in the course of twelve months to save, on the passing through of their ships, £30,000 a year or upwards. (Hear, hear.) There is nothing that I should like so much, or that you would like so much, as that this comfortable and satisfactory concession on the part of the Suez Canal Company could repose within our breeches pockets, but I sadly fear that the generosity of the shipowners is so great that they cannot refrain from giving away this concession to their clients by anticipation, and that the rates of freight indicate that we shall require every penny of it in order to make up our customary earnings for next year. However that may be, I may in passing allude to the fact, as a director and a shareholder of the Suez Canal Company, that this liberality on their part will cost the shareholders of the Canal Company upwards of £400,000 sterling next year, and that is, I was going to say, a bone which would be very difficult indeed to get out of John Bull's mouth if he should happen to have it there.

With regard to the expenditure side of the account, it really requires no explanation whatever, beyond what is already stated in the report. The figures are normal, with one solitary exception, namely, that we have an excess charge of £32,000 under the head of repairs and renewals, which is due entirely to the fact that we have had to effect a large expenditure upon several of our ships in order to fit them for the new mail service and for the arduous mail service which we entered upon at the beginning of this year. Touching the mail service, I may say it is far more arduous and stringent than the one which we carried on for the previous seven years, but, at the same time, since it began it has been executed with that absolute punctuality and certainty which leads us almost to forget the great importance and difficulty of the undertaking. A railway time-table, not even the South-Eastern or the Chatham and Dover, is not in it at all with the time-table which carries the Indian, China, and Australian mail, on every occasion a voyage of 20,000 miles across the Indian and the Australian seas. (Hear, hear.) I think, considering the fact that our ships have to traverse in the course of their annual operations a distance of upwards of three millions of nautical miles every year, and that you may say that work is carried on with rare—very rare—exceptions in most absolute safety, we must recognise the trained skill, the ceaseless vigilance, and the administrative capacity both afloat and ashore which redound to the credit of the service of the company. I have only one word to add with regard to the new vessels which we are gradually bringing into your fleet. The *Mooltan*, the last of these five great mail steamers, has just sailed on her first voyage, and the only peculiarity which I have to notice in regard to that type of vessel is this, that they are 2,000 tons larger than the ships of the Persia class immediately preceding them, and they are vastly more costly, but that they only carry the same number of passengers, because it has been our desire to render the passenger accommodation more complete and more luxurious for the Eastern trade than in any vessels which we had previously constructed. And what I say with regard to the *Moldavia* and *Mooltan* class, I can say with regard to the *Delhi* class of four vessels which are rapidly taking their place on our India and China line; all these vessels have their cabin accommodation constructed on a higher plan, that is higher above the water line than the ships we were in the habit of building previously; and, consequently, carry their passengers in much greater comfort in tropical seas than any ships previously built.

Now, our building programme during the last three years has been by far the largest that this company has ever attempted. It amounts in figures to upwards of £3,600,000, which is a tolerably large budget for a private company, but in the present balance-sheet we do not enter into the cost account the value of any of these new vessels, because the completed accounts are not yet ready, and, consequently, our ships stand in the present balance-sheet at a ridiculously low valuation—at not more, deducting our reserves, than £4 10s. a ton. But I mention this figure now, adding that the new ships, which will be included in the account next year, will naturally increase the value per ton in the new balance-sheet. Now, gentlemen, there is one paragraph in the report to which I must allude, and I do so with a feeling of great sadness. I refer to the unexpected decease of our late colleague, Sir Robert Herbert. There are many in this room who, no doubt, knew him personally, and still more who

knew about his career. He was a great scholar; he was a successful administrator in connection with our Colonial Government; and he was a loyal and true friend and colleague in all the relations of life. We bring before you as his successor my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh—(hear, hear)—but the public record of Lord Balfour is so well known to every man in this room and throughout the country, and I might even say throughout the Empire, that I am quite sure no commendation on our part is necessary on his behalf. (Applause.) Before I sit down I wish to make a remark or two in the nature of what I might call a personal note. On January 16 next I shall have had the honour of holding my position as chairman of this board, with the confidence of my colleagues and the confidence, I believe, of my shareholders—(applause)—for no less a period than twenty-five years. Happily, there are many here who have been present at all the meetings over which it has been my duty to preside, and they can, if necessary, bear out my grateful recollection that not a note of discord and no question of any kind in reference to the policy of the board has ever been raised during this long period. (Hear, hear.) But my object is not to dwell on this happy state of things at this moment; my object is to show in a few figures the broad results of the company's working during that period. In the first place, let me point out some of the changes which have taken place in connection with our business. Our mail subsidy is less to-day than it was in 1880 by something like £150,000 per annum, and yet since that date the improvement and acceleration of the mail service has been so great that the mail is now landed in Bombay between four and five days earlier than was the case at the date which I am referring to, and it is landed both in China and in Australia in not less than eight days sooner. (Applause.) I may also say that the bulk of the mails is now so great that it would really constitute a full cargo for a mail steamer of thirty years ago, and the ship would literally have no room for a package of any kind. During this period our passenger fares have been reduced altogether, as far as I can judge, by something like 30 per cent.; and, as regards our freights, I should decline to guess to what miserable depths they have fallen in comparison with the good old times. But this I can say, that our carrying tonnage has been increased in this period by 250,000 tons. You will perceive from the facts which I have stated that it is not the mail contract which has kept the P. and O. Company, but that it is the cargo and passenger capacity of the company which has kept the mail contract—(hear, hear)—and I hope that that fact may become sufficiently obvious to my right hon. friend the new Postmaster-General. (Laughter and applause.) Well, then, in this period we have paid you most inadequate dividends I quite admit, from one point of view, but we have paid you altogether £5,000,000 in dividends during these twenty-five years, being, as nearly as possible, at the rate of 8 per cent. on the paid-up capital of the company; but in order to safeguard your financial position, to provide that which was absolutely necessary—the enlargement and improvement of our fleet—to constitute adequate reserve funds for marine insurance risks and for general reserves, we have laid aside out of your earnings no less a sum than £9,000,000, and the result of the policy of those ample reserves you see in the market value of your property to-day, which is, I believe, as nearly as possible, more valuable by something like 1½ millions than it was at the date when I was honoured by being placed in this chair. If we had not followed that policy the result would have been of a very opposite kind. We should have had to increase your capital, and your stock, instead of standing at a premium, would most certainly have stood at a discount. I have spoken about the amount which we have paid and about the reserves which it has been necessary to make. These reserves have enabled us to carry on those great shipbuilding operations which have been a necessary and essential feature of our work and of our position, and they amount for the period to which I am referring, including the ships now under construction, to the very considerable sum of £12,000,000 sterling. By showing these figures of dividends, reserves, and shipbuilding, you have the financial history of the company at a single glance, and I trust that we are not an unworthy example of the progress and soundness of the great mercantile marine of this country. If we venture to congratulate ourselves on the past which is behind us, we certainly must not forget that ours is a business which is particularly liable to change and vicissitude, and that only a sound policy and constant labour and effort will ensure in the future the success which is with us to-day. (Applause.) I am quite sure that those qualities will not be wanting, and when twenty-five years hence the chairman of the company, whoever he may be, comes to speak, as I am speaking to-day, I hope and believe that he will have a more brilliant record to put before you than the figures which I have presented. I believe I have told you everything that I know myself about the company to-day, and I now beg to move the adoption of the sixty-fifth annual report of the company. (Applause.)

The Right Hon. the Earl of Leven and Melville, K.T.: I beg to second the motion.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now beg to propose "That a dividend for the half-year ended September 30th last of 2½ per cent. on the preferred stock and a dividend of 6½ per cent., with a bonus of 3 per cent., on the deferred stock, as recommended in the report, be now declared, and that payment of the same be made, less income-tax, on and after the 10th inst."

Mr. W. Adamson, C.M.G.: I beg to second it.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman: I have now the honour to propose that my right hon. friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh be re-elected a director of this company.

Major-General Sir Owen Tudor Burne, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.: I have much pleasure in seconding that.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T.: Perhaps you will allow me in a single word to thank you for the great honour that you have conferred upon me to-day, and to say, what might almost go without saying, that I hope to give you the very best service that it is in my power to give. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I now propose "That William Adamson, Esq., C.M.G., be re-elected a director of this company."

Mr. W. G. Rathbone: I have great pleasure in seconding that. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: I now propose "That Herbert Brooks, Esq., be re-elected a director of this company."

Mr. P. Williams: I beg to second that.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman: That concludes the business of the meeting so far as we are concerned.

Professor Edward Hull, F.R.S.: I rise to propose "That the cordial thanks of the proprietors are due to the chairman, directors, and staff for their continued successful management of the company's business." It requires no words of mine to commend this resolution to you; the presence of such a large body of enthusiastic and unanimous shareholders speaks for itself. In the first place, I feel sure we are all delighted to see Sir Thomas Sutherland in such excellent health and form as he has shown to-day, and we congratulate him heartily on attaining the twenty-fifth anniversary of the chairmanship of this company, which he has served so faithfully and so successfully. (Applause.) He has been one of the most wonderful financiers of our time. I feel sure that if he had not occupied the position of chairman of this company he would have been Chancellor of the Exchequer in more than one Government, and I venture to think that if that had been the case he would have carried through our public finances even more successfully and satisfactorily than they are at the present day. We should not have had 1s. 2d. or 1s. in the £ income-tax, nor should we have had a debt of £100,000,000 at our backs in order to get Ireland out of its difficulties. But here we are, and I am sure we are all unanimous that we could not have had a better chairman or one who could have managed our affairs with more success. We hope that he will long adorn the position which he now occupies, and that as years go on the position of our company will improve. There is one other point to which I should like to allude. I had the pleasure of taking a passage in the cruiser *Vectis* last summer, and I must say that I never had a more pleasant voyage. My reason for referring to that now is to recommend any of you gentlemen or your friends who wish to have a delightful voyage either to Norway or to the Mediterranean to do so in the *Vectis*, which is the most comfortable ship that you could possibly find. I beg now to move the resolution which I have already dealt with.

Mr. D. Stock: I beg to second the proposal which has just been made, and will add that I think no other company in London, and no other company in existence hardly, can boast of so good a chairman or of a gentleman who has carried out his duties so thoroughly as yourself. The company is very different now to what it was forty or fifty years ago. I knew very little of it at that time, but for the last eight or ten years I have had the pleasure of attending these meetings, and have been delighted with the speeches which have been addressed by you to the company. I think they are most interesting, because you give in a concise manner such an excellent account of all that has been done in connection with the company. You have stated to-day that travelling can be done at the rate of less than 1d. per mile for many thousands of miles, and the freights are very much reduced to what they were many years ago. The company is what I call a progressive company—a company which has moved with the times and is moving with the times.

Professor Hull, in putting the resolution, said: I ought perhaps to have laid a little more stress upon the work of the different departments of the company, including the agents and the officers. To them, I am sure, we owe a great debt of gratitude for their successful labours. (Applause.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: I am extremely glad, and I am quite sure so are my colleagues, that my friend, in putting this motion to the meeting, has referred to our staff, because I am quite sure that there is no company in the world better served by its staff than the P. and O. Company. (Hear, hear.) With regard to my colleagues and myself, we are only too proud of the unlimited confidence which you have bestowed in us for so many years. We have striven to deserve that confidence, and we intend, so long as we are here, to deserve it in the future. If I have not sufficiently impressed you with the fact, I should like now to impress you with it that a company of this kind—a shipping concern—is never free from difficulties; it is never in the position of a great bank, which having once attained a solid business appears to move automatically. The ocean is wide and open to all mankind, and you are liable to attack at every point of the compass, and you are constantly being attacked at every point of the compass, and I am quite sure that nothing but eternal vigilance and stern hard work on the part of our staff and on the part of our board will maintain you in the position which you have now happily achieved. (Applause.) As regards myself, it would be mere affectation for me to say that I do not cordially and thoroughly appreciate the kind things

which my hon. friend has said about me to-day, and I can also assure you that I am as proud to be chairman of this company as I should ever have been to be Chancellor of the Exchequer, although there is no doubt that if I had occupied the latter position you would have had a very different income-tax from what you have now. (Laughter and applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

CORPORATION OF WESTERN EGYPT.

The first ordinary general meeting of the Corporation of Western Egypt, Limited, was held on Monday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of the Hon. Alexander O. Murray, M.P., chairman of the corporation.

The Secretary (Mr. Alfred W. Deering) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It is my duty in the first instance to remind you that we did not consider it necessary to issue a prospectus, seeing that the object and scope of our operations were set forth in the concessions from the Egyptian Government, particulars of which were circulated amongst you, and, further, in our opinion, there was no necessity for such prospectus in view of the fact that, looking to the confidence existing amongst those who launched this enterprise, the capital was at once forthcoming, and, in fact, was very heavily oversubscribed. As regards capital, you will observe that no less than two-thirds of the total capital of the Corporation is secured as working capital in accordance with the arrangement made with the Egyptian Government. We have large cash balances, and so carefully have we invested your funds that the first-class securities in which they are placed show to-day a greatly enhanced value. (Hear, hear.) Finally, let me observe, while on the subject of accounts, that in the first year during which we carried on business we have almost paid our way, seeing that there is only a debit balance of £1,276 10s. 3d. standing between us and a dividend. Now, first and foremost among our dividend-earning resources stands the land. We are essentially a commercial land company. We have grants of land in Khargeh, Dakhla, Farafra, and Baharia Oases, in Western Egypt. We have grants of land over 622,000 acres to be taken up *pro rata* for thirty years, over which we have the absolute right of sale. This is one of the most valuable land concessions yet granted by the Egyptian Government, and its careful and economic development should not only provide an outlet for British capital returning large dividends, but should add a vast revenue-producing province to the dominions of the Khedive. I am happy to state that our relations with the Government are most amicable. We have taken every precaution in our power to attach to our service officials of the highest calibre, while no less care has been exercised in the selection of our subordinate officials. Mr. Beadnell, who as nine years' representative of the Egyptian Government in the oases has an unexampled experience of that vast area, has surrendered his position under the Government in order to join our service. He was a member of the Egyptian Government Survey Department, and is the author of certain official standard publications on Egypt. His geological opinion is to the effect that the underground artesian supply in the oases is practically inexhaustible, and that the output at the surface may be almost indefinitely augmented. Our several experiments in irrigation have amply demonstrated the fertility of the western country under favourable conditions, and, as the report in your hands makes clear, the initial success we have obtained is all that can be desired. As a consequence, we are now receiving numerous applications for land, and, as soon as certain formalities are complied with, we shall be in a position to proceed with land sales. There is every indication that there will be an exceedingly ready sale. With regard to the value of land you will find in Lord Cromer's last report an extract from the report of my colleague, Crookshank Pasha, relative to the extraordinary value of the irrigated lands of the Daira Sanieh, which has resulted from his able administration. "Crookshank Pasha," says Lord Cromer, "writes:—'With the conversion of the basin irrigation in Middle Egypt into perennial irrigation, and a constant supply of good water assured by the Assouan dam and Assiout barrage, I am confident that we have not yet reached the highest prices that the land is worth.'" And Lord Cromer adds:—"This view is shared by many other eminent authorities." The figure for the Nile lands, according to Crookshank Pasha, works out at about £60 per acre. But let us, for the purpose of arriving at some commercial basis for our early land sales in the oases, assume that £12 10s. only per acre will be realised immediately. This calculation would signify no less a sum than £250,000, or the whole of our subscribed capital, from one year's operations. (Applause.) The Egyptian is a thrifty and good husbandman, and it will be part of the policy of your directors at a later date to make advances, as is done by agricultural banks, for the better development of your land in the irrigated districts of your concessions. I should mention for your information that, for the present we do not intend to sell any land near actual or possible townships, or in the vicinity of the railway. Finally, let me say a word concerning our railway. You will doubtless concur with your board that the future of the corporation is mainly wrapped up in the provision of railway facilities between the oases and the Nile. We have, as you are aware, a railway concession for seventy years. We are pushing the line forward with all possible dispatch, and are acting under Government supervision, seeing that we are to enjoy a Government guarantee on our capital expenditure. We are constructing the line ourselves in order that we may save to you the contractors' profits. Our railway, when completed,

will provide access to markets for agricultural produce; moreover, it should, in view of the great rise in the value of land in the Nile Valley, tempt the fellahs to rent or purchase holdings in the oases, and thus be instrumental in transforming those once thickly populated tracts into a busy province again, a province which would participate in the general conditions of prosperity which Anglo-Egyptian beneficent rule has so abundantly brought to Egypt at large. (Applause.) With these few observations I beg with confidence to submit this report and the accounts for your acceptance and adoption. (Applause.)

Mr. C. E. H. Hobhouse, M.P., seconded the motion, remarking that he had entire confidence and belief in the undertaking.

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously, and a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the meeting.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company was held on Tuesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. Ivor Philips, the chairman of the company, who stated that the meeting had been called by the board in pursuance of a requisition made by Mr. P. Dvorkovitz and other members holding between them not less than one-tenth of the issued capital of the company. Mr. Dvorkovitz moved a resolution for the purpose of appointing a committee with powers to investigate the circumstances attending the formation of the company and the subsequent carrying on of its business and the conduct of the directors in reference thereto. Mr. Dvorkovitz entered into a lengthy statement as to the history and management of the company from its formation, advancing allegations in support of his case for inquiry which were described by the chairman as involving grave charges against various persons, and particularly against Mr. H. N. Gladstone. The chairman explained that, in accordance with a promise he made at the last general meeting, he had invited the 36 largest shareholders and some of the smaller shareholders to meet together to consider the question of the reorganisation of the company. This committee would have every facility for making an independent investigation of the company's affairs, including the questions raised by Mr. Dvorkovitz. Mr. Dvorkovitz having intimated his readiness to accept this committee if three names were omitted from it, the chairman said he could not now withdraw the names in question—personally he believed the gentlemen to be absolutely unbiassed—but he would consider the point. The chairman then submitted a resolution approving and confirming the appointment of the committee already constituted for the further purpose of investigating the allegations made by Mr. Dvorkovitz. This committee, he stated, had appointed a sub-committee of seven shareholders, which had held several meetings, and the board were giving them every possible help. He asked the meeting to confirm the action of the board in appointing the committee so that there might be no question that they had the authority of the company behind them. The charges were serious charges directed particularly against a gentleman they all respected. Mr. Gladstone was most anxious that the shareholders should know the full state of affairs, and had sent in a letter giving his view of the case. He had also placed the books of his firm entirely open before Messrs. Peat and Co., chartered accountants, whose report was at the disposal of the sub-committee or committee. The board courted inquiry. Although many of the charges referred to a time long before the majority of the board were on it, they thought the whole thing should be gone into. The solicitor to the company, at the request of the chairman, read a letter from Mr. Gladstone giving a detailed and categorical answer to the allegations in question. Mr. Gladstone, in his letter, stated that in every instance where Mr. Dvorkovitz had ventured to quote figures the figures were incorrect, and further expressed his readiness to give evidence and to submit the books of his firm for the investigation of any committee of the company. Mr. Gladstone also made a personal statement, in the course of which he said that, while he declined to enter into personal controversy with Mr. Dvorkovitz, he felt it his duty to the shareholders to give them all the information they might desire and to have the whole transactions probed to the bottom at the earliest possible moment. On the question of omitting certain names from the committee already constituted, the chairman now said that the board were prepared to stick to the committee as a whole. They did not select it; they merely took it from the largest shareholders. A show of hands was then taken, when the amendment to omit the names was defeated by a large majority, and the proposition confirming the appointment of the committee was declared carried unanimously. The chairman then announced that the board hoped the committee would report as soon as possible as they believed it to be in the interests of the company that the matter should be probed to the bottom and settled once and for all.

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK.

The forty-third ordinary meeting of the London and River Plate Bank, Limited, took place on Tuesday, at River Plate House, Finsbury-circus, Mr Thomas S. Richardson (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr George R. Hutchinson) read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said that last year they anticipated that the harvest would be an abundant one. It had proved equal to all anticipations, and the exports from the River Plate had been enormous. The prosperity of the country meant the prosperity

of the bank, and it had shared in the prosperity to a very great degree. (Applause.) While speaking of Argentina, he would not ignore Brazil, because they had had good crops of coffee, the trade had been good, and though on account of the fluctuations of exchange they had not perhaps made as much as they might otherwise have done, they had yet made money. Turning to the accounts, the capital and reserve fund were the same as before. The acceptances on account of branches were £3,400,000, and the customers' drafts under merchandise credits, &c., were £416,000, while the bills advised—drafts in transit, were £1,752,000; that was considerably in excess of last year. The current accounts and deposits in currency at branches amounted to £17,500,000, and the current accounts and deposits at head office were £162,000. The item—Monte Video branch—local currency emission—was only £223,000, as against £636,000 last year. For many years they had a note circulation there, but the Government had thought fit not to grant another concession, so that they were now paying off the notes. On the credit side the cash on hand at bankers and branches amounted to £6,551,000, as against £6,290,000 last year. The item, cash on hand, Clearing Banks' balance, £583,000, was the same as on the other side of the account. Bills receivable, bills discounted, advances, securities, &c., were £18,900,000, against £17,200,000 last year. The directors recommended the following distribution: A dividend of 13 per cent., making, with the interim dividend, 20 per cent. for the year, free of income-tax, and taking £117,000. They wrote off from premises account £25,000, placed to pension and benevolent fund £10,000, and carried forward to profit and loss new account £44,000, or some £9,000 more than last year. (Applause.) He was generally an optimist in the worst of times, but he felt that he was perhaps more optimistic now than usual. (Applause.) There was the probability in the future of bad seasons, followed by failures and bad debts, but he believed the bank would progress and assist in developing the resources of the country where its branches were established. He believed it would bring credit both upon those who directed its policy and those over the water who were actively concerned in conducting its business, and that it would be, as it had been hitherto, a source of satisfaction and profit to its shareholders. (Applause.) The chairman concluded by moving: "That the report and accounts be received, adopted and entered on the minutes. (Applause.)

Mr Edward Herdman seconded the resolution, which was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. The dividend having been declared, and other formal business transacted, a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

CAPE COPPER COMPANY.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the Cape Copper Co., Limited, took place on Wednesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. John E. Champney presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. P. J. Franks) read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Last year I had the pleasure of being able to congratulate you upon a very prosperous year's working. This year I have the greater pleasure of being able to congratulate you upon a still better result, making in fact one of the best years we have ever had. The total profit is £263,562, being an increase of £79,767 over the previous year. The total output of fine copper from all sources in the colony during the year has been 5,917 tons, compared with 5,650 tons in the previous year, being an increase of 267 tons. From O'okiep and the trial mines 127 tons of fine copper have been returned less than in the previous year, but this has been compensated for by the increased return of 394 tons obtained from the Nababeep Mine. The reserves have diminished in both mines, in O'okiep to the extent of 1,000 tons, reckoned on a basis of 21 per cent. ore, and at Nababeep to the extent of 60,000 tons of 5 per cent. ore, though the reserves, you will see by the report, remain at the respectable figure of 156,000 tons. Last year, our friend and shareholder, Rev. A. A. Toms, likened my constant allusions to the diminution of the reserves of O'okiep to the child in the fable who cried "Wolf! wolf!" But, gentlemen, if my memory serves me rightly in regard to the sequel to that fable, the wolf did come at last, and gave the child a very unpleasant time of it. And so it will be at O'okiep; the area of ground in which fresh discoveries are probable is constantly narrowing, so that the "Wolf" must come at last, although I hope it will be some few years yet before it does come, and I trust before that time that Narrap or Coetzee mine, or some other of our trial mines, will be producing sufficient to compensate us for the loss of that splendid mine O'okiep. Still, appearances are such as to cause us to look out for other mines. We told you last year that we were investigating a property in Chili, of which we were led to expect great things. These were not realised upon examination, and we, therefore, abandoned the negotiations for the property. We have lately had another property offered us in America, and as it involved only a small outlay we have taken it up on option for twelve months, during which we are to work the mines. We are also making further inquiries, through agents, in other localities, and we have also taken up a small interest in a mine in Spain, in which we have invested £7,500. These shares have risen in price since our purchase, and the mine is well thought of. Although we are making these researches in foreign countries, I must add that our great wish is to develop our properties in South Africa, and to make further discoveries there. To this end our officials at O'okiep were authorised many months ago to double the expenditure upon our trial mines and explorations as fast as opportunities might arise, and progress has been made in pursuance of these instruct-

tions. After all we must remember that we are a South African company, working in a British colony, and the interests of that colony are ours also. I would also call your attention to the paragraphs relating to alterations and improvements at our Briton Ferry works and the new rolling stock on our Cape railway. The machinery at the mines is also being changed and made up-to-date by our new engineer. In every way the directors are anxious during our prosperity to put everything into thorough order, so that when we have to face lower prices we may do so with a well-appointed and economical plant. (Applause.) The price of copper remains in a very satisfactory position. It is higher than it has been since the year 1888, and from all appearances it seems likely to remain high for some time. We have sold at £87 10s., which is our last price, whereas the price realised for our copper during the past year was about £68, and we, therefore, look hopefully to the results of the current year. With these observations, gentlemen, I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts. (Applause.)

Mr. Edmund A. Pontifex seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Rev. A. A. Toms, seconded by Captain E. Richardson, a bonus of £5,900 was voted to the directors, and the usual votes of thanks closed the proceedings.

DAGGAFONTEIN GOLD MINING.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the Daggafontein Gold Mining Company, Limited, was held yesterday at 3, Gracechurch Street, London, Mr. J. C. A. Henderson (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. L. Castleden) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It gives me great pleasure to meet you on this occasion, inasmuch as that which I hoped for last year is now an accomplished fact. We have reached the reef at various points, and what was then fair assumption is now known to be incontestable, and I may say that the result so far is unusually satisfactory. Briefly, the main reef has been proved throughout the property and reached by several boreholes. There is one thing with regard to gold—you can never have too much of it, and competitors need not be afraid of the next-door neighbour cutting the price. I think that you have to congratulate your representatives in South Africa on the work they have done on Daggafontein, as I think you will find the work they have done very complete. I am glad to say that Mr. Pott, your chief representative in South Africa, is here to-day, and perhaps he may be good enough to say a few words. As you know, a considerable amount of work has been done by our neighbours on Geduld, Grootvlei, &c., and there is this satisfaction with regard to it, that we, as contemporaries, and not competitors, help one another. You will naturally want to know something more definite concerning the projection of your works and the area that will be reserved for your mynpacht. This is natural but at the present moment we are unable to inform you, as we are awaiting the decision of our Government with regard to the area to be allowed to companies by the new Gold Law. We must await the meeting of the new Legislative Assembly, which will probably take place next March. As soon as that takes place this company will not be backward in putting forward its claim. We are claiming a third of the area for our mynpacht, and if we secure that, it will give us 2,096 claims. There is another question that is, of course, very material to us, and which was briefly alluded to last year; that is with regard to the question of labour. A good deal of the uncertainty with regard to that is a thing of the past. We know that Chinese labour has come to stay, because of the good work the coolies have done, and are doing, and if I might add an expression of opinion, I think we shall find them better men the longer they are with us. When I say us, I mean our people as a nation. In the first instance, I was utterly opposed to Chinese labour, and said that they would not even leave their bones to manure the soil, but would take every penny piece back with them to China. In this I made a great mistake, for they spend their money, I may say, lavishly, and they are excellent customers for the storekeepers in South Africa. I now beg to move: "That the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, with the reports of the directors and auditor thereon, for the year ending June 30, 1905, be and they are hereby received, approved and adopted." (Applause.)

Mr. W. Bryson Butler seconded the resolution.

Mr. W. Pott said that the boring work, which had been extensive, had been done at a very cheap rate. They were fortunate not only in undertaking the work at and making the contract at a time when boring was cheap, but they co-operated with their neighbours to a great extent, and got results at a lower rate in that way. These results, as shareholders could see for themselves, were very satisfactory. In regard to boreholes, it must be always remembered that the values and widths were at a minimum and the shafts might show more, but they could not show less. As a rule, the richest part of the reef was the softest; it was the cement, and that in boring was very frequently ground away, so that actual values were generally better than the borehole results gave. But the values they had got were in themselves quite satisfactory, so that this was all for the good.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the retiring directors having been re-elected, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

CHAMPION REEF GOLD.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the Champion Reef Gold Mining Company of India, Limited, was held yesterday

at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. John Taylor, M.Inst.C.E., presiding in the absence through indisposition of Sir Charles Tennant.

The Secretary (Mr. F. H. Williams) then read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman expressed the hope that the shareholders would agree with him that the results of the past year's working were highly satisfactory. During this period 215,167 tons of quartz, or 33,219 tons more than in the previous year, were crushed, and yielded 188,596 ozs. of bar gold; 2,617 ozs. were also obtained from the plates and from the old No. 2 mill, which had been dismantled. This made a total of 191,213 ozs. of bar gold, or an increase of 8,004 ozs. A considerably less quantity of tailings was treated, owing to the stock of sands at the old No. 2 cyanide works having been all used up and those works were consequently closed. During the last four months they had been dealing with a larger quantity of tailings again, over 17,000 tons having been treated per month, and arrangements were now being made for raising the quantity to 19,000 or 20,000 tons, to correspond with the monthly tonnage milled. The grand total of bar gold obtained from milling and cyaniding amounted to no less than 216,802 ozs., which sold for £825,263—figures which again surpassed all the company's records. A most satisfactory feature in the accounts was the reduction in working costs. For this they were largely indebted to the use of electrical power, but economies had been effected in various directions. The total profit, £467,583, was the largest yet earned by the company in any year, and exceeded that of the previous year by £5,002. Two interim dividends, of 1s. 3d. and 1s. 4d. per share respectively, amounting together to £268,666, had been paid, and sums aggregating £51,340 had been written off. With the amount brought forward, £1,425, a balance of profit now remained of £149,002, of which the directors recommended the distribution of £147,333 as a final dividend for the year at the rate of 1s. 5d. per share. This would make a total sum divided of £146,000, which was equal to that paid in the previous year. With regard to the grade of ore milled, the average yield in the past year was 17 dwts. 12 grs., or 2 dwts. 11 grs. less than in the previous year. He understood that this circumstance had somewhat disturbed the minds of a few of the shareholders, and he therefore wished to point out that it was only to be expected, as larger quantities of stuff were crushed, that a greater proportion of ore of lower grade was included. Sir Charles Tennant, when speaking at the annual meeting five years ago of an intended increase to the stamps in order to enable the company to crush 10,000 tons per month (they are now crushing nearly double that quantity), told the shareholders not to expect that the yield of gold—which was at that time over an ounce—would be maintained. It had gradually declined since then, but whereas in that year, to September, 1900, the company paid £286,000 in dividends, they were paying this year £416,000. With regard to the reserves of ore estimated to be available on September 30 last, they amounted to 378,916 tons—a decrease of rather less than 10 per cent. as compared with the figures a year before. This was also a matter which had had a disturbing influence upon some of the shareholders, although he thought quite unnecessarily so. The directors would, of course, have preferred to see an increase, but in the three previous years huge additions had been made to the reserves. In 1902 80,000 tons were added, in 1903 121,000 tons, and in 1904 53,858 tons, or nearly 250,000 tons in the short period mentioned. A decrease of 40,000 tons, therefore, should not, in his opinion, cause the slightest anxiety in the mind of any one. He afterwards referred to the great success of the Cauvery electric power scheme, and to the great advantage which the company derived from it. He was convinced that the shareholders might continue to look forward to good results. Mr. Edgar Taylor, in seconding the motion, dealt at some length with the mining operations carried out in the past year, pointing out in the course of his remarks that the mine had now reached a depth of 2,692 ft., or just over half a mile from the surface, at Carmichael's shaft. During the year the mine development work accomplished measured 16,052 ft., or rather more than three miles of levels, shafts, winzes, and rises. In the current year the development work would progress at an increased speed and should result in a larger extent of reserve ground being opened up, provided, of course, that the ore bodies continued to develop in the way which the mine promised to-day. The motion was unanimously adopted, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS.

The eighth annual general meeting of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Holborn Restaurant, the Viscount Duncannon, C.V.O., C.B., chairman of the company, presiding.

Mr. C. W. Mann (secretary and manager) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that when they met a year ago it was anticipated that from January 1 last the return of gold from the Obuasi group would be 1 oz. per ton, but that promise was unfortunately not fulfilled; and for January they only had a yield of practically half that amount. As soon as the board received this result they decided that the time had arrived to send out an independent mining engineer to report upon the property. They were able to come to an arrangement with Mr. W. R. Feldtmann, and his report and recommendations had been circulated among the shareholders. Mr. Feldtmann gave full details of the position of the mines, and showed that, while the ore reserves both in the Obuasi group and at Ayeinm were unsatisfactory at the time of his inspection, as soon as the ore reserve position at the Obuasi group

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The Investors' Review.

Canada and Chamberlain.

Ottawa, December 7.

Efforts are being made in England to induce important persons here to subscribe to Mr. Chamberlain's notion that in consideration of a preferential duty in favour of Manitoba wheat Canada would grant a substantial preference to British manufactures.

As a matter of fact, the proposition displays so remarkable a misunderstanding of the Canadian situation that no Canadian of position cares to discuss it seriously. Economically speaking, Canada is divided into four sections :—

- (1) The three Maritime Provinces, producing fish, spruce timber, coal and iron.
- (2) The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, devoted to lumbering, dairying and manufacturing.
- (3) The three North-West Provinces, whose staples are wheat and cattle.
- (4) British Columbia, engaged in lumbering, mining and salmon-canning.

As is usually the case in a new country, sectional interests play a large part in Canada; that is to say, before any important measure, a railway project like the Grand Trunk Pacific or a new departure from the fiscal policy, can go through Parliament, it must "promise something" to each and all of these four groups or to such a combination of them as may be able to dominate the House. The three North-West Provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, are growing apace, but as yet are weak in voting power; and a proposal to benefit them by giving their wheat a preference in the British market, for which the manufacturers in Ontario and Quebec should pay, would stand no chance. To be acceptable at all, therefore, Mr. Chamberlain's programme must be amended; it must offer a preference calculated to enhance the price in England not of wheat only but of all or most of the principal exports of the Dominion to Britain, namely, live animals, wheat and flour, cheese and fish, apples and other fruit, lead and nickel, butter and eggs, bacon and hams, canned meats, lumber and deals, wood pulp &c., so that most of the groups, if not all, might benefit. And going thus far, it must go further, one would imagine, and do something for the other Colonies, for Newfoundland cod, West India sugar and Australian wool, otherwise we should have jealousies within the Empire followed by discontent.

Then again, to be logical, the programme would have to grant Colonial monopoly of Colonial markets. Canada would require a preference in Newfoundland and the West Indies over the American exporter, giving in return a preference to West India sugar and fruit and to such Newfoundland articles over and above fish, which we already admit free, as Newfoundland might insist upon. In other words, the reciprocity movement, once set going, could not be confined to the Mother Country and the Colonies, but would have to be applied to trade between the Colonies themselves, otherwise on this continent we should have the spectacle of the United States supplying the lion's share of goods to the British possessions, which would hardly conduce to Imperial harmony. These inter-Colonial preferences formed part and parcel of the old Colonial system which was in force here from 1760 to 1849. True, they gave no end of

trouble to all concerned. The West Indies were constantly protesting against the Canadian monopoly in fish, flour, staves and the like on the ground that such commodities could be procured cheaper in the United States; whilst Canada retorted that as she had to pay an exorbitant price for West India sugar it was only fair that she should make an extra penny out of the planter. The arrangement did more to promote discord than harmony, yet it was regarded with truth as an essential feature of the Imperial preferential policy, and would doubtless have to be revived if that policy came into vogue again.

Mr. Chamberlain's idea that he could confine the preference in England to a light duty on Canadian wheat shows, with all respect, that he scarcely comprehends the ways of Protection. We in Canada have had a painful experience on this subject. We have learned that once you depart from sound economic doctrine there is no knowing where you are going to pull up, each error involving fresh ones until you are driven far beyond the point which you had set as your final halting place. In 1879 our Protectionists modestly proposed to readjust the Customs taxes in order to benefit home industry. Instead of that, they were led to impose a few protective duties, which, they said, were to be merely temporary. But the duty which taxed an article to benefit A became an argument for the Protection of B, and when B had been looked after there was no refusing Protection to C, and so we were obliged in the end to protect everybody except the consumer. So far from being a temporary expedient, Protection has been the ruling policy from that day to this, with the protected interests clamouring for higher and higher duties. Arguing from analogy, we should judge that, once he had taxed foreign wheat, Mr. Chamberlain would be forced by the logic of the case to carry Protection into every sphere of British industry, the duties increasing the further he travelled.

The evidence taken by the Tariff Commission now travelling through Canada and the literature issued lately by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association go to show that even if Mr. Chamberlain's proposals were broad enough to cover every article of importance exported by Canada to Britain, it would still be a task of enormous difficulty to persuade Canadians to grant anything like a substantial preference to British goods. A considerable number of manufacturers are opposed to any British preference, whilst the more liberal-minded insist that the minimum tariff should be sufficiently high to afford adequate protection to Canadian industries, leaving Britain with a preference only on such articles as are not produced here. But as, speaking roughly, the bulk of such articles consists of raw products which Britain does not produce, it is not easy to see how she could find compensation in that field for the tremendous sacrifices otherwise entailed.

The Canadian manufacturers are a power in politics because they are well organised, have ample campaign funds, and are able to appeal to the feeling that this country can never be strong until, like the United States, it does its own manufacturing. Another of their cries is that to admit British goods at a low rate of duty would be to reduce Canadian labour to the level of British. Behind the manufacturers stand the banks, which dread any dislocation of business, and behind the banks a multitude of small investors in our tariff-born, tariff-bred and tariff-fed industries. In short, any movement favouring a British preference that would really prefer would be resisted by the whole body of interests, big and little, high and low, that are always sufficiently powerful at our elections to overcome a demand for tariff reduction in any serious form.

The farmers' organisations, which are appearing before the Commission for the purpose of objecting to tariff increases, favour the existing British preference mainly because it cheapens woollens; but few of them would support a scheme for a substantial preference all round, even if their own staples enjoyed a preference in the British market. It is taken for granted by all classes that Mr. Chamberlain's policy, with its inevitable extensions, would throw Canada back by crippling the industries that have been built up at huge cost to all

concerned since the high tariff was adopted in 1879. Such national spirit as exists is altogether in favour of Protection, in fact may be said to be an outgrowth of Protection, which here as elsewhere appeals by means of claptrap to the local pride and patriotic instinct of the people. Then the example of the United States, which because it has grown immensely since it adopted a high tariff is supposed to owe its growth entirely to the tariff, has had much influence in turning the minds of Canadians to Protection and keeping them steadfast in that faith.

Supposing, for the sake of argument, however, that Canada agreed to grant a preference to British goods in return for a preference to her North-West wheat, it puzzles us here to know how, in the long run, that could help the British farmer. We can see readily enough that it would increase the price of bread to the poor of England—if it failed to do that it would be of no value to the North-West settler—but if the vast region extending from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains and north to the Peace River Valley, itself containing 100,000,000 acres, were turned into wheat fields by this policy, as Mr. Chamberlain's friends predict, obviously the British wheat-grower would be no better off than now. He might as well be undone by American or Argentine grain as by a deluge from Canada. For her own security, however, England ought to import from many lands rather than from one. Putting aside the risk of bad crops in the Canadian North-West, where early and late frosts are a standing menace, what would happen in case of trouble between England and the United States? The Americans could bottle up the season's wheat on its way from Winnipeg to the Great Lakes and the Atlantic seaboard with almost as much ease as England could stop a cargo bound from Dublin to Liverpool.

And this raises a question in which we Canadians are deeply interested, namely, what effect would Mr. Chamberlain's policy have upon the relations between England and the United States? The Americans are Protectionists up to the hilt, but do not discriminate against England or any other country. In former times England's corn duties did much to make the United States hold by Protection. The American farmer was told that as England would not accept his grain and pork in exchange for her manufactures, nothing remained but to build up a home market capable of consuming them. In all likelihood the application of Mr. Chamberlain's policy would be the signal for the imposition by Congress of higher duties on British goods and for the adoption of an attitude of hostility towards Canada that might result in war, and, if it did, would mean the loss of Canada to the Empire. What European complications might ensue, the English reader can imagine for himself.

The mystery to us in Canada is how Mr. Chamberlain expects to recoup Britain for raising the cost of her bread. For a time, of course, if the preference given to British wares in the Canadian market were sufficiently large, British exports to Canada would increase, whilst on the hypothesis those to the United States would decline. But no one here believes that the gain in her trade with Canada would compensate her for the suffering that would be entailed upon her people by the partial resurrection of the Corn Laws, or for the political disaffection to which hunger would give rise. Besides, it would not be long until Canada returned to her high duties against British goods. Had the old Colonial system remained in force a few years more, nothing is more certain than that the feeling in Canada against it would have found expression in a serious outburst. The native Canadian had about reached the conclusion that it was time for him to set up manufactures of his own. Lord Durham looked on the Canadian side of the boundary and then on the American side, and saw that, notwithstanding the enormous sacrifices made by England in behalf of the Colony, the United States was out of sight more prosperous. The same contrast presented itself to Canadians at every turn and convinced them in the end that the system was a fraud upon Britain and an imposture on themselves. We may be sure they would quickly return to the same state of mind if Mr. Chamberlain ever succeeded in restoring the

system in whole or in part, and then what? The conflict between them and the English upholders of the system could only end in one of two ways—either they would revert to Protection as they now have it, or, as a last resort, join the United States with no very cordial feeling towards England.

I have been assuming that Canada could be persuaded to grant a genuine preference to British goods in return for a preference to her wheat; but, as said before, that is impossible. Speaking from a tolerably wide acquaintance with Canadian interests, I do not believe she would concede a preference worthy of the name if every article she exports were preferred in the British market. The proposition of some Canadian manufacturers that England should be given a large preference after every Canadian industry has received adequate Protection is not worth considering. Nevertheless, Mr. Chamberlain's followers seem to imagine that it means something, that the English manufacturer would then be in a position to make inroads upon American sales to Canada. Canada's purchases from the United States consist mostly of live animals, books and periodicals, Indian corn, wheat, flour and other breadstuffs, coal and coke, drugs and chemicals, fruit and furs, hides and leather, iron and steel goods, petroleum and other oils, paper and provisions, immigrants' effects, wood, cotton and tobacco. From the nature of things, there are few articles in the list in which Britain could compete at all; whilst in those where competition might be possible the Americans would have a decided advantage in being so near the Canadian market, and also in the fact that the physical conditions on the American side of the boundary are practically identical with those on the Canadian side, goods which suit the American consumer being just as well adapted for Canada. English manufacturers scarcely realise, I think, what an important factor this identity of conditions is in determining the course of trade.

To re-arrange the fiscal policy of the Empire on the supposition that the Colonies are destined to remain Colonies—the boy a boy—for an indefinite period, would be a hazardous proceeding if the Colonies were ready to participate. So far as Canada is concerned, she is not ready nor at all disposed that way. Her ambition, if she has any, is to become an independent nation. This is the meaning of her fierce desire for Protection against the British manufacturer on the one hand and his American rival on the other. Moreover, any arrangement Mr. Chamberlain could devise would of necessity curtail the tariff-making power of the Colony, and this, most of us believe, would be resented to the point of political separation. No English statesman could interfere ever so little with the autonomy of this New World community of six million people without endangering the whole fabric of the Empire.

St. Lawrence.

The Union Pacific Railroad Co.

Although we cannot fall down and grovel at the feet of the great Harriman as the *New York Commercial Chronicle* does, we are free to admit that this huge railroad system, controlled by him for the oil crowd, continues to have marvellous success in sucking up the substance of the American farmer and manufacturer. That is indeed the one great consolation we always have in the study of American railroad reports. They reveal to us such a splendidly organised system devoted to the absorption of the people's wealth as to make us perfectly satisfied that no effective competition by American manufacturers and producers against us in foreign markets can ever be established while it remains in force. There can be no chance of profit on the average of years in competition abroad with the productions of other countries less severely handicapped. This said, let us proceed to figures. In the past year ended June 30, 1905, the gross earnings of the Union Pacific system, which, inclusive of the Oregon Short Line Railroad and the Oregon Railroad and Navigation companies, is 5,558 miles long, were \$59,325,000. This includes \$568,000 from the water lines, the working expenses of which exceeded

income by \$16,000. Working expenses and taxes took altogether \$31,863,000, leaving about \$33,900,000 as nett revenue, after including \$5,220,000 received as dividends on stock of other companies owned (exclusive of the stocks of the above mentioned subsidiary lines), \$403,000 rentals from steamboats and other income, and \$578,000 being the balance of interest on loans and open accounts other than with the above mentioned auxiliary companies. These sums added in, together with \$296,000 of interest received on the bonds of dependent companies, brought the entire gross income up to \$65,822,000, and after meeting the funded debt interest, \$10,990,000, and sundry other charges bringing the aggregate fixed outgoings up to \$11,152,000, the amount left free was \$22,807,000. Out of this the preferred stock dividend for the year was paid taking \$3,982,000, together with $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the common stock, viz., 2 per cent. paid April 1, 1905 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. paid on October 2, 1905, which took another \$7,104,000, so that the aggregate amount distributed in share dividends was \$11,087,000. This still left fully \$11,700,000 as unappropriated nett revenue, but of that amount \$2,979,000 was appropriated to betterments and additions to the main line and branch lines, and \$1,500,000 set aside to pay for new equipment. Even so, there was still \$7,219,000 left to carry forward against \$4,713,000 so free in the preceding year. As the *Chronicle* triumphantly points out, the earnings were sufficient to pay 11.4 per cent upon the common stock, the total of which is now \$164,842,000, thanks to an issue of \$56,071,000 made during the year for the purpose of enabling the Union Pacific Company to withdraw an equal amount of first lien convertible 4 per cent. bonds. This is surely a splendid result, and if we knew how much of the total of common and preferred stocks in existence, the aggregate amount of which is now \$264,441,000, represented mere promoters' swag, we should have some faint conception of the extent to which the plundering of the public is carried by this Rockefeller-Harriman monopoly.

We do not know and therefore need not moralise. It is more interesting to note how the thing is done, and it appears to be accomplished partly by keeping the lines in poor physical condition notwithstanding the continual expenditures upon betterments, improved alignments, substitution of steel bridges for wooden ones, and so on. We can judge how far behind a first class road the property is from the fact that nearly 4,000 miles, or 73 per cent. of the total of 5,460 miles now in operation are laid with rails of a weight of 70 lbs. per yard and under. Over 4 per cent. of the mileage is endowed with rails of less than 56 lbs. weight, 11.10 per cent. with rails of 56 lbs., 20.5 per cent. with rails of 60 lbs., and 28.42 per cent. with rails of 70 lbs. weight. Less than 20 miles of the entire system is laid with rails of 90 lbs. weight, the heaviest used but still a lighter rail than the standard in use within the United Kingdom. No wonder that accidents are frequent and the slaughter great on such roads. Another device which is commendable enough in its way is to increase the train load, and the Union Pacific has effected marvellous improvements in that direction. In the seven years since the present management took hold of the property the average train load has risen from 278 tons to 507 tons. This represents an enormous economy, and the benefit of it should have gone in great measure to the users of the lines. It has obviously been nearly all appropriated by the monopolists. Then the cost of working the traffic, called in the barbarous language of the Yankee "conducting transportation," is being rigorously kept down, so that the staff is also kept as much as possible out of any benefit arising from the improved methods brought into use.

But then we are not quite sure whether all these swelling earnings are genuine. Is it or is it not the case that the construction materials used by one line and hauled over the road of a subsidiary line pays freight? In other words, is capital which is continually being poured into the system under one guise or another utilised to an unrevealed extent in order to swell out the gross income? This question is suggested by the

general habits of these American railroads and rendered pertinent by the fact that out of the entire length of line worked only 3,128 miles belongs to the Union Pacific Railroad proper. In addition it owns or controls and includes in its mileage 1,148 miles of the Oregon Short Line with some branches thereof, and 1,075 miles of the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company. The fact that three several companies should thus be embraced in one system gives ample opportunity for adjusting traffic figures so as to indicate a magnificent prosperity. Nor is this all. Passenger receipts in the past year showed an increase of about \$834,000, and the number of passengers carried was 269,000 greater at 4,128,000 odd. The growth was thus small, especially in numbers, and it is only when we come to freight that we find something like ordinary progression in an increase of over \$3,500,000 accompanying an increase of 947,000 tons in the weight of commercial freight carried, but there was also an increase of 117,000 tons in the company freight, the aggregate of which was about 3,536,000 tons, and what we should like to know is how much each of these two classes of goods traffic contributed to swell out the income whose aggregate from railroad earnings alone is greater by nearly \$4,500,000? We cannot settle the question, but it is one that will doubtless occupy the attention of the people of the United States when they wake up to the fact that the railroad companies are by their exactions contributing to cripple them and to drain away the expanding wealth of the industrial community at its source.

There have been large emissions of capital during the past year, but they do not appear to have involved much substantial addition to the entire capital of the company. What mainly has taken place has been a transfer to the public of securities hitherto in the hands of intermediaries, insurance companies, and their dependent trusts, banks and the like. We have already mentioned the substitution of Union Pacific common stock for its first lien convertible 4 per cent. bonds retired, and there was beyond this an issue of \$42,250,000 of Oregon Short Line Railroad 4 per cent. refunding twenty-five year gold bonds against \$35,960,000 4 per cent. participating twenty-five year gold bonds of the same company called in for redemption. The Union Pacific Company also called in and paid off \$10,000,000 of its 5 per cent. collateral notes, and the result of operations like these is to provide larger masses of securities for public consumption. The Oregon Short Line Railroad, it may be added, called in for redemption the entire outstanding issue amounting to \$82,491,000 face value of its 4 per cent. participating twenty-five year gold bonds. Participating we take it means the sharing of the surplus profits so that the conversion relieves revenue to the extent of the proportion of extra profits to be allotted to these bonds and thus leaves more money for stock preferred and ordinary. Altogether in order to provide for this redemption the Oregon Short Line has created a new mortgage for \$100,000,000 face value to consist of 4 per cent. refunding twenty-five year gold bonds, and has already sold \$42,250,000 of these new bonds to the public, the Union Pacific holding the remainder as a free asset in its treasury, so that there is ample scope for abundant feeding of the market in the immediate future. In addition to these transactions the Union Pacific Company has acquired a considerable hold over the Chicago and Alton Railway Company, one of the oldest and, in former times, most conservatively-managed lines in the United States, having purchased \$10,340,000 par value of that company's preferred stock, and, as is well known, it holds \$90,000,000 of the Southern Pacific Company's common stock on which, as the effusive admirer in the *Chronicle* is careful to point out, it has hitherto received no dividend. In the language of Dominie Sampson we can only say "prodigious," and await developments. Perhaps we should emphasise all this richness by adding that the "Land Department" sold 769,278 acres last fiscal year, and gathered in a free income of \$2,647,000 applied to the purposes of the railroad company after meeting \$1,685,000 fixed charges on the land grant mortgage debt. The other day a

United States senator, since dead, was sent to jail for fraudulent appropriations of public lands, but it is all right with the railroads.

Rhodesia Railways, Limited.

This company must surely be complimented on its enterprise. Has it not succeeded in bringing its accounts—three half-years of them—down to October 31, 1904, thus beating the Mashonaland Railway Company by six months? Beyond this commendation may not go, for in looking through the report and tables of accounts appended thereto for three half-years, we cannot help feeling something like regret that the directors should have taken the trouble to publish any accounts at all. They do not reveal much, but what they do show is suggestive of imminent, or rather of actual insolvency. No room is now left for dreams. To be sure, something of a nett revenue appears here, as in the case of the Mashonaland Railway Company, but it is a revenue produced by accountancy, by the recondite art of cross-entry, not by genuine earnings, and the contrast between the returns of the financial year ended October 31, 1903, and those of the succeeding year ended at the same date is painful to look at. An increase of 247 miles of line was opened in the later of the two years, bringing the total length up to 1,230 miles, and the product was a decrease of £108,000 in the gross revenue, down to £463,336, with little more than £62,000 knocked off the expenditure, which came to £356,495; therefore the nett earnings were down about £46,000 at £107,000. There was an increase of 11,000 in the number of passengers carried, but a decrease of over 16,000 in the tons of goods and minerals and of construction material carried, of 3,000 in the number of live stock, vehicles, &c., carried, of £700 in the revenue from passengers, of £74,000 in the revenue from goods and minerals, and of £28,000 in that from construction material. The directors declare that the latest monthly returns show signs of improving trade, returns that is for the eleven months ended September 30, 1905, but this includes the figures drawn from the advertising agency visit of the British Association to "the highest bridge in the world" over the Victoria Falls of the Zambesi River, and we are informed in the report that though the directors decided to issue a number of free passes to members of the official party they took half fares for all who went over and above that favoured and selected squad of pundits. Why could they not have given details to tell us whether the increase arose from these half fares or from the general trade done by the railway, or from the "construction material" carried for the caterers? Perhaps two years or eighteen months hence the accounts will come along if the board thinks it worth while.

On their own carefully dressed up exhibit the nett loss for the three half-years ended October 31, 1904, amounted to upwards of £387,000, but obviously in this case, as in that of the Mashonaland Railways dealt with last week, there is a large sum entered in the books which cannot be accepted as in any true sense revenue, as also such items hidden as payment of interest out of capital, and the accounts are so mixed up as to make it nearly impossible to find out what the position really is. Goods, minerals, and construction material, for example, are lumped together in the summary called revenue account, and this conceals the fact that the company is paying freight out of capital for materials carried to build its own line. We get a clue to the position in the comparison alluded to above which tells us that for the year ended October 31, 1904, nearly £56,000 was debited to carriage of construction material, which was £28,000 less than in the previous year. For the two years, therefore, "revenue" was eked out to the tune of £140,000 by this expedient. We do not know either how much of the passenger revenue arises from the company's own business, but in any case the total number of such passengers was under 151,000 in the year named. One item of solid revenue they did get and that was £60,000 handed over by the British taxpayer in settlement of a claim of £89,933 odd made against the Imperial military authorities for services

rendered and material supplied during the Boer War. Much of the remainder is evidently revenue drawn from capital sources on one account or another. The numerous companies hatched by the British South Africa "Blight" Company spent their capital in getting up machinery, in sending forward miners and other officials to the spots where they have lost that capital, and so much of it therefore went in feeding the meagre revenue of these railways.

It follows that the financial position resembles that of an Irish peat bog on the slide. How much the company owes to the Chartered Company we do not know, but as was noticed in dealing with the latest Mashonaland railways, £300,000 out of that company's issue of debentures was handed over to the Chartered Company in part liquidation of its claims, and the deficiency, admitted and paraded of the whole railways together was nearly £1,000,000 fifteen to eighteen months ago. From the way in which the accounts are presented we cannot tell whether the debt of the Rhodesia Railways to the Chartered Company is rolling up or being diminished, but it was formidable enough on April 30, 1904. The accounts for that half-year show a loan to the British South Africa Company by the trustees for the 3 per cent. and 4 per cent. debenture-holders of the Rhodesian Railways amounting to nearly £372,000, and in addition the company owed nearly £179,000 to the Chartered Company on current account. Altogether, therefore, at that date it was behindhand £450,000 to its parent. In the October half-year, however, this is brought down to a total of about £141,000, and we rather think the Mashonaland Railways debentures were not then issued. We therefore ask, was the debt shown in the October account an addition to the debt shown in the April one, and must we add these two debts to the figures shown for the half-year ended October 31, 1903? It must be debt all round, because the company is not only earning no genuine nett revenue, but it is pouring out capital, or was during the three half-years whose accounts are here presented, at a tremendous speed. Thus in the six months ended October 31, 1903, the capital expenditure was £515,000, in that ended April 30, 1904, it was £635,000, and in the last half-year for which we have figures it was nearly £220,000, or £1,370,000 for the eighteen months. But the small figure in the October, 1904, half-year reveals approaching exhaustion, and no doubt because it was so recourse was had to the peculiar transaction first unearthed by the City Editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, whose latest remarks upon this particular incident of Rhodesian Railway finance are quoted at foot. By a delightfully "Chartered" stroke debentures were issued twice over for practically the same work.

Amongst the items of accounts are £8,750 written off the railway company's holding in Chartered Company's shares and £7,719 loss on the sale of those shares, all this is in the year ended October 31, 1904. Certain allowances are made for the depreciation of the property, a step in the right direction, but quite inadequate, and probably mere book entries put against the unreal character of much of the revenue in order to disguise to some extent the true position. Up to the date of the latest accounts we have, it may be added, the entire capital expenditure is put at £6,293,389 of which only £8,000 consists in share capital issued, fully paid, to the promoting Chartered Company, we presume, a sort of founder's share. The whole of the rest of the money has been raised in debentures upon the guarantee of the Chartered Company, an utterly bankrupt concern. The loss brought out by the peculiar book-keeping has been progressive in the three half-years under review. It was £100,451 for the six months ended October 31, 1903, £130,000 for the succeeding six months, and nearly £148,000 in the half-year ended October 31, 1904. May we infer that it was because the company's capital resources were drying up, that the revenue and expenditure accounts showed this progressive deficiency? It is open to infer anything from a story such as this, and we may leave the hocus-pocus to work out to its legitimate result, giving a few of the percentages illustrative of the movements alluded to at the beginning of this note.

Comparing 1903 with 1904 there was an increase of 25.1 per cent. in the average miles open, a decrease of 16.8 per cent. in the train miles run, of 18.9 per cent. in the gross revenue, of 14.9 per cent. in the expenditure, of 30 per cent. in the nett earnings, of 7.6 per cent. in the tonnage of goods and minerals, of 6.7 per cent. in the number of live stock, of 0.7 per cent. in the passenger revenue, of 22.5 per cent. in the goods and mineral revenue, and of 29.6 per cent. in the revenue from "construction material," drawn from capital. The number of passengers increased 7.9 per cent., but that did not benefit the company. There is nothing indeed in the position of Rhodesia taken as a whole to warrant us in looking for any genuine growth of traffic. The directors take credit to themselves for a reduction in their scale of charges. "Your directors were recently approached by those of the Mashonaland Railway Company—the two concerns being essentially under the same control—and with the object of endeavouring to reduce the cost of living in Rhodesia, gave their consent to a reduction in the rates for goods traffic to Bulawayo and intermediate stations, imported *via Beira*." Here are the current rates thus established, representing, the directors say, reductions ranging from 10 to 35 per cent. First class goods £18 15s. per ton, second £13 1s. 8d., second "A" £10 16s. 8d., third £9 5s., fourth £8 4s. 4d. Wankie coal carried on the basis of this scale of charges will not enter into competition with coal in the Transvaal, Natal, or anywhere else. Never mind, the company has a train-de-luxe which was placed at the disposal of H.R.H. Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein on the occasion of their visit to the Victoria Falls. Her Royal Highness personally expressed her thanks to Sir Lewis Michell for the excellent arrangements made for her comfort. Lord and Lady Roberts also used this train during their tour in South Africa, and it has recently been thoroughly overhauled and repaired so that it continues to be "well patronised by the public." Where is that public? Not in the revenue returns. It might be well if people who still believe in Rhodesia were to try to master the meaning of the following extract from last Saturday's *Pall Mall Gazette* :—

Our readers will no doubt remember that we have repeatedly pointed out that for the continuation of the lines beyond the Kalomo the money had been raised on debentures twice over—first by the Rhodesia Railways, and then by the Mashonaland Company. The Rhodesia Railways had constructed the line from Bulawayo to the Victoria Falls, and on to Kalomo. They had a certain amount of unexpended debenture money in hand, and were evidently the company which should have continued the line. But their losses on working had then exceeded half a million (at October 31, 1904, the losses amounted to £636,227), and it was evident that if they spent the balance of their available cash on railway building, the Chartered Company would have to fill the void somehow. It was decided, therefore, to transfer the job to the Mashonaland Company, which was not so heavily in debt or losing so much. In the meantime, it had also been discovered that the Kafue copper deposits, which were the original objective, were of extremely doubtful value, and the opportunity was quietly taken to divert the line to the lead and silver mines of Broken Hill. Moreover, the issue of £2,560,000 debentures by the Mashonaland Company provided for the repayment to the Chartered Company of £300,000, a debt incurred, at least partly, for guaranteed interest. We wonder whether subscribers to these debentures noticed that they were thus paying the interest on previous issues? Another advantage was that by the sale of the Rhodesia Railways' rolling stock to the Mashonaland Company for £270,000, the former would be put in funds to meet its losses a little longer, and at a pinch lend a little assistance to the Chartered Company. That they have done so in the past is evident from the fact that the trustees for the debenture holders of the Rhodesia Railways figure in the latest balance-sheet of the Chartered Company as creditors for £460,197!

American Life Office Scandals.

A Central News telegram from New York, quoting the *New York World*, says that the trustees of the Mutual Life Assurance Company intend to elect Mr. C. A. Peabody as president, and the newspaper goes on to say that the Morgan-Ryan-Rockefeller combination has now both the Equitable and the Mutual Insurance Companies in its clutches, and before very long will gobble up the last of the "Big Three," the New York Life Insurance Society. We have little doubt

this is an accurate forecast of what is about to happen, and that the last state of the policyholders in these offices will be worse than the first, unless they can make their voice heard and put a stop to the depredations of these capitalists. The worst of it is that, in this country at all events, they do not seem to care. We have really begun to get tired of reciting the abominations brought out week after week by the investigations of the New York State Senate Commission. It is one long tale of roguery, unblushing, unscrupulous, perfectly regardless of any interest except the dollar interest of those who have had control of the business. The cashier of the New York Life Insurance Company, for instance, told a story of cheating the revenue by means of a sham transfer of securities to the custody of a bank. The amount was \$700,000, and Mr. Banta, the witness in question, stated that a cheque of the Central National Bank was substituted in the vaults of the New York Life Office for this amount of securities handed over to the bank's keeping. In other words, the transaction was arranged so that these bonds would seem to be in pawn or sold, and therefore exempt from taxation. When the danger was over the cheque was withdrawn and cancelled, and the bonds replaced. Mr. Perkins, again, one of Morgan's partners, and vice-president of the New York Life, admitted some extraordinary syndicate transactions in the profits of which that office was to have a private share of 75 per cent., although it directly took no interest in the deal. A \$3,000,000 interest in the United States Steel Syndicate was taken by the New York Securities and Trust Company, a creature of the New York Life, and it was to have 25 per cent. of the profits, while the life office had 75 per cent., but the money does not seem to have come into the treasury of the life office, it went away into underground channels. In a letter from the second assistant-secretary of the New York Security and Trust Company it was stated that \$59,311 was deducted from the life office's share of the profits as the amount of an account with Andrew Hamilton, the bribery agent of the insurance offices at Albany, and presumably paid to him.

This Hamilton, by the way, seems to have done with the life offices pretty much what he liked. McCall, the ex-president of the New York Life Office, said that he tried to "limit" Andrew Hamilton's expenditure to \$100,000 a year, but was unable to do so. No wonder, for Hamilton had a retainer of \$10,000, or £2,000, a year for his own gratification, and in addition received 5 per cent. upon all his disbursements as bribery agent. Naturally he spent as much as he possibly could, and when the danger of exposure loomed near seems to have found it expedient to take a holiday in Europe. "All of Hamilton's disbursements," said McCall, "were made directly by him, and I had absolutely no knowledge whatever of any payments that he made." No? And had the fallen potentates of hocus-pocus insurance nothing to do with Hamilton's bolt to Paris? It was easy enough, anyway, for him to throw the dollars of the policyholders about. There is also the curious story about what is called "Nylic" moneys, this name representing an association of agents of some sort, and Mr. Perkins had some strange admissions to make about his dealings with that body. "I was the manager," he said, "of the Nylic, and was not obliged to consult anybody about its affairs." A question of the destination of \$40,000 arose, and he was asked, did he deposit this in the name of the Nylic? "No, I deposited it in my own name." "When was it turned over to the Nylic fund?" "It never has been." He declared, further, that the Nylic funds were mixed up with his own fund transactions, and it would be utterly impossible to trace whether a cheque belonged to him or to the Nylic. Is not this just lovely, "puffectly lovely," as a New York belle would say? The *New York Post*, raking into the past, brings what is virtually a charge of corruption against Mr. Hill, ex-Governor of New York State. It also relates to successful efforts made by the life offices to cheat the revenue. They got a Bill passed relieving

them from all obligations under the then existing law, doubtless through the usual corrupt methods, and, after taking a long time to consider it, Governor Hill signed this Bill, so that it became a new law, over-riding, obliterating the old. And now, says the *Post*, we learn that in 1895, while he was Senator of the United States, Mr. Hill received from the Equitable Life an offer of a retainer "which he accepted with thanks, saying that it came very 'handy' at that time." We might go on for hours dealing with this filthy mass of unspeakable corruption, but what is the use? Policyholders here seem to be utterly indifferent, and we shall be driven to the conclusion very soon that if the worst comes to the worst they deserve their fate. It would be easy enough for British policyholders in the three big life-policy-trafficking offices of the United States doing business here to combine and make their opinion felt as a powerful support to independent policyholders in the United States now intent upon bringing about a genuine and lasting reform. As it is they are unrepresented, mere individual items, and have no influence whatever. Therefore, is it easy for the master gamblers on Wall Street—for the Rockefellers, the Morgans, Ryans, Harrimans, Goulds, and other giant depredators to seize these offices, and, on pretence of bringing about reforms, lay fast hold of their resources for their own purposes. The resources of modern financial dishonesty are boundless, its unscrupulousness and disguises unfathomable and unnumbered.

In the circumstances we must express surprise that people in the United States should have been shocked by Mr. Harriman's evidence before the Insurance Committee. He told it that he demanded a half interest in the capital stock of the Equitable Life Office from Mr. Ryan. He did not care what the cost would be but was determined to have it, and threatened all sorts of things if he as the representative of the Standard Oil depredators were not taken into partnership. This admission has made a great sensation, the telegraphic messages inform us, and has strengthened the influence of Mr. Thos. Lawson of Boston who is now seeking for proxies to enable him to oust the lot. But surely if the surpluses of these great plundering insurance organisations are already in the hands of the Morgan crowd and the Standard Oil group with others their associates or rivals, it was quite reasonable on Mr. Harriman's part, he being a Standard Oiler, to resent exclusion from such a valuable storehouse of dollars as the Equitable assets are assumed to be. At the very least conduct of this kind was natural enough, and as the policyholders do not seem to care much what happens or where their money goes Harriman might have been just as safe a man to hand the money over to as Ryan, or Morton, or Morgan, or anybody else.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

ANOTHER HOWL FROM BIRMINGHAM.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's New Article Club, an organisation which works in the dark and humorously named by that gentleman a "Tariff Commission," has been delivering itself upon the appalling condition of the hosiery industry. The compilers of the report, so called, do not give the slightest clue to the sources of their information. What firms are complaining, whether the dead broke, the impotent, antiquated and stuck-in-the-mud, or the flourishing and progressive we are not informed, but a tale meant to be blood-curdling is unfolded of competition by Germany and France, the capture of our colonial trade by those perfidious Germans who formerly bought English machinery and now send machinery here, with half-truths and quarter-truths of a like kind made to do duty as lies. It is all very horrible, and yet, strange to say, there is no evidence in the labour statistics of the Board of Trade that the British hosiery industry is in a bad way, suffering from lack of employment or hampered in markets for its products. It is just the very reverse, and in reality this very Tariffite wail belies itself

is encouraging to the Free Trader rather than otherwise. It may be true that last year we actually imported 22,500,000 lbs. weight of cashmere yarns, but obviously we did not effect this transfer of goods for the mere purpose of looking at the bales. If there was such a demand for yarns it was a sure and infallible sign that we were weaving with effect, and when the scribes of the New Article Club tell us that the development of the fancy goods trade has been of great importance, although they add that it also has suffered considerably from foreign competition in the home market, we can only infer that we are doing well in the higher fields of the industry. It is thus very dreadful, and yet the boo-hooing only excites amusement. Why is foreign stuff cheaper than English? Is it not because it is poor—of low quality? Is it not the fact that our trade in what is called "fancy goods" is strong and flourishing, an indication that we are capturing trade in higher qualities of fabrics, in spite of foreign competition more than holding our own, and that it is only the low grade stuff which is being abandoned to the foreigner. The Germans are said to be superior as dyers. Whose fault is that? Would a tariff remedy a defect of that kind? Germany is said to have been supplying nearly all the cotton hosiery to the colonies, presumably owing to her cheaper and better methods of dyeing. To destroy this competition the hope rests upon the preferential tariff, for the trade of the Crown colonies themselves is being captured by the enemy, if we may believe these anonymous howlers. Are they directors of over capitalised and therefore bankrupt or semi-bankrupt companies, or what? We ought not to have things wrapped up in this fashion. Give us the whole facts or stop your noise is what we should say to these Birmingham wreckers. But they do their work very maladroitly, for they admit that with some firms the profit on fancy hosiery has helped to offset the loss in plain hosiery, and they complain of the McKinley tariff, which surely is a Free Trade argument if ever there was one. If the McKinley tariff is injuring the trade of foreign nations with the United States how is a tariff here going to increase the effectiveness of our competition? And oddly enough in spite of this wailing we are told that there has not been an emigration of skilled labour to any appreciable extent to work textile machinery abroad. No movement of magnitude has taken place since the late Mr. Mundella sent out machinery in 1864 to set up a mill in Chemnitz. What is the meaning of this if our hosiery trade is going to the deuce and beyond, as these South African boss-sustained wailers would have us believe? It is time to end this farce, and we are astonished that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has not yet found a new cry with which to try and capture the British democracy. His protectionist campaign is failing. The very beings he has gathered about him and paid to work the propaganda are betraying him and making a fool of him. This will never do; he must invent something else, and if he has no ideas on the subject we should be quite pleased to assist him to find something sane and reasonable with which to tickle the ears of the groundlings. Why not advocate the colonisation of Asia Minor with our unemployed of all classes?

MORE BANKET SHARE PEDDLING.

Market gamblers continue to vociferate that the Banket discovery is one of the most marvellous finds of modern times; that it will not only bring prosperity to Rhodesia, and wipe out the colossal losses of the Chartered Company, but put immense quantities of gold into the pockets of others. One would naturally feel that if these men were assured they had a good thing, a possession that would assist them to become millionaires, they would be eager to keep it to themselves. To ask the multitude to come and share their wealth is the kind of altruism for which Stock Exchange gamblers are not, as a rule, distinguished, and it is quite reasonable that the public should suspect their motives. Such suspicion is thoroughly justified, not only by the readiness of the insiders and of the "shop" to sell, but by the

absence of all evidence that this discovery is of any commercial value. If they possess such evidence they are as reluctant to show it as they are anxious to sell out. Now and then we have cables, published at what are deemed opportune moments, which mystify by their vagueness. From such sparse and sporadic news it is impossible for an ordinary man to imagine what work has been or is being done, let alone to form the faintest idea of the value of the Banket property. What is equally strange about this reticence, so strikingly in contrast with official boasts and enthusiasm, is the fact that no attempt has seemingly been made to test the formation in depth by means of diamond drilling. Surely, if the company cannot afford a diamond drill it can borrow one from a kind neighbour? Borehole tests are not very reliable as proof of the permanent value of a mine, but we are certain this is not the reason why such a test has not been applied to the Banket claims. After all, however, there are facts far more eloquent and impressive than cables and rodmontade. There is the breathless energy with which Mr. Abe Bailey and other vendors are turning their paper into hard cash. The enterprising City editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* has gathered further illustrative data on this point from the share register and brings the interesting story up to the present month. Here are his figures and they could not well be more suggestive of the aim of the promoting prophet and promoting philanthropist whose charity begins at home and stays there. The numbers relate to shares held at the dates given.

	Original.	Feb., 1905.	May, 1905.	Sept., 1905.	Dec., 1905.
Abe Bailey	154,393	—	500	About 500	About 500
August Ries ex Abe Bailey	114,393	61,988	45,000	33,000	5,000
Arthur Everitt, ex Abe Bailey	40,000	18,025	25	—	—
Lomagunda Development	20,000	14,440	14,400	12,900	10,400
Rhodesia Exploration	45,000	34,950	3,250	33,250	38,200
Scottish Mashonaland	42,000	34,000	26,350	26,300	26,350
Oscar Michael	8,000	6,500	6,500	250	—
Torterdell and Smith	10,000	10,000	455	420	—
Harold Potter	4,500	4,500	50	—	—
Smart and Gammidge	18,000	—	12,425	7,000	100

This shows how persistently the charitable and effusive Mr. Bailey has been unloading right from the beginning, and his present paltry holding proves that he believes the most direct and the quickest way to fortune is not to wait till the Banket company pays dividends. His is but an ordinary craving, but it is as well always to remember that his lip professions have never been consistent with his actions. The *Pall Mall* also points out that a rough examination of the register shows how members of the Stock Exchange hold between 65,000 and 70,000 shares, all waiting to be disburdened of their heavy rubbish by the public. Other astounding disclosures are the holdings of such shares by various banks—particularly Scotch banks—with whom probably most of the stuff has been pledged. Here is the instructive and warning list:—

Shares.	Shares.
Commercial Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh	940
Commercial Bank of Scotland, Glasgow	150
Commercial Bank of Scotland, Glasgow	190
Commercial Bank of Scotland, London	250
Union Bank of Scotland, Glasgow	1,735
Union Bank of Scotland, Glasgow	550
Union Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh	1,120
Bank of Scotland, London	500
Do. Glasgow	1,085
British Linen Bank, Dundee	200
British Linen Bank, Glasgow	3,635
British Linen Bank, Glasgow	430
British Linen Bank, Edinburgh	230
Lloyds	300
Royal Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh	420
Royal Bank of Scotland, Glasgow	4,070
Royal Bank of Scotland, Glasgow	620
Royal Bank of Scotland, Glasgow	80
National Bank of Scotland, Glasgow	1,53
North of Scotland Bank, Aberdeen	—
London City and Midland	3,715
Do. do.	670
London Joint Stock	400
Do. do.	1,120
National Bank of South Africa	4,220
Standard Bank of South Africa	100
Dresdner Bank	1,765
Deutsche Bank	572
Bank of Tarapaca	950
Anglo-Foreign Bank	800

The question that one immediately asks is: Do these banks know what highly speculative counters these

shares are? If so, how can they expect to merit the confidence of the public by engaging in this kind of business? They are all well secured doubtless, but would the mines' company marauder attain his ends with the facility he does were banks to refuse to take such shares in pawn?

CHICAGO NATIONAL BANK.

Judgment upon all things depends upon the point of view, as the deputy publisher of the *INVESTORS' REVIEW* illustrated when he informed us that "that bank which stopped on Monday in Chicago is one of our subscribers." The City kept cool over the news, but to the office clerk it afforded a moment's mild excitement and pleasant relief to the monotony of things. The stoppage, though, is no stoppage, since the other banks in the city stepped in and guaranteed the depositors against loss. It was all over in an hour or two and only the defrauded shareholders will be left lamenting. The market price of the \$100 shares was \$300 just before the "bust." Apparently the bank owed about \$23,000,000 on current and deposit account; what the Home Savings Bank and the Equitable Trust Company owe—they also suspended payment and remain hanging—we do not know, and the aggregate deficiency of the three may now never be known, but report puts it at \$6,000,000, a sum as you know each of the Standard Oil men habitually carries around in his waistcoat pocket. It is all Standard Oil or "the System" Lawson of Boston says, and he knows surely. Many people here begin indeed to think he knows too much in that particular, and to regard him as a sort of bob-o-link, will-o'-the-wisp or jack-o'-lantern, coerced or hired to help the scorpion of 26, Broadway in leading the sheepish multitude into the stock market bog or impasse to facilitate the emptying of its pockets. And obviously unless Lawson is successful in drawing out and throwing on the market a mass of shares sufficiently weighty to break down the credit generating power of the "bulling" Standard Oil campaigners he must be playing their game. To induce the multitude to sell "bears" is to provide the surest possible unloading facilities for the "System." It can sell and sell and still corner the "bears" by non-delivery until they are bled dry. Shall we read this motive into the following outburst of the man over these Chicago failures; graphic enough and true enough perhaps though it be? Is Lawson the extra virtuous, the great phrase slinger, a mere decoy of the Rockefeller and Rogerses? Well, he boasts he is a "bear."

"The System's" machinery slipped a cog this morning. Two Chicago banks and a trust company failed for \$26,000,000, and, for a second, it looked as though the structure would crash; but the "System" jumped to the rescue, and pledged the other banks to see the rotten mess through. This, of course, meant no risk to the "System," as the money in the other banks they put in jeopardy was the same old savings of the people. If it had not been pitiable it would have been laughable to see the wind-propped stocks tumble \$10 to \$15 a share in as many seconds.

A MISCELLANEOUS TRUST.

PLEASE NOTE.—To prevent misconception about these trusts we have to state that they are never drawn up to further private or personal interests. When this *Review* was started in 1892, we gave a pledge that it would never be used to "work the market" in any sense, and that pledge has been faithfully kept; therefore neither the conductors nor any brokers or speculators in the City have any interest in the stocks named in our "model trusts" the stocks in which are selected week by week wholly on their intrinsic qualities as far as known, and we publish the selections solely as a guide to serious investors in using their own judgment, not as a means of working off upon the public stocks bought and held for the rise.

The four companies noted below are engaged in such widely differing industries that while the yield of £5 4s. 3d. brought out stamps the "trust" as a speculative one, the capital invested is so spread that the risk of loss may be considered fairly well safeguarded against. With regard to the first company we dealt very fully with its affairs in our issue of December 16, and it is therefore unnecessary to do more now than reiterate our belief that the concern is admirably managed. Argyll Motors is a Scotch undertaking which has managed to produce a car satisfactory to devotees of mechanically driven vehicles, and has in consequence seen its business expand in a phenomenal fashion. The debenture stock just issued requires a very modest

proportion of the profits now being earned and is well secured on the new and up-to-date works owned. "British Aluminium" were not words to conjure with a few years back, but after a long struggle the directors appear to have at last brought the company into smoother waters, and there now seem to be reasonable grounds for hope that misfortune has been left far enough behind to render the payment of the "A" preference dividend in future as near a certainty as possible. The report of the New Zealand and River Plate Land Mortgage Company is analysed in this issue and shows an undoubtedly strong position of affairs.

	Nominal Amount.	Price.	Dividend.
	£	£	£ s. d.
10 India-Rubber, Gutta Percha shares.....	100	190	10 0 0
£100 Argyll Motors deb. stock	100	100	4 10 0
20 Brit. Aluminium "A" pref. shares	100	100	6 0 0
100 N. Zealand and River Plate Land Mortgage shares	100	137½	7 0 0
	400	527½	27 10 0

NEW GOLD COAST AGENCY.

As Lord Harris and his directorial pals were too modest—or too afraid, we are not sure which—to send us a copy of the report and accounts of their West African gold absorber, we were unable to analyse them earlier. We had to trudge round to Old Jewry to get a copy. The annual meeting was held yesterday (Friday) week and his lordship delivered thereat a most enthusiastic speech. Here are a phrase or two from it which may as well be recorded, and to which he should be nailed, especially as they are not in accord with actual facts. "As regards the general prospects I am happy to feel myself justified in speaking with considerable confidence. I think the mining industry of the Gold Coast has passed through the crisis it was in last year, and in many directions there seem to me to be very encouraging prospects. . . . I have been very disappointed about the West Coast industry and about our own properties for a year or more, but recent results and the comparison of these factors which apply, I consider, to both reefs in the Transvaal and in West Africa have dispelled these doubts, and I feel very confident that there is a successful future before the industry in West Africa, and I see no reason at all why the New Gold Coast Agency and its sub-companies should not share in that prosperity." Let us test these expressions by the facts disclosed in the reports of the parent—the New Gold Coast Agency—and of its two subsidiaries, the Adjah Bippo Deep and the Cinnamon Bippo. Though the Agency has been in existence some five years, it publishes no profit and loss account. In the past year to June 30 the administration expenditure in West Africa and London amounted to £4,296, whilst £2,915 was received mainly from interest and transfer fees. Thus a further loss of £1,381 had to be added to the old deficit of £49,513, making it £50,893. There is not the slightest prospect of this deficiency being reduced by profits for years to come; assuming, that is, profits ever to be earned by the subsidiaries, of which we are extremely doubtful. The company continues to do a good bucket-shop business, for contango loans total £53,900, and probably these will disappear in time, unless shareholders can be induced to replenish them. The company's principal assets consist of 56,551 Wassau shares, 40,000 Fanti Mines shares and its interest in the Cinnamon Bippo. It is now interested only indirectly in the Adjah Bippo Deep, for during the year it exchanged its holding for its share of the cash spent on the property and 28,110 Wassau shares. This was merely a little family arrangement. More than once we have narrated the inglorious career of the Wassau company, and looking at the past, at the present, and into the future he must be an extraordinary optimist who can feel renewed confidence in the possibilities of this group of companies. Facts, on the contrary, are most distressing and depressing. On the Cinnamon Bippo work has

been confined to unprofitable maintenance, development being in abeyance until working expenses can be considerably reduced. What hope can shareholders derive from such vague and circumlocutory phrases as the following:—"With cost at 30s. per ton it might be held that, upon the average value of its development to date, and with a reduction plant equivalent to not less than 100 stamps, the Cinnamon Bippo mine is a payable proposition, but the directors strongly recommend the shareholders to exercise some further patience. It appears to them that it is safer to await the result of the efforts being made in various ways, in some with marked success, to lower working costs, and also the results of the contemplated doubling of the dry-crushing plant at Abbontiakoon Block 1, feeling satisfied that, in the long run, the shareholders will benefit thereby." The expression "it might be held that" is quite delightful, and must have cost prodigious intellectual concentration to evolve. It may all be summed up so: "If the Cinnamon Bippo can be worked at a profit it will become a payable mine." This might almost be self-evident to the meanest intellect, but to put it so baldly would only provoke derision, as the directors well know. It must be wrapped up in sonorous phraseology and its triteness hidden in intricate verbosity. After all, there is that word "if," which Lord Harris so cleverly ignored when declaring that all his doubts had been removed, once and for ever. Meanwhile, the Cinnamon Bippo is existing on borrowings, and owed £23,227 on June 30th. There was also a deficit of £3,431, increased by £1,288 during the twelve months. The Adjah Bippo Deep is slightly better off. Current liabilities are only £396, against which is a loan of £500, with cash £134. The excess expenditure now amounts to £2,083. A joyful show altogether.

Passing Events.

The usual monthly returns relating to the trade and commerce of certain foreign countries and British possessions, which include figures received up to November 30 last, has just been published by the statistical department of the Board of Trade and continue to emphasise the supreme position of the United Kingdom. Our population, amounting to only about half that of the United States, exported £242,396,000 of goods up to the end of September, against £225,333,000 exported by the United States, whose population is about double. £201,297,000 worth was exported by Germany, whose population is upwards of 57,000,000 against our 42,000,000, and £137,219,000 by France, whose population is about 39,000,000, no other country reaching the three figures in millions. More striking still in some respects are the figures relating to the imports, our £352,633,000 contrasting with the £181,775,000 of the United States, £242,579,000 of Germany, and the £136,959,000 of France.

Another attempt is to be made to infuse some life into the business of Cooper, Cooper and Johnson, an enterprise of which such great things were expected, and which so soon came to grief. The present concern is the remnant of the original undertaking bearing the same name, the wholesale branch, together with the agencies and retail grocery businesses, having been formed into a separate company, known as Cooper, Cooper and Co., 1901. So far as we can gather very ill-success has attended the operations up to the present, and since reconstruction appeared inevitable Sir Christopher Furness, as the largest shareholder, decided to draw up and submit the necessary scheme himself, instead of leaving it to the directors, who apparently are not displaying a keen anxiety to present an account of their stewardship. A requisition for the calling of a special meeting was therefore sent to the company, and this gathering duly took place on Wednesday of last week. Faced with such a disastrous position, it is not surprising that the shareholders showed a good deal of irritation, but they were quite prepared to listen to anyone who seemed likely to prove the company's saviour, and after Sir Christopher had indulged in a long

recital of the company's deplorable career he had no difficulty in inducing the meeting to agree to a reconstruction involving an assessment in the shares. The scheme provides for the formation of a new undertaking with a capital of £340,000 in equal amounts of preference and ordinary £1 shares to take over all the assets of the old company, the new shares, credited with 16s. paid, being exchangeable share for share. That means an assessment of 4s. per share, and the money is to be used to greatly extend the company's operations in the rubber trade, including the planting of additional trees.

Among the many important electrical schemes which are being elaborated for promotion during the coming year, not the least interesting is that generally known as the "St. Neots" or "Railway" Power Scheme. It is being backed by a very powerful financial syndicate, and while the Bill to be promoted in Parliament will take a very wide scope, the parties interested will direct their attention mainly to the supply of the big London railways in connection with the electrification of the suburban lines. For this purpose alone it is estimated that fully 700,000,000 units will in the near future be required and, owing to the exceptional advantages to be enjoyed by the new enterprise, it is predicted that energy can be supplied at a farthing a unit. That is an amazingly low figure but in support of the assertion it is pointed out that coal of high calorific value can be obtained at 7s. per ton, as against 11s. to 14s. now being paid by the principal electrical companies in London. Then local rates at St. Neots are exceptionally low, only 3s. in the £ compared with three or four times that figure in London, meaning almost a farthing a unit, while the River Ouse will supply a free and never failing quantity of soft water, so essential for a generating station. All these facts will of course be made the most of when the proposal comes before a Parliamentary Committee, but all schemes of this kind are certain to encounter the most powerful opposition, and only those who can pretty conclusively prove that promises will be carried out can hope to bring their ideas to maturity.

The interim statements issued by four of the Assam companies tell of very different conditions to those ruling a year ago, and indicate that the results of the current season will show a decided improvement. Of the four the Attaree Khat appears to have benefited most by the change in the market so far as prices realised are concerned, as the average has risen from 7.66d. to 9.50d., or very nearly 2d. per lb., but unfortunately the total crop is only expected to be some 2,600 lbs. larger owing to a reduction of nearly 46,000 lbs. on the Pancery estate. On the other hand, the Borelli Company looks to have 167,000 lbs. more at its disposal, the Moabund shows an increase of 282,874 lbs., and the Majuli one of 214,000 lbs., and as all three have obtained advances ranging from 0.69d. to 0.72d. the nett earnings at the close of the year should be satisfactory enough. Interim dividends were paid on the preference shares by the Majuli and Moabund companies as usual, but the Borelli directors consider it advisable to hold over the interim payment until the accounts of the season are closed, when they hope to be able to wipe off the debit balance and a considerable portion of the arrears of preference dividend. The Majuli Company states that of the £20,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares authorised and offered to shareholders in 1898 only £13,500 were taken up, and the directors have not yet been able to place the balance. The improvement in the position and prospects of the company, however, has raised the present market value of the shares to par, and shareholders are again invited to take up the 6,500 shares available so as to provide working capital and place the company in a sound financial position.

Mr. Arthur Balfour's conception of Free Trade secured by help of retaliation reminds us of a store-keeper in the wilds of South Africa whom we once knew. He was a Free trader at his store and dealt largely with the blacks in his neighbourhood. It seems to have been a profitable business for a time at any rate, but he explained to us that it was impossible to sell goods readily to the blacks except by the help of a big stick which he kept handy on the counter. If a customer objected either

to the quality of the goods or to the price, and would not hear reason in the ordinary way, the big stick was called into requisition and the man given a thump on the head. That argument, the store-keeper explained, always prevailed, was most convincing and effective. This seems to be exactly the moral basis upon which Mr. Arthur Balfour's Free Trade faith rests. If the foreigner will not buy our goods hit him on the head with a club. And he would particularly like to try it on the Germans, the good man. And the club he proposes to use is a boomerang.

If the description given of the condition of the Charing Cross station roof by some of the workmen examined before the coroner is correct, the directors of the South-Eastern Company ought to be prosecuted for manslaughter. Iron-work not painted for eleven years, tie-rods rusted away, and cracks in the side walls merely filled up may be "South-Eastern management all over," as we have been told, but it ought not on that account to go unrewarded. Who will move the Public Prosecutor? We hope the new spirit at the Board of Trade will enforce a thorough investigation and put the blame upon the proper culprits. The managing committee of the lines has decided, we see, to restore the station, although it is really a superfluity, and to put a new roof upon it. Will the whole cost be charged to revenue? Will the walls stand a new roof?

From India the news continues ominous of widespread hunger, and the total number on the relief works has now risen to 76,140. Of these poor starving people 54,388 are in Ajmer and Rajputana, and 16,445 in the United Provinces. From both the stricken regions the report is "no rain." Prices are high and rising. In Rajputana, the most severely stricken district so far, large numbers of the cultivating and menial classes have emigrated from Aimer-Merwara, and those remaining are coming freely on relief. The sowing of spring crops has been much restricted, and test relief works have been opened in one of the Deccan districts. "Test relief works" is a suggestive phrase indicating an unmeasured area of human suffering lying beyond.

The minor appointments with which Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has completed his Ministry serve to put the seal upon its essentially democratic and business-like character. Everybody will be delighted that the post of Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs has been allotted to Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, one of the greatest authorities on foreign affairs now living, and a man of sound and mature judgment. We also think Mr. Walter Runciman and Mr. Thomas Lough in their right places at, respectively, the Local Government Board and the Board of Education. Altogether the Ministry promises to be one of the strongest of modern times, and it is interesting to see the names of Earl Granville and Lord Acton amongst the Lords-in-Waiting, this being the first introduction to public life of two men bearing such honoured names.

From Russia the news continues to be ominous of revolution, and every day that passes seems to emphasise the impotence of the autocracy. It is said to contemplate a return to coercion, and troops have been moved about, massed in St. Petersburg, hurried into the Baltic provinces, or drafted, in the form of wild Plastun Cossacks, into Odessa with a view to begin the killing again. Happily the army cannot be trusted any more than the navy, and against these spasmodic efforts at repression the workmen have taken action in preparing to declare another general strike. They have been joined by the Union of Unions, which represents the educated and trading classes. Committees have been formed by the lawyers' and other unions embraced in it, and altogether the outlook is most ominous. When we remember that it is the dead of winter, with snow on the ground and temperature low, and that the multitude must be fed and in some sort warmed, whatever happens, there is too much reason to fear that a general strike, should it be again declared, will be the signal for an extension to the towns of the plundering which has characterised the peasants' risings in various parts of the country. Meantime the *Official Messenger* has printed the usual list of birthday honours accorded by the Czar, and they are

confined entirely to the army. But the Czar has also promised the soldiers better pay and better food together with soap and towels, surely a most significant piece of information.

In Mr. Edward Atkinson, of Boston, Massachusetts, who passed away suddenly some ten days ago, the United States has lost one of its most distinguished citizens and ablest statisticians. He was more than a mere statistician, having a far-seeing, statesmanlike way of looking at things and the welfare of his country and of humanity always at heart. For many years back he has been in the habit of sending us his essays and statistical compilations, and we have always studied them with interest and instruction. No man was more respected in his own Massachusetts or laboured more consistently and strenuously against the war fiend and in favour of free trade. One of the more recent documents we received from him was a remarkably cogent demonstration of the loss suffered by New England through the protective tariffs existing in Canada and the United States. Their malign influence blocked the way to the development of the manufacturing industries of Massachusetts with Nova Scotia and other neighbouring regions of the Canadian Dominion, and at the same time shut out the farmers of these northern territories from the fine markets in the United States.

Are we sure that the riots in Shanghai have not been much exaggerated? Were they more than a mere street row such as frequently breaks out in Chinese cities, especially cities dominated more or less by the foreign colonies? We are inclined to think not, and to agree with the *Manchester Guardian*, which deprecates the too free indulgence in that pernicious habit European Powers have acquired of sending warships and landing marines or troops on any pretext such as a street rix gives. Formerly, as that newspaper aptly points out, no language was too strong in which to depict the wisdom and fairness of the great Yang-tsze viceroys, one of whom passed away some years ago, the other being transferred to the Foreign Office in Peking. But is it not the case that the successors of these men have competent bodies of regular troops of their own, officered by Japanese, and are they not capable of suppressing a coolie riot without the assistance of foreign troops? Our new Government will have to look into this matter, because in the present temper of China it may become in the highest degree dangerous to throw troops into the treaty ports on pretexts of the sort furnished by the passing hubbub in Shanghai.

M. Trouillot, the French Minister of Commerce, was enthusiastic the other night at a banquet on the subject of the expansion of French foreign trade. Two years ago, he said, he was able to announce a rise in the general foreign trade of France towards that level of £360,000,000 which had never until then been attained, and the figures of the exports and imports for the eleven months of the present year show that this total will be greatly exceeded. The increase in trade during President Loubet's tenure of office will amount to £52,000,000, he says, and we are delighted at the news. Nothing could be more satisfactory to us than the knowledge that our nearest neighbour is prosperous in spite of the handicap of a severe Customs tariff, of shipping bounties, and other stifling or hampering arrangements. But if France prospers thus under her tariff, what could she not do were her trade unfettered? She might, for one thing, double her business with the United Kingdom to the incalculable benefit of the people of both countries.

Mr. George Herring's gift of £100,000 to be utilised in putting the people back on the land promises to start a most interesting experiment; but would it not have been prudent to devote part at least of the refunds of settlers to an extension of the area to be settled? The idea underlying the proposal is so fascinating in its possibilities that we should have been disposed to say, give only the nett income from interest, or a portion of it to hospitals accounts and devote the capital repaid to extensions of the work.

The policy of absorption of private banks by the big joint stock institutions is still being continued and the Capital and Counties Bank has just entered into an agreement for the acquisition of Messrs. Berwick & Co., with offices at Worcester, Great Malvern, Malvern Wells, Malvern Link, West Malvern, Tenbury, Droitwich and Bromyard. The same firm's business carried, on under the name of Lechmere & Co., at Tewkesbury and Upton-on-Severn will also be taken over, the fusion to take effect as from January 1st next. According to the last published sheet the private concern has a total liability on current and deposit accounts of £1,260,000, with advances to customers of £560,000, and there is also a fixed note issue of £87,448, which will, of course, now lapse.

Mr. A. J. McMillan has obtained an injunction against the directors of the Le Roi Company, another action of his which entitles him to the further gratitude of the shareholders. When the directors were crushingly defeated at the recent meeting they demanded a poll, and ordered that this should be taken by means of polling papers to be sent to each shareholder for signature and returned to the company's office by noon on Friday, the 22nd inst. To speak mildly, this was a novel way of taking a poll, and as far as our experience carries us, quite an original conception. It will be seen that it was anything but fair to the McMillan party, who thereby could not appoint scrutineers in the ordinary way. Mr. McMillan at once took steps to get counsel's opinion, with the result that on Wednesday last Mr. Justice Joyce declared that the proposed action of the directors was inconsistent with the regulations of the company and was illegal and invalid. At the suggestion of his lordship the following was the form of injunction agreed to:—"The Court being of opinion that the mode adopted by the chairman of taking the poll by voting papers is unauthorised and invalid restrains the company from acting on any resolution alleged to be passed by a poll so taken." Thus the shareholders are protected against the possibilities of "accidents" and if any have lingering doubts as to which side they should support, this action of the directors should go far to remove them.

Few joint stock companies have had a more disastrous career than the Venetian art business of Salvati Jesurum and Co. and holders of the small portion of the capital left by the reorganisation are now asked to submit to the quiet disappearance of the thing from the public records. The secretary of the company displayed an easily understood reluctance to send broadcast details of the latest move, but it has not proved difficult to supply the deficiency and we are now able to state that stockholders can dispose of their security for 60 per cent. of its par value, one half of the purchase price to be paid within seven days of the acceptance of the offer by holders of 80 per cent. of the stock. Of the total amount of £60,907 outstanding shareholders representing £39,600 have already agreed to abide by the terms, and as the chances of the enterprise ever again doing a profitable trade are practically *nil*, we suppose the others will follow suit. There is no necessity to dwell at length on the company's wretched history or to repeat the reasons which induced the directors to recommend the present offer, but is it not somewhat remarkable that over £285,000 of capital can in some manner disappear and no one be held responsible? Out of the original capital of £321,693 the amount now to be handed over is £36,546, and it is very hard to believe that all the money has been either legitimately or honestly lost.

Critical Index To New Investments.

MITTERBERG COPPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

This company is formed with a capital of £200,000 in £1 shares, of which 25,000 are reserved for future issue and 120,000 were offered for subscription. Its object is to acquire the copper mines and smelting works of the Mitterberg Kupfergewerkschaft in the Austrian Tyrol, which were bought by Mr. Marcus Gould for 2,200,000

kronen, or about £91,666, transferred to the Continental Copper Syndicate at a profit of £3,000, and resold by that syndicate for £105,500 in cash and £50,500 in shares. The shares offered were underwritten by the syndicate for £9,000 in cash and shares, and a further £5,000 is paid in settlement of the preliminary expenses, estimated at £5,500, so that the company would start with a working capital of only £5,000 had it not been for a "leading banking institution in Austria," which is advancing £40,000 on mortgage debentures or similar security. Freehold land, houses, &c., are valued at £20,000 and the mining and smelting plant is estimated at £68,839, and taking a profit of £10 per ton on the ore developed the total present worth of the property is brought out at £217,979, to which is added £117,890 for probable ore partly developed. It is thought by one of the experts that there may be a further 2,917,586 tons of ore containing 84,610 tons of copper down to the Mühlbach level, which would give the mine a life of over sixty years with an output of 1,800 tons of copper per annum. On this basis it is calculated that at an average price for best selected copper of £63 per ton, against the present market value of about £86, and taking the cost of production at £40 per ton an annual profit of £42,000, including £600 from the estate, would be earned. The shares therefore, seem a tolerable speculative venture.

MILESTONE AND STANFORTH, LIMITED.

Several fishmongers' and butchers' shops, and one grocer's business are amalgamated under the above title, with a capital of £150,000 divided into 100,000 ordinary and 50,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, and 37,500 of each class were offered for subscription. The freehold and leasehold properties and other assets acquired are only valued at £15,365, but, by adding £47,635 for goodwill and £7,000 for preliminary expenses which the vendors, Spencer, Santo and Co., Ltd, undertake to pay, the purchase price is brought out at £70,000, of which £25,000 is payable in preference and ordinary shares in equal proportions and the balance in cash or shares. Goodwill, therefore, represents nearly 50 per cent. of the capital now issued, a valuation which does not seem justified by the profits statement put forward. The books of some of the firms have been examined for three years and of others for two and a half years and an average annual profit of £10,101 is brought out but it is significant that the accountants do not state whether the earnings have been on an increasing or decreasing scale during the period covered by their investigations. It is estimated that a further £3,000 will be earned by new businesses to be acquired with £20,000 of the funds now raised and that this additional income will enable the company to pay 10 per cent. on the 50,000 ordinary shares issued with a surplus of £5,100 for administration expenses, reserve fund, &c., but we are not so optimistic, and look upon the shares as at best third-rate securities.

MINING EXPLORATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

Formed five years ago to acquire certain copper mines in Argentina, near the boundary of Chili, this company has been busy developing its properties and now has in sight more than 100,000 tons of mineral which will make, according to the consulting engineer, a smelting mixture containing an average of 8 per cent. copper and 5 ozs. silver per ton. The authorised capital is £175,000 in £1 shares, of which 10,500 were privately subscribed for and 58,000 were allotted in part payment for the properties, and in order to provide for the repayment of debentures and other debts amounting to about £28,000 and for a smelter with a capacity of 100 tons per day a further 105,000 shares are issued, of which 35,000 have been subscribed in Chili. In January 1904 the consulting engineer estimated that with copper at £50 per ton an annual profit of £34,020 could be earned on an output of 30,000 tons of ore per annum, and the company apparently does not intend to rely upon its own mines to supply its smelter, as the directors anticipate that 100 tons daily may be received

from new mines which will be worked as soon as smelting facilities are available. One satisfactory thing about the present issue is that the money now raised is to be spent on the property, as the vendors of one of the mines were satisfied with £35,000 in shares, and the other was bought for £23,000 in shares and £12,000 in cash, the latter to be paid by annual instalments of £4,000 each. On the whole the offer seems a straightforward one, and the shares might prove a fair speculative purchase, but it is a pity that so heavy an underwriting commission as 10 per cent. was thought necessary.

Notes on Books.

Foundations of Political Economy. By William Bell Robertson. (London and Felling-on-Tyne: The Walter Scott Publishing Co., Limited.) Price 5s.

We have read this book at a certain disadvantage. It requires to be settled down to with some amount of leisure and freedom from distractions of mind, while we have had to take it in snippets as opportunity offered, but the very fact that we persevered may be accepted as indicating our opinion of its quality. It is a good book written by a man who thinks for himself, and as an essay in pure economics it deserves to be commended and very widely studied. Not that we agree with Mr. Robertson at all points. His definition of value seems to us excellent and logically true, but when he goes on to handle questions of wages and of the effect of the development of machinery upon the rate of wages, he seems to us to somewhat sacrifice common-sense and the teaching of experience to the rigour of his logic. He has no difficulty at all in demonstrating the weakness of some of Marx's theories and cast-iron definitions, but does not seem to us to be always logical in his treatment of the wages question, and we are unable to see how he manages to reach the conclusion that wages in this country are as low as in any part of the world. Does practical experience indicate that the progress of invention—the development, as we should call it, of man's power over the forces of nature—necessarily either curtails the field of labour or lowers its earnings? So far as we can judge it does neither. The more man gets liberated from slavish toil by help of tools the better should his reward be, the greater his freedom, the higher his position in a civilised community. That it is not always or often so is due to influences antagonistic to the natural consequences of his victory, attained through the perfection of his tools. Employers may by combination or through the ignorance of their workmen grasp too large a share of the resulting benefits. There may be too great an effort made to keep machinery running to the detriment of the worker, and other influences which we have not space to set forth are continually at work counteracting the benefits that should naturally flow to all concerned in the evolution of industrial conquests over nature, but the fact remains that in spite of all drawbacks every increase in the use of machinery has enlarged the field of human labour, increased the sum of the workers' earnings, and widely benefited mankind. The position of the working classes of our day, even in the most backward countries, is surely immeasurably better than that of the slave labour of Rome or of any ancient power. This is only one point, however, in a book which is packed from end to end with shrewd and conscientious thinking, and full of pointed criticism on accepted economic theories and formulæ. Mr. Robertson's handling of Malthus is admirable, and we cannot conclude this notice more appositely than by following extract:—

What, then, is it that makes the Malthusian persuade himself that this country is over-populated? It is because there are more people wanting work than can get work, and by the number in excess of those that can get work is the extent of the over-population. If every one were in employment, the Malthusian would not then say that the country was over-populated. Work, then, is the measure, according to the Malthusian, of the population of a country. All over and above those in employment or who have not means of subsistence are in excess of the full population of the country. Now, there are a great many such in this country, and even in the colonies with their still untrodden tracts of territory. If this surplus population were removed, the immediate economic

effect would be a diminished consumption, for these people do consume, else they would not be alive, and this diminished consumption would be followed by diminished production, and the only way that production could be diminished would be by a suspension of more or less work. The consumption of the workers so suspended would become less than when they were at work, and so consumption would suffer a further check. Thus again—and, indeed, each time we sought to square the population with employment—would we have an unemployed class. The same line of argument may be applied in the case of pauper establishments, prisons, police, magistrates, and the criminal classes—all undesirable institutions. Remove them and consumption is lessened, with the result that the already contracted market is still more contracted.

Let Youth but Know. A Plea for Reason in Education. By Kappa. (London: Methuen and Co.) Price 3s. 6d. nett.

It was long since time to protest against the intellectual sterility fostered by our modern system of education, and these letters when they first appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* attracted so much attention as to lead us to hope that reform may yet come. They are eloquently written, well worth gathering into a volume, and plead for real intellectual culture, for the development not merely of the memory, of the mechanical side of the human mind, but of the heart and conscience as well, for wider views of man's place in the universe, and for an end to be put to that system of verbal chess-playing which forms so large a part of the discipline to which the minds of the young are subjected in England. The excessive devotion to athletics is also dealt with and condemned; but it is not merely in university education or in the middle-class schools where reform is needed; the better ordering of instruction must begin at the beginning, and that cramming method, which seems to us to be modelled upon the system by which "Surrey fowls" are reared, ought to give place to a real effort to develop the minds of pupils. Newspapers often regale us with examples of the grotesque answers children, and higher students also, give to questions put to them by examiners, and it has always seemed to us that these answers reflect upon the stupidity of the teacher far more than upon the ignorance of the pupil. There is a hurry and superficial straining after sensational effects in our educational methods which must be considered the deadly enemy of true culture, and our universities simply ruin the great majority of the youths committed to their care. We hope this admirable collection of essays will lead to good results, and that the author will follow up his attack until reforms begin to be effected.

The Reformers' Year Book. Formerly the "Labour Annual." Edited by F. W. Pethick Lawrence and Joseph Edwards. Price 1s. nett.

We have only space to note the appearance of this useful annual, which contains, amongst other things, biographies of labour leaders, with a goodly number of their portraits. That all these men are really members of the labour army is hardly the truth, but many of them seem to be so, and the brief record of their lives is valuable for reference. Women "labour leaders" are also dealt with, and the book no doubt fills a most useful function.

Answers to Correspondents.

F. W. M.—We think you were well advised to take such an excellent profit as we fancy the immediate course of the markets will be adverse. It would not be well to buy again at the higher figure you mention, but whether the lower one will be reached again soon it is impossible to say.

T. Y. L.—No need to sell as the company is steadily improving its position, but we fear there is no immediate prospect of your purchase showing a profit.

Nomen.—The company is a good one, but it is heavily burdened with royalties and dividends have been on a gradually decreasing scale. Of course the revival of trade may help this undertaking, but at the present price a good margin of improvement seems to be already allowed for.

S. M. H. J.—Your letter received just before going to press and too late to be dealt with this week, but we will answer it fully in our next issue. In the meantime we thank you for the cheque, which is quite correct.

OLIVE.—We do not quite follow your question. These shares have gone up, not down, and now show a very good profit on the price at which you bought. They are at present within a little of the best price reached.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended December 14, \$5,140, increase \$1,467.
 Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 17, \$16,503, increase \$1,692; aggregate from January 1, \$825,000, increase \$170,781.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 18, Rs. 76,007, increase Rs. 2,696; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 14,21,467, increase Rs. 1,85,895.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 14, \$106,200, increase \$16,500; total from July 1, \$2,459,300, increase \$569,600.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 18, Rs. 26,389, increase Rs. 7,050; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 5,12,271, increase Rs. 51,305.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 2, £637, increase £110.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of December, \$9,672, increase \$648; aggregate from January 1, \$755,184, increase \$5,335.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 18, Rs. 14,507, increase Rs. 6,444; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,63,811, increase Rs. 39,692.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended November 30 amounted to \$4,575.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending December 16, £1,298, increase £109; aggregate from July 1, £28,861, increase £39.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending December 16, £763, increase £143; aggregate from July 1, £21,773, increase £676.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for September, £4,376 decrease £335.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 16, £469, increase £15; aggregate from July 1, £8,499, decrease £357.

FOREIGN

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16 £14,404, increase £433; aggregate from January 1, £675,296 increase £40,859.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of November, £10,748, increase £226.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to October 31, \$393,936, increase \$101,487. Net earnings from July 1 to October 31, \$184,298, increase \$73,276.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 17, £3,667, increase £553; aggregate from January 1, £173,794, increase £9,901.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 18, £1,324.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month November, \$277,300.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16, Rs. 45,820, increase Rs. 4,142; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 10,36,624, increase Rs. 1,26,226.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, £3,383, increase £146. Total to October 31, £41,146, increase £6,276.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of October, \$420,981, increase \$52,924; aggregate from January 1, \$3,903,668, increase \$327,440. Net traffic receipts, \$228,043, increase \$30,229; aggregate from January 1, \$2,132,581, increase \$236,759.]

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Dec. 17	2,695	+ 155	24	50,588	- 2,286	
Cambrian	" 17	4,149	- 350	24	170,729	- 7,770	
Central London ..	" 16	7,500	+ 318	24	152,789	- 576	
City and South London ..	" 17	3,270	+ 310	24	63,380	+ 593	
Furness	" 17	10,256	+ 2,060	24	255,054	+ 27,205	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 17	66,539	+ 6,245	24	1,722,416	+ 118,411	
Great Eastern	" 17	100,300	+ 1,000	24	2,693,300	- 17,300	
Great Northern and City ..	" 16	1,848	+ 222	24	37,792	+ 8,086	
Great Northern	" 16	110,000	- 2,681	24	2,823,088	+ 30,350	
Great Western	" 17	223,800	+ 2,600	24	5,905,300	+ 99,400	
Hull and Barnsley	" 17	10,332	+ 1,071	24	235,600	+ 3,528	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 17	100,482	+ 3,628	24	2,745,332	+ 78,818	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 16	51,989	- 728	24	1,593,745	- 1,448	
London & North Western ..	" 17	272,000	+ 14,000	24	7,022,000	+ 174,000	
London & South Western ..	" 17	82,500	+ 200	24	2,303,100	+ 17,200	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 17	7,701	+ 169	24	249,819	+ 1,928	
Metropolitan	" 17	17,807	+ 551	24	413,480	+ 2,643	
Metropolitan District ..	" 17	8,188	+ 410	24	170,649	+ 3,827	
Midland	" 9	213,538	+ 9,689	23	5,297,639	+ 164,450	
North Eastern	" 16	175,866	+ 14,951	24	4,467,173	+ 76,960	
North London	" 17	8,923	- 338	24	213,439	- 5,417	
North Staffordshire ..	" 17	17,694	+ 770	24	430,219	+ 13,443	
Rhymney	" 17	5,744	+ 212	24	136,075	- 1,922	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 16	74,644	- 1,828	24	2,335,735	+ 24,963	
Taff Vale	" 17	19,174	+ 854	24	435,263	- 8,618	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Dec. 17	81,153	+ 6,685	20	1,747,210	+ 39,494
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 16	29,602	+ 1,162	20	711,508	+ 3,917
Great North of Scotland ..	" 16	8,525	+ 670	20	197,129	+ 61
Highland	" 17	8,013	+ 546	20	216,548	+ 1,165
North British	" 17	85,871	+ 5,096	20	1,868,402	+ 15,261

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Dec. 15	2,236	- 131	24	77,108	+ 2,3
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 15	1,523	- 315	24	43,991	- 595
Great Northern	" 15	17,547	+ 792	24	484,749	- 1,37
Midland Great Western ..	" 15	11,572	+ 448	24	277,181	- 6,963

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 15, £1,323, increase £339; aggregate from July 1, £33,033, increase £11,316.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 17, £8, increase £2; aggregate from July 1, £519, increase £16.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 15, £4,510, increase £3.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending December 8, £28,095, increase £6,102; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,323,827, increase £143,379; 441½ miles, against 425½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16, £1,061, increase £74; aggregate from July 2, £26,759, increase £1,438.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 17, £109, increase £17; aggregate from July 1, £3,468, decrease £57.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 15, £98, increase £7; aggregate from July 1, £2,983, decrease £32.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 15, £4,510, increase £106; aggregate from July 1, £121,334, decrease £238.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16, £4,569, increase £417; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £242,115, increase £18,321.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 15, £171, decrease £47; aggregate from July 1, £5,925, decrease £455.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 14, £341.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16, £220, decrease £14; aggregate from October 1, £3,059, decrease £450.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 9, £13,830, increase £1,900; aggregate from April 1, £537,029, increase £74,155. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16, £19,425, decrease £2,857; aggregate from July 2, £550,253, decrease £13,265.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16, £6,662, decrease £610; aggregate from July 1, £185,529, increase £2,095.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 15, £175, increase £6; aggregate from July 1, £4,772, increase £237.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 17, £669, increase £158.

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000

TOTAL INCOME over £940,000

LARGE BONUSES.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Thursday Evening.

It would be unwise to be too alarmist about the state of the Money Market, but it is difficult to regard the position with complete equanimity, and we cannot help feeling that the Bank directors might have been wise to have raised their discount rate to-day to 5 per cent. Not that there is anything specially alarming in the figures of the Bank return from a domestic point of view. Compared with a year ago, the proportion of reserve to liabilities is down $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $36\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., but the actual amount of the reserve is, at £19,256,000, only £485,000 less than it was this time last year, and the suction of the holiday and provincial requirements upon the Bank's stock of gold has only meant the withdrawal of about £334,000 more than in the penultimate week of last year. For all that the market is not in a happy state, and in spite of reassuring reports of various kinds the symptoms revealed by the weekly Bank return published this afternoon might any morning develop into feverishness of a threatening kind.

Apparently the Bank borrowed on its Government stock £4,440,000, and in doing so cornered the open credit market with such completeness that it has been driven to discount bills at 4 per cent. and raise loans at 5 per cent. to an aggregate of £5,214,000 within the Bank week ended last night. Of this heavy addition to the market debt not one penny remains to strengthen the resources of the open market. On the contrary, other deposits fell off £3,228,000, thanks to the above noted Bank borrowing, to a decline of £2,941,000 in the reserve—£1,050,000 of it due to withdrawals of gold—and to an increase of £1,030,000 in the public deposits. Of the withdrawals of gold £500,000 must be ascribed to the India Council, and marks the tension of the currency position in India. That is to say, the advance in the prices of produce there—jute alone being 30 per cent. higher than it was a year ago—the expansion of speculative business in India, and above all the ever increasing expenditure of the Simla Government, have combined to create an increased demand for currency within the Peninsula which has had to be satisfied by mere notes, against which an additional gold reserve to the amount of £500,000 has this week been laid aside in London. But apart from this, the Bank has lost £550,000 by export withdrawals during the week, and the drafts still continue, are bound, in our opinion, to continue because of the universal urgency of the demand for the metal.

This is why we think the Bank rate ought to have been raised. In relation to the indefinite and unfathomable demands of other markets, our market stands quite unprotected by a mere 4 per cent. rate. The gold dribbles away usually in sums that excite no alarm, and the stock of coin and bullion is now below £30,000,000, with the probability that it will go lower, not only next week, but throughout the early part of next year. That it can be increased while gold in the open market commands about 78s. per oz. is beyond hope. While saying

this it must not be forgotten that the Bank directors would seemingly have got no assistance from the open market if they had to-day put their rate up to 5 per cent. On the contrary, discount rates outside are weaker, and no sustained effort is ever made by the bill brokers or the joint-stock banks to keep rates up. Thanks to the Bank's sweeping up of floating balances last week short loan rates were hard until yesterday, when the Japanese Government released about £1,500,000 at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to the 6th January in order to ease the payment of a £2,000,000 instalment on its second $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. loan due yesterday, but when paid immediately lent again by the issuing banks also to 6th January, when they must hand it over to the Bank of England. The money thus, lent out twice over broke rates yesterday afternoon, and the effect was helped by an outpouring of Rio Tinto money, £3,000,000 having been paid up also yesterday on Rio Tinto new shares. To aggravate this ease the India Council, which has mostly been calling money in, entered the field to-day and lent and renewed freely at 4 per cent. to the middle of January, so that in a manner the discount houses have been paralysed in their attempts to keep up rates, and the effect of the Bank borrowings has been to a large extent nullified. All this is only another way of saying that the market is in a thoroughly unwholesome condition, swayed by rumours, ready to be scared.

Yet this afternoon, discount rates tended to go back to $3\frac{3}{4}$ for three months' bank bills, and business was said to have been actually done at that figure, the rumour being that some Russian gold has reached Berlin, relieving the tension on the market and lessening the apprehension of drafts by Germany upon the Bank of England's already dangerously reduced stock. In support of this story, a slightly improved Berlin cheque exchange—20·39 against 20·38 $\frac{1}{4}$ —was instanced, and as the French cheque has also steadied at 25·10 $\frac{1}{4}$, while Paris open market discount faintly eased down, the keen traders in bills became eager to bid for them at finer quotations.

Most of the week seven-day money has been $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. with the joint stock banks, and they got that rate to-day in spite of the fact that the Japanese and other moneys released yesterday knocked call rates in the afternoon down to 2 per cent. None the less, Stock Exchange money next week is likely to cost nearer 5 per cent. than 4 per cent., and the end of the year settlement promises to be rather a difficult one on that account alone. Lenders may be helped all round by another heavy withdrawal of gold for the Argentine Republic, quite on the cards in the end of this week, and at all events the end of the year is going to be an anxious time, not only in the Money market, but on the Stock Exchange and amongst credit users generally.

SILVER.

There has not been very much doing in the market for bars and prices have risen or dropped to the extent of $\frac{1}{16}$ d. or $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. as supplies fell short or exceeded demands. The nett result of these fluctuations is that spot metal is $\frac{1}{16}$ lower compared with last Friday's quotations at 30 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz., and silver for future delivery is unaltered at 29 $\frac{7}{16}$ d. per oz. Applications for the Rs. 1,00,00,000 Council drafts on India amounted to Rs. 3,41,50,000 in bills and Rs. 4,17,00,000 in telegraphic transfers and of these Rs. 46,89,000 were allotted in bills and Rs. 53,11,000 in transfers. Tenders at $1/4\frac{1}{4}$ and $1/4\frac{1}{2}$ per rupee received about 13 per cent., and so urgent is the need for money in India that special allotments were made of Rs. 6,00,000 in bills and Rs. 9,00,000 in transfers on Bombay at $1/4\frac{3}{4}$ and $1/4\frac{5}{8}$ per rupee. Next week another Rs. 1,00,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32; for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 20, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

		£	
Notes Issued	..	46,911,965	
Government Debt	..	11,015,100	
Other Securities	..	7,434,900	
Gold Coin and Bullion	..	28,461,965	
Silver Bullion	..	—	
		£46,911,965	£46,911,965

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 12,798,989
Res ..	3,264,799	Other Securities ..	38,892,617
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	17,742,995
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,512,867
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	7,407,743		
Other Deposits ..	45,638,330		
Seven Day and other Bills	83,596		

Dated December 21, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Dec. 21.		Dec. 13, 1905.	Dec. 20, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,191,350	Rest ..	3,232,030	3,264,799	32,769	—
8,590,226	Pub. Deposits ..	6,377,335	7,407,743	1,030,408	—
39,088,703	Other do. ..	45,866,406	45,638,330	—	3,228,076
110,079	7 Day Bills ..	86,336	83,596	—	2,740
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,609,872	Gov. Securities ..	17,238,989	12,798,989	4,440,000	—
30,122,392	Other do. ..	33,678,978	38,892,617	—	5,213,639
19,741,094	Total Reserve ..	22,197,140	19,255,862	2,941,278	—
				8,444,455	8,444,455
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,405,405		28,803,275	29,168,970	365,695	—
29,696,499	Coin and Bullion	32,550,415	29,974,832	—	2,575,583
41½ p.c.	Proportion ..	40½ p.c.	36½ p.c.	—	3½ p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £1,050,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,950,000	986,566,000	215,384,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
Week ending				
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,532,000	184,726,000	27,806,000	—
" 18	270,694,000	226,552,000	44,142,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,631,000	15,589,000	—
Nov. 1	270,695,000	250,973,000	19,722,000	—
" 8	216,916,000	195,045,000	21,871,000	—
" 15	260,846,000	241,533,000	19,313,000	—
" 22	222,090,000	176,593,000	45,497,000	—
" 29	217,274,000	253,726,000	—	36,452,000
Dec. 6	315,761,000	216,663,000	99,098,000	—
" 13	201,126,000	182,495,000	18,631,000	—
" 20	301,263,000	261,237,000	40,026,000	—
	12,092,033,000	10,301,586,000	1,790,447,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on the 27th inst., for Treasury bills to the amount of £1,800,000 in replacement of bills falling due on January 1. The bills will be dated January 1, and will be payable at six months after date.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	Jan. 1	1 19 11
1,200,000	—	Jan. 2 ?	—
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
25,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Nil.	Monday, Copenhagen .. £50,000
	Tuesday, Berlin .. £30,000
	Wednesday, India .. £50,000
	Thursday, S. America .. £50,000
Total Efflux .. £630,000	Total .. £630,000

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	3 3½
Berlin ..	6	December 11, 1905	5½ 5½
Hamburg ..	6	December 11, 1905	5½ 5½
Frankfurt ..	6	December 11, 1905	5½ 5½
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	2½ 2½
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3½ 4
Vienna ..	4½	October, 1905	4½ 4½
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	5 5
St. Petersburg ..	5½	February, 1904	7½ 7½
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	4 4
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	5 5
Stockholm ..	5	December, 1905.	5 5
Copenhagen ..	5½	October, 1905	4½ 4½
Calcutta ..	7	December 14, 1905	—
Bombay ..	7	December 14, 1905	—
New York call money ..	9	—	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs.	25'11½	25'10½	Antwerp ..	short	25'19½	25'18½
Brussels ..	chqs.	25'19	25'17	Italy ..	sight	25'07½	25'07½
Amsterdam ..	sight	12'09½	12'09½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'05	110'12
Berlin ..	chqs.	20'37½	20'39	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	16½d	17d
Do. ..	3 mths	20'20½	20'19	Valparaiso ..	90 dys	14½d	14½d
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20'36	20'38½	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1'4½	1'4½
Frankfurt ..	short	20'35	20'36	Bombay ..	T.T.	1'4½	1'4½
Vienna ..	sight	24'00½	24'01½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2'0½	2'0½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'70	93'70	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2'10½	2'10½
New York ..	60 dys	4'82½	4'82½	Singapore ..	T.T.	2'2½	2'2½
Lisbon ..	sight	50½	50½	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2'0½	2'0½
Madrid ..	sight	31'90	32'00				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Dec. 16.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	in reduction of debt
under C. nard Agreement	Cunard Agreement
Act	Deficiency Advances re-
Ways and Means	paid
Deficiency	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	repaid
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	Increase in Exchequer
Transvaal and Orange River	balances
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£2,705,639	£2,705,639

* Exclusive of £38,023 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £6,518,537.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 14, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Dec. 15, 1904.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 4,840,800	£ 4,938,840	£ 4,815,120	£ 4,667,800
Other securities ..	23,246,800	22,396,920	24,494,920	22,630,360
Note circulation ..	27,182,960	27,024,920	28,485,640	26,341,640
Deposits ..	2,978,000	3,468,560	2,936,200	2,849,880

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Dec. 15, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Dec. 15, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£ 42,916,700	£ 41,369,550	£ 42,147,750	£ 51,179,300
Bills discounted ..	47,762,000	46,743,500	49,669,400	38,864,300
Advances on stocks ..	2,923,400	2,675,550	3,211,450	2,717,150
Note circulation ..	66,099,450	64,838,650	66,505,100	63,957,050
Public deposits ..	28,970,200	26,230,400	27,774,000	30,213,850

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Dec. 15, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Dec. 15, 1904.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 44,888,000	£ 44,937,958	£ 44,901,208	£ 48,520,166
Silver reserve ..	12,109,375	12,018,583	12,060,708	12,223,125
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,977,500	1,989,291	1,980,333	1,960,583
Note circulation ..	70,354,500	70,503,666	72,179,416	67,772,333
Bills discounted ..	22,796,291	22,546,708	23,349,375	16,884,333

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Dec. 16, 1905	Dec. 9, 1905.	Dec. 2, 1905	Dec. 17, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Gold	15,019,283	15,011,990	15,002,779	14,889,035
Silver	22,887,398	22,746,928	22,866,815	20,007,031
Foreign Bills	3,440,532	3,381,629	3,297,147	1,756,519
Discount and Short Bills ..	45,978,255	45,887,648	45,766,088	45,029,795
Treasury Account	20,867,840	20,857,601	20,855,030	21,311,269
Notes in circulation	61,583,354	61,841,939	61,901,148	63,576,002
Current Account deposits ..	22,144,045	22,235,193	22,066,122	24,262,339
Dividends Interests	2,901,317	2,662,150	2,988,755	2,487,628
Government Securities	7,443,754	6,797,997	6,424,555	5,350,998

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 21, 1905.	Dec. 14, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1905.	Dec. 22, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	115,555,720	115,401,280	115,554,520	106,649,800
Silver in hand	43,460,120	43,514,960	43,509,160	44,206,040
Bills discounted	34,197,920	33,529,120	31,731,360	22,695,930
Advances	20,220,640	19,785,460	19,699,640	19,994,360
Note circulation	179,703,640	179,619,360	180,652,240	179,318,120
Public deposits	15,420,780	14,940,600	14,380,480	9,775,400
Private deposits	24,380,680	23,607,200	22,411,720	20,294,080

Proportion between bullion and circulation 88½ per cent. against 87½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Nov. 10, 1905.	Oct. 31, 1905.	Oct. 20, 1905.	Nov. 10, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Reserve	29,193,520	28,902,240	28,310,680	25,282,640
State notes and small changed ..	468,240	486,920	518,600	516,240
Discount and loans	14,649,960	15,537,840	14,177,480	11,703,360
Public stock and State loans ..	8,293,320	8,309,960	8,395,360	8,385,960
Credits	6,880,880	7,423,400	6,620,720	7,039,760
Note Circulation	40,432,440	41,058,760	40,306,440	36,458,000
Current account	2,407,440	2,633,040	2,660,640	3,825,280
Deposits	3,983,640	4,402,680	4,290,840	3,374,680

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 8/21, 1905.	Nov. 1/14, 1905.	Oct. 23/Nov. 5, 1905.	Nov. 8/21, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	87,449,495	87,618,529	81,565,971	85,411,118
Silver and subsidiary coin	3,676,338	3,641,494	3,764,488	6,675,378
Advances and bills discounted	42,607,349	42,742,235	40,823,044	39,902,695
Securities belonging to the Bank	6,950,420	7,002,926	7,023,847	5,940,571
Notes in circulation	110,706,204	123,557,822	110,461,974	83,316,960
Deposits and current account	48,420,840	47,416,869	46,993,283	45,498,617
Treasury account	7,229,194	7,260,276	7,014,835	20,302,517

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 16, 1905	Dec. 9, 1905	Dec. 2, 1905	Dec. 17, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Specie	34,844,000	34,706,000	35,968,000	42,228,000
Legal tenders	15,142,800	14,657,200	14,903,000	15,486,600
Loans and discounts	200,920,000	203,280,000	204,780,000	212,020,000
Circulation	10,612,200	10,653,800	10,813,400	8,556,200
Net deposits	196,778,000	198,448,000	201,440,000	219,220,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £792,300 against an excess last week of £248,800.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 7.	Dec. 12.	Dec. 14.	Dec. 19.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam ..	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½
Hamburg	3 months	20'69	20'68	20'68	20'69
Berlin & German B. Places ..	3 months	20'69	20'68	20'68	20'69
Paris	cheques	25'12½	25'12½	25'11½	25'11½
Do. do.	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'35	25'33½
Marseilles	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'35	25'33½
Switzerland	3 months	25'50	25'48½	25'48½	25'46½
Austria	3 months	24'34	24'34	24'34	24'34
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'46½	25'47½	25'47½	25'46½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ...	3 months	36½	36½	36½	36½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Christiania	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'41
Stockholm	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'41

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	4
Three months	3½-4
Four months	3½-3¾
Six months	3¾-3½
Three months fine inland bills	4½-4¾
Four months	4½-4¾
Six months	4½-4¾

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	4
short loan rates	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½-4
for call loans	3½-4½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Quite an exceptional fascination is exercised by the stock markets just now. The difficulties with which they are everywhere surrounded are unusual, and in some instances unparalleled. All of them have over-traded for years in one direction or another, and every one of them, even our own Stock Exchange, is now oppressed by the mass of over-valued securities carried by them. But they might have continued to carry their ordinary burdens for a long time yet, thanks to the stimulating effect of the great output of gold and to the admirable way in which the credit generating and sustaining power of modern banking and finance can be instantly brought to bear upon the weakest spot, had it not been for the waste of capital on the wars of the past ten or twelve years. First, there was the Japanese war with China, brief but costly, then the war between Spain and the United States, whose immediate cost was great and whose consequential costs are still onerous. Afterwards came our war in South Africa, prolonged and destructive of capital to an extent greater than we ever suffered before in the same period of time, a destruction still going on, as witness our peace bills for the army and navy; and finally we have had the Russo-Japanese war, whose consumption of capital has plainly been the most stupendous of all.

None of these war bills have ever been paid, the money has simply been borrowed or, as in the case of Russia, to an unknown amount left hanging unrecognised, no one knows where, though probably bankers and contractors unpaid could tell something.

The whole of the war debts actually emitted upon the world's usury markets represent either no assets at all or assets of more or less doubtful value, but the credit establishments are so powerful and so united that they might have gone on bearing up and peddling out until they had transferred to the unthoughtful investor most of the national promises to pay upon which their prosperity as lenders has come more and more to rest. But at this stage enters Revolution in Russia, and as the consequent anarchy in that country develops, the fear deepens in the minds of the investing classes lest the tottering autocracy of the Tsar should be swept away altogether and default upon the stupendous mass of the Russian foreign debt follow. Through this fear all stock and money markets are oppressed and more or less paralysed, and because of it an extraordinary hunger for gold has developed. In usual times the banker is ready to take and give paper, and his customers, depositors and others, fall in with the habit unquestioningly, but when a strain upon credit arises or threatens to arise the banker endeavours to make himself strong, and reverts to gold, the only commodity universally and at all times marketable. At the same time, and because they are so deeply committed to the Herculean labour of upholding the credit of borrowing states, the banks are forced to do their utmost to prevent the prices of securities from falling to pieces on the stock exchanges. If prices go down beyond a point well enough known, perhaps, to the controllers of the market, failures may occur of such magnitude as no immediately available supply of gold could much mitigate the consequences of and as might paralyse markets at a distance, preventing them from coming to the help of the one threatening to founder.

Indications multiply that the double task is proving too much for the world-linked credit swayers, generators and wielders. They have everywhere more to do than they have resources for, and hence the fascination of the stock markets to us. We watch them to try and discover where the break will occur first, and

to guess the consequences that may follow for our market should Berlin or New York, the two most obviously overloaded places, succumb to their commitments. In some ways we stand to suffer most of all, because these other markets lean upon us, borrow our resources and hamper us in the task of carrying our own war-waste and promoters'-plunder burdens, by the extent to which they have induced us to carry theirs. It probably only requires a bank here to be forced into liquidation to bring the whole credit machinery of the nation, if not of the world, to a temporary stop. The over-distension of credit extends to British India, and that dependency would probably discover the profitlessness of its currency-sweating prosperity before many days elapsed, did the home credit "gasogene" explode or collapse.

But surely it is all right with the United States! Wall Street is in eruption, sending prices up with a fury of buying that must be grounded on something solid. That does not follow; the demonstration made by the big cliques, now in Union Pacifics, now in Reading, now in Erie or other shares, is only the clique style of endeavouring to stave off the inevitable. Rival groups are all engaged in the game of leaving each other as "last man in." If the public is foolish enough to accept the position, well and good; the cliques, pools and syndicates will rake in more uncounted millions by the bankruptcy now near; if not, they must slaughter each other. "They are playing to ruin Lawson," the groups say, but something much bigger than that piece of revenge is implied in the bedlamite gamble now so furiously raging. For one thing, many more Yankee banks are in the position of that Chicago National Bank which stopped payment in the beginning of this week, and in whose affairs there is fraud, it is said; and, for another, the Paris bankers, fearing for themselves, are calling in the loans they had granted on Yankee paper. To find gold to pay these loans off, all other markets being now full to repletion of the same kind of security, the potentates of the plunder market in New York must unload somewhere, and to unload with effect prices must be kept up, and not only up but rising.

They will fail; the play is too fevered to effect its object; dread is inspired in lieu of confidence, and all who have respect for their peace of mind, for their sanity or solvency, give the Yankee markets a wide berth. Is it any wonder that we watch the daily unfolding of the drama with absorbing interest, wondering how and when the *dénouement* will come?

The Week's Stock Markets.

Markets do not appear likely to finish the year in very cheerful fashion. The outlook, indeed, is anything but reassuring, and should the threatening aspect of foreign bourses lead to the taking of exceptional measures for the protection of our gold reserves, prices, badly inflated at almost all points, might experience a nasty shock. Unless appearances are very deceptive,

disaster in its train. Then the situation in Russia is steadily growing worse, and although dealers tried to find comfort in the news that Berlin had received a large consignment of gold from Petersburg, and another statement that nearly £2,000,000 was to be despatched to this market, those who go for their Christmas holidays with light books are likely to enjoy themselves most. After being dull for the first day or so, Consols braced up on the appearance of the Government broker in the market, and were followed by National War and Local Loans, but Exchequer bonds, 1906-15, India sterling issues and Bank of England stock all ended lower. Little or nothing went on in the Home County and Corporation division, but Middlesbrough 3 per cent. showed a gain of 2, and West Bromwich 3 per cent. of 1, while Metropolitan 3½ per cent. closed 1 down. London County Council issues were also a little dull, but the tendency was better for Water Board "B" stock. A small trade took place in Colonial Inscribed stocks, Jamaica 4 per cent. being 1 up and Cape 3½ and 3 per cent. ½ easier at the end.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	100½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103½	103½
102½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101½	101½
106½	100	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	101½	101½
104½	98½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
93½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	91½	91½
93½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	88½	88
92½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	88½	88
104½	99½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres ..	100	100
92½	84½	5 p.c. Debs. ..	37	86
101	94	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	97½	97
106	101½	Do. Western of Minas Rail ..	105	105
91½	82	5 p.c. ..	88½	87½
102½	93½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	101½	101½
97½	87½	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees ..	97	97
99½	89½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	98	98
96½	85½	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	94	94
102½	96	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	101½	101½
98½	91½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	96	96
107	100½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	106½	106½
106½	100½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	102½	102½
100½	92½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	99½	98½
106½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	104½	104
59½	28½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	53	53
51½	24½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	43	43
48½	26½	Costa Rica A ..	46	45½
109½	104½	Do. B ..	105	105
107	104	Colombian External ..	104½	104½
103½	95½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	102½	102½
106½	102½	Egypt United 4 p.c. ..	104	104
91½	87½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	88	87½
54½	47	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	52½	52
55½	48½	German 3 p.c. ..	53	52½
44½	38½	Greek, 1884 ..	40½	40½
54½	47	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	51	51
100½	95½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	96	96
106	102½	Do. Funding ..	105	105½
104½	88½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	101	100½
93½	88½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	101	100½
93½	76½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	92½	92
106½	97	Do. 1901-2 ..	102	102
106½	102½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	103	103
70½	64½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	70	69½
95½	79½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	81	80
83½	76	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	82	82
94½	89½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	92½	91½
103	100	Servian 4 p.c. ..	101½	102
106	100½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	103½	104
92	86½	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	90½	89½
74½	63½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	72½	71½
99	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	96	96
51½	42½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	51	51½
		Do. 5 p.c. ..		
		Venezuelan, 1881 ..		

In the Foreign Bond market Russians commenced weak, going as low as 78, but quickly picked up on a few German purchases induced by the regular talk of the taking of drastic measures for the restoration of order. Other Europeans were steady with the exception of Greeks, which finished lower, but the South American group of securities was somewhat irregular. Changes, however, were quite unimportant, and a small loss in Cedulas after the meeting was soon recovered. In the Central American division Honduras and Guatemalans displayed early weakness, but the last-named did not close at the worst, and Colombian and Venezuelan rallied sharply. Peruvian things were also better, but Chinese shaded off on the anti-foreign demonstration in Shanghai. A smaller business than usual was noticeable in Japanese, but the tendency was firm enough, and a considerable demand was experienced for the 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds in view of their early redemption at par. It is said that the majority of these bonds are now held in Europe and that in con-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	89½	89½
91½	87½	Do. Account (Jan. 4) ..	88½	88½
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88½	88
100½	99½	Excheq. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100½	100½
95½	89	Irish Land (2½) ..	90½	90½
101½	96½	Local Loans (3) ..	99	99
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98½	98½
99½	97½	Do. Account (Jan. 4) ..	98½	98½
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98½	98½
308	291½	Bk. of England Stock. (9 p.c.) ..	294½	293½
109	103½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1931 ..	104½	104½
99½	94½	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948 ..	96½	96
85½	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	80½	80
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Kupee Paper ..	66	66

the monetary position is likely to be a source of anxiety for some time to come, largely the result of the blundering tactics of the Treasury; and the bank failures in America early in the week serve as a sharp reminder that present day Yankee finance is certain, sooner or later, to bring

sequence very little of the latest loan raised for paying them off will be withdrawn to Japan.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ord. (58 p.c.)	140	140
165	152	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.)	157	157
131	116	Do. Def. (5 p.c.)	126	126
20	11	Caledonian Ord. (3 p.c.)	118	118
83	77	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.)	78	78
41	33	Do. Def. (4 p.c.)	40	40
94	88	Central London (4 p.c.)	94	94
87	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.)	86	86
17	15	Chatham Ordinary	15	15
48	37	City and South London (2 p.c.)	46	45
71	51	Furness (2 p.c.)	67	66
39	28	Great Central Pref.	37	37
39	15	Do. Def.	18	18
93	82	Great Eastern (3 p.c.)	87	87
108	98	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.)	102	102
41	33	Do. Def. (1)	44	44
45	135	Great Western (5 p.c.)	142	141
104	41	Highland (1 p.c.)	49	49
122	104	Hull and Barnsley (1 p.c.)	108	108
100	86	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 p.c.)	87	86
42	33	Metropolitan (3 p.c.)	36	36
71	66	Metropolitan District	68	68
74	62	Midland Pref. (2 p.c.)	72	72
83	77	Do. Def. (2 p.c.)	77	77
49	43	North British Pref. (3 p.c.)	46	46
146	134	Do. Def. (1 p.c.)	144	144
161	147	North-Eastern (5 p.c.)	159	158
96	84	North-Western (5 p.c.)	90	89
135	122	South-Eastern Ord. (2 p.c.)	128	128
109	47	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	53	51
171	156	Do. Def.	164	163
111	104	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.)	108	108
60	52	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	57	56
		Do. Def. (2 p.c.)		

Dealings in Home Railway stocks have been reduced to a minimum this week and prices consequently dwindled until Wednesday, when the spasm of easier money and talk of gold coming from Russia helped to put a better appearance on things. In spite of this rally, however, most stocks in which there was any movement at all were lower, and in a few instances the decline was substantial. South-Eastern deferred fell back on the news that the County Council had served the company with notice to pull down portions of the wall at Charing Cross Station, and was further depressed by a disappointing traffic return. A reassuring statement by the joint managing committee as to the probable cost of

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95	80	Atchison Shares (4)	90	89
118	102	Do. Pref. (5)	108	107
120	104	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4)	116	115
102	97	Do. Prefd. (4)	100	100
61	46	Chesapeake & Ohio (1)	57	55
193	173	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7)	184	183
39	27	Denver Shares	38	37
93	85	Do. Pref. (5)	92	92
54	38	Erie Shares	49	48
87	77	Do. Pref. (4)	83	82
108	58	Do. 2nd Pref. (4)	75	75
187	156	Illinois Central (7)	182	179
161	140	Louisville & Nashville (6)	157	156
39	24	Missouri and Texas	39	38
165	140	New York Central (5)	161	152
90	77	Norfolk and Western (3)	87	86
96	94	Do. Prefd. (4)	95	95
65	41	Ontario Shares (3)	54	53
70	67	Pennsylvania (6)	72	72
73	40	Reading Shares (1)	72	70
45	46	Do. 1st Prefd. (4)	47	47
51	43	Do. 2nd Prefd. (4)	49	49
74	59	Southern Pacific	71	67
35	28	Southern	36	36
104	97	Do. Prefd. (5)	102	102
148	116	Union Pacific (4)	147	150
102	98	Do. Prefd. (4)	100	100
24	18	Webash	21	20
49	37	Do. Prefd.	42	41
60	69	Do. Income Debs.	78	78
112	133	Canadian Pacific (6)	178	178
109	102	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	107	106
112	106	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	108	109
20	19	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk.	23	23
104	99	Do. Guar. (4)	102	102
115	107	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	113	113
107	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	104	105
68	47	Do. 3rd Pref.	58	58
109	107	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	108	108

the proposed repairs, including the substitution of a new low roof of modern design, brought about a partial recovery, but the ordinary and deferred stocks were none the less decidedly under last week's figures and Chatham ordinary was weak in sympathy. Midland deferred was hoisted a fraction or two on dividend prospects and North-Eastern was also a trifle harder, but these were the only favourable changes in the list.

Yankee Railway shares were badly shaken by the suspension of the Chicago National Bank and two allied concerns, and prices went rattling down on the announcement. Union Pacific and Southern Pacific, in which the manipulation has been most pronounced, were amongst the earliest to suffer, and Union Pacific dropped to 145 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Southern Pacific touched 57 $\frac{1}{2}$. The action of the other Clearing House banks in Chicago in coming to the rescue and assuming the defaulting bank's liabilities to its depositors restored confidence to the market, and it was not long before Wall Street was busily hoisting quotations once more. As before, Union Pacific occupied the first place in the attentions of the financiers, and a report that the Great Northern Company, in which the Union is largely interested, had sold its mineral rights to the Steel Corporation for \$80,000,000 helped the rally. A further story to the effect that a 10 per cent. scrip bonus was to be paid out of the profits on the Northern Securities deal gave an additional impetus to the exertions of the clique, and the quotation was speedily carried up to 152 $\frac{1}{2}$. Southern Pacific did not rally so readily, and the advance had not proceeded far when rumours of damage to the line became current and caused a fresh set back. Amongst the other stocks New York Central were heaviest, but losses of \$1 $\frac{1}{2}$ or \$2 were only too common.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222	128	Antofagasta (10)	215	213
321	144	Do. Def. (15)	310	310
131	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6)	131	128
131	113	Do. Prefd. (5)	131	128
84	77	Bahia Blanca Prefd.	83	83
148	134	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7)	138	138
133	127	Do. Prefd. (5)	128	127
143	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7)	132	131
118	108	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5)	116	116
110	99	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5)	105	106
115	101	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6)	114	114
109	92	Do. do. Deferred (6)	109	108
170	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7)	165	165
109	103	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4)	106	106
142	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7)	134	134
93	79	Central Uruguay (4)	87	87
109	100	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6)	107	107
95	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	91	91
76	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3)	72	71
5	2	Costa Rica	2	2
7	5	Cuban Central	7	6
12	10	Do. Pref. (5)	11	11
107	104	Do. Deb. (4)	105	105
95	72	East Argentine (4)	94	94
7	5	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref.	5	6
84	64	Leopoldina (3)	81	81
99	80	Do. Deb. (4)	99	99
110	100	Manila Bonus "A" (6)	111	111
108	104	Do. "B" (6)	106	106
29	19	Mexican Ord. Stk.	24	24
121	103	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	117	118
57	36	Do. 2nd Pref.	48	48
69	48	Mexican Southern (2)	54	53
17	10	Nitrate Ord. (5)	15	15
19	16	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4)	19	19
220	178	San Paulo Brazilian (12)	205	204
226	122	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10)	215	212

Grand Trunk stocks went back a little at first in spite of a fairly satisfactory traffic return, but gradually hardened and the junior securities finished with trifling gains. The flurry in Wall-street affected Canadian Pacific shares and sent them down about \$1 $\frac{1}{2}$, but fully half of the loss was recovered on the weekly figures showing an increase of \$237,000, and although the market was again easier at the close the decline compared with last week was unimportant.

In the Foreign Railway market some good buying of Entre Rios stocks was reported and the ordinary and second preference were lifted 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, but the spurt in other Argentine issues noted last week was of short duration and a general relapse took place. Free selling of Buenos Ayres and Rosario had very little effect on the quotation, but Argentine Great Western ordinary and preferred both lost a good part of their gains and Buenos Ayres and Pacific and Cordoba and Rosario preferences were all down. Mexican Railway stocks were also depressed, but the lower level prompted enough buying of the first preference to bring about a rally, and it closed unaltered. Inter-oceanic preferred shares were a trifle harder and Mexican Southern ordinary and second mortgage debenture stock moved in opposite directions. Liquidation is still conspicuous in United Railways of

the Havana ordinary stock, causing a further heavy drop Paraguay Central was likewise considerably lower, and Nitrate Railways ordinary shares again lost a few fractions.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	15	22	Allsopp Ordinary	20	21
71	40	—	City of London Ord. ..	59½	57½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	530	530
27½	19½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40) ..	20	19½
2½	2½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
3½	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3½	3½
68½	48	57½	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	58½	58½
35	15	16½	Do. Def. Ord. Stock ..	17	17
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	100	100
78½	56½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½) ..	60	60
6½	5½	6½	Aerated Bread (32½) ..	6	6
7½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	6½	6½
6½	5½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	6½
1½	1½	25/3	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	13½	1½
3½	1½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2
8	5	—	Brunner Mond (35) ..	7½	7½
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	11½	11½
5½	4½	10/9	Calico Printers Ordinary (24) ..	7½	7½
502½	483½	500	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	58	57½xd
1½	1½	—	Do. Prof. Ord. (20) ..	500	490½d
1½	1	23/3	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	3½	1½
1½	1	6½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	13½	13½
13½	10½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6½	6½
1½	1½	4	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	13	13
111	106	26/7½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4	4½
1½	1½	107	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	13½	13½
1½	1½	23/3	Do. Debenture (4½) ..	108	108
6½	5	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	13½	13½
1½	1½	27/3	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	5½	5½
8	5½	—	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	18½	18½
15½	13½	—	Russian Petroleum ..	18	18
1½	1½	—	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	7½	7½
105	102½	104½	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	18	18
89	49½	78½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15½	15½
51½	35½	44½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	104½	104½
108½	99½	105½	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	80	79
9½	8½	—	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	45½	45
11½	10½	—	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-)	106½	106
8½	6½	6½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	9	9
13½	10½	11½	Do. Debentures (6) ..	11½	11½
104½	95½	—	National Discount (10) ..	6½	6½
134½	126½	—	Union Discount (11) ..	11½	11½
35½	35	3½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	102½	102½
5½	3½	3½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11½	11½
1½	1½	18½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	133	133
14½	9½	13½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	3½	3½
40½	26½	40	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	18½	18½
109½	93½	108½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	13½	13½
249	214½	—	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	39½	39½
47	38½	—	Houma & Bullough Oru. (7½)	108½	107½
98½	—	—	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	239½xd	239½xd
110½	101½	109½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	46½	46½
18½	10	17½	Do. Preference (7) ..	82	82
147½	134½	145½	Vickers Ordinary (12½) ..	109½	109½
14½	13½	14½	Cunard Steam ..	17½	16½
113½	100	108½	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	145½	145½
14½	13½	14½	Royal Mail ..	14½	14½
10½	7½	9	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	109	109
98½	78	88	Ordinary (5) ..	14½	14½xd
129	99	—	Anglo-American Telegraph—	8	8
10½	98	—	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½) ..	98	8½
			Do. Def. Ord. ..	112½	111½
			East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	10½	10½
			Eastern Extension (7) ..		
			National Telephone Def. (5) ..		
			Western Telegraph (7) ..		
			British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)		
			Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)		
			London General Omnibus (8)		
			London United Trams Pref. (5)		

Miscellaneous securities attracted little or no attention, and few movements of consequence have to be recorded. Hudson's Bays after being dull picked up, while Chinese land and exploration continued heavy, Pekin Syndicates receiving no benefit from the meeting. London General Omnibus stock fell away slightly at the start, but afterwards kept steady, along with Road Cars and London Motor Bus shares. British Electric Traction ordinary were slightly better, but the debentures fell back. Iron and Steel things showed no particular movement, but English Sewing Cotton ordinary were again higher in the Textile Group, although not closing quite at the top. Nitrates continue weak, as might be expected; Docks deferred was lower, as also Gas Light stock, and Spiers and Pond ordinary and preference had a nasty looking fall. Great Northern Telegraph rose a few shillings; but Anglo-Americans were dull, and the majority of the movements in the Brewery list were adverse. Welsbach issues received slight attention, and Salvati Jesurum jumped sharply on the offer to buy out the stockholders on the terms mentioned elsewhere.

Stock markets were quietly firm to-day, and rather disposed to improve at the close. Wall Street operators

keep their end of the stick up in splendid style, and were well to the fore to-day with Anacondas, also with some of the Railroad shares. There was even some little rally in the Kaffir market, due partly to the closing of "bear" accounts before the end of the year, but also to option giving, many people apparently thinking that when the year is turned an upward movement in prices will be quite within the range of probabilities. Consols keep firm on "easy money," and everybody resolves to look at the best side of things.

New Zealand Bankrupt Railways.

It must be very painful for Mr. Richard Seddon, especially immediately after his latest triumph at the polls in New Zealand, to be taken in hand as he is by Mr. Samuel Vaile in some articles contributed by him to the New Zealand press and accused of cooking the accounts of the New Zealand railways so as to conceal their losses. Mr. Vaile has stuck to his guns and alone, as he says, "without typewriter or secretary," or anything else, has burrowed into the accounts of the railways, and has, we think, pretty well demonstrated that his contention is in the main true. Under the Seddon-Ward administration, he roundly declares that the railways have been rushing headlong to ruin, and we are inclined to agree with him, although the test he applies is decidedly more rigid than British railways would bear. He contends, justly enough, that in the conduct of a railway, as of any other business, everything that disappears by wear and tear and the effluxion of time ought to be made a charge against revenue earned, either directly, or by at least a 20 per cent. depreciation allowance. If our railways had acted thus their financial position to-day would be immeasurable stronger than it is. But, making allowance for the rigidity of this test, it none the less remains true that capital has been utilised to relieve income in the New Zealand railways to an extent which justifies Mr. Vaile in declaring them to be on the way towards bankruptcy. During the last nine years for which the Seddon administration has clearly been responsible, £2,785,152 has been charged to capital account under the heading of "additions to open lines," and Mr. Vaile says with a few trifling exceptions the whole of this enormous sum ought to have been charged against revenue earned, and "if the account had been kept as it was formerly kept it would have been so charged." But this is not all. In 1896 an account was opened in the railway returns and described as "revenue received by the railway department from other departments of the public service." Under this heading during the last nine months at least £517,000 has been treated as revenue actually earned, when, as Mr. Vaile says, it was, of course, merely figures on the books. It was at best income taken out of one pocket and put into the other, and could in no sense be an addition to the genuine legitimate revenue of the lines. On these two heads alone, therefore, Mr. Vaile contends that if the railway accounts had been kept as they were in Major Atkinson's time, the result would have been an income for the whole period under review of £3,302,000 less than the Seddon administration has brought it out. Add to this interest at 4 per cent. on the capital employed, and the total loss is brought up to £4,713,000 in the nine years. Mr. Vaile analyses the directions in which the aggregate loss thus arrived at is distributed, but we have not space to enter into that part of his subject. It is a domestic question, and if one division of the colony is favoured for place and power at the expense of another it is for the sparse citizens of the country to protest and secure redress. Our concern is with the main items of the indictment which may be summed up in Mr. Vaile's own words.

"As a matter of fact our railways have never earned one penny of profit. They have made a heavy loss every year, and yet the Government persistently states that they yield a net profit of over 3½ per cent." And the loss is increasing. It reached the stupendous sum of over £1,000,000 in 1902 alone. For the first four years of that period the loss averaged £345,566; in the last

four years it averaged £703,910 per annum, being thus more than double. But it will go on as long as the Government has all the financial resources of the colony pretty much at its call, and is able to continue openly borrowing £1,000,000 or more per annum on the London Money market. When there are no more savings bank deposits to grasp, no more sinking funds to annex, nor any land bonds to traffic over the counter throughout New Zealand and Australia, the true position may be revealed.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

What with fears of a possible rise in the Bank rate, the approaching holidays and the nearness of the carry-over torpor, has again characterised the mining market. Business has been quiescent in the South African section and prices here have continued to recede. Whilst the public stand aloof and professionals are listless, Paris has been selling with some freedom, so it has been impossible to stay the decline. Several dividends have been declared, but they have not bestirred the heavy somnolence. Premier Diamond deferred have recovered a little of their recent loss, but De Beers and Jagers are easier. A similar state of things exists in the Rhodesian department. Despite Tuesday's meeting and Dr. Sauer's enthusiastic speech thereat, Bankets have continued to give way, and there have been relapses in the allied concerns—the Rhodesian Exploration and Lomagunda Exploration.

The following is the list of dividends declared:—

	Div.	Issued	Amount.
	20 per cent.	Capitals.	
New Rietfontein Estate	20	£611,000	£61,100
New Primrose	20	325,000	65,000
Witwatersrand (Knight's)	15	425,000	63,750
Robinson Randfontein	10	600,000	60,000
North Randfontein	10	450,000	45,000
South Randfontein	10	450,000	45,000
Porges Randfontein	10	500,000	50,000
Langlaagte Estate	20	470,000	94,000
Meyer and Charlton	30	100,000	30,000
Village Main Reef	20	400,000	80,000
Simmer and Jack Prop.	10	3,000,000	300,000
Robinson Deep	35	980,000	343,000

£1,236,850

The most animated section has been the West African, wherein prices have tended upwards. We see no justification for this improvement, none whatever in recent events and developments. It is a manipulated movement, originating from inside, for the public stand as far away as ever. It appears a strange moment in which to start such a campaign, unless insiders hope thereby to make enough to buy their Christmas turkeys.

Egyptians have been idle, and West Australians almost as lifeless. Broken Hill shares, on the whole, have not sustained their recent advance, despite the hardening prices of silver, lead, and zinc. In the American group both El Oros and Esperanzas have weakened. As regards the latter, the estimated profit for November is officially stated to be £95,796 against £93,527 for October. Copper shares have been irregular, Cape Coppers falling heavily on the serious news from the mine, to which we refer in a separate note.

RHODESIA EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT.—In past years we have had to pass severe strictures upon the financial methods adopted by the Board of this Rhodesian parent company, particularly the way in which they have "faked" profits with the help of premiums, &c. Though one of its most distinguished exploits has been to sell claims to the Banket Company, to be one of the glorious band of vendors to that enterprise, it still has to depend for the major portion of its income on speculating. "Advantage was taken of the temporary improvement in the market in the closing months of last year to realise some of the company's holdings, the result of which is reflected in the profit and loss account." This, of course, shows how clever the directors were, how they must have known, by intuition, that the improvement would be temporary, and that a moment's hesitation might have lost them the golden opportunity. It might have been a manipulated banket movement, or it might have been something else. But the opportunity came, and down upon it the directors pounced like hawks, and the result is—no dividend. The profit they made in this lightning manner was £80,906 "less" loss on shares. What the loss was we are not told, and if we were it might lessen our delight at the success of the directors' coup, so ignorance is bliss. From dividends and interest the company received a lump sum of £5,297, from agency and other fees, £12,824; from rents, £514; and from transfer fees, £391; making a total income of £99,933. London expenditure took £6,221 and £15,404 was the cost of administration in far Bulawayo, so, after writing £2,581 off abandoned mining proposals, with only £623 for depreciation, a nett profit of £75,007 is joyously exhibited, which compares with a loss of £2,120 in the year to June 30, 1904. Had it not been for that happy burst of sunshine in the market—but why dwell upon might-have-beens? However, we might cursorily remark, just to remind us what a wonderfully rich country Rhodesia is, that the above loss

of £2,120 comes on top of a similar loss of £11,348 in the previous year. An interesting appropriation account is presented. A credit of £101,071 is brought forward to add to last year's profit, and is swollen by £83,797 premiums on shares issued. With this aggregate of £259,875 the directors proceed to write down inflated share assets by £155,632, and carry the balance forward. So the reserve fund stands at £350,000, which is also mainly composed of premiums. In the past three or four years this company's losses, in one shape and another, have been enormous, and these the shareholders have paid for directly by buying the shares at high prices. Two years ago no less than £190,970 was received in premiums, £100,000 of which the directors appropriated in meeting losses on abandoned claims and making provision for share depreciation. Yet they distributed big dividends, partly in cash and partly in paper. If this is not the road to beggary we know not where that road is. During the past twelve months the capital has been further increased by an issue of 20,231 shares, yielding in premiums the sum above-mentioned. No wonder liquid resources are plentiful. Contango loans stand at £70,108, there are some gilt-edged securities which cost £31,881, subsidiary companies owe £133,655; other debtors, £17,067, shares and debentures have a book value of £409,441, and cash totals £7,847. Current liabilities are nothing to speak of, totalling some £8,300, but there are contingent liabilities of £26,077. This company guaranteed 3½ per cent. of the interest for twenty years from April 1, 1901, on £250,000 5½ per cent. first mortgage debentures of the Ayrshire Gold Mine and Lomagunda Railway Company. But this railway has been purchased by the Chartered Company and with the proceeds about one half of the debentures will be repaid, so the guarantee will be reduced to that extent. We see precious little hope for this company, unless it can continue to replenish its resources from time to time by dipping into the public purse. When that purse is clasped we shall see some strange and unpleasant happenings.

AYRSHIRE GOLD MINE AND LOMAGUNDA RAILWAY COMPANY.—This is one of the limited band of Rhodesia companies now crushing ore and turning out gold. During the financial year to the end of June last the sixty-stamp mill ran continuously, and dealt with 103,635 tons of ore for a total production of 41,066 ozs., realising £153,143. We are pleased to say that though the ore was of poor value, comparatively speaking, the working costs were low, being 15s. 9½d. per ton milled, the average value per ton of ore being £1 9s. 7d. For the five months since the close of the financial year the costs, says the report, had been further cut down to 14s. 4d. Rents gave £1,871, there was a profit of £667 earned on the working of the railway, and £109 was received from transfer fees. Thus the total credits came to £155,790. After providing £25,909 for mine development redemption, equal to 5s. per ton of ore crushed, and £21,078 for depreciation of plant, &c., the nett profit was £23,930. But interest on debentures absorbed £13,750 of this, leaving a slender surplus of £10,180. Bills payable and the sums owing to sundry creditors amount to nearly £21,000, but the company has bullion on hand worth £27,926, cash £7,539, and debts £1,417. In March of the present year the British South Africa Company exercised its right to purchase the railway at cost price, and the Mashonaland Railway Company was nominated to take over the line. An account has been rendered, but as there are certain items in dispute, the matter is being submitted to arbitration. On receipt of the purchase price the trustees for the debenture holders propose to make a pro rata return, for which purpose a meeting is to be convened as soon as possible. As regards the mine, prospects do not appear to be over promising. Owing to a disturbance of the reef the developments during the past year were, it is admitted, not satisfactory, but the consulting engineer thinks there is every hope that below the 6th level the reef will gradually resume its normal character. A hope is not so satisfactory as certainty. The opening out of new ore reserves has not been equal to the tonnage crushed, and this loss of tonnage, the consulting engineer says, makes the immediate outlook rather serious. Amount developed at June 30 was 110,258 tons.

JUMBO GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This is a subsidiary of the United Gold Fields of Rhodesia, and is allied with the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa. Wonderful things have been prophesied of the Jumbo by its various sponsors. It is destined, so they declare, to demonstrate to us what a Rhodesian mine can do, and how in course of time—ages, may be—it will thoroughly justify its title. That is, it will become a veritable Jumbo producer of gold. We shall see. But we do not hesitate to say we doubt its belauded capabilities. It will not surprise us in the least if it takes more money out of the pockets of shareholders than it puts into them. No profit and loss account is issued yet. In the balance-sheet dated June 30 last London expenditure is put at £3,825, against £28 from transfer fees, whilst in Rhodesia no less than £17,000 has been written off the Jumbo East Extension claims. Upon these the company had an option, now abandoned, which does not encourage one to hope much from the Jumbo itself. There was also a loss of £133 on the hotel stores. With the sum of £2,087 brought in there is now a deficiency of £20,930 to get rid of in the future. Cash, too, is only £225 and debtors owe £229, whilst as much as £30,334 is owing to creditors. In October last £65,000 of first mortgage debentures was issued in order to liquidate the company's debts, and pay for the erection of the mill. In all 45 stamps have been purchased, 20 of which are now being put up. The erection of the remainder is postponed until further development work has been carried out. So it may be some years yet before this company can hope to produce any profitable quantity of gold and it may have to reconstruct before then.

MAYO (RHODESIA) DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.—Another offspring this of the United Rhodesia Gold Fields, and a brother—or sister—of the Jumbo. It is not yet producing gold and we cannot foresee the time when it will win any. It will not be within the next two or three years, we fear. In the twelve months to June 30 income totalled exactly £6 2s. 6d., all of which came from transfer fees, and as the outgoings amounted to £2,090—including £592 written off an abandoned option—there was a loss of £2,084 to add to the old debit of £5,070, making it £7,154. Cash is meagre at £66—probably all spent by now—against £10,631 owing to creditors. As the whole of the capital of £100,000 is issued, reconstruction looks probable. A report upon the property has been written by Mr. H. A. Piper, consulting engineer of the Consolidated Gold Fields, and this is the cheerless kind of news he writes:—"I consider it will take some months' careful prospecting to prove this mine in depth, and during this time the milling tests suggested could be made. Several encouraging features are noticeable in depth, but owing to the reef eccentricities and the peculiar nature of the formation, I do not advise too sanguine a view being taken at the moment." Development on a property called the Last Kick—aptly named—proved so unsatisfactory that the claims were surrendered to the owners. Yet some people still indulge in claptrap about the magnificent richness of Rhodesia.

CRESCENS (MATABELE) MINES AND LAND COMPANY.—This company continues to swell its debits, the accounts for the year to July 31 showing a further loss of £1,388, which raises the deficiency in the balance-sheet to £21,884. Cash is a mere £759 to set against growing liabilities. The company's Veracity mine has been let on tribute, milling starting in May last. Owing to the refractory nature of the ore the tributors decided to erect a cyanide plant, and crushing was stopped, to be resumed shortly, we are told. No development work has been done upon any of the claims held by the company, but they are protected by inspection certificates. Are they worth protecting? If the company cannot get much gold it hopes in the future to get a tolerable revenue from the poor blacks in the shape of hut tax.

CONSOLIDATED SOUTH RAND MINES DEEP.—This company is still sinking a borehole in order to intersect the Main Reef. It was commenced in October, 1903, and has not met with the reef up to the present. In fact, it has to be admitted that the data supplied by the borehole have not confirmed the calculations of the company's late consulting engineer upon the theory of upthrows, the result of the boring having demonstrated that the Main Reef will be found at a greater depth than was originally anticipated. At a depth of 3,645 feet a banket of the Kimberley series was encountered, the assay value of which was $7\frac{3}{4}$ dwts. over 6 inches. So the directors now think that the best policy is to await further development of the properties immediately above, and that the funds be conserved meanwhile by a general reduction of expenditure. Income from interest on loans and investments amounted to £2,804 in the financial year to the end of June, whilst transfer fees gave £19, and as expenditure absorbed £5,180, there was a further loss of £2,356 to add to the old loss of £8,334, raising the debit to £10,690. Little or nothing is owing by the company, and it has abundant liquid resources.

HENDERSON'S NIGEL.—If shareholders ever hope to make a fortune out of this concern they must wait patiently for many years, for the directors in their report to June 30 say "it is still advisable to pursue a waiting policy until the results of the development and prospecting work now in progress in the district are known." Perhaps in 10 years' time they will have gained more or less valuable information. Meanwhile losses are mounting up. Revenue totalled the huge sum of £304 in the 12 months, and as the expenditure was £1,358, there is a further deficit of £1,054 to add to the previous £10,621, making the debit to date £11,675. Liabilities are nothing to speak of, but the company has only £5,372 in cash and loans, which will soon be exhausted.

CLUTHA GOLD MINES.—It was found necessary to shut down the company's mill in February last; accordingly it has not had the benefit of a full year's gold production. To make matters worse, the repair of the water race entailed heavy expenditure. The bullion recovered, together with the tailings and concentrates saved, realised £13,306, and as expenditure absorbed £13,463, the loss was £157 to be deducted from the credit of £598 in last year's balance-sheet. Liabilities at the end of March last—the date of the company's accounts—were very heavy, the company existing on loans from the bank and others. The auditors report, too, that no provision has been made for depreciation of plant and machinery, and that no sum has been written off expenditure for liquidation, preliminary expenses, development, prospecting, general charges, and expenditure during the late war. However, the Anglo-French Exploration—associated with the Farrar group of companies—has taken the sickly thing under its protective wings. An agreement of option has been entered into between the two companies, and the Exploration is getting together an engineering staff to prospect the Clutha property.

UNITED RHODESIA GOLD FIELDS.—The directors in their report for the year ending June 30 say they have continued their policy of developing the properties of subsidiaries, but regret that the results have not been as successful as they anticipated. This is not astonishing, looking at the increasing numbers of failures in Rhodesia. Though the revenue from interest, dividends, rents, transfer fees, cattle trading, share selling, &c., came to £12,752, there was a loss of £10,325 on the year's operations, interest on debentures absorbing as much as £7,375. So there is now an accumulated debit of £40,034, which we cannot

see how the company will ever wipe out. Liabilities to the bank and other creditors are also very heavy, but the company has a mass of paper of sorts to pawn. Subsidiaries also owe it £62,572, so it is a hard struggle to exist.

BULUWAYO SYNDICATE.—As this company received £2,883 from dividends, interest, &c., in the twelve months to October 30, it made a nett profit of £1,936, which reduces the old debit to £8,575. The company is still well off for cash and equivalent resources. Efforts made to lease some of the mining properties to tributors had no result, and ten blocks were abandoned. Experiments are being tried in the cultivation of cotton and tobacco.

GAIKA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the financial year to June 30 the capitalised expenditure of this Rhodesian company amounted to £2,969, against less than £8 received from transfer fees, so the deficit is raised to £6,165 in the balance-sheet. A loan of £50,000 from the Rhodesia Exploration Company has been repaid since by the issue of that amount of 6 per cent. debentures. On August 1 last the company commenced to crush, so a year hence we shall see how much profitable gold it can win.

MOUNT LYEYLL MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY.—This well-known Tasmanian copper company has in the past half-year to September 30 benefited considerably from the high price of the metal, as well as from good developments in the North LyeYll Mine. In the six months the output amounted to 212,158 tons, the quantity mined showing an excess of 6,284 tons over the preceding half-year's production. The yield of blister copper was 4,306 tons, containing 4,253 tons of copper, 365,440 ozs. of silver, and 12,425 ozs. of gold, an increase of 303 tons of copper, 1,189 ozs. of silver, and 560 oz. of gold. Owing to the higher cost incurred in winning ore in the North Mount LyeYll Mine there was a slight increase in the expense of producing blister copper. This realised £396,380, and the revenue from the railway was £14,494. The gross profit on working was £223,921, and the net surplus, after allowing for all administration charges, £188,570, an advance of nearly £43,000 over the earnings of the previous half-year. This is raised to £420,341 with the balance brought in. £75,000 is absorbed by the dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, £25,000 goes to the reserve fund, and £5,000 to the insurance fund, leaving £315,341. Out of this the directors intend to put a further £25,000 to reserve. A bonus of 9d. per share is also to be paid. The financial position is, as usual, very strong. Prospects for the current period look most promising.

NEW RAVENSWOOD.—In the year ending June 30, 24,689 tons of ore were extracted from the mine, against 17,810 tons in the previous twelve months, the gold yield realising £89,490, compared with £77,399. After deducting working and other expenditure, depreciation, &c., the nett profit was £17,643, and as £5,648 was brought from 1904, there is an available balance of £23,291. Two interim dividends, of 12½ per cent. each, have been paid, leaving a surplus of £13,338, which the directors propose to carry forward, as, having regard to the improvement and development work suggested by the manager, they cannot recommend the payment of a further dividend. Having considered the subject of working costs, which are somewhat high, the directors are satisfied that no reduction can be expected until the reef in levels Nos. 5, 6, and 7 in the Sunset mine improves in quality and further development permits the extraction of the richer ores from the other levels. The new plant for the treatment of the tailings is reported to be running satisfactorily and yielding a substantial profit per month.

MYSORE WEST AND MYSORE WYNAAD COMPANIES.—We have not been honoured with copies of the reports and accounts of these joint companies for the year ending August 31, and have also failed to get them after making personal application. So we have to content ourselves with what the financial dailies choose to publish, from which we can form no idea of the financial results and positions of each concern. Both have been working for many years what is known as the Tank Block, which is held direct from the Government of Mysore for thirty years from April 14, 1891. We are told that work has continued here and that a cyanide plant has been installed to deal with the large amount of tailings available for treatment. This has been at work since March 1 last. Another statement is that the balance-sheet shows that £7,774 is written off development expenditure, leaving a credit balance of £3,261. A dividend of 1s. per share was paid in July last, and the directors are distributing a final 6d. per share. In his report, Mr. P. Bosworth Smith says the reserves of ore are lower, the development works not having opened up so much millable ore. Developments on the west lode are again disappointing, the lode seeming to get poorer in depth. "Still there has been a large amount of low grade but payable ore taken out from very unlikely places, the stopes finding large patches of millable ore that the levels failed to touch, so that it seems likely that ground that at first seems too poor to touch will yet give some return." A poor prospect this! The report of the Mysore Wynaad is practically identical in phraseology and fact, except that £7,296 has been written off development expenditure and that a credit of £3,271 is shown. A similar dividend is paid.

BACIS GOLD AND SILVER MINING COMPANY.—The report covers a period of fifteen months to August 31, and states that all the available shares have been applied for, 1s. 6d. per share having been paid up in full. According to the balance-sheet £11,130 has been spent on new plant and machinery, and £2,203 on reserves and repairs to existing plant. The amount spent on the purchase and erection of the cyanide equipment and the reorganisation of the plant has considerably exceeded the estimates. Unfortunately, also, a flood increased the outlay and caused further delay, completely disor-

ganising all operations. However, the superintendent hopes to have 20 heads of the 30-stamp mill in operation by the 31st of the present month. This extra expenditure has been met by the subscription of further debentures, taken up by the directors and their friends, who hope that, should a further issue be necessary, such debentures will be taken up by the shareholders.

GOLDEN PIKE AND LAKE VIEW EAST MINES.—In their report for the year ending September 30 the directors say there is practically no change in the position of the company since the date of the last meeting. For the first four months of the year the Lake View East lease was under exemption, and for the remaining eight months it was manned on the half wages, half tribute system. The tributors have done a considerable amount of work on a lode that is worked on the Oroya South and Central Boulder South Blocks. Up to the present, however, they have not opened up a payable chute. With regard to the Golden Pike lease the Great Boulder Proprietary are pushing on operations on their lease with the object of proving the Boulder No. 1, adjoining, and have recently encountered good values at a depth of 1,000 feet, but have not yet reached a depth sufficient to open up the ore intersected by boreholes at a depth of 1,300 ft. Meanwhile the company's funds are being conserved pending sufficient data being obtained to warrant deeper sinking on the Golden Pike lease. Expenditure totalled £4,419, which increases the excess, still appearing in the balance-sheet as an asset, to £37,287; cash amounts to £5,961.

CUMBERLAND NIAGARA GOLD MINES.—Operations during the year to June 30 were carried on by means of tributors, who mined 3,546 tons of ore, producing 1,309 ozs. of gold of a value of £4,650. In addition, 14 tons of ore, yielding over 11 ozs., were obtained from one of the Altona leases, and as the value was £44, the total realisation was £4,694. Gold from the cyanide works was worth £3,011, and slags and residues gave £615. The aggregate output, therefore, was 2,377 ozs., realising £8,320, but the operations resulted in a loss of £2,535. Though expectations have not been realised, the directors still think the prospects do not justify the abandonment of the mine as unpayable, an opinion little supported by facts.

NEW CRAVEN'S CALEDONIA.—During the half-year ending September 18, this company crushed 29 tons of stone for less than 5 ozs. of gold, worth £9 14s., whilst one ton of concentrates realised £8 11s., making a total of over £18. Tributors crushed 219 tons for gold and residues of a value of £1,156. The accounts now show a credit balance of £273.

ENGLISH CROWN SPELTER COMPANY.—In announcing an interim dividend of 1s. 6d. per share on account of 1905, the directors intimate that though fair profits are being earned, they have been seriously affected by the diminished output from the mines, which commenced with the opening of the year, and shows no improvement up to date. In addition, the assay value of the ore shipped to date exhibits a considerable falling off. The directors trust, however, that it may be but a passing phase, somewhat similar to former experiences. In order that shareholders may have the latest information, the board directed the superintendent and the mining engineer to report jointly, and these experts say the property will probably continue to produce as at present for some time to come.

SEKONDI AND TARKWA.—An extraordinary general meeting of this West African company is convened for the 18th inst. to consider resolutions for the voluntary winding up of the concern and appointing the secretary liquidator. The directors say the company has no funds for developing the properties, nor do they see any hope of being able to dispose of these in the present condition of the Jungle mining industry.

ASHANTI LANDS.—This company did not engage in any active operations in the year till June 30, but "confined itself to the advancement of the interests of its subsidiaries." The absorption of the Ashanti Company has now been practically completed. A profit of £4,253, less depreciation, was made on the realisation of shares, interest gave £2,481, commission £126, registration fees £31, total £6,891. The nett profit was £3,285, and the debt in the balance sheet is now £29,558.

CARRINGTON'S LION P. C. MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year ending September 25, in addition to 56 tons of stone crushed by the prospectors, the company itself milled 217 tons for a yield of 1,159 ozs., of a value of £4,323; 216 tons of residues realised £1,257, and one ton of concentrates was sold for £23; total, £5,604. The accounts show a debit balance of £1,021. In respect to prospects, the directors recognise that the property has scarcely emerged from the development stage; also that though some rich bodies of ore may be met with, the aim in the future must be in the direction of a large output, in which the bulk crushings must be expected to give a lower yield. The question of treatment is likewise in the experimental stage.

COPIAPO MINING COMPANY.—The accounts for the year ending June 30 show a profit from the Dulcinea and Checo mines of £16,402, and from the estate of £854. After deducting expenses the nett surplus is £5,380, raised to £9,920 with the credit brought in. It is recommended that the sum of £5,000 be added to the reserve fund, making it £10,000, and that the balance be taken to the current year. The profit from the Dulcinea mine shows a diminution, the result both of a smaller amount of ore raised and of a lower percentage of copper in the ore. The manager explains that this is due to the poor zone through which sinking has been prosecuted. An improvement in the lower levels is now, however, indicated, and latest advices are more encouraging. The Checo mine is still being worked on tribute, and yielded 659 tons of 11.03 per cent. copper, com-

pared with 562 tons of 9.54 per cent. metal in 1903-4. No work was done on the Republicana mine in the twelve months, whilst the Ojancos mines yielded 1,500 tons of ore of a somewhat higher copper percentage. The Antonia mine, which was not fully worked, produced 200 tons less ore than in the preceding twelve months. Total output from all the company's mines was 9,215 tons against 10,327 tons, the contents being 14.54 per cent. and 15.62 per cent. respectively.

QUEENSLAND GOLD RETURNS.—The Queensland gold returns for November were:—Charters Towers, 20,400 tons crushed, yielding 18,700 ozs.; Croydon, 4,000 tons, 1,500 ozs.; Gympie, 18,900 tons, 9,300 ozs.; Mount Morgan, 30,900 tons, 10,300 ozs.; Ravenswood, 2,200 tons, 2,800 ozs.; other fields, 8,000 tons, 2,300 ozs.; alluvial, 1,000 ozs.; total, 84,400 tons, 45,900 ozs.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-Sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C.; so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

PROVINCIAL TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

A good deal of information is conveyed to the shareholders in the annual report of this undertaking for the year ended September 30 last, some of it of a not very satisfactory nature. For example, it appears that through unforeseen difficulties in connection with the construction of the track and overhead work, and also in consequence of the delay in completing the power station plant, the anticipations that the Gosport and Fareham tramways would be completed and working by electric traction by the spring of the present year have not been realised. The lines, however, are now completed, and the machinery has been running for a short time with satisfactory results, so that as soon as the Board of Trade certificates are received the system will be at once worked by electric traction. Such a long delay is very disappointing, and can hardly serve to put shareholders in a good frame of mind for the consideration of the next matter that is brought before them, the question of capital reconstruction. It is, of course, well known that in the aggregate the amounts received for these undertakings formerly belonging to the company and afterwards purchased by the local authorities, fell a good deal below the capital outlay upon them, and in June last the directors issued a circular to the proprietors in order to elicit their views as to the desirability of writing off lost capital by reducing the nominal value of the ordinary shares. The result was that out of 870 shareholders 230, representing about 31 per cent. of the ordinary capital, signified their assent; 105, representing about 14 per cent., intimated disapproval, and the remainder did not reply. As the circular stated that those who failed to respond would be assumed to assent, the directors conclude that a considerable majority are in favour of reduction. Therefore, if it should be thought desirable, they will elaborate a scheme to be submitted to a meeting to be specially called. A satisfactory matter to be placed against all this is the fact that the bill in Parliament for an extension of the Gosport and Fareham tramways to Privett station and for power to supply electric energy to a local railway duly passed and received the Royal assent. Coming now to the result of operations, we find that the nett revenue received from the local companies amounted to £24,050 against £24,095 last year and £23,354 in 1904, so that, with £3,496 brought forward, and £19 from transfer fees, the entire income is £27,565. Administration requires £1,271, income-tax £1,009, stamp duty £19, and interest £795, leaving £24,471, from which the directors allow £2,500 for depreciation of the Plymouth system, £1000 for Portsdown, and £3,500 for Grimsby. Preference dividend next requires £6,000, and after providing the ordinary shares with a total dividend of 7s. per share or 1s. per share more, the credit carried forward is reduced to £2,752. Total capital expenditure on the various undertakings reached £686,608, against which £192,183 has been received on account of the Portsmouth system sold, and £87,340 for Cardiff, so that the actual sum now appearing is £407,085. The company owes £19,442 to local companies, but has very little money to meet the debt.

NEW ZEALAND AND RIVER PLATE LAND MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking issues a really excellent report and statement of accounts for the year ended October 31 last. Including the slightly larger balance of £942 brought forward, the income from all sources was £51,195 compared with £50,430 in the previous twelve months, from which debenture interest and expenses take £6,413, administration charges in London and abroad £7,143, taxes £892, and balance of commission and exchange accounts £649. Nett balance, therefore, is £36,097, which is larger by £2,155, and besides maintaining the return to shareholders at 7 per cent., the directors are able to add an extra £1,000 to reserve account at £13,000, and to considerably increase the carry forward to £2,097. The balance-sheet discloses some rather considerable movements, the principal being a decline of £86,961 in the investments in London to a total of £65,800; but as the funds so set free have been largely used in liquidating floating liabilities and adding substantially to the cash balance, the drop is not of real consequence. Loans at call or short notice to the amount of £10,000 have been called in, but the loans on mortgage in the River Plate show an increase from £576,309 to £591,990, and it is pleasant to observe that no properties are now held under foreclosure, thus justifying the directors' assertion that the whole of the company's properties are in a thoroughly satisfactory condition. Investments in New Zealand have been further reduced by £792 to £4,040, and all round the position looks a sound one.

INVESTORS' MORTGAGE SECURITY COMPANY, LIMITED.

In May or June last the debenture and share holders of this company agreed to a rearrangement of the capital under which the uncalled capital was to be paid up, the borrowing powers were altered so that the debenture debt should not at any time exceed £250,000 or 80 per cent. of the paid up capital for the time being whichever might be the larger, and temporary loans were to be kept within the limits of the reserve fund. Further the limit of the issue of preference stock was increased to 60 per cent. of the subscribed capital, and the dividend thereon was raised from 4½ per cent. to 5. Arrangements were made with holders of 12,500 ordinary shares to pay the £8 uncalled at a premium of 10s per share, each share when paid up to be divided into one 5 per cent. preference share of £4 16s. and one "A" share of £5 4s., both to be afterwards converted into stock, and of the amount so raised half was received on November 11, the balance being due on February 1. The result of this fresh money brought into the business is that investments, briefly described as consisting of mortgages and other liens, real estate American railroad and other bonds stocks, &c., show an increase, after deducting contingent fund, of £23,236 at £534,176. Interest accrued comes to £2,170 more at £19,055, but this and a trifle of £192 due by sundry debtors constitute the whole of the free assets, and so far from the company having any cash in hand, it owes to its New York bankers £10,730 more than it has to come in from its other bankers or agents, while liabilities to sundry creditors stand at £1,340 and debenture interest accrued amounts to £3,602. In the twelve months ended September 30 the income from investments rose by £2,434 to £35,332, and as both the balance brought forward and receipts from transfer fees were larger, the total income was £2,365 up at £37,948. Interest and administration charges having been met a sum of £24,100 or £2,048 more was left, out of which the dividends on the preference shares at 4½ per cent. to July 27 and 5 per cent. for the rest of the year took £6,883, and after paying the usual 6 per cent. on the ordinary and "A" stocks the allocation to reserve was raised by £3,419 to £8,419, but only £289 was transferred to contingent fund compared with £1,715 a year ago, leaving £2,509 to be carried to the new account. In addition to the sum taken from revenue £5,312 was put to reserve from profits in investments realised, but £6,731 was deducted for bonus to debenture-stock holders and "A" shareholders and legal expenses connected with the rearrangement scheme leaving the reserve at £60,000.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND CANADIAN MORTGAGE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for the twelve months ended November 11 again provides cheerful reading for the shareholders, especially as it is accompanied by an announcement of a bonus over and above the usual distribution of 10 per cent. Settlers have continued to flow into the North-West Provinces, creating a good demand for mortgage loans with the result that this item is up £16,460 to £835,974. At the same time abundant harvests and good prices have so helped borrowers that the foreclosure account is down to no more than £1,235 and interest in arrear is, the directors say, reduced to a minimum. The gross revenue for the year rose by £4,079 to £62,435 and after meeting all charges the net profits came to £3,509 more at £26,068, but with only £8,783 brought in compared with £12,119 a year ago the increase in the amount available was a mere £233 at £34,851. As mentioned above, however, the directors pay a bonus of 2½ per cent. in addition to the regular dividend, and transfer £10,000 or £835 less to reserve, leaving £6,101 to be carried forward.

LIMA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

It is rather a sorrowful story which the directors of this company have to tell in their interim report for the 6 months ended June 30. Compared with the corresponding period of 1904, the gross receipts have fallen £15,878 to £21,003, and although the working expenses in Peru were reduced £10,153 to £20,895 the net profit is only £108 compared with £5,833. Ratio of working expenses to total income was no less than 99.49 per cent. compared with 84.18 per cent. London charges, income tax and debenture and other interest altogether require £3,159, so that although no provision is made for redemption of second debentures against £700 12 months back the half year winds up with a loss of £3,051 against a profit of £1,909. Total deficiency to date is £13,222, and it is fortunate that the results for the first four months of the current half year show some improvement. July and August gave the best returns, a slipping away in September and October being due to exceptional slackness of trade. Regarding the agreements to which reference was made in the last annual report the directors are now able to state that the arrangement with the Lima-Chorillos Tramways Company has been ratified by an annual payment to this company of £5,000. The agreement, however, in connection with the Callao section is still in course of negotiation, but the directors believe that an understanding will be arrived at early in the coming year. Upon the conclusion of this compact the scheme for reorganisation of the company's finances will be prepared and submitted to the share and debenture holders as suggested by the committee in their report dated June 22 last.

BARS LIGHT RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

For the twelve months ended on June 30 the gross revenue of this small line was Rs. 36,944 larger than the previous year at a total of Rs. 2,00,242, and as the expenditure was actually Rs. 5,050 less, the nett revenue shows an improvement of Rs. 41,994 at Rs. 1,14,088. Most of the additional business came from goods traffic, which increased by 19,227 tons and Rs. 33,069 in revenue, passengers and sundries making up the balance, and the decline in expenditure was due to a proportion of the fixed charges having been debited to the Tadwala and Pandharpur extensions. The percentage of working expenses to gross receipts was down no less than 10.83 to 43.02. After deducting

Indian income-tax the actual nett revenue is Rs. 1,11,117, which, at 1s. 4d. per rupee, produced £7,408, and after deducting interest on loans, &c., the sum remaining was £7,027 compared with £4,424. Credit brought forward was also larger at £687 and the directors propose to raise the dividend for the complete twelve months by ½ per cent. to 6, carrying out the greatly increased balance of £3,214. Good progress is reported on the Tadwala and Pandharpur extensions, and the directors expect that they will be opened well within the dates fixed by the contract with the Secretary of State.

USHER'S WILTSHIRE BREWERY, LIMITED.

This business seems to have performed creditably during the twelve months ended September 30, the nett profit showing an increase against the previous year of £2,198 at £7,545. Gross profits were larger by £226 only at £22,998, and there were evidently substantial savings in the general and other charges. The nett balance is arrived at after providing debenture interest £3,053, adding £2,000 to the depreciation fund and setting aside £200 as a reserve for compensation payable under the Licensing Act. With £1,357 brought in the sum for disposal is £8,902, from which preference dividend takes £1,995 and the interim ordinary dividend £1,330. The directors now propose to bring the total ordinary distribution up to 10 per cent.—the same as for the previous year—to write a further sum of £645 off the debenture issue expenses and to carry forward £2,255, after allowing 650 guineas for their own remuneration. At best the financial position cannot be considered more than fair, and we hope it has been noted by proprietors that the fixed debts alone are considerably in excess of the issued share capital, apart from floating liabilities of £12,490. Sundry debtors and loans come to £21,587, but cash is poor at £3,019 and the depreciation reserve is probably none too generous at £24,000 against a capital outlay of £161,073. Debenture issue expenses still to be written off amount to £2,000.

CITY OF CHICAGO BREWING AND MALTING CO., LIMITED.

The best we can say about this wretched company in respect to the operations for the 12 months ended September 30, is that the loss was less than might have been expected. An additional 7,490 barrels of beer were sold at a total of 364,373, but the malting business remains in a most unsatisfactory condition, the declining selling price of malt rendering it almost impossible under present conditions to make a profit. After providing all ordinary expenses, the profit on brewing was £90,276 from which repairs and depreciation take £37,449, head office charges £5,066, bankers and general interest £1,526, reserve for doubtful debts and bills £2,053, and interest on mortgage bonds £30,993, leaving a nett balance of £13,189 or £8,950 more than in the previous year. Extraordinary repairs, however, took £1,264, and appropriation for the sinking fund £13,002, so that after writing off £276 from the Brewers' Association deposit, there is a deficiency of £1,353 to be deducted from the sum brought in, leaving it at £15,646. That means, of course, that no dividends are declared by the American company and the only income received by the English concern is £14 from transfer fees. But money goes out you may be sure, London office expenses requiring £1,617, including £750 for directors' fees, income tax £397—what on?—and American expenses £309, so that the English company's profit and loss account shows a debit of £2,309 increasing the one brought forward to £2,818. This is a really deplorable condition of affairs, and as there seem no prospects of really decent improvement, it is about time the directors formulated a plan for cutting away a lump of the capital at present amounting to £1,250,000, and dealing with the 8½ years of preference dividend arrears.

CHICAGO BREWERIES, LIMITED.

One of the very few American brewery companies making even a pretence of justifying its capitalisation, this undertaking obtained a revenue during the year ended November 30 of £45,694, rather more than £40,000 coming from dividends declared by the American concern, £5,456 interest on loans, and the remainder from other sources. Combined sales of the two breweries reached 229,659 barrels, or 3,419 in excess of the previous twelve months, notwithstanding the disturbance caused by the teamsters' strike in Chicago in the spring of the year. From the profit mentioned administration charges on this side absorbed £3,477, debenture interest and redemption £19,449, and income-tax £1,239 leaving £21,529 nett. Add £13,593 brought forward, and the disposable sum is £35,122, from which the directors propose a dividend of 5 per cent. on the share capital carrying the increased sum of £16,122 to next account. Redemption of the debentures proceeds apace, £27,200 having been purchased and £29,000 cancelled during the year, leaving the debt outstanding at £290,000 in contrast with the original figure of £400,000. This, with the share capital of £400,000, makes the total capitalisation in shares and debentures now existing £692,900, against which the shares in American companies are in the balance-sheet at £669,143. A further £82,693 is represented by loans with accrued interest, and against these heavy sums the reserve is rather slender at £38,178, apart from a further amount of £7,648 held on debenture redemption account. Trading accounts, too, are adverse, but the cash held is sufficient to provide the dividend.

BREWERS' SUGAR COMPANY, LIMITED.

On the present occasion this company makes up its accounts for nine months only to September 30, and the gross profit of £39,319 earned during this period was not relatively equal to the £59,032 gathered during the preceding year. The shortage was something like £5,400, but the revenue is still an excellent one, and there is no occasion to make shareholders suffer. After providing general expenses £13,215, and adding a few pounds for transfer fees the nett

balance is £26,111, raised to £41,771 by the amount brought forward. Preference dividend takes £4,097, the dividend and bonus on the ordinary shares will again be at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, £3,750 is carried to depreciation fund, £7,500 to reserve, and £14,349 to next account. Notwithstanding the fall in profits, this is an excellent display, and since the financial position is a strong one shareholders are much to be envied. With the additions now made the reserves are raised to £113,750, or only £21,680 less than the entire capital expenditure of £135,430, and although no part of them is actually invested outside the business, there are interests in "other companies" to the amount of £53,850. Rather more than £36,000 is due to sundry creditors, against which debtors owe £57,292, stocks are valued at £126,002, and cash and bills amount to £31,252.

ESPERANZA NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

The annual report of this rather forlorn undertaking, made up to June 30 last, provides shareholders with material for much anxious consideration. The document was drawn up before the breakdown of the negotiations for a renewal of the restrictive combine became known, because the directors express the hope that these discussions would have a favourable issue, and, in view of the unfortunate turn of events, it becomes a question whether the shareholders are acting wisely in agreeing to the important financial proposals submitted by the board. As is probably quite well known, the present company is built upon the ruins of the New Julia Nitrate Company, and although doing decidedly better during the past twelve months, has not, in its new guise, had a very brilliant career. But the directors think there is a chance of a more prosperous future, provided the machinery is placed in a proper state of efficiency and fresh plant is erected to work the new grounds at Blanca Union, which, while not proving so valuable as had been anticipated, are yet reported to contain caliche of a payable quality sufficient to keep the oficina running for a considerable number of years. A proposal is, therefore, brought forward to make an issue of £70,000 7 per cent. debentures, part of £80,000 to be created, in order to carry out the rebuilding of the maquina, to construct and equip the necessary new Calichera Railway to Blanca Union, about six miles distant, to pay off the existing 8 per cent. bonds, amounting, with accrued interest, to £23,200, and to substantially reduce the bankers' loan, now standing at £21,754. So far as the reduction, or rather substitution, of debt is concerned, the recommendation is right enough, but new railway machinery or no, we fear a company such as this will stand a mighty poor chance against its big and powerful competitors if no agreement can be come to for keeping down the output. Thus the wisdom of putting up more money until it is seen how things shape is open to some doubt. In the period under review the profit on sales of nitrate was £12,001, and £2 came in from transfer fees making £12,003 and after providing the debenture interest and general and other charges the nett balance is £9,530. From that must be deducted a debit of £7,858 brought forward leaving £1,671 of which £500 is written off repairs to machinery and £500 off development account and £671 is carried forward. In addition to the items mentioned the company owes £5,273 to sundry creditors but stocks and stores are valued at nearly £20,000, and a few hundreds are due by sundry debtors or are held in cash. Balance of repairs and development accounts still to be written away is £2,551. Share capital of the concern is £21,000 and the property, together with new well and water supply, are entered at £45,809.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP AND GRAVING DOCK CO. LIMITED.

This undertaking found the year to June 30 last a very profitable one, and has succeeded in putting its position pretty straight. Including a trifle from transfer fees the trading profit amounted to £76,988, and after allowing £13,000 for depreciation, paying debenture interest and other charges, the nett balance is £58,113. Add £2,229 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £60,342, which enables the directors to pay three years' preference dividends—that is, two years' arrears and the 5½ per cent. for the period under review, besides 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward no less than £17,353. That is a really excellent result, although we should have liked to see a direct contribution made to the insurance reserve, which stands at only £12,597 against a fleet valuation of £334,810, or rather more than £11 7s. per ton. This is the only reserve the company possesses. Floating liabilities and assets are slightly unfavourable, but that is of no consequence, because the company's cash balances alone reach £55,650. All the services have been regularly maintained during the year, and to meet the requirements of the Egyptian authorities a regular direct service has been established between Suez and Suakim in connection with the new railway, Suakim to Khartoum. For this line the company will receive a subsidy of £5,000 per annum for five years. Two vessels of fair size have been acquired during the year, and a contract has been made with Messrs. Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson for a new passenger steamer calculated to maintain a speed of from 17 to 18 knots at sea.

E. RICH AND CO., LIMITED.

Compared with some of the Australian trading companies housed in Bishopsgate Street Within, this is quite a small affair, the profit for the year ended September 30 being £15,178, arrived at after providing for bad and doubtful debts and all current expenses in London and Australia. From this sum managing director's remuneration, directors' fees, and sundry small charges absorb £2,352, leaving £12,816, to which is added £1,596 brought forward making £14,412. So a dividend of 4 per cent. will be paid to shareholders with £5,000 written off goodwill account, and a slight decline to

£1,490 in the credit carried forward. By this reduction the item of goodwill is brought down to £6,000, which is fairly satisfactory, but we must not forget that the company possesses no reserves. Floating liabilities, always pretty large with a company of this sort, amount to £41,672, and on the other side the chief assets are sundry debtors £90,080, and stock £98,981. After deducting an unascertained allowance for depreciation, the freehold and leasehold properties, plant and furniture are valued at £19,673, and the steamers and barges at £8,038. Cash is rather more than sufficient to provide the dividend at £9,456, bills receivable come to £15,692, and shares in other companies are entered at £2,202, the dividend upon them being about 5 per cent. In speaking of the general conditions the directors say that the improvement in pastoral affairs reported last year has continued, and although rain would be beneficial in some parts the outlook is fairly satisfactory.

BRETT'S PATENT LIFTER COMPANY, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended October 31 this small company gathered a nett income of £1,352, and after providing debenture interest, directors' fees, managing director's salary, and general manager's salary and commission, and writing off £128 from patent expenses, there is a credit remaining of £577. Add £65 brought forward, and the sum for disposal is £642, which provides a dividend of 7½ per cent. on the tiny share capital of £9,492 with £180 to next account. The trading profit for the previous year was about £2,200, and the nett revenue about twice as much as that earned during the period under review, showing that the cutting down of capital which has taken place during the year was very necessary. By means of the reorganisation the goodwill and patents have been reduced to £6,331 instead of the former valuation of £20,700, and although part of the reserve has gone as well, there still remains £1,397 to form the foundation of another fund. Depreciation allowance seems fair, and trading accounts are well in favour of the company, with enough cash in hand to provide the dividend.

NEW CENTAUR CYCLE CO., LIMITED.

The weak spot about this well-known cycle company is that it possesses no reserve fund, and we think the directors would have acted more prudently if a moderate sum had been set aside from last year's profits instead of using them to double the ordinary dividend. That will be 10 per cent. instead of 5, and while it is true that £1,500 is set aside to meet any possible loss on the realisation of £5,000 debentures of W. R. McTaggart, Limited, the fact that such provision is necessary only emphasises the need for something to fall back on. Profits are returned at £14,217 compared with £9,860 in the previous 13 months, and after providing £3,483 for repairs and depreciation, £1,000 for managing directors' salaries and £174 for income-tax, £9,898 is left as nett profit, including a few hundreds from dividends, interest, rents and transfer fees. Add £1,057 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £10,955, from which preference dividend takes £1,425 and the 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares £4,744. Then £1,500, as mentioned, is specially allocated, directors' fees absorb £500 and the carry forward is increased to £2,786. The company is well supplied with liquid resources and allows a fair sum for depreciation. Goodwill stands at £10,000—not an excessive sum if we could forget the absence of reserves. It is proposed to change the name to the Centaur Cycle Co., Limited.

INGALL, PARSONS, CLIVE, AND CO., LIMITED.

A further small improvement of £186 was shown in the trading profits for the twelve months ended September 30 and with £469 from interest and £8 from transfer fees the total income came to £12,790, or an increase of £227. Certain debentures were paid off during the year, resulting apparently in a substantial saving in interest charges, as, after providing an extra £90 at £385 for maintenance of buildings, and spending £299 more at £1,176 on maintenance of plant against £143 less allowed for depreciation, the nett profits were no less than £760 larger at £3,936. With £1,049 brought forward the amount available came to £4,985, and out of this a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum is paid on the 10 per cent. preference shares, leaving £686 to be carried forward. Stocks are slightly lower at £54,752, but the amount due by sundry debtors is practically unchanged at £38,783 and a decrease of £900 to £11,164 in the cash is largely accounted for by a reduction of £658 to £8,212 in the liabilities to sundry creditors. Freehold properties were increased by £126 to £22,804, and with regard to this item the auditors remark that no depreciation has been allowed, as the directors consider the value to have been fully maintained. Leasehold properties remain at £8,192, against which there is a sinking fund of £2,514, partially represented by investments of £1,327, and plant, machinery, etc., after providing for depreciation, comes to £24,262 or a mere £150 below last year's figure, while the goodwill still stands at £51,052.

NORWICH AND LONDON ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

Business with this company continues to grow in a steady fashion, and during the twelve months ended August 31 the nett premium income, after deducting reassurances, was another £22,748 up at £245,284. The income from investments was also rather larger, so that the total income rose by £23,599 to £257,285, but on the other hand claims increased by £14,654 to £134,267 and expenses and commission were £7,975 heavier at £75,300, the ratio to premiums being slightly more at 30.7. After setting aside 40 per cent. of the premiums to cover unexpired risks as usual, and putting £10,000 to reserve against £5,000 to that fund and a similar sum to investment fluctuation account a year ago, the available balance including the amount brought in was £39,226 compared with £35,307, and the shareholders get the benefit to the extent of an extra 1s. on their dividends,

making 19s. per share for the year. Investments stand in the balance-sheet at £360,782, made up of £84,899 British and other Government securities, £116,623 railway and other debenture stocks and bonds, £97,355 railway and other guaranteed preference and ordinary stocks, £24,376 municipal securities, £27,230 mortgages and £10,300 freehold property.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Prices have gone a trifle easier in all directions this week, and markets are more or less of a holiday nature. Cargo demand remains indifferent and red wheats especially have gone in buyers' favour. A certain rise took place in speculative positions on Wednesday afternoon, but the improvement was not maintained for any length of time, and there has been nothing doing elsewhere worth noting. Farmers' deliveries last week were 80,567 qrs., averaging 28s. 5d., against 82,752 qrs. averaging 28s. 6d. the week before. Imports came to 484,937 qrs. against 353,756, and the estimated quantities of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom are 2,030,000 qrs. against 2,055,000 last week. American markets opened firm, and though they weakened under Chicago financial upsets, recovered on a good spot trade, increased export bidding and unfavourable news from Argentina as to the harvest returns in the Northern sections there. Later, fluctuations and a downward tendency ruled and markets closed dull. Bradstreet estimates the quantity in sight east of the Rockies at 65,765,000 bushels against 60,604,000 last week.

WOOL.—Here as elsewhere markets are dull, partly on account of holidays, partly also, where raw wool is concerned at any rate, because operators are not disposed to do business at the present rate of values. Opinions widely differ as to the future course of prices and until they are on a more settled basis transactions must of a necessity be of a hand-to-mouth order. Colonial advices as a rule report lower prices for most classes of wool and already in cross-breeds there is a downward tendency, but merinos are firm, and in fine wools there is not much likelihood of easier prices as yet. Spinners are mostly busy with orders for immediate delivery, and in manufactured goods, though comparatively little new business is coming in just at present, a good many mills are working overtime.

LINEN.—With the Russian position still unhappy, prices for flax have further advanced, and at home markets, where supplies have been moderate, from 50s. to 70s. per cwt. has been paid, with very little to be had at the lower figure. Spinners in most cases are too heavily booked to care to buy largely, but even so all classes of yarns, especially the better sorts, have shown great activity, and the aggregate amount of business has been considerably beyond production. The approach of the holidays accounts for a slight decrease in the transactions of manufactured goods, which nevertheless continue to do a steady trade in most branches, brown power bleaching linens and handkerchiefs perhaps showing best on the week. In bleached and finished goods trade has also amounted to a fair average considering the season, and foreign markets are all showing a satisfactory increase.

COTTON (From our Manchester Correspondent).—A generally firm tone has shown itself in our market during the week under review, and rather more business has been done in some directions. Buyers seem to have come to the opinion that prices will not go very much lower for some little time to come, and therefore have entered the market fairly extensively. Buying in piece goods for Calcutta has been on a pretty large scale, and purchases of low shirtings and dhooties have been on some days fairly important. It would appear that sales are running more on low-class goods than the more expensive cloths. Very little is being done at the present time for China. Goods in that outlet are undoubtedly large, and it is reported that goods intended for shipment are being resold here. Some of the minor markets like the Levant and Egypt have been fairly active. The outlook for the home trade continues distinctly encouraging for the spring, and the wholesale houses report that pretty large orders have already come in for the early season of next year. Manufacturers continue generally busy, and in hardly any case can we hear of pressure for further contracts. Cops made from American cotton for home consumption have been in some demand, but users have had considerable difficulty in retaining any margin of profit. Here and there fair sales have taken place, but users have not had much difficulty in finding easy sellers. The demand seems to run on the better qualities, and the production of common cop twist is difficult to move. Not very much has been done in export yarns in either single or double counts. Cops for the Continent have moved fairly well. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton continue strong in tone, and a healthy demand has been felt for early delivery. Spinners, however, have extensive order books, and users cannot easily be met in this matter.

In New York prices have tended downwards. After opening steady they were sustained for a time on encouraging cables, but subsequently declined several points on liquidation and bear pressure, also on the bearish construction put upon the Census Bureau Ginnery's report. Afterwards there was a partial recovery, but the close is rather weak. Closing prices are:—Dec.-Jan., 6.15d.; Jan.-Feb., 6.17d.; Feb.-March, 6.21d.; March-April, 6.25d.; April-May, 6.28d.; May-June, 6.31d.; June-July, 6.32d.; July-August, 6.33d.; August-Sept., 6.24d.; Sept.-Oct., 5.92d.; Oct.-Nov., 5.85d.; Nov.-Dec., 5.59d.

COPPER.—Notwithstanding a continuance of the strong advices from America this market was not quite so firm at the opening, some profit taking realisations, especially for future delivery, starting a decline. Mr. Sansom's attacks were also not without their influence, and even the favourable statistics for the first half of the month failed to turn the market. Bears naturally did not fail to take advantage of the slight weakening in the position, but when the selling spent itself comparatively slender support sufficed to

bring a rally. The market, however, several times became really strong and after further irregular movements, quotations closed at £79 5s. for cash and £78 17s. 6d. for future delivery.

TIN.—After a quiet and slightly easier opening, the market gathered further strength, but there was a pronounced absence of the sensational movements lately witnessed. Dealing was on a fairly large scale, and although some weakness was again noticeable before the end on lower Eastern advices, enough support came forward to cause prices to finish steady at £165 5s. for spot and £164 5s. for delivery three months forward.

IRON AND STEEL.—Despite any effect the approaching holidays might have, a further considerable business has been done in hematite iron and the increased production available is finding ready buyers. Manufacturers have no complaint to make of the paucity of orders, for many are booked right up to Easter. Here and there, however, consumers are deferring their orders until after the holidays and makers are not anxious to be further pressed. Works are busy in places in clearing up specifications which are near completion. Home inquiries represent a considerable volume of the business transacted and manufacturers are somewhat harassed by customers demanding the speedy execution of their orders. At the Great Western Railway works at Wolverhampton an order has been received for twenty powerful passenger locomotives, which will occupy the works for nearly two years. In Glasgow business in pig iron warrants is a little easier. At Middlesbrough Cleveland pig iron is also lower, but makers of hematite pig iron find a ready market for East Coast mixed numbers at 70s. 6d. and for delivery over the first half of next year.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

MINES.

- Butters Salvador.—7½ per cent.
- Esperanza.—Interim of 6d. per share and an additional interim of 10s. per share making 16s. 6d. for the 14 months ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 22.
- Langlaagte Estate and Gold.—20 per cent. per annum for the half-year to Dec. 31.
- Meyer and Charlton.—30 per cent., making 55 per cent. for 1905.
- New Primrose Gold.—Interim of 20 per cent.
- New Rietfontein Estate.—10 per cent. payable Dec. 31.
- No. 2 South Great Eastern.—1s. per share, payable Jan. 4.
- North Randfontein.—10 per cent. per annum.
- Porges Randfontein.—10 per cent. per annum.
- Pusing Lama Tin.—Interim at the rate of 2½ per cent.
- Robinson Deep.—Interim of 3s. 6d. per share in respect of the six months of the current year, being at the rate of 35 per cent. per annum, payable Jan. 31.
- Robinson Randfontein.—10 per cent. per annum.
- Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—Interim of 1s. per share for the half-year ending Dec. 31, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable Feb. 7.
- Sons of Gwalia.—Quarterly interim of 1s. 6d. per share, payable Jan. 26.
- South Randfontein.—10 per cent. per annum.
- Tomboy Gold.—1s. 6d. per share, payable Dec. 30.
- Village Main Reef.—4s. per share.
- Witwatersrand Gold.—15 per cent., payable Dec. 31.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- A. J. White.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares.
- Amazon Steam Navigation.—On account of the current year of 2 per cent., or 5s. per share, payable Jan. 16.
- Assam Frontier Tea.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the preferred capital.
- Australian Cities Investment.—6d. per share.
- Bargang Tea.—Interim of 3 per cent.
- British Steamship Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred stocks, payable Jan. 1.
- Brooke, Bond and Co.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Nov. 30.
- General Life Assurance.—Half-yearly dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.
- Hardy's Crown Brewery.—Interim quarterly at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.
- Howard and Bullough.—Interim of 6d. per share on the ordinary shares, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended Nov. 30.
- Hunters the Teamen.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ending Dec. 30.
- Leyland and Birmingham Rubber.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.
- Marmite Food Extract.—Interim of 4 per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31.
- Millars' Karri and Jarrah (1902).—Half-year's dividend on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares.
- Rajmai Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent.
- Società Italiana per le Strade Ferrate della Sicilia (the Italian Company of Sicilian Railways).—Against share coupon No. 39, lire 19 per share, being a final dividend of lire 6.50 per share, for the year 1904-5, and an interim dividend of lire 12.50 per share on account of the year 1905-6; against coupon No. 6 of the Bons de Jouissance, lire 6.50 for each share represented, being the dividend for the year 1904-5.
- W. and T. Avery.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both preference and ordinary shares for the half-year ended Sept. 30.
- Lagunas Nitrate.—Interim of 2½ per cent. for the twelve months to Dec. 31, payable Jan. 22.

Treasury, December 19, 1905.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

PEKIN SYNDICATE.

An ordinary general meeting of the members of the Pekin Syndicate, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Carl Meyer (chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Gilbert) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman in dealing with the accounts, said that since the date at which they were made up, the number of Shansi shares issued had been increased, in round figures, to 1,200,000. The additional shares had been sold in the ordinary way through brokers, and not below par, with the usual brokerage. There were some further options outstanding given to the same brokers, at higher prices, expiring at the end of this month, and at the end of next March, but it was impossible for him to say, at the moment, whether any of those options would be exercised. The suspense account now stood at about £50,000. That really represented profit, and it would be distributable as such. One of their liabilities was under the agreement, dated June 23rd, 1899, for the construction of their railways. The railways they had built so far had been constructed, on behalf of the syndicate, by Messrs. S. Pearson and Son (Limited), and the work had been done in the most satisfactory manner. Their contract with that firm stipulated that the latter should build railways for the syndicate to the extent of £1,000,000. So far, railways for about half that amount had been constructed. As to the remainder, the board must be the judges of the period for carrying out the work. Having referred to the circumstances in which the Taokou Chinghua main line railway had been acquired by the Chinese Government, he said that, at the end of the syndicate's next financial year, apart from any profits to be derived from their different concessions, they would have two distinct items to deal with, less the expenditure which would have to be met—namely, the suspense account of £50,000 and the interest of 5 per cent. on their holding of £700,000 5 per cent. Chinese Railway Government bonds. When he added that they had, in addition, cash assets of very nearly £300,000 in first-class securities, he thought it would be agreed that their financial position was a very strong one. It was just four and a half years ago since they last met. That had been a period of anxiety and of hard work for all connected with the syndicate. There had been "ups and downs," as there were in all enterprises of this nature, but he was glad to say that the "ups" were now distinctly in the ascendency. He had no hesitation in saying, with a full sense of the responsibility which he knew that his words would carry, that the syndicate's prospects to-day were as bright, if not brighter, than they ever had been before. The board had hoped to be able to inform the shareholders that coal had actually been struck in their territory, and that they were on the eve of immediate production, but news had been received which showed that a slight further delay would occur. When their agent in China, Mr. Jamieson, succeeded in obtaining the Chinese Government's consent to take over the railway and repay the syndicate for their outlay on it, he had to do so by means of a compromise, which consisted in their agreeing to allow the Chinese Government the right to come in as their partners, on joint account, in any smelting works which they might in future put up in the province of Shansi for the purpose of working the Shansi iron ores. It was thought best to agree to that compromise, because it was useless to hope to work with profit or advantage in a Chinese province in the interior unless they had the local authorities with them. With regard to the political outlook in China, telegrams had appeared in the newspapers within the last few days which put a rather sombre construction on the situation, and which almost went so far as to predict a repetition of the deplorable events that were witnessed a few years ago. He believed that those fears were exaggerated. There was no doubt that, after the Russo-Japanese war, strong feelings had arisen in favour of the Japanese as against European nations, and there was also a tendency not to grant any further concessions to European syndicates. At the same time, there was no tendency, so far as he was aware, to try and use that feeling to repudiate contracts entered into previously. The board had no indications to that effect; if they had they would naturally at once invoke the assistance of His Majesty's Government. The Government which had just gone out of office had given them as much assistance on all occasions as any English Government would ever give to a commercial enterprise, and he had no reason to think that the new Government would not do likewise. Reverting to the syndicate's coal mines, he said that Mr. Jamieson estimated that they ought to secure a *minimum* profit of 6s. for every ton produced, and those on the spot best qualified to speak stated that, when the mines were in a position to produce as much, there would be no difficulty in finding an outlet for 2,000 tons a day. So far everything mentioned in the prospectus had been borne out by facts. He afterwards replied to certain criticisms which had been made against the syndicate, and in conclusion moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. Robert Miller.

A short discussion ensued, in the course of which Mr. Caird asked why the concessions should be lodged at the British Legation, and Mr. Howard suggested that in future shareholders should be given an opportunity of applying for any shares issued. The continual granting of options to stockbrokers, he maintained, did not give the shares a proper chance.

In reply to these and other remarks the Chairman said that the Shansi concession was as good now as when the syndicate first obtained it, but before it could be dealt with properly a railway

would have to be built which presented considerable engineering difficulties. The validity of the concessions had never been questioned. The suggestions which had been made were as big a mare's nest as he had ever known. The concessions were lodged at the British Legation as the safest possible place that could be found for them—(hear, hear)—and, moreover, placing them there gave the British Minister an opportunity, should occasion arise, of referring to them and discussing any point with the Chinese authorities. The board had fully considered the question of offering shares to existing shareholders, but had come to the conclusion that at present the best course was to open fresh markets and get a larger public interested in the syndicate. He did not feel he could promise, having regard to the great difficulties with which they had to contend, to submit accounts made up closer to the date of the meeting, but he hoped they would now meet more frequently. Mr. J. G. H. Glass then briefly addressed the meeting, and after the usual formal business had been transacted a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

RHODESIA EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Rhodesia Exploration and Development Co., Ltd., was held at Winchester House, Old Broad St., E.C., on Thursday, Mr. John Seear, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. J. W. Clark, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the company's investments were taken into the balance sheet at a value of £246,014, but taken at the last making up prices, they amounted to £316,748, showing an appreciation of something like £103,000 (applause). The nett result of the year was that they had made a profit of £75,000 for the year, against the debit balance of £2,119 for the previous year. The total credit was £259,874, which he was sure they would agree was very good (hear, hear). Having so large a sum to the credit of the profit and loss account, the directors had considered it to be to the interest of the shareholders to write down some of the assets very considerably. They had accordingly debited the profit and loss account with £155,632 for shares, &c., in various companies. The net result, after making these allowances, was to carry forward £104,242. The question of the disposition of this balance had been carefully considered, and they had come to the conclusion that, in view of the present position of the mining market, and the difficulty of floating their subsidiaries, it would be wise not to declare any dividend for the present. During the year, the development work had proceeded apace, and the results obtained had exceeded anything achieved either in Rhodesia or in South Africa. Last year, the future had been entirely a matter of speculation, but to-day they could regard the Eldorado property as a proved proposition of enormous value. The conglomerate, or Banket reef, was of huge dimensions, while the values could not be described as other than phenomenally rich. (Applause.) The Eldorado was one small portion of the Banket Company's property; upon the Rowdy Boy a shaft had disclosed the Banket reef at a depth of 120 ft.; the Banket Company's property extended for roughly twenty miles, and they had twelve to fourteen miles of property on the conglomerate reef. Speaking generally, he confessed that the past year had been a series of bitter disappointments. When they last met he had looked forward to a continuation of the market activity which was then in progress, but their experience had been just the reverse. One of the reasons, he thought, was the fear that a Liberal Government would cancel the Chinese Ordinance, but he did not think that a responsible Government would tamper with the internal affairs of the Transvaal. This did not affect Rhodesia, as they did not employ Chinese labour there, and did not need to supplement the present supply of native labour. The last year had been an exceptional one, as, owing to the banket discoveries, big Kafir groups had again taken a hand in Rhodesia. The discovery of the banket and of diamonds showed that from a general point of view, the country had not yet been properly prospected. The most competent engineers stated that the future of Rhodesia would not depend on small rich reefs, but upon large low grade propositions. With regard to labour, a serious effort was now being made to reduce the heavy wages, particularly with regard to white labour, which formed such an onerous item in all working costs in Rhodesia. While the cost of living was still high, very considerable reductions had taken place, and the scale of salaries and wages, which had been fixed at a time when the conditions were altogether different from what they were at present, seemed to be no longer necessary now that the country had been opened up and greater transport facilities had been provided. He was very glad to see that the question of land settlements was being considered, and he considered that the outlook, both mining and agricultural, commercial and industrial, was decidedly brighter throughout Rhodesia. (Hear, hear.) By no means the least encouraging feature in the situation was the near balancing of revenue and expenditure in the Chartered Company's accounts. Their own company was in an exceptionally good position, and he looked forward with all confidence to a most successful future. He anticipated that, with the General Election disposed of, and the troubles in Rhodesia gradually quietening down, confidence would be restored to the market, and an era of steady progress and revival would then set in. The continued increase in the production of gold in the Transvaal,

combined with the substantial reductions in the costs, and also the advantages accruing from the introduction of the Chinamen, must ultimately tell.

Dr. Hans Sauer seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Dr. Sauer, the retiring directors, the Hon. A. G. Brand, M.P., and Mr. P. M. Thackthwaite, were re-appointed.

The auditors, Messrs. Arthur Goddard and Co., having been re-appointed for the ensuing year, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

BARNUM AND BAILEY, LIMITED.

The sixth annual ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held on Monday at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. George Oscar Starr presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Russell C. Spurr, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The improved results of the year's trading call for sincere congratulations. Your directors are most pleased to be able to place before you such a favourable balance-sheet for the season of 1905. You will note that a new word appears in the report and balance-sheet—"autobolide." To quote from the programme it is "L'Auto-Bolide—The Dip of Death; the absolute limit to which mortals may tempt Death with impunity, and where a final period is placed to further effort." Using plainer terms, it is an apparatus which enables a person to descend from a height in an automobile, to pass through space upside down, and then land right side up upon the ground. This apparatus is secured by letters patent in the United States of America. It is these patents, together with two complete apparatus, which it was thought advisable to purchase, thus securing protection for what has proven a revenue-producing sensational act. It has been deemed advisable by your directors to produce a spectacular pageant to replace the one which has been a feature the past few years. The agreement with Messrs. Cody and Bailey continues for another year. The period of the accounts is 53 weeks, which compares with 49 weeks in 1904. The gross receipts were £304,823 18s. 11d. Owing to the different arrangement approved at our last meeting, whereby the European plant was rented by Messrs. Cody and Bailey, the net rental only is included in this year's receipts in place of the total turnover and outgoings. Thus, although the turnover in America shows an increase of upwards of 13 per cent. over last year's, the amalgamated gross receipts show a decrease of £17,856 4s. 2d. On the other hand, the expenses (after making the customary adjustments in respect of wintering provision for America and England), which amounted to £220,780 13s. 9d., show a decrease of £42,039 7s. 1d. This leaves to the credit of the trading a balance of £84,043 5s. 2d. To this has to be added transfer fees and interest £2,077 13s. 8d., making together £86,120 18s. 10d. Against this sum has to be written off rent and London office expenses, insurances, directors' fees, and adverse exchange, amounting to £7,770 3s. 8d., leaving a profit of £78,350 15s. 2d., as compared with £54,862 19s. 6d. in 1904, or an improvement of £23,487 15s. 8d. in the current year. Devoting our attention now to the balance-sheet and dealing first with the assets, it will be observed that the assets now stand at £630,866 11s. 10d., in place of £613,375 17s. 9d., or an increase this year of £17,490 14s. 1d. This is more than explained by the bank and cash balances, which now stand at £125,922 0s. 5d. in place of £100,421 11s. 2d., or an increase of £25,500 9s. 3d. A sum of £6,695 10s. 8d. has been added to equipment account, but, on the other hand, the directors propose to write off this year £13,500 in place of £10,000 last year, thus reducing purchase and equipment account from £502,239 16s. 7d. to £495,435 7s. 3d. Debtors are £2,298 10s. 6d. considered good, in place of £1,909 13s. 4d. last year, whilst wardrobe (after proposed writing off of special £1,500), payments in advance 1906 season, and stock of posters, &c., stand at the reduced sum of £7,210 13s. 8d., in place of £8,805 8s. 8d. in 1904. The liabilities stand substantially as before—viz., share capital and reserve account £550,000 as last year, and sundry creditors and unclaimed dividends £4,390 2s. 4d., as against £4,250 3s. in 1904. Out of the surplus or balance represented by profit and loss account, amounting, with balance brought forward, to £91,476 9s. 6d., the directors have, as before referred to, written off in respect of depreciations in England and America £10,000, as last year, and from autobolide cost and wardrobe £3,500 and £1,500 respectively, together £15,000. The directors further recommend out of the balance the usual provision of £30,000 for estimated wintering expenses, a special provision for estimated cost of spectacular production in 1906 in America of £10,000, and the payment of a dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares of the company, requiring £20,000 0s. 6d., leaving a balance to carry forward of £16,476 9s., instead of £13,125 14s. 4d., last year's unappropriated balance. During the season exhibitions have been given in 140 cities. Three hundred and sixty-two performances have been given. Owing to bad weather six shows have been lost. I have now the privilege of moving:—"That the report and balance-sheet and accounts be and the same are hereby adopted, and that a dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares of the company for the period of 53 weeks, closing October 28, 1905, be and is hereby declared."

Mr. Frederick Bailey Hutchinson seconded the motion, which was adopted after some discussion.

AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION.

The thirtieth ordinary general meeting of the members of the African Banking Corporation, Ltd., was held yesterday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. Edward Webb, the Chairman of the company.

The Chief Manager (Mr. George W. Thomson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—At the time of the last general meeting of the company there appeared to be a fair prospect of improvement in South African trade and, consequently, in banking business, and notwithstanding the prevailing depression, which has lasted so long, there is little doubt that a distinct, though not a rapid, change is taking place. The country at large is certainly recovering in agriculture, mining and general business. The balance-sheet—that ultimate test of all business—looks better than that of March 31. It shows the reserve fund standing as before at £140,000. The note circulation is £254,000, or £57,000 higher than it was; current accounts and deposits are £4,776,000; coin and cash, £1,276,071; securities, £418,000; bills of exchange, £1,431,424; and discounts and loans £2,761,000. As was the case during the last half-year, the rates of exchange and interest have been unfavourable, but quite lately there has been an improvement. In the profit and loss account the profit for the last half-year is £96,947, or £6,864 more than on March 31; and the charges are £69,390, or £1,176 less; so that, on the whole there has been an improvement, though not yet a very large one. After the ordinary deductions, £18,380 is left, which enables us to carry forward £6,380 after paying our usual dividend. Among the varied industries of South Africa mining takes the first place, and is the one on which all the others more or less depend. The output of gold continues to increase, and the Witwatersrand will show a return this year of some £20,000,000, and from the developing work now being done there will be a considerable increase in succeeding years. Not only are the well-known mines of the Rand doing well, but the extensions of the reefs to the eastward are showing favourably. In Rhodesia there is a steady increase of gold, and it seems likely that this year's product will reach £1,500,000. Another consideration with reference to gold mining is that many low-grade ores which have hitherto been unprofitable to work are now paying, on account of the improved communication by rail or otherwise, which means more labour, cheaper coal and modern and improved machinery. The discovery of banket reef in Rhodesia is thought to foreshadow a great future there. The diamond mines are next to the gold, the most productive in the country. The great Kimberley mine continues to lead with an output of about £5,000,000. But now in the Transvaal, as well as in the Orange River Colony, there are important productions. The Premier mine, near Pretoria, turned out nearly £1,000,000 last year, and there are several farms with diamondiferous ground which may at any time add to the output. Notwithstanding the large production, the price of diamonds keeps up. There is no doubt that South Africa is a highly mineralised country, and the opening of its territory by railroad will lead to the discovery of great and hitherto neglected riches. There is tin near Pretoria, and it is said to be also in large quantities in Swaziland; but in neither of these cases has development proceeded sufficiently far to say more than that the prospects are promising. It is now announced that there is copper near Kokstad, in East Griqualand, as well as in large quantities in Northern Rhodesia, which has already been reported. Coal mining progresses in various parts of the country, and especially in Natal. The coast ports have suffered more than any other parts of the country from the depression of past years. They were overloaded with imports, which, even now, they have scarcely cleared. However, matters seem to be righting themselves. Statistics now available of the whole country—and not the coast ports only—show that for the quarter ended September 30 the imports were £8,022,983 and the exports £8,274,000—a great improvement—and it may be of interest to note that 7½ per cent. of the imports were from British sources, and 96½ per cent. of the exports went to British buyers. One cause of the depression of the old coast ports had been the increased quantities of goods and produce shipped through Delagoa Bay, as so much nearer to the Transvaal, and also through Beira to Rhodesia, which ports have hitherto been handicapped by the customs and regulations of the Portuguese authorities, as well as excessive railway rates. Alterations have now been made, and it is hoped that the Railway Commission sitting at Pretoria may be able to settle matters as regards rates and traffics that merchants may be able to work with some confidence. Farmers generally seem doing well. Sheep, which are the agricultural backbone of the country, have lately prospered. The lambing season just over has been satisfactory, and the wool crop is good, and the prices good also. Cattle are doing better; the disease is not entirely absent. Fruit growing at the Cape and tea and sugar in Natal are giving satisfaction. Attention is now paid to tobacco growing, and also to cotton, and if transport and labour can be assured both will probably be commercial successes. Railways are being energetically pushed forward. The line over the Victoria Falls has been already carried on to a point 50 miles beyond Kalomo, or 450 miles North of Bulawayo. There are now in all 1,289 miles of rail open in Rhodesia. The extension of railways throughout the country is the most important undertaking for the immediate future, and it seems progressing in all the Colonies. As to the interests of the Bank, I need only say that they are materially bound up in the progress and prosperity of the country itself. I beg to propose that the report of the directors and the balance sheet be received and adopted.

Mr. Augustus Durant seconded the motion, which was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. T. Ewer proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Directors, and the staff of the Bank.

Mr. J. Wells seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. The meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

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The Investors' Review.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. Balfour.

The intervention of the Christmas holidays obliged us to go to press on Thursday evening last week. It was consequently impossible for us to make any reference to the Prime Minister's speech delivered that same night in the Albert Hall. And now the General Election is upon us, bringing a stream of fresh oratory that threatens to submerge the old. But as we look back and in the calm of the holidays resurvey the ground traversed by that Albert Hall speech, its importance as at once a rallying and a battle cry grows upon the mind. Not only was it great as an exposition of the purposes and attainable ideals of the Liberal party, but in the dignified sobriety of its tone. There was not a single catchpenny note in it from beginning to end, nothing of the "old age pensions for all" cheap-jack rhetorical pinchbeck or of the drum-beating of the demagogue in any guise. It was a business speech made by a practical statesman who possesses clear, definite views upon the active questions of the day, and does not promise the unattainable. Difficult questions he did touch upon, such as those relating to the taxation of ground values in domestic politics, and the limitation of armaments in international; but they were all well within the purview of a courageous statesman who means to lead in true democratic progress and to legislate for the whole people, not for select classes. And every declaration was plain and definite. There was no hair-splitting, no political tight-rope dancing, no verbal somersault turning in a blur of half-lights deftly shrouded in a haze of words.

What, then, did Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman promise? He, among other things, promised to cultivate friendly relations with all foreign countries, and spoke with good will of Germany. He said the military service must be kept subordinate to the civil authorities in India; that the principle of devolution of powers in local affairs must be further applied to Ireland, as the late Government seemed ready to do down to last spring; that an effort would be made to suitably readjust the taxation of land, concurrently, it would seem, with an endeavour to throw open the soil to the cultivation of larger numbers of those who live on it; that the question of canal development would, in the same connection, be taken in hand so as to facilitate internal trade and such resettlement of rural England as can alone be relied upon to give its prosperity assured permanence.

How foolish and far-fetched beside this strong attitude, these plain declarations, the querulous, anæmic oratory of the late Prime Minister and his supporters seems to be. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has taken us out of an African swamp into the free upper air of the mountain-top, and made us feel like being alive again; but the new Opposition still flounders amid the miasmatic bogs of its own creation. The late Ministry plunged us into wars and debt, and then discovered that Free Trade was not good enough for us, because the crushing weight of the new taxation their extravagance and unprincipled subservience to Park Lane and Petticoat Lane influences necessitated was making the nation restive. "Clap Protectionist manacles and blinkers upon the country," the man of Birmingham—the war fomentor with blood-stained

feathers in his cap—counselled, and forthwith the Tory party and the subsidised, kept, title-seduced or coerced Press howled “so say all of us,” for there is really no difference in either doctrine or purpose between the metaphysical, super-refined Mr. Balfour and the brutal commercial-room downrightness of Mr. Chamberlain. They both, as do all the party, want additional customs duties to be levied on the people, and differ only in the pretexts advanced to disguise or excuse the robbery. With one it is “preference,” with the other “retaliation,” with both more taxes. “Our present Government,” said the ex-Premier, on Tuesday evening, “are pledged to what they are mistakenly pleased to assert is the pure and undefiled doctrine of Free Trade. By that they mean not Free Trade, but a blind, and, as I think, a stupid adherence to certain fiscal practices and maxims which had their meaning and their reason 40 years ago, under then existing conditions of international trade, but which have their meaning—in my judgment, at all events—no longer. To that doctrine of blind obstruction the present Government, as I understand the matter, are pledged, and with the Government is pledged your present, though not, I hope, your future member.”

How delicate, how precious in its topsy-turveyism is this extract. Freedom to buy and sell in our markets at home is now “blind obstruction,” if you please. To be sure!—blind to the advantage of additional customs duties, dearer food, dearer clothes, dearer tools, levied for the benefit of the military classes, lineal descendants of the “free companies,” and condottieri of the middle ages. Does Mr. Balfour really think that the voters, ignorant though the mass of them may be, prejudiced though many of them are, will be made enthusiastic for his losing and lost cause by nebulous word-play like this? Has he nothing better to offer the people in trying to outbid the new Government than “more new taxes subtly extracted so that you pay without knowing it”? We are to have no retrenchments in any direction if the Tories come back—that much is clear from Mr. Balfour’s speeches; no efforts to reduce the burdens of existing taxation, no abatement in the demands of the professional man-killers for cowardly—i.e., fear-inspired—expenditure upon armaments the *rapprochement* of civilised nations—not yet necessarily of Governments—are daily rendering less necessary, on fortifications, ships, and munitions, and all other appurtenances of the wholesale man-killing trades, except the human animal or fighting pawn himself on whose recruitment there is, perhaps, no blackmail or other form of refresher for Imperial patriots leviable. Oh, no, everything would go on in the same old road-to-ruin style for the benefit of the same old gang and its masters did Arthur and Joseph come back to power. But Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has opened the way out of the poisoned quagmire into which these men plunged us, and the nation has reached the free upper air. Its lungs are filling with the ozone of a healthy atmosphere; new life dances in its veins, and it is going to teach the decadents and log-rollers of all grades a thing or two before many weeks are over.

How to Pay Off the National Debt.*

We are often asked what we should do were the management of the debt put into our hands. “It is all very well,” people say, “to criticise and find fault, but where is the remedy which you would propose?” The question is fair, and it seems to us that the remedy is a simple one enough, one to be found by a study of the mistakes made in creating previous sinking funds for the redemption of debt. All those terminable annuities which successive Chancellors of the Exchequer have instituted in order to reduce the

burden of the National Debt have been to some extent vitiated in their action in the long run by reason of the restricted area of reinvestment. Even when debt was really cancelled, it was cancelled at frightful expense. Supposing, as an illustration, the Government of the day cancelled £30,000,000 of stock in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners, and belonging to either the Post Office or the Chancery funds, it was made compulsory on the authorities to reinvest the money accruing from the annuity in the same stock, that is to say, a terminable annuity was created, an increasingly important portion of which was each year devoted to purchase a diminishing stock in the open market, in order to replace the stock cancelled when the annuity was originally instituted. It followed that in proportion as the amount of the annuity required for interest diminished and the amount available for replacement of capital increased the purchase of a stock, the supply of which was steadily growing less, forced up the price. The effect of this was seen before the South African War broke out in a $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock standing in the market at 112 and upwards, and as each diminution in the volume of the stock available for purchase occurred through the conversion of another slice of it into terminable annuity or the purchase of another million the impossibility of reinvesting this annuity in the same stock as was originally cancelled became more and more manifest until the actually operative annuities promised to become a source of very material loss to the nation. Instead of cancelling debt to the extent of the original stock converted, new deficits tended to arise which could only be met by creating still more debt.

To remedy all this it is surely reasonable to counsel the Governments of the day to allow greater liberty to annuitants and administrators in making reinvestments. Provided care be taken that the capital is replaced intact in a first-class trustee security, there ought to be no obligation on the part of the National Debt Commissioners as executors of the mandate of the Government to reinvest in the same stock which has been cancelled. Surely the securities created by our great municipalities are as trustworthy as the consolidated debt itself, and many of them are on the whole less liable to fluctuation than Consols because less within the area of political disturbance. We should, therefore, in creating any further terminable annuities, widen considerably the discretionary powers of the National Debt Commissioners. They should be compelled to replace the stock cancelled by being bound to reinvest in any trustee security of the first class, but ought to be forbidden to buy any such stock at a higher figure than a certain pre-determined price. Had this method been followed with the annuities, some of which are now about to fall in, we should probably never have seen the price of Consols as high as 112 or even 105, and the whole position would have been healthier than it now is, while the loss to the nation, if any, would certainly have been considerably smaller than it seemed likely to be before the war.

Fragments of stock, however, converted into terminable annuities from time to time do little or nothing to help the nation to escape finally and completely from the long borne and often nearly intolerable load of its public debt, and in dealing with the great mass of that debt we should go a step further as opportunity arose. To begin with, we should turn all the floating debt—barring perhaps a few millions of Treasury bills, although it should really be unnecessary to keep any of them afloat—into a terminable annuity open for investment in by banks, insurance companies, trustee bodies of every description, with full liberty to replace their capital in any manner which seemed to them best. Instead of throwing upon the Government or any public Department the onerous duty of replacing the stock cancelled by the creation of an annuity we should throw that obligation upon the owners of the annuity. Let them see to the conservation of their own capital at their discretion. All

* This article should be read in connexion with one that appeared in the INVESTORS' REVIEW entitled, “Concerning Debt and Sinking Funds,” of October 21 last. It was written at the same time as that article and has been kept back until now by press of other material.

that the State should undertake would be to pay the annuity every quarter on the agreed scale. In this way we should first of all deal with the Exchequer bonds and the Treasury bill issues as they fell due, converting them into an annuity to be held by the public and arranged so that the debt would be entirely wiped out by the payment of that annuity alone, so far as the nation is concerned, within a given number of years. Then when in 1912 nearly £62,500,000 of Local Loans stock becomes available for treatment we should turn that stock also into a terminable annuity on the same lines and proceed further to arrange for the extinction of the great consolidated debt itself when the date for again handling it comes round in April, 1923. There is nearly £600,000,000 of that consolidated debt, and were it converted into a terminable annuity at 3 per cent., $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. being interest and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. a cumulative sinking fund, it would cost the nation only about £18,000,000 per annum for a term of years and thereafter nothing. Were financial conditions such in 1923 as to preclude the possibility of turning this mighty debt into an annuity upon a 3 per cent. basis, then a $3\frac{1}{2}$ or $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. basis might have to be adopted. Even on a $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. basis the charge of this consolidated debt would only be £21,000,000 per annum by way of interest and sinking fund, and if the entire debt of the nation, including the Local Loans stock, were converted as it fell due into a terminable annuity on the same basis, the total burden would only be about £26,000,000, or £2,000,000 less than it is now, without counting the short annuities created to gratify public works wastage.

Many opportunities will be given within the next few years to make a beginning in the direction thus briefly indicated. There are, for instance, upwards of £35,000,000 of $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. annuities which became available for redemption practically at will on January 5 last. Over and above that there is the £14,000,000 of Exchequer bonds becoming due on December 7 next, to be followed by another £6,500,000 of Exchequer bonds repayable on August 6, 1907, by the £30,000,000 National War or Khaki loan repayable in 1910, and then by the above-mentioned Local Loans stock coming two years later. All these small categories of debt could be handled in this fashion—converted into terminable annuities—more or less as experiments, and as the investing class became familiar with this mode of treating the public burdens, the way would be prepared for the great conversion operation demanded when the £590,000,000 of Consols came up for treatment in 1923.

With a $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. sinking fund and redemption calculated on a $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. compound interest basis, the entire debt of the country would be wiped out within about 73 years of the dates when the latest instituted terminable annuity came into operation. Were the holders of the debt to be allowed 3 per cent. interest, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. sinking fund, the whole debt would be wiped out in about 66 years, but no great harm would come to the country were a longer date determined upon, because our contention is that it would be much more difficult for Governments to suspend the operation of sinking funds in the hands of the public than to stop those manipulated by public departments. In other words, had the terminable annuities which Sir Michael Hicks-Beach found in existence and immediately proceeded to cancel for the time being, in order to find money to carry on that cheap South African War, been in the hands of the public, it would have been almost impossible for him to have arranged for any such betrayal of trust—for that is what practically the step taken implied. He could not have gone to the insurance companies, the joint-stock banks, the large holders of private trust funds, the trusts, the joint-stock companies of all descriptions, whose reserves or capital might have been partly invested in these annuities, and said to them, "Look here, I am not going to give you any more money to replace your capital for this year or the next two years."

They would have replied, "You must not interfere with our arrangements in this manner; all sorts of interests revolve around these annuities. They must be maintained, else indescribable loss and confusion might arise." The more the holding of the debt got spread amongst the people in the form of these terminable annuities, the more impossible would it become for any Chancellor of the Exchequer to stop their operation, and in another direction the State would be liberated altogether from the burden of replacing the capital in this way converted into terminable annuity. It would rest with each individual holder, with each Corporation, each body of trustees, to see to it that the portion of their annuity assignable to capital was each year properly reinvested. We should be disposed to remove all possible restrictions upon private holders, and allow them to treat their capital as they pleased, the one object in view with the Government being the gradual and sure extinction of the debt. It is only by some such method that sinking funds of a healthy, durable, and effective description can ever be instituted. The method hitherto pursued is one which produces a sort of choke in the department of Government finance, a paralysis similar to the tying up of a machine by the chilling that results from the liberation of compressed air. The machine for debt cancellation gets clogged up in proportion as the amount of the annuity assignable to capital becomes larger, and by restricting the reinvestment of this capital to one particular stock the product is an *impasse* and often dead loss.

Were our National Debt dealt with on the lines here suggested, and in this intelligible or common-sense fashion there might be some prospect of working clear of the whole incubus in, at the utmost, something less than a century, but we can never hope to get rid of debt altogether until a higher conception of the relations between Government and governed rules in the public services. There is still far too much of antagonism between these two independent agents, the governors look upon the governed as a fair object of plunder, debt is contracted when revenue fails in other directions without the least hesitation, on any pretext, to any extent, and direct leave is neither asked nor given. There might, however, be some impetus applied to induce a more enlightened conception of the duties of a Government towards governed were the country committed, good times and bad, to the payment of an annuity amounting to, at the outside, £28,000,000 per annum, obliged to find this money in seasons of war as well as in those of peace, and were it at the same time hindered in its capacity to add a new debt to the vanishing old debt by establishing the custom or law that no permanent debt can ever again be created in this country. It has been a frightful source of poverty to the community, this irredeemable National Debt of ours, which has always been like a cold, dead weight, ever pressing the multitude of the people down towards hopeless, unrelievable poverty always. We should, therefore, be disposed to insist that whenever it again became necessary for the country to raise money by loan it should be compelled to do so always by terminable annuities. It will be said that the public is not educated to the point of intelligence which would induce it to subscribe for and hold or manage these annuities, and that is true enough, but it must be so educated. There is no greater curse to nations like our own and France than this habit of treating the public debt as a thing destined to endure for ever, of creating a mortgage which is to last for all time without reference to either the actual or the possible future circumstances of the community thus carelessly and heartlessly burdened. Because this is so we would even go further still, and forbid any Government to issue a loan without a reference of the proposal to the direct vote of the people. No Governments anywhere ought to have that free hand in creating debt which has so long been the fashion. Had the Government of Lord Salisbury been compelled to ask the electorate direct for every million or every ten millions or twenty or thirty it raised for

that South African War, the strife would have been ended long before it was. Probably enough, in its early heat and passion, the nation would have given its adhesion to the request for liberty to issue the earlier loans, but to the later demands it would have uttered an increasingly emphatic no. We should, therefore, be delighted to see a law passed restricting the liberty of administrations to borrow. In nothing is the adoption of the Swiss referendum more required than in this matter of creating debt. But that is not the question raised in this article. The best way to abolish, to redeem, existing debts is the point under discussion, and we contend that but one way is open to us as our debt is now constituted—the conversion of its entire mass into a terminable annuity, calculated to extinguish every shilling of the mortgage upon the nation's labour within a period of, at most, some two generations.

Chinese Labour and Boss Clamour.

Our late masters—we hope and believe they are “late,” and that their power for mischief is now gone for ever—the noble band of South African capitalists who control the gold mining industry there and many things besides, giving us no information as to how it is conducted or what they steal from it, have abated their insolence towards Lord Elgin to some extent. When his dispatch to Lord Selborne was first made public these gentlemen, British patriots all of the first magnitude and zeal, bearing such unquestionably Anglo-Saxon names as Wernher, Beit, Goertz, Dunkelsbuhler, Hanau, Schlangenbach, Joel, &c., &c., threatened to cut the painter, and talked in furious style of the indignation which would be excited amongst the white population of the Transvaal were the importation of Chinese slaves to be interfered with or stopped. The whites, they assured us, were in great majority favourable to the import of these miserable beings—and also, no doubt, to their ill-treatment, to the robbery of their wages, and other beautiful examples of high Imperial civilisation as understood by these pure Anglo-Saxon mine bosses of the Phœnician stamp of mind. But they soon began to change their tune, finding, perhaps, that their foaming language, although it might stir up some echo in the empty and excitable minds of that common mob of the Stock Exchange which leaves its brains outside or has none to leave, met with but a cold reception throughout the country. They may even have begun to realise that the people of the United Kingdom do not quite relish the idea of having been beguiled into one of the most costly wars they ever undertook on false pretences, in order to fix the monopoly of a cosmopolite band of shouting, army-contracting, Imperialists upon the Transvaal and all who live therein, upon South Africa, from Zambesi to Table Bay.

Whether wise enough to smell the truth or not, and probably they are not, the tune soon changed into one which warns us, even more than the first exhibition of rage, to be on our guard against further trickery. The chief concern is now fixed upon and expressed about the position of those unfulfilled contracts for further importations of coolies alleged to be in existence when Lord Elgin's dispatch was sent. Representations are being made through the Press organs of these mine bosses—organs that everyone can point to, grovelling serfs, at the head of which we are still sorry to see the *Times*—of the injuries likely to arise through the abrogation of these contracts, and there is plentiful talk of a demand for compensation should the alleged contracts be broken. “As an illustration,” one paper states, “of the harm that would be done, one may cite the United Roodepoort Mine, which has just completed the erection of new stamps in preparation for the arrival, in February next, of a shipment of 500 coolies to supplement the existing Kaffir labour.” Well, where would the injury arise if there is plenty of Kaffir labour available, provided it is drawn to the mines by the offer

of fair wages? We should look into these alleged contracts very closely before yielding, and into the demands of these mine bosses, and doubtless Lord Elgin is not neglecting his duty in this respect. His dispatch was an admirable one, and shows that he had at once grasped the situation, and adopted the right line. It is not the business of the British Government to order the wholesale and immediate repatriation of the coolies already at the mines; that is the affair of those who imported them. But it is the duty of the Government to prevent the importation of further victims enlisted on false pretences, and no alleged contract must be allowed to interfere with this determination. Every statement put forward by the masters of the mines, the monopolists who continue to absorb so much of what should go to the genuine shareholder, ought to be sifted to the bottom before one additional Chinaman is allowed to go on board ship, and doubtless this will be done. The outcry may signify either a determination to find means to beat the new Colonial Secretary, or the basis of shameless demands for “compensation.”

Our helots of Park Lane, indeed, threaten, as it is, to demand compensation for the consequences of their own misdeeds, and we hope they will continue to adopt this line, because the British public will also have something to say on that score, and because the object lesson is opportune. Where are the £30,000,000 with which Wernher, Beit, Dunkelsbuhler, Neumann, and Co. hoaxed Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, or allowed him to hoax himself, when he made his royal or Brummagem Imperial progress through the territories devastated by his war, the war that was such a feather in his cap? Where are the other costs of that war, which we have not got back, and are not likely to get back? How much are these masters of the mines going to contribute towards the cost of the military occupation and heavy garrisoning of the Witwatersrand, now rendered necessary by their long career of fraud, oppression, and falsehood, a career begun, so far as the public knows, by the sham letter of appeal concocted in order to cover the dastardly infamy of the Jameson raid? If there is to be “compensation” going, the people of the United Kingdom will want their money back and their troops sent home, and, failing to get that, or to get any compensation for the lives of British and African alike swept away in the conflict, they may proceed, in the interests of the supreme power, of the South African people, and of the genuine shareholders, to insist upon a much more complete control over the working of these valuable gold deposits than the late Boer Government ever attempted. That, surely, is the line that Parliamentary candidates, supporters of the Government, ought to take in the fight now upon us. As their affairs are now managed, shareholders who have really invested their money in the mines of South Africa are never allowed to know anything substantial or genuine about what goes on in the control or management of their property. And if they did know they would be powerless to effect changes. The reports presented to them are, for example, perfectly silent upon the commissions levied on the overturn by the firms who work the mines, supply them with machinery, furnish the stores by which the unseemly truck system of supplying the miners is maintained, and in all ways contrive that, whether a mine is earning a profit or not, their pockets shall be filled with gold extracted from somewhere. Supposing the Earl of Elgin were to say to these impudent clamourers, “We must appoint a commission to examine the finances of these mine companies, to find out how much Messrs. Wernher, Beit, and Co. and the other lesser magnates of the Rand are pocketing, on one pretext or another, every day of the 365, either out of the capital furnished by unfortunate shareholders here, or out of the gold won from the deposits,” what could these great cosmopolites say? Would it not be a prudent and salutary thing to do in the interests of all vitally concerned? These noble cosmopolites had better be quiet, and cease from troubling the public conscience with their clamour and their rapacities, lest worse befall them. Nay,

though, let them go on; we trust they will continue to make a fiendish noise, because it would be in the best interests of all genuine shareholders were the independent Government now in power here provoked by abuse, to proceed to an investigation of the corrupt finance surrounding the great mining industry of the Transvaal, in order to expose and put an end to abuses only suspected now, probably flagrant, but systematically hidden. And all the time the bosses lose by the Chinese, in spite of pay cut down, withheld, or stolen. If we would relieve them of the cost of repatriation they would be delighted, and more eager than ever for the next confidence trick.

The Report of the Local Government Board.

Now that we have in Mr. Burns a man familiar with the practical affairs of life at the head of this Government Department we entertain the hope that when next its annual report comes to be compiled it will cease to bear the rather chaotically methodical aspect with which we have long been painfully familiar. There is scattered throughout its pages much information of a kind often valuable and frequently indicative of most painstaking effort on the part of the permanent staff, but there is also a lack of co-ordination of the various portions, and now and again absurdities or redundancies emerge which could very well be done without. One of the more prominently grotesque items in the report which has always annoyed us is to be found in the paragraphs dealing with the growth of the public debt. They, in the current issue, state the figures doubtless correctly enough up to the rather remote date to which a report published towards the end of 1905 comes down, but the remarks made about the debt of the local authorities are not instructive or valuable, and the whole exhibit is spoiled by a misleading table on page 217, which sets forth the amount of the National Debt and of the local loans outstanding at two different dates. In the report before us the dates are 1874-5 and 1902-3—both years ending March 31. Contrasting the figures of these two years, the compilers of the report show an increase of £31,081,000 in the National Debt and of nearly £278,000,000 in the local loans raised by urban and rural authorities in England and Wales alone then outstanding, Ireland and Scotland being beyond the Board's ken even for purposes of comparative statistics. In 1874-5 the percentage proportion of the local debt of England and Wales alone to the National Debt of the United Kingdom as a whole was 12.10, and in 1902-3 it was 46.42, according to this strange table. What is the use of a comparison of this description, incomplete, imperfect as it is? There is no meaning in it at all, unless it be slyly intended to serve the purpose of those inconsistent, but never resting, obstructionists of modern progress who with one and the same voice clamour for costly increases and extensions in the amenities of civic life and pour abuse upon those who supervise the expenditure of the money necessary to enable public authorities to comply with their demands. There can be no comparison whatever between the national and local debts, even were the local debts of the kingdom fully set out, and to treat the two as in the same category—of identical character—is not merely to mislead but actually to deceive. This is precisely the method followed by institutions like the burlesque "Industrial Reform League" or by the emissaries of the British Electric Traction Company and other monopoly-at-the-expense-of-the-community hunters, but it ought not to find support or space in the annual or any other report of a great Government Department.

That local debts are steadily increasing is beyond question, but they are also being paid off, whereas no effective or durable redemption of the National Debt appears to be destined ever to take place. The bulk of it can never be automatically redeemed on its present basis. There is a footnote to the Local Govern-

ment table which tells us that in 1898-9 the total of the National Debt was down to £635,394,000, so that the figure in 1902-3 was £164,000,000 greater, and the whole of this extra expenditure, with much besides, represented outlay upon wars—chiefly upon the South African War, which has thus far brought no return whatever to the nation, and is never likely to bring any, but only sorrow and poverty—but much also upon shady or senseless mock war outlay to maintain peace. But in the text of the report we learn that although on the latest date given the total outstanding loans of local authorities in England and Wales amounted to nearly £371,000,000, the actual amount of public debt raised by such authorities between 1875-6 and 1902-3, inclusive, amounted approximately to £407,597,000. This apparently means that within the same period of time something like £130,000,000 of local debt has been redeemed, paid off, and, whether or not, it is a dominating characteristic of the public debts raised by local authorities that they must be paid off within a period of, at the longest, two generations. These authorities are accordingly always redeeming debt as well as creating more.

Nor is this all. The great bulk of local debts have been created for purposes of public utility, many of them squarely revenue yielding. Thus a table on pages 720 and 721 of the appendix to the report before us sets forth the amount of borrowed money raised at various dates for the different requirements of these local authorities, and there is scarcely one of these purposes which can be cavilled at, which does not represent a distinct gain to the community either indirectly through the improved hygienic and social conditions under which the population live, improved means of communication which cheapen the cost of transport and therefore of living, or in other ways. Up to March 31, 1903, no less than £63,131,000 for example has been laid out upon waterworks, nearly £44,000,000 upon highways and street improvements, nearly £40,000,000 upon harbours, docks, piers, and quays, over £23,000,000 upon gasworks, and nearly £19,000,000 on electricity supply. These were the amounts outstanding at the end of the latest fiscal year for which the Board is able to give statistics. Another £34,000,000 or so had been laid out upon schools, surely to the benefit of the community, although not directly productive of revenue. So also is the £35,000,000 spent upon sewage and sewage disposal works, and if we go through the list from one end to the other we cannot find much to relevantly object to. It is doubtless to be wished that a greater portion of the burden of such outlays as have been involved in the housing of the working classes, in the provision of asylums for lunatics, in the creation of parks and pleasure grounds, or in providing for paupers should have been met out of current rates; but that objection applies more or less to almost everything except tramways, docks, waterworks, and other revenue-yielding undertakings conducted in the public interests by public authorities. At the worst the selfishness of the present generation only throws the burden forward over a longer period of years than might otherwise have been necessary, and after all it is difficult to persuade the man of to-day to deny himself for the man of the generation to come. What will have to be done in order to lessen the strain of the load is not to inveigh against debts for the benefit of the horse-leech company promoter, but to compel the privileged classes of the community who now escape their fair share of the burdens imposed on all by the gratification of modern civilised requirements, to pay, and we also think that the whole community of ratepayers might be relieved by the judicious expropriation of old endowments, of the corrupt and corruption disseminating London City livery companies and other reservoirs of ancient wealth for the benefit of education. It is too bad that the tenant at will ratepayer in England and Wales should have to bear the brunt of the cost of erecting schools so that the children of the people at large may be educated.

The Russian Oil Companies.

Up to the present we have refrained from commenting freely upon the remarkable conflict which has lately arisen between Mr. P. Dvorkovitz, a Russian gentleman claiming life-long association with the oil industry, and the directors of the Russian and Baku Petroleum companies, partly because we could not quite grasp the motives which induced the first named to commence his agitation, and partly because we were anxious, after giving careful thought to the directorial reply to the grave charges brought, to ourselves conduct a little independent investigation. It was in the middle of November last that Mr. Dvorkovitz first launched his indictment at the Russian Petroleum company's board, following it up with a further circular which made great play of the fact that at least two of the directors had heavily reduced their interest in the company in the shape of share holdings. Of the rights or wrongs of such a proceeding we here have nothing to say, but at the extraordinary general meeting which followed Mr. Dvorkovitz's action the chairman, the Hon. Evelyn Hubbard, repudiated in the most emphatic terms the statement that between 1898 and the following year he had reduced his holding from 10,000 shares to 1,000. At the foundation of the company, said Mr. Hubbard, he and his firm subscribed for 10,000 shares, they had never sold a single one of those shares, they held them now, and, moreover, had increased their interest until, at the present time, it amounted to 21,600 shares. Nothing could be more plainly stated than that, but Mr. Dvorkovitz followed it up with a declaration, properly stamped and attested by a commissioner for oaths, that an examination of the files at Somerset House revealed that the holding of the Hon. Evelyn Hubbard, which in 1899 amounted to £10,000, had by the end of the following year become reduced to £3,790. Thus we were faced with two diametrically opposed assertions, quite incapable of being reconciled, and the only course open in order to get at the actual state of affairs was to examine the share lists ourselves. Here is the result:—

	Holdings, Jan. 27, 1898, £10 Shares.			
	Pref.	Ord.	Pref.	Ord.
Hon. Evelyn Hubbard	500	500		
	Holdings, Dec. 19, 1899, £1 Shares.		Transferred.	
	Pref.	Ord.	Pref.	Ord.
Hon. Evelyn Hubbard and John Murray (joint holding)	1,000	—	—	—
Hon. Evelyn Hubbard and Wm. Muller (joint holding)	—	—	500	—
Hon. Evelyn Hubbard	1,100	2,690	1,500*	400†

* Dates of transfers, April 4, 1898, 400; September 19, 1898, 500; October 10, 1899, 600. † Date of transfer, April 9, 1898, 400.

There was a further statement by Mr. Dvorkovitz that within the same period the holding of Mr. Henry Neville Gladstone had gone down from £36,670 to £6,900, and this we find to be also absolutely correct by the record, but in this case we do not think the facts were disputed, and there is, therefore, nothing to be said, except that the business has an unpleasant look. But what is the explanation with regard to the holding of the Hon. Evelyn Hubbard? That there is a perfectly satisfactory one we have no doubt at all, but knowing what the register must have shown and how easily suspicions can be generated, would it not have been good policy to state exactly what had happened to the shares, and in whose names they now stood? Have they passed into the hands of bankers or other members of the firm, because, according to the latest lists Mr. Hubbard's holding is only about £4,000? Perhaps the committee of large shareholders appointed at the recent meeting will throw some further light on the question, and meanwhile a study of the list of shareholders, as filed on July 11 last, may not be uninteresting, especially in view of the recent pronounced weakness in the prices. During the year then ended a good many big people were busy "getting out," and when the next record comes to be made up we fancy the transfers will be still more important, because without doubt the recent agitation

has caused considerable unrest in shareholders' minds:—

	Holdings, July 11, 1905.		Transferred.	
	Pref.	Ord.	Pref.	Ord.
Addington, Mary Adelaide ..	3,735	—	—	—
Birkin, Thomas Isaac	7,000	—	—	—
Buckley, Henry Burton	2,400	3,000	—	—
Bampfylde, Margaret Harriet	8,000	—	—	—
Burton, Edward North	2,000	—	—	—
Benwell, John Pearson, and Massingham, W. Frederick	—	2,415	—	—
Wilkins, Edward Weedon ..	—	2,400	—	—
Bikhoffsky, David	—	—	—	13,500
Clarke, John Lockie	2,000	—	—	—
Czarkinow, Caesar	1,950	—	—	—
Christie, Wm. Miller	2,500	—	—	—
Crauford, Eleanor Louisa ..	—	—	2,000	—
Chaplin, Ernest	—	2,000	—	—
Campbell, Finlay	—	2,400	—	—
Cranstown, Edith Audley	—	—	—	2,000
Cazenove, Arthur Philip, and Akroyd, Swainson Howden	—	—	—	2,000
Ellerman, Sir John Reeves ..	—	278	—	2,500
FitzHugh, Henry Terrick	—	2,400	—	—
Fitzwilliam, Earl of	—	2,000	—	—
Flecker, Wm. Hermann	—	2,200	—	500
Gladstone, John Evelyn	1,000	1,000	—	—
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John, M.P.	1,000	600	—	—
Gladstone, Samuel Steuart ..	5,000	—	—	—
Government Stock and Other Securities Investment	—	—	1,000	—
Gladstone, Henry Neville ..	—	2,000	—	—
Guarantee Insurance and Investment	—	—	—	1,650
Gladstone, Henry Neville	—	940	—	—
Holland, Samuel	3,000	240	—	—
Hubbard, Hon. Evelyn	1,100	2,928	—	—
Houldsworth, John Muir	2,000	—	—	—
Houldsworth, Wm. Thomas ..	3,800	—	—	—
Heron, John	2,600	—	—	—
Harler, George Loyd Foster	2,000	—	—	—
Hubbard, Wm. Egerton, and Page, Wm. Samuel	2,590	—	500	—
Harvey, Geo. Alexander, and Henderson, Robert C.	2,500	—	—	—
Horley, John Theodore, and Martin, Frank	—	130	—	1,500
Hubbard, Wm. Egerton, and Page, Wm. Samuel	—	1,850	—	150
International Investment Trust	3,000	—	—	—
Industrial and General Trust	—	—	2,000	—
International Financial	—	5,000	—	—
Joicey, Sir James	2,500	—	—	—
Jackson, Wm. Lawies	2,000	—	—	—
Kitson, Sir James	15,055	—	—	—
Kitchin, Thos. Milward	2,000	—	—	—
Kleinwort, A. D.	500	2,000	—	—
Kitson, Sir James	—	1,000	—	2,502
London Trust	19,450	9,072	—	—
Liberty, Arthur Lazenby	3,000	—	—	—
London and County Banking	4,500	—	—	—
London General Investment Trust	—	200	—	1,300
Lancaster, Wm. Thomas, and Murray, Samuel B.	—	—	—	2,110
Lansdowne, Marquis of	—	2,500	—	—
McNeil, Charlotte	3,500	3,000	—	—
Mercantile Investment and General Trust	5,000	—	—	—
Middlemore, Thos	2,000	800	—	—
McLean, Neil	2,000	500	—	—
McGlashen, R. L., and Ritchie, John James	2,140	—	—	—
Mackeson, Wm. James	—	—	—	1,440
Miller, Arthur Henry	—	5,200	—	—
Nairne, John Gordon, and Harvey, Ernest Musgrove	500	10,600	—	—
Oldfield, John Elphinston ..	2,070	—	—	—
Rowe, Percy Brodie, and Bisset, Geo. F.	—	—	2,330	—
Gladstone, Henry Neville, Noble, J. H. O., and Thompson, Thomas Wm.	1,700	550	—	—
Rowe, Percy Brodie, and Singer, David	—	2,390	—	—
Rickett, Joseph Compton	—	2,144	—	—
Rowe, Percy Brodie, and Bisset, Geo. F.	—	—	—	5,304
Seutt, Geo. Herbert	3,000	—	—	—
Smith, Vivian Hugh	2,000	—	—	—
Samuel, Steuart Montagu	—	750	—	9,750
Saunders, David Jack	—	2,120	—	—
Vivian, Wm. Graham	3,000	—	—	—
Verner, Geo. Dewet	500	2,000	—	—
Worthington, W. O.	3,000	120	—	—
Warwick, Benjamin James ..	—	—	3,000	—
Walker, M. M., and Lancaster, Wm. Thomas	—	—	—	2,000
Whitbread, Samuel	—	2,400	—	—

So much for the Russian Petroleum Company, and it may now be useful to say a few words concerning the Baku Company. In this case we do not think the question of share selling came to the front, but Mr. Dvorkovitz drew up a very serious case against the directors generally, and Mr. Gladstone in particular, and the subjoined details of holdings may therefore come in useful. In response to a requisition an extraordinary general meeting was held on December 12, when a resolution was carried for the appointment of a committee, with powers to investigate the circumstances attending the formation of the company, and the subsequent carrying on of the business, as also the general conduct of the directors. Very wide terms of reference these, affording an opportunity of probing to the bottom all matters in dispute, and in justice to the directors it must be said that they seemed to display a general desire to have the whole series of charges thoroughly sifted. They are of too grave a character to admit any half measures, and when the committee's report comes to be presented we shall hope to find the directors' actions completely vindicated. It is impossible to credit that a firm like Mr. Gladstone's, whose honourable conduct has never before been questioned, would lend itself to anything improper, and we shall believe in its integrity until the reverse is proved beyond a shadow of doubt:—

	Share Holdings,		Transferred.	
	Aug. 8, 1905.		Aug. 8, 1905.	
	Pref.	Ord.	Pref.	Ord.
Alliance Trust	2,000	—	—	—
Armistead, Geo.	2,613	—	—	—
Alexander, John	2,100	2,050	—	—
Andrew, Frederick	—	2,000	—	—
Beausire, Joseph	2,000	2,000	—	—
Barker, John	3,231	500	—	—
Buchan-Hepburn, Archibald ..	2,309	1,619	—	—
Bowring, Thos. Benjamin ..	1,000	2,000	—	—
Brown, Peter Saunders	2,000	2,000	—	—
Birkin, Thos. Isaac	6,500	3,500	—	—
Bruxner, Henry Robert	1,000	—	1,000	—
Barn, A. W.	—	3,000	1,000	—
Bailey, Walter Samuel	—	2,000	—	—
Booth, James	—	4,295	—	—
Bell, Sir Thos. Hugh, and Chas. Lowthian	—	4,000	—	—
Clegg, Emanuel	1,000	4,327	—	—
Chalmers, Lawrence and Edelman, and Brown, Edward Clifton	4,615	2,800	—	—
Cory, Richard	2,000	—	—	—
Consolidated Trust	2,000	—	—	—
Carr, Leonard Robert	140	1,244	2,409	1,625
Carr, Wilfred Isaacs, and Philip, William	—	—	1,911	—
Clark, John Lockie	—	3,200	—	—
Crossley, Wm. John	—	2,000	—	—
Crauford, James	—	—	—	1,550
Dawe, Richard Hill	500	4,000	—	—
Eastern Mort. and Agency..	11,542	7,942	—	—
Evans, Thos. Stevens	3,300	3,000	—	—
East Rand Deep	1,350	3,400	—	—
Fothergill, Chas. Geo.	2,247	806	—	—
Evans, Benjamin, and Bar- nard, Percy Edward	—	—	—	2,520
Fox, Henry Frederick	3,000	—	—	—
Fletcher, Alfred	2,405	2,500	—	—
Forbes, David	—	2,200	—	—
Franklin, Ernest Lewis	—	2,600	—	—
Gladstone, Henry Neville ..	1,550	5,123	—	—
Gladstone, Herbert John	3,518	2,070	—	—
Gladstone, Henry Neville ..	10,783	1,110	—	—
Gladstone, Henry Neville, and Wm. Buckley	—	3,192	5,317	1,700
Government and General Mortgage	1,250	250	1,000	1,000
Government Stock and other Securities Investment	3,500	10,461	—	2,000
Gladstone, John Steuart	4,350	—	—	—
Gallagher, Geo. R., and Gurrey, Frank	5,256	—	6,332	—
Gladstone, Samuel Steuart ..	—	5,000	—	—
Gwyer, Chas. J. P.	—	3,000	—	—
Guarantee Insurance and Investment	—	—	—	3,400
Gow, Chas., and Clodd, Ed.	—	3,000	—	—
Hardin, T. W.	5,500	—	—	1,500
Harris, Samuel J.	3,000	3,000	—	—
Haworth, Wm. H., and Ventries, J. O.	2,227	2,100	—	—
Howell, Chas. Fred	22	315	57	3,328
Hogg, Stuart James	2,300	—	—	—

	Share Holdings,		Transferred.	
	Aug. 8, 1905.		Aug. 8, 1905.	
	Pref.	Ord.	Pref.	Ord.
Henderson, Hy. Wm.	—	4,295	—	—
Hubbard, Evelyn	1,000	1,000	—	—
Investment Trust	2,308	—	—	—
International Financial	2,500	2,750	—	—
Joicey, Lady Marguerite	—	4,050	—	—
Kitson, Sir James	12,000	26,000	—	—
Kitson, R. H.	400	3,190	—	—
Lansdowne, Henry	2,500	2,500	—	—
Larrinaga, Felix	1,000	4,000	—	—
London Trust	6,000	2,436	—	—
Lion, A. L. and W.	4,300	6,184	—	—
Landour, C., and Ray, Geo. A.	14,770	—	—	—
Lancaster, Wm. Thomas, and Murray, S. B.	—	—	3,500	—
Mackinnon, Duncan	3,100	1,750	—	—
Mackay, Jas. Lyle	3,000	—	—	—
Mangles, Henry Albert	2,275	—	—	—
Nichols, Harold	4,615	3,229	—	—
Nourse, John Gordon, and Harvey, Ernest Musgrave	18,182	—	—	—
Ogilvy, John Francis	2,218	—	—	—
Omnium Investment	9,000	3,700	—	—
Phillips, Ivor	2,000	2,050	—	—
Rickett, Joseph Compton ..	2,000	8,600	—	—
Summer, Jas. W.	2,250	2,250	—	—
Earl Spencer	3,000	—	—	—
Steel, Alan G.	2,769	1,959	—	—
Schumacher, Catherine	—	4,000	—	—
Shirer, J. W.	—	2,100	—	—
Saunders, David Jack	—	5,100	—	—
Shareholders' Trust	—	3,000	—	—
Tweedy, Geo.	1,510	6,952	1,130	—
U.S. Debenture Corporation	5,000	—	—	—
Wenham, Harry J.	5,000	—	—	—
Burton, Clerke	5,000	7,000	—	—

Southern Pacific Company.

This great over-riding and over-ridden combination works or controls the working of the lines of the Southern Pacific Railroad, the Central Pacific Railway and the Oregon and California Railroad Companies, besides a number of smaller roads, the largest of which are the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio and the Houston and Texas Central lines. And through the Southern Pacific overshadowing or "merging" company the whole system is controlled by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, but we must regard the aggregation for the present as a separate undertaking. The total average length of road worked last year was rather over 9,000 miles, and the actual length in existence on June 30 last was 9,385 miles, of which little more than 149 miles had a second track, but there were 2,751 miles of sidings. Of this system 3,335 miles belonged to the Southern Pacific Railroad and 1,461 miles to the Central Pacific Railway Companies. Upon the aggregate of lines owned and controlled the gross income was \$98,140,582, an increase of \$2,617,590 compared with the preceding year. Expenses, including taxes of various kinds, took only \$369,000 more at \$66,593,620, but the interest on the outstanding funded debt of the various funds rose by \$1,051,508 to \$16,705,833, and altogether the total interest and rent charges came to \$18,422,546, which, however, showed a decrease of about \$631,000 on the preceding year, there being no charge in the past year for interest on loans paid and interest accruing on open accounts with other than proprietary companies. After writing off \$692,442 for depreciation and betterments, a decrease of \$674,000 on the previous year, the aggregate disbursements were brought up to \$85,709,000, leaving \$12,432,000 as free revenue, out of which the half-year's dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the new preferred stock of the Southern Pacific Company was paid, together with an adjustment charge of \$1,272,000 in account with the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway Company. When another \$4,828,000 had been assigned for betterments, additions, &c., the final free balance was \$3,427,000, an amount clearly insufficient to pay any dividend upon the common stock of the Southern Pacific Company, the total amount of which outstanding was \$197,849,259 at the date of the balance-sheet, or the

same as in the preceding year. Among the receipts, however, we must include at least \$1,500,000 from interest, rents, &c., paid by subsidiaries—whether earned or not we do not know.

Were the company to charge everything to capital account, and to abstain from improving its lines out of revenue, the common stock might receive a dividend on the basis of the above exhibit, but it would be extremely unwise to adopt any such short-sighted policy while so much extending goes forward, and therefore the probability is that for years to come the holders of this stock will get nothing. And in spite of the improvements and extensions paid for in addition out of revenue, the capital expenditure of the Southern Pacific Company on its various properties expands at a sufficiently remarkable dividend-postponing rate. In the past year, for instance, \$39,570,000 of the new 7 per cent. preferred stock, the authorised amount of which is \$100,000,000, was sold to the stockholders at par, and the nett increase in the stock of the Southern Pacific Company and proprietary companies outstanding in the hands of the public on June 30 last was \$39,570,000, which added to previous figures gave a total of \$238,158,000. In addition to this there was a nett increase of \$14,605,000 in the aggregate of the funded debt outstanding, whose total on June 30 in the hands of the public, including Southern Pacific and owned companies' mortgages, was \$376,503,000. It follows, therefore, that the entire nett increase in the capital outlay upon this vast system of lines was in the past fiscal year nearly £11,000,000, making the total aggregate outstanding capital of the various companies embraced in this system nearly \$615,000,000 or £123,000,000. It is a sufficiently formidable total, and there are still other obligations outside this total. An enormous amount of work still remains to be done, for although the company is not so badly equipped in the matter of road bed, or weight of rails as the controlling Union Pacific line is, 27.20 per cent. of the total mileage on June 30 last remained under rails of 56 lbs. weight, no less than 1,383 miles being laid with 50 lb. rails, and little more than 21 miles with rails of the English standard of 96 lbs. There were, however, 2,728 miles laid with 80 lb. rails, and a considerable increase in the length of road thus equipped took place in the past year. But there remains an enormous mileage to relay, and the equipment seems to be somewhat antiquated, for the average age of locomotives in service was nearly 13 years and of passenger equipment 15.28 years, while that of freight cars was 9.74 years. No wonder, therefore, that the directors are endeavouring to bring up the physical condition of the property to a higher standard. They have ordered for delivery during the current year 67 new locomotives, 76 passenger train cars, and 2,650 freight cars at a cost of about \$4,300,000. This kind of liberality will have to go on for many years to come. Savings in expenses were principally due to decreased cost of fuel for locomotives, and this decrease arose mainly through the substitution of oil for coal. Coal itself, too, was cheaper, and in another direction the economy of working was promoted by further increases in the weight carried per train. It went up on the whole system nearly 16 tons in the past year to an average of 341.32 tons, and yet there was a slight decrease in the tons per loaded car during that year. An economy was also exercised in the mileage run, and this told upon the aggregate wages paid, which for engine men and train men alone fell off over 10 per cent. or \$1,901,367. Besides its enormous network of railway lines the Southern Pacific Company controls what its board calls water lines covering 4,895 miles of sea route, and it also possesses nearly 11 miles of ferries. The receipts from the steamship lines do not show the same excellent results as those from the railways; but the ocean traffic was still worked at some apparent profit, the income of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company having been \$5,776,000 or \$1,295,000 more than the working expenses; but after meeting depreciation and paying for the lease of piers at San

Francisco only \$427,656 was left as free revenue, and the debit balance appears to be still nearly \$11,000,000. Doubtless the cast-iron monopolism of the Federal Government has something to do with the waste figures like these imply. Most of the proprietary companies' lands appear to have been disposed of, since the area remaining unsold on June 30 last was only 1,947 acres, but the money received is steadily applied to the redemption of debt, and apart from the enormous speed at which capital is being piled up upon the undertaking the financial position would appear to be strong. By the issue of fresh capital the floating debt visible a year ago, amounting to \$26,130,000, has been wiped out, and the Pacific Company had actually \$5,294,000 in cash lent at call at the end of the year. "And would you buy the shares on the heads of this display?" Oh, dear, no; it is a display made to sell them.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THAT EXCHEQUER BOND REPAYMENT.

From what has been said to us we fear that the articles which appeared in our issue of the 16th inst. rather befogged people. It was our fault, because although we think the position was understood by the writer it was not stated with the requisite lucidity. Briefly, the history of this Exchequer bond redemption began in April last, when the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, rushed an issue of £10,000,000 of new Exchequer bonds out upon the London Money market for the purpose of paying off that amount of the £14,000,000 of old bills falling due in December. These new bonds were paid up by instalments ranging over the summer and autumn, and as the money came in the Chancellor of the Exchequer quite rightly utilised it in avoidance, to use a Simla Government phrase, of the creation of new debts for other purposes. In this way it came about that when the date for redeeming the old bonds was reached the money had to be raised anew by the various departments to whom the use of it had been given meanwhile. Hence the sudden appearance of £1,270,000 raised for "naval works," of £1,000,000 apparently handed to the Cunard Company, and other entries of the same description in the weekly Treasury accounts. These moneys had all been spent before out of the proceeds of the new Exchequer bond issue, and the real puzzle is, where did the various departments get hold of the funds again wherewith to redeem the old bonds at maturity. They could not still have their cake after having eaten it, and as there is no surplus of revenue on the present scale of expenditure, as at the same time the National Debt Commissioners had undertaken to pay off £4,000,000 of the expiring Exchequer bonds without fresh borrowing, we should like very much if the new Chancellor of the Exchequer would explain this puzzle. How could the National Debt Commissioners, or any other public department, have several millions of money in hand on the day when the old Exchequer bonds fell due over and above the £4,000,000 they undertook to redeem? Did they go round and sell short-term annuities representing the Cunard advance, the naval works advance, the £450,000 handed to the Telegraph Department, and so on, to the insurance companies and other large institutions usually in possession of funds, or how was the thing done? There is a mystery about this Exchequer bond juggle from beginning to end, and without further information we are disinclined even to believe that the £4,000,000 making up the £14,000,000 of old Exchequer bonds due for redemption on December 7th were really cleanly paid off then out of the means in hand. The transaction might have been carried through if the late Government had been accumulating the sinking fund moneys instead of using them to rig the Consol market, but it never accumulated anything except debts, yet other funds

available there are none that we can see, beyond the capital portion of the short annuities created from time to time in order to sustain the monstrous and totally wasteful expenditure of the ten years' terror on naval and military works, forts, useless buildings, and such like. Perhaps Mr. Asquith will look into this matter, and see that some light is thrown upon it. He might in doing so stumble on things that would astonish him.

INDUSTRIAL AND GENERAL TRUST.

Stockholders of this conspicuous example of the genius of Leopold Salomons have just been asked by their directors to agree to a rather important proposal. The necessary resolutions will be laid before proprietors at an extraordinary general meeting called for Thursday next, when, no doubt, full details will be vouchsafed of the plan lately hatched in the directorial mind. From the information at present available it seems that the plan now proposed has been framed in the belief that a further amount of capital, although not absolutely required, could be advantageously employed with the view of improving the position and enlarging the profits of the trust, "whilst retaining for the existing stockholders the full benefits thereof." By way of a beginning the directors recommend a division of the existing unified stock, 40 per cent. of it to be converted into a new $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cumulative preference stock and the remaining 60 per cent. to consist of ordinary stock. This accomplished, the capital is to be increased by £525,000, of which £275,000 will be offered *pro rata* to the stockholders as soon as possible at the price of 105 per cent., in the form of conversion shares, to carry interest at 5 per cent. per annum on instalments to March 31, 1906. From that date conversion will take place on the lines above indicated, while the remaining portion of the new capital is to be reserved for future issue as preference stock or shares only. On completion of the conversion the capital of the trust will consist of £750,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preference stock, £250,000 of it unissued, and £750,000 ordinary stock, and the directors say they are satisfied that if this subdivision is carried out they will be able to recommend the payment of the preference dividend and a distribution at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the new ordinary stock for the current half-year. That is a slight increase on the 5 per cent. now paid on the unified capital, and stockholders may think it a sufficient inducement to agree to the scheme, especially as there "appears to be every reason for assuming that succeeding years should permit of distributions at rates at least as favourable as these." Stockholders will understand that there is no obligation to apply for the fresh capital, and, with a quite unusual solicitude, it is suggested to any stockholders unable to take up their full proportion that they should communicate with the secretary of the trust with a view to the rights being realised for them to the best advantage. Other matters brought to the notice of proprietors with the object of inducing them to look favourably on the rearrangement are the facts that the assets of the trust are now worth considerably more than their book value, and that during the current year successful business has secured exceptional profits from realisations, rendering it probable that a substantial balance will be available for augmenting the reserve. As this fund already reaches the £150,000 prescribed by the articles, it is not proposed to invest further amounts in low interest bearing trustee securities, meaning that revenue will benefit from whatever higher yields are obtained. Finally the increase in the share capital will permit an advance to a corresponding extent in the debenture stock, and as this might be placed very little above a $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. basis further advantage should come to the ordinary capital holders from the difference between this rate and whatever the fresh money can be made to earn. On the whole, we have nothing to say against these proposals, provided the large amounts to be put at the disposal of the directors are handled with wisdom and caution, and the past few years' management of the trust gives no ground

for supposing that anything rash will be attempted. Yet are there no stale eggs in the basket, no unliquidated slices of underwritings for which it has become convenient to provide more capital so as to relieve the bankers?

STOCK EXCHANGE MOVEMENTS IN 1905.

Although necessarily brief and in a measure incomplete, the *Bankers' Magazine* survey of the course of Stock Exchange values during the year now at a close is not without interest. A representative list of 325 securities is chosen for the purpose of comparison, and these at the end of 1905 were worth rather over £35,000,000 more than at the end of the previous twelve months, a result not too encouraging bearing in mind that in 1904 the improvement was as much as £50,000,000 and that at one time of the period under review a gain was brought out of nearly £70,000,000. High water mark it seems was touched in September last thanks to the termination of the Russo-Japanese war, and since that time instead of the brilliant autumn boom so freely predicted during the summer months, the course of prices has been continuously downward. It may be useful to shortly indicate some of the causes. Heavy capital creations were not without their influence in driving prices back after the initial outburst which culminated in March, but it is to external rather than internal affairs that we must look for the principal reasons. These words naturally bring the thoughts to the appalling series of events in the Russian Empire, and one would like to be able to think that the worst shocks to foreign bourses as a result of the revolution have already been experienced. Unfortunately the symptoms point entirely the other way, and notwithstanding the almost alarming state of affairs that has prevailed in Berlin and Paris, and especially Berlin, during the past few months it is impossible to look with any confidence for an immediate change for the better. Nervousness and unrest abroad naturally find their reflection here, and few dealers in credit either in the Money market or on the Stock Exchange will readily forget their experiences in the last month of the year 1905 when, thanks in large part to the blundering tactics of our Treasury such violent measures were necessary in the endeavour to prevent foreign markets from bolstering themselves up at our expense.

We may now turn to some of the individual sections and cannot do better than first draw attention to the remarkable, but none the less perfectly legitimate depreciation in the market value of South African mines. That a return of prices there to a more or less sane basis was sooner or later inevitable, readers of this JOURNAL need hardly be told, but there is a half-pathetic humour in the circumstance that it should occur coincidentally with the arrival of droves of indentured Chinese on the Rand, the coming of the yellow men having been heralded with predictions that the long-deferred boom was near at hand. Of the effect of the courageous and humane policy of stopping further importations we need not here speak, but in the long run even the Rand magnates will no doubt be glad to see the end of a venture which has been a complete failure in nearly every respect. The only other department showing a decline is that for Foreign government bonds, and that is due to the heavy depreciation in Russian securities. From this we can turn to the more favourable incidents of the year, such as the extraordinary advance—largely fictitious—in Yankee and Canadian railways. South American railways have also enjoyed a sustained forward movement together with Argentine land shares, the last named being specially prominent, and a pronounced revival in the iron and steel trades has produced a corresponding effect on the quotations for the iron and steel companies' securities. The better commercial conditions have also had their effect upon English railway stocks, but the recovery did not commence until late in the year, and the earlier prolonged depression prevents these securities from showing much improvement. Bank shares were affected a little by the less satisfactory results displayed

for the first 6 months, but there was a striking advance in insurance securities largely due to the policy of amalgamation now being so strenuously carried out.

Finally, a word about the gilt-edged market. In this only a very slight gain is to be noted, little more than a quarter of one per cent., but this is hardly to be wondered at when we remember the incapable and nerveless hands in which the administration of the national finances has rested for so long. More than that, perhaps, need not be said, seeing that the old incompetent administration has been replaced by one of enlightenment, common sense and, we hope, convictions which should and will be able to accomplish much towards placing the national credit on a stable and sure foundation once more.

THE BEIRA RAILWAY.

The third interim report of the debenture-holders' committee issued in November last has called forth a reply from the directors in which they attempt to prove that many of the committee's allegations are inaccurate and misleading, but it cannot be said that the effort has been altogether successful. By way of making a beginning the directors go back to the promotion of the company in 1892, and in doing so virtually admit that the committee was right when it claimed that "the debenture-holders' interests are at the mercy of a body of shareholders who have contributed nothing in the way of capital to the concern, and the voting power of these shareholders is absolutely controlled by the Chartered Company." Of the £600,000 forming the nominal capital the directors state that the Chartered Company took 305,000 shares and the Mozambique Company the balance, the necessary funds for the construction of the line being raised by means of debenture issues. In order to induce the public to take up the first £250,000 debentures offered the Chartered Company surrendered its beneficial interest in 250,000 of its shares while retaining the voting power in the manner set out by the committee, but the directors assert that no grievance can be found in this as the terms were fully disclosed in the prospectus. With regard to the point raised as to the transit dues on goods landed at Beira which the committee claims are not charged with the Mashonaland Company's rent-charge, but are charged in favour of the debentures and debenture stock, the directors endeavour to justify themselves by pointing out that the whole of the undertakings of this company and of the Junction Company, including lands and transit duties are charged with a sum of £850,000 and interest which becomes payable to the Mashonaland Company in the event of certain contingencies happening and that this charge is in priority to the company's debentures. These contingencies, however, only arise if proceedings should be taken to enforce the security for the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debentures and judgment be obtained, and with such a whip in their hands the directors no doubt feel that they can coerce the debenture-holders into submission.

As for the assertion that the Mashonaland Railway has been allowed to overcharge this company £60,000 for repairs to rolling stock, the directors seem to think that the action brought by the committee, or instigated by it, is unwarranted and whine that the working agreement between the companies contains a full arbitration clause appointing the President of the Institute of Civil Engineers for the time being as sole arbitrator. They add that if, contrary to the intention of the parties, it should be established that the charge for repairs cannot be made the effect would be to reduce the unpaid portion of the non-cumulative prior lien rent charges belonging to the Mashonaland Company, and would but partially enure to the benefit of the debenture-holders. But the statement that the directors' report overstated the nett receipts of the railway from Beira to Salisbury by some £82,000 is the one which has most aroused the wrath of the directors. They characterise it as wholly misleading and untrue and regard the suggestion that the Board now admitted overstatement as unwarranted and offensive. The mistake, if there is a mistake, would, however, appear to be due to the way in which the accounts are drawn up so as to give as little real information as

possible, and the tall talk of the committee having neglected to study the accounts attached to the reports is merely adding insult to injury. So too is the assertion that the influence of the Chartered Company is an advantage and not an objection because it is to the interests of both shareholders and debenture-holders that the railway should be worked as part of the entire Rhodesian system. The Chartered Company's interests in the Mashonaland and Rhodesia Railways are vital and intimate, whereas those in the Beira Company begin and end in the payment of the £42,500 rent-charge to the Mashonaland Company until something happens to bring into force that capitalisation of the rent-charge which hangs like a sword over the debenture-holders and prevents them from enforcing their rights.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: ROBINSON GOLD.

In past numbers of the REVIEW we have frequently narrated the history—the inglorious history—of the Robinson Gold Mining Company. Its career has given us a striking illustration of the financial methods of the cosmopolite cormorants, pursuit of which has made them so easily millionaires. When one can multiply shares and fix prices at will—since that the greed of the eager-to-be-rich will pay whatever is asked—the way to wealth becomes as open as the way to perdition. Originally the capital of the Robinson was only £50,000, in £1 shares, of which 45,000 were given to the vendors as purchase consideration. Subsequently it was raised to £53,375, the extra 3,375 shares being allotted to the Kambula Syndicate as the price of half a dozen claims. Only a few days after this transaction was completed—in 1889—the capital was suddenly increased to £2,750,000 in 550,000 £5 shares, the shareholders—that is, the lucky vendors—receiving ten fully-paid £5 shares for each £1, or nominally £50 for £1. In other words, capital to the amount of nearly £2,750,000 was created out of nothing and stuffed into the pockets of the vendors, making them millionaires in the twinkling of an eye. Since then they have been able to sell the paper on the market at double its nominal price. It is solely because so much water was then poured into the capital that dividends in the past sixteen years have been so tiny, but that does not concern those who have made their fortunes at the expense of the sense-bereft. They can afford to look upon these distributions and other people's losses with unruffled serenity. Here is the dividend record up to date:—

Year.	Div.	Year.	Div.
1889	5 per cent.	1897	15 per cent.
1890	4 " "	1898	16 " "
1891	5 " "	1899	8 " "
1892	7 " "	1902	13½ " "
1893	8 " "	1903	11 " "
1894	10 " "	1904	14 " "
1895	14 " "	1905	17 " "
1896	12 " "		

The report for 1905 has not yet been published; it will not be for some months to come, but it is probable that the company did better than in 1904. If, however, the shares are to be remunerative to the investor the company will have to improve greatly upon the past, which we do not think probable. The distribution of 17 per cent. for the current year is a record for this company, but it is not by a long way high enough to justify the present price of the share. And this price, after the persistent slump of the past few months, is low compared with the averages of other years, when dividends were smaller. Look at the record of highest and lowest since 1895:—1895, $11\frac{1}{2}$ 7; 1896, $10\frac{3}{4}$ 7½; 1897, $8\frac{1}{2}$ 6½; 1898, $9\frac{1}{2}$ 7½; 1899, $11\frac{1}{2}$ 7; 1900, $9\frac{1}{2}$ 7; 1901, $10\frac{3}{4}$ 7½; 1902, $12\frac{1}{2}$ 10½; 1903, $11\frac{1}{2}$ 9½; 1904, $10\frac{1}{2}$ 9; 1905, $10\frac{3}{4}$ 8½. Taking the yield at 10 per cent. on the dividend for 1905 the investor stands to get back only a few pounds beyond his principal. For the life of the mine is generally put at only twelve years. This would mean an aggregate return of £120 on £100 invested, leaving a mere £20 as profit; or less than 2 per cent. per annum. It does not follow that in the closing years of the mine's life an average of 17 per cent. will be possible, seeing that there is a likelihood of much of the

poorer ore of the Main Reef proper being mixed with the richer ore of the South Reef and the Leader. The sum that would have to be set aside annually to redeem the principal, calculated at 3 per cent. compound interest, is about £6 18s. 6d., giving a nett yield in that case of 3½ per cent. It would not be in the least difficult to pick up dozens of sound securities giving as good a yield as this, with a greater certainty of its continuity.

THE STATE OF RUSSIA.

To all outward seeming Russia continues in a state of chaos, the only bright spot in the whole of the Tsar's dominions being Finland, where the expiring legislative machine is busy drafting a new electoral law, and otherwise preparing for an extension of the people's liberties. Throughout the rest of Russia disorders are rampant, and the Baltic provinces appear to be almost in a state of independence. Troops, however, are being despatched thither, and much bloodshed is probable before order is restored. Appalling stories of fighting and slaughter in Moscow are also being forwarded from Petersburg. As, however, the telegraph service between the two cities is completely interrupted and the train service nearly so, it will be well to receive all these flaming accounts with scepticism. There may have been much fighting, but we cannot believe that 2,000 insurgents had been killed and 10,000 wounded on Christmas Day and the days immediately preceding. The only thing that appears probable is that the troops have not yet succeeded in overcoming the resistance of the insurgents, and it may be that some of these troops are in revolt, or so disaffected as to be kept away from the scenes of conflict. In Petersburg itself the movement to bring about another universal strike would seem to have failed, but it does not follow that the uprising of the people, after the example of Moscow, will not take place there. It seems, indeed, as if the authorities were busy provoking the population to riot, if it be true that squads of Cossacks are marauding throughout the city and attacking any group of people they catch sight of, beating them with their cruel whips and shooting them down. The end of such behaviour must be a general revolt. Meantime, however, the Tsar and his ministers are busy elaborating the new electoral law, under which the Imperial Duma is about to be called into existence. Complicated checks are being elaborated to prevent a too direct impact of the population upon the character and aims of those elected to this body. We fear the machinery is too intricate to be understood or to be workable, and the obvious danger is that the time wasted in these ingeniously elaborate devices and expedients may be sufficient to allow revolutionary forces all over the empire to develop and threaten the destruction, not only of the autocracy, but every form of social order. From the Caucasus, from Poland, from Russia west, south and east, the news reads ominously, and meantime the Government is becoming increasingly hard up for money. It has authorised an increase in the amount of Treasury bills, of floating debt outstanding in Russia and abroad, to a total of £40,000,000, or 400,000,000 roubles. This will not help the Government so very much, since £15,000,000 of these bonds have already been placed in Germany, and were, indeed, renewed there the other week by Messrs. Mendelssohn and Co., of Berlin, and their associates. They had no choice but to renew, since the Government had no means whatever of providing money for their redemption. It is said that some gold has been smuggled through to Berlin from Russia, the amount being variously stated at from £2,500,000 to £3,000,000, but that amount could only be a sort of earnest of payment to come on account of the war expenditure largely incurred by the Tsar's Government in Germany and to a very small extent yet liquidated.

THOSE BRAVE YANKEE INSURANCE TOUTS.

They are as incorrigible as the worst skinflint money-lender Mr. Labouchere ever exposed. Nothing

abashes them, nothing daunts. The cue of the agent is to go on as if nothing had happened, as if there were no lordly "presidents" of the offices in New York who do not earn their dazzling salaries, but vote them, as "Mr. Dooley" says; no political bribery funds, no organised system of family plunder or capitalist domination. We recently gave a sample of the way a policy accepted from the Equitable of the United States had worked out, and now present a letter which is being circulated by the agents of the New York Life, probably enough with a view to neutralise the effect of such exposures. That the letter is full of impudent assumption goes untaxed. The generosity of the cash bonus paraded is very adroitly used to hide the fact that much more was paid for it than it was worth. For if a "non-profit" fifteen-year term policy would have cost the victim only £400 all told in premiums, why was it necessary to charge him an aggregate of £1,065 6s. 3d. in order to be able to bestow upon him a "profit" bonus of £373 15s. 2d. at the end of the term? Droll liberality that, is it not? Queer though it be, we venture to doubt the statement that "the above figures have been taken from numerous settlements we have made this year," because no authentic accounts of such are ever made public, and because the annual official returns filed with the State Insurance Department in Albany, New York State, do not reveal any such generous scale of bonus distributions. The amount paraded as bonus in the appended letter is equivalent to about 37.4 per cent. of the face value of the policy which has become a claim, whereas for 1904 the whole of the bonuses allotted or distributed on the policies of the company came to no more than 24 per cent. upon the amount of the claims paid. And how small a proportion of the contracts written ever become claims.

But why are British offices so supine in preventing this kind of circularising? Do they think that they will escape the mud-splashes when businesses carried on by such devices founder, as one day they must? Policy-holders themselves will have to agitate in favour of the bestowal of larger powers upon the Board of Trade so that it may interfere for the protection of an ignorant, easily victimised community. If Mr. Lloyd-George now could ask the people responsible here for the emission of this effusion for proof of the accuracy of the statements made, and had power, failing a satisfactory reply, to put a stop to the thing, life insurance business would be well on the road to be cleared of unsavoury surroundings.

The oldest and largest International Life Insurance Company in the world. Supervised by eighty-two Governments.

Insurance in force,
£396,000,000.

Accumulated funds,
£80,000,000.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

JOHN A. McCALL, President.

Chief Office for Great Britain and Ireland, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.

72, High Street, Wallingford, Berks,

December 12, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—It is more than likely that the following illustration of what the New York Life Insurance Company is doing for the policy holders in this district may interest you.

Policy No. 348,106 matured recently for settlement. It was for £1,000, and was written on the 15-year endowment plan—15 years' accumulation of profits, with an annual premium of £71 os. 5d. Age at entry 37, nearest birthday. The holder of this policy was entitled to draw from us, in addition to the £1,000, the face value of the policy, £373 15s. 2d. cash bonus, which we had made for him during the period. You will see at once, by a little figuring, that this works out at nearly £2 10s. per £100 insured per annum, which is appreciably higher than any other company is paying in England on a similar policy, or on any form of endowment policy.

To look at it in another way, non-profit term insurance for the amount of his policy would have cost him, in round figures, for the past 15 years £400.

Making allowance for this, the balance of his investment works out at over 6 per cent. compound interest.

Instead of drawing his cash, which was £1,373 15s. 2d., the insured could convert it into a paid-up policy of £2,191, or rather more than double the amount originally insured.

This gives a reversionary bonus of an amount of more than the sum insured.

Then, if the insured had taken the total annuity payable in lieu of the foregoing, amounting to £128 17s. 2d. per annum,

he would be drawing an income for life of about double the amount of the premium he had been paying for the last 15 years.

The above figures have been taken at random from numerous settlements we have made this year. There has been no selection. It must be borne in mind that, favourable as the settlement is to the insured under this policy, during the 15 years the insured has had exceptionally favourable advantages under this policy in regard to term extension, paid-up values, loan values, and so on.

Yours faithfully,

A. MILLARD.

Passing Events.

The Jokai (Assam) Tea Company as usual at the conclusion of the plucking for the season, has issued an interim report showing a total crop of 4,375,600 lbs., which is 26,800 lbs. below the estimates and 53,644 lbs. less than the output of the previous season. Sales to November 30 amounted to 1,917,898 lbs., compared with 2,147,340 lbs., but thanks to the improved demand for the better qualities of tea the average price obtained has gone up from 8½d. to 9¼d. per lb. and the directors consider that the prospects of the season justify their making an interim distribution of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

The momentous news comes to hand that the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, fearing that a serious situation might be created by the carrying into effect of Lord Elgin's despatch with regard to Chinese labour, is taking steps to secure an estimate of the losses which may result from a suspension of the importation of Chinese coolies. If the Chamber of Mines had the crudest notion of equity it would confess it to be a more creditable task to estimate the losses investors have suffered from mine boss rapacity and dishonesty. We cannot, however, expect the bosses to show themselves up in this manner, nor can we expect them to tot up the hundreds of thousands already spent on importing coolies which would otherwise have been divided amongst the shareholders. How many years will it take to make good this prodigal extravagance? We doubt whether it ever will be made good. Mr. J. B. Robinson knows what he is talking about when he declares that his brother magnates have not used the right methods to recruit blacks. Their system, on the contrary, has been directed to the discouragement of natives. But there, they must do something to save their faces! Have they not suffered obloquy enough?

With the cessation of war the foreign trade and shipping of Japan are certain to show considerable contraction, and we find that the total exports for October were only 29,508,530 yen compared with 34,847,611 yen in the same period of last year, bringing the aggregate for the 10 months 1,870,646 yen below 1904 at a total of 253,687,507 yen. Principal declines for the month were in raw silk and silk tissues, against some moderate increases in cotton tissues and yarns, "general" manufactured articles and sea weeds. Imports are also on the down grade, the aggregate for the month being 29,251,173 yen against 33,414,730 yen, thanks entirely to heavy decreases in raw cotton and rice. For the 10 months, however, there is still an increase of 123,264,624 yen at 422,438,844 yen, due, of course, to the colossal war expenditure. Exports of gold during the month were 1,250,000 yen or about 4,300,637 yen less, bringing the total decline to date to 86,344,616 yen, a very satisfactory state of affairs. Imports show a decline for October of a trifling amount, but the gain on the year is 15,014,468 yen, and provided it is not the result of loan operations, we hope the flow towards the country will continue. The foreign shipping trade continues remarkably good.

From the dividend announcement just made by the United Indigo and Chemical Company we should infer that the combine is doing a little better. When the annual accounts were made up in August last the directors paid—although the company did not earn—eighteen months of preference dividend, leaving six months in arrear, and this is now to be cleared off, leaving the company without any unliquidated obligations so far as the capital account is concerned. As this has been done before the current year has half run its

course there is reason to hope that the payment will now be kept up to date with a little over for the reserve—not for ordinary dividend.

When the terms for the absorption of the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway by the Great Central Company were announced some weeks back a good deal of dissatisfaction was expressed by the first and second preference shareholders, who thought they had not been quite fairly treated. Such attitude appeared to us perfectly reasonable and it now seems that a compromise has been arrived at, and that the Parliamentary bill should have a comparatively free passage. We should like to have details of the fresh agreement.

It was inevitable that a further effort should be made to bring about a continuance of the nitrate restricting combine, and it seems that the re-establishment of the compact is considered of such great importance to the welfare of Chili that the Government is interesting itself in the matter. It invited the principal producers to a conference on 21st inst. when a resolution was passed requesting the general committee to make a strenuous effort to effect an agreement. Whether any good will result remains to be seen, but the Minister of Finance has promised that the Government would grant £50,000 yearly for promoting the world's consumption of nitrate, and if this action leads to an increased demand it may be possible to fix an output giving a sufficiently large quota to satisfy all parties.

Mr. Russell Rea, M.P., has issued as a pamphlet a lecture entitled "Two Theories of Free Trade," delivered by him in Birmingham on November 14, and has done well, for it is a production full of admirably expressed views upon what the reactionary Tories have chosen to make the dominant political question of the hour. He begins by pointing out that foreign trade is not everything to a nation, and then goes on to expound the true nature of Free Trade as advocated by the enlightened upholders thereof, not only in this country, but the world over. The assertions that our trade is degenerating so constantly put forward by the Birmingham tariffites is denied and proved to be untrue. He quotes Professor Ashley, Mr. Chamberlain's true henchman, as asserting that "England is turning apparently more and more to exports, the products of cheap, low-grade, and docile labour. Let us see what are the comparatively new exports which are taking the place of the old? Coal and unmanufactured clay, apparel and slops, pickles, vinegar, and preserved fruits, oil and floor cloth, caoutchouc manufactures, soap, furniture, cabinet and upholstery wares, cordage, and twine. Now, I believe that all these are cases in which the bulk of the labour employed is cheap and unskilled." To this rash assertion Mr. Rea opposes a flat denial, and justifies his contention by well-chosen examples. Altogether, a most timely publication, which should be of great use to Liberal candidates, many of whom may neither have had the time nor the opportunity to acquire a mastery of Free Trade principles and illustrative facts.

Mr. Burns has begun well in Battersea. His speech delivered to his constituents on Wednesday night was manly, generous, and full of the noblest spirit of humanity. The more other candidates imitate him the better will the elections go. They should give such a majority to the Liberal party as will ensure it a long lease of power in which to legislate for the good of the people at large instead of for classes thereof. Mr. Burns, though, retains his enthusiasms fresh and buoyant, in spite of the withering influence of politics, and it will not be easy for the average candidate to emulate him. But every man must try.

Is it true, as Mr. Frank C. Bolland, the special correspondent of the *Morning Leader* in Johannesburg, states, that the wages of some Chinese coolies have been reduced to as little as 8d. per day? That, he says, is the assertion of Mr. Bianchini, late compound manager on the Witwatersrand mines. Mr. Bolland also asserts that he has been informed by two Chinese head boys that floggings are still being administered on various mines by authority of the compound managers without reference to the so-called

inspectors. Two mines specifically mentioned by his informants were the Glen Deep and the Lancaster. This is the sort of thing, doubtless, which the mine bosses will now agitate to get us to pay compensation for putting an end to.

It is, on the whole, good news that China and Japan have agreed upon a treaty fixing the status of the Japanese in Manchuria. The Chinese commissioners deny, and probably with truth, that the treaty is in any degree of the nature of an alliance between China and Japan. It merely settles Manchuria, and under its provisions, which reached this country in the end of last week *via* Washington, China consents to lease the Liao-tung peninsula to Japan, and concedes to that power the control of the railway in the peninsula as far as Chang-chun—that is to say, as far as Harbin—the presumption being that the native city on the borders of the eastern part of the desert of Gobi will mark the division between Russian and Japanese control in that part of Asia. China is also to allow Japan to build a railway from An-tung on the Ya-lu River to Mukden, but China retains the right to purchase this road after a certain time. The most important article in the treaty, however, is that which opens up 16 of the principal ports and cities of Manchuria, including Harbin, to the world's commerce, so Japan is faithfully keeping her undertaking to secure the "open door" in that part of the Chinese Empire.

After long consideration the India Council has decided to abandon the old-fashioned and clumsy methods of exchanging rupees for sovereigns at the Currency Department. Hitherto it has been the custom for bankers requiring rupees to import into India sovereigns from Australia and present them at the Department for exchange, the Government in turn having to ship these sovereigns home to pay for fresh supplies of silver. It was a roundabout and costly proceeding, and the Council has at last wakened up to the fact that there is a much simpler plan which will save both time and money. Under the new arrangement sovereigns shipped from Australia to London by bankers and others will be purchased by the Council and paid for by telegraphic transfers at the rate of 15 rupees to the £ about ten days after the gold leaves Fremantle.

We do not quite know what to think of the *Daily Telegraph's* story that three soldiers connected with South African war stores finance now in the London military district have been placed under "close arrest." If it be true that the three consist of two non-commissioned officers "of quite senior rank"—just imagine their glory!—and one junior commissioned officer, all we can say is that their arrest would probably signify an intention on the part of the really guilty ones to use them as scape-goats. Mr. Haldane, the new War Minister, is not going to allow himself to be befooled by a stale device of that kind, we may be sure, and if prosecutions are ordered at all by him, they will concern much more important individuals than non-commissioned officers, even if "of quite senior rank." We should advise the jingo *D.T.* to try again.

The amalgamation of the Highland and Great North of Scotland Railway Companies is not to go through without a protest, although we do not think there is much weight in the objections embodied in a lengthy circular just issued by a committee of shareholders of the Highland Company. Stress is laid on the duplication of the Great North Company's capital, it being asserted that for part of their stocks the Highland stockholders receive nothing but water, and there would perhaps be something in this point but for the fact, that water or no, the Great North has been a much more consistent dividend-payer in recent years than the Highland. Furthermore it is not considered fair to base calculations on last year's results only, and if 25 years were taken the average Highland dividend would come out at 3.29 per cent. against 2.69 per cent. by the Great North. But performances of over a couple of decades ago can hardly be considered good material for present-day calculations, and it is rather giving the case away to have to go back all those years to produce something favourable for the Highland. Suppose

the last half-dozen years were taken when the Highland was frequently paying no ordinary dividend, how would the position stand then? Other objections are that the Great North Company is committed to considerable capital outlay against nothing by the Highland, and has no borrowing powers compared with a million, that the Highland is steadily progressive and the other company not so, and that the security for the preference issues is really worse instead of better. On the whole, however, we cannot consider that any formidable case has been made out against the scheme, and doubt if this pronouncement will have much influence with stockholders. From the public point of view it is different, and its interests must be safeguarded by Parliament.

After the deplorable report they received in August last shareholders of the Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet, and Colour Dyers will not be astonished to learn that the preference dividend due on 1st prox. will not be forthcoming. The directors have issued a brief statement intimating that the payment is postponed until after the accounts for the year ending June 30 next have been prepared. That sounds ominous of something distressing, especially when we remember that in order to provide the preference dividend for 1904-5, it was necessary to take £4,514 from the slender reserve, besides using up the entire credit of £2,301 brought in from the previous year.

The committee of the Stock Exchange announce some rather important alterations in connection with the daily Official List. Commencing from Tuesday next, on days other than Saturdays, when closing time will be adhered to, bargains done before 3.30 p.m. may be marked up to that hour, and quotations will be collected half an hour later than usual to appear in the List as 3.30 quotations. Then transactions in shares of a less value than £5 will be marked in shillings and pence in multiples of threepence, those done in fractions of £1 being quoted in the shillings and pence and in all other securities bargains may be marked in thirty-seconds. These appear to be useful reforms particularly in view of the close prices now made in certain securities, a matter of 1½d. or 3d. sometimes dividing the selling and buying prices at which a jobber will deal, and we hope arrangements have been made to expedite the printing and delivery of the lists, so that they may be available no later than at present.

The directors of the Central Uruguay Eastern Extension Railway have lately concluded a rather important agreement with the Government, and now lay details of the contract before the shareholders. It appears that the Government is anxious to have constructed the lines embodied in the original concession so as to give railway access to the Brazilian frontier, and offers the company sundry advantages in the way of guarantees if it will undertake to carry out the work. Thus instead of the Government being repaid the entire earnings over the 6 per cent. guaranteed interest until all monies advanced under the guarantees have been repaid the company will retain one-third of the difference between 6 and 8 per cent. Moreover, the Government will accept as the basis of ascertaining the net earnings the present working agreement with the Central Uruguay Railway Company of Monte Video, instead of enforcing its own rules and regulations, and further agrees to prolong the concession privileges for an additional period of 15 years, from 1926 to 1941. It is anticipated that the new lines to the Brazilian frontier can be constructed at a cost which will reduce the outlay for the whole line from £9,176 per mile, as it is at present, to £8,000 per mile, and the directors have no hesitation in recommending the scheme for acceptance. More capital will, of course, be required, and power will be taken to raise £500,000, which, with the unissued amount of £300,000 and the corresponding borrowing powers will suffice to continue the line to the Brazilian frontier. It is proposed that the new capital shall consist of £750,000 in 5 per cent. preference shares and £50,000 in ordinary shares.

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
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SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

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MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

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CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over **£1,000,000.**

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

NON-CONTENTIOUS POLICY CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Had this week's Bank return appeared earlier in the year we do not think the directors could have avoided an advance in their minimum discount rate. It is the poorest return in several respects seen since the darkest time of the South African War. The reserve has fallen off by £1,627,000 to £17,629,000, most of the decrease being due to absorptions of metallic currency in the provinces. Also the Bank lost £244,000 in gold exported within its week in spite of the holidays. As next week's return can hardly show an improvement, since gold still leaves the Bank for export, an advance in the rate early in the new year is regarded as probable. Some think that if further withdrawals of gold take place to-morrow the rate may be forced up on Monday.

We hope not, and there is comfort in the fact that general apprehension now prevails about the prospects of money rates in the new year. Both Bank and market realise that most careful management will be necessary to prevent the afflictions visible enough on other markets from reacting dangerously upon ours. Also it is possible that the supplies of raw gold coming in next week may be sufficient to meet the current foreign demands for the metal. The total will be about £1,000,000, and to that extent at least drafts upon the stock of the Bank will be obviated. We fear, however, that before a substantial return to better conditions takes place the Bank rate will have to be raised. The risk of keeping it where it is is becoming too

great in view of the overburdened state of credit in Berlin, New York, and even Paris. Discount rates are low in Paris, falling in Berlin, and not excessive in New York, although rates for merely temporary loans may be severe, rising yesterday in New York, for instance, to 125 per cent.; but the discount markets hardly indicate the kind of strain to which credit is subjected on the one hand by the inflation of prices for Stock Exchange securities, and on the other by the exhausted state of the Russian Treasury. That the Bank of England stock of coin and bullion should at this critical time be down to £28,530,000, notwithstanding the unexampled magnitude of the gold production, is a fact calculated to warn us of troubles to come.

On the week the market did not get itself much deeper in the Bank's debt, only £643,000, but its necessities drove it there again to-day for a large sum, something approaching £1,500,000 to £2,000,000, and although loan rates outside eased off in the afternoon, there is no probability of cheap money next week, just because the market will have to begin to pay the bank off the moment it gets dividend and other resources to enable it to do so. To-day week to week money was 4 to 4½ per cent., and call money 4 to 5 per cent. until afternoon, when the multitude of the over-supplied were offering spare balances overnight at 3½ per cent.

Discount rates were kept tolerably firm at 3½-4 per cent. on three months' remitted bills, with quotations for other usances as in our table, but there was a disposition in the afternoon to work the market down because the French exchange came somewhat firmer at 25 uaqw pur 'awj 'A'snouituo [1115 s1 11 '01 '52 01 60 '52 recollect that French allottees of New Rio Tinto shares may have as much as £1,500,000 to £2,000,000 to lay down here before January 2, the significance of such a depressed exchange is emphasised, notwithstanding the suggested depressing influence exerted by the transmission of Argentine Government money to Paris. We hope, therefore, discount rates here will not be allowed to fall away. Even if it be true that large remittances are expected from New York by to-morrow's mail, these, unless they mean gold imports, cannot have any permanent influence in lessening the pressure on our market or in strengthening the Bank's reserve.

But the India Council appears to look for easy times next month, for it renewed a small amount for a month to-day at 3½ per cent.

SILVER.

A week ago prices for bars were marked down ⅓d., owing to lack of business due to the holidays, but on Saturday news was received of a French Mint demand for 50,000 kilos or £200,000 to be delivered half in January and half in March. Tenders were to be sent in on Wednesday, and under this influence quotations recovered ⅓d. to 30⅓d. per oz. for cash and 29⅞d. per oz. for future shipment. When, however, this business had been disposed of the market relapsed into an extremely quiet condition, and prices gradually sagged to 29⅞d. and 29⅞d. per oz., but a slight rally at the close left forward metal ⅓d. above this figure. Applications for the Rs. 1,00,00,000 Council drafts offered this week reached a total of Rs. 4,35,00,000 in bills and Rs. 70,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 86,14,000 were allotted in bills, and Rs. 13,86,000 in transfers, tenders at 1s. 4⅓d. and 1s. 4⅓d. per rupee receiving about 19 per cent. Next Wednesday another Rs. 1,00,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, December 27, 1905.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	45,648,245	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	27,198,245
		Silver Bullion	—
	£45,648,245		£45,648,245

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 12,798,989
Rest ..	3,273,248	Other Securities ..	39,535,486
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	7,816,972	Notes ..	16,297,185
Other Deposits ..	44,221,033	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,332,006
Seven Day and other Bills ..	99,413		

£69,963,666

£69,963,666

Dated December 28, 1905.

J. G. NAIRNE Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT

Last Year. Dec. 28.		Dec. 20, 1905.	Dec. 27, 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
5,198,909	Rest ..	3,264,799	3,273,248	8,449	—
9,103,546	Pub. Deposits ..	7,407,743	7,816,972	409,229	—
44,321,197	Other do. ..	45,638,330	44,221,033	—	1,417,297
70,180	7 Day Bills ..	83,596	99,413	15,817	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,609,872	Gov. Securities ..	12,798,989	12,798,989	—	—
35,463,989	Other do. ..	38,892,617	39,535,486	—	642,869
20,173,062	Total Reserve ..	19,255,862	17,629,191	1,626,671	—
				2,060,166	2,060,166
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation.	£	£	£	£
28,204,210	Coin and Bullion ..	20,168,970	29,351,060	182,090	—
29,927,272	Proportion ..	36,974,832	28,530,251	—	1,444,581
474 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	364 p.c.	334 p.c.	—	24 p.c.
3 ..		4 ..	4 ..	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £244,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
Week ending				
October 4	320,138,000	262,214,000	57,924,000	—
" 11	212,582,000	184,726,000	27,856,000	—
" 18	270,692,000	226,552,000	44,140,000	—
" 25	203,220,000	187,631,000	15,589,000	—
Nov. 1	270,695,000	250,973,000	19,722,000	—
" 8	216,916,000	195,045,000	21,871,000	—
" 15	260,846,000	241,533,000	19,313,000	—
" 22	222,090,000	176,593,000	45,497,000	—
" 29	217,274,000	253,726,000	—	36,452,000
Dec. 6	315,761,000	216,663,000	99,098,000	—
" 13	201,126,000	182,495,000	18,631,000	—
" 20	301,263,000	261,237,000	40,026,000	—
" 27	161,274,000	157,482,000	3,792,000	—
	12,253,397,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,329,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £1,800,000 in six months' Treasury bills were opened on Wednesday at the Bank of England, when the total amount applied for was £5,987,000. Tenders at £98 8s. 4d. received about 40 per cent., and those above in full, while the average rate obtained was £3 2s. 6.25d.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,200,000	—	Jan. 27	—
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
25,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday, Australia ..	£6,000
Net Efflux	654,000
Total	£660,000
Saturday, Continent ..	£200,000
Thursday, S. America ..	400,000
.. ..	Continent ..
Total	£660,000

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	5	May 25, 1900.	3 1/2 3 1/2
Berlin	6	December 11, 1905	5 1/2 4 1/2
Hamburg	6	December 11, 1905	5 1/2 4 1/2
Frankfort	6	December 11, 1905	5 1/2 4 1/2
Amsterdam	3	November, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Vienna	4 1/2	October, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	5 1/2 5 1/2
St. Petersburg	7	December, 1904	7 1/2 7 1/2
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4 1/2 4 1/2
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5 1/2 5 1/2
Stockholm	5 1/2	December, 1905.	5 1/2 5 1/2
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Calcutta	7	December 14, 1905	— —
Bombay	7	December 14, 1905	— —
New York call money ..	5	—	— —

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25 10 1/2	25 09	Antwerp	short	25 18 1/2	25 15 1/2
Brussels	chqs.	25 17	25 15	Italy	sight	25 07 1/2	25 08 1/2
Amsterdam	sight	12 09 1/2	12 09 1/2	Constantinople	3 mths	110 12	110 20
Berlin	chqs.	20 39	20 40 1/2	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	17d	163d
Do.	3 mths	20 19	20 22	Valparaiso	90 dys	14 1/2 d.	14 1/2 d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20 38 1/2	20 39 1/2	Calcutta	T.T.	1 1/4	1 1/4 1/2
Frankfort	short	20 36	20 37	Bombay	T.T.	1 1/4	1 1/4 1/2
Vienna	sight	24 01 1/2	24 02 1/2	Hong Kong	T.T.	2 0 1/2	2 0 1/2
St. Petersburg	3 mths	93 70	93 70	Shanghai	T.T.	2 10 1/2	2 10 1/2
New York	60 dys	4 82 1/2	4 82	Singapore	T.T.	2 1/2 1/2	2 1/2 1/2
Lisbon	sight	50 1/2	50 1/2	Yokohama	4 mths	2 0 1/2	2 0 1/2
Madrid	sight	32 00	31 65				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Dec. 23.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	in reduction of debt
under Cunard Agreement	Cunard Agreement
Act	Deficiency Advances re-
Ways and Means	paid
Deficiency	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	repaid
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	Increase in Exchequer
Transvaal and Orange River	balances
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£3,336,187	£3,336,187

* Exclusive of £492,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £7,010,537.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 21, 1905.	Dec. 14, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1905.	Dec. 22, 1904.
Coin and bullion	£ 4,869,800	£ 4,840,800	£ 4,938,840	£ 4,902,760
Other securities	23,875,480	23,246,800	22,396,920	23,038,040
Note circulation	26,018,120	27,182,960	27,024,920	26,029,760
Deposits	3,829,800	2,978,000	3,468,560	3,511,120

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Dec. 23, 1905.	Dec. 15, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1904.
Cash in hand	£ 44,346,050	£ 42,916,700	£ 41,969,550	£ 50,699,150
Bills discounted	51,587,250	47,762,000	46,713,500	40,695,950
Advances on stocks	3,710,750	2,023,100	2,675,550	2,824,550
Note circulation	70,210,300	66,099,450	64,835,650	67,107,350
Public deposits	30,723,050	28,970,200	26,230,400	28,446,200

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Dec. 23, 1905.	Dec. 15, 1905.	Dec. 7, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1904.
Gold Reserve	£ 44,888,041	£ 44,888,000	£ 44,937,958	£ 48,423,333
Silver reserve	12,087,375	12,109,375	12,018,583	12,246,625
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	2,217,666	1,977,500	1,989,291	2,041,416
Note circulation	71,374,541	70,354,500	71,593,660	67,834,333
Bills discounted	21,521,250	22,796,291	22,546,708	17,490,958

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Dec. 23, 1905	Dec. 16, 1905	Dec. 9, 1905	Dec. 24, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Gold	15,022,853	15,019,283	15,011,990	14,897,370
Silver	22,852,236	22,887,398	22,746,928	19,953,210
Foreign Bills	3,501,741	3,449,532	3,381,629	1,760,975
Discount and Short Bills	46,068,898	45,978,255	45,887,648	46,236,043
Treasury Account	20,890,234	20,867,840	20,857,691	21,298,416
Notes in circulation	61,759,992	61,583,354	61,841,939	63,890,084
Current Account deposits	22,078,963	22,144,045	22,225,193	24,024,269
Dividends Interests	2,822,369	2,901,317	2,662,150	2,484,049
Government Securities	7,403,378	7,443,754	6,797,997	4,923,997

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 28, 1905	Dec. 21, 1905	Dec. 14, 1905	Dec. 29, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	115,134,200	115,555,720	115,401,280	106,314,920
Silver in hand	42,997,120	43,460,120	43,514,960	44,089,360
Bills discounted	43,914,720	34,197,920	33,529,120	30,611,200
Advances	20,109,240	20,220,640	19,783,400	20,088,800
Note circulation	182,635,320	179,703,640	179,619,560	172,993,240
Public deposits	15,610,080	15,420,720	14,940,600	9,499,960
Private deposits	28,626,480	24,380,680	23,607,200	24,176,720

Proportion between bullion and circulation 86 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against 88 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. a week ago.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Dec. 23, 1905	Dec. 16, 1905	Dec. 9, 1905	Dec. 24, 1904
	£	£	£	£
Specie	35,242,000	34,844,000	34,706,000	42,082,000
Legal tenders	42,997,120	43,460,120	43,514,960	44,089,360
Loans and discounts	201,220,000	200,920,000	203,280,000	211,480,000
Circulation	10,610,000	10,612,000	10,653,800	8,573,400
Net deposits	197,006,000	196,778,000	198,448,000	218,820,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £831,300 against an excess last week of £792,300.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 12.	Dec. 14.	Dec. 19.	Dec. 28.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. do.	3 months	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hamburg	3 months	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paris	cheques	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do.	3 months	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Marseilles	3 months	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Switzerland	3 months	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Austria	3 months	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Petersburg	3 months	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Moscow	3 months	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York	60 days	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lisbon	3 months	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oporto	3 months	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
Copenhagen	3 months	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Christiania	3 months	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stockholm	3 months	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4
Three months	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4
Four months	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six months	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Three months fine inland bills	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Four months	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six months	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" short loan rates	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Current rates for 7 day loans	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$
" for call loans	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

In the old-fashioned world with which we were familiar long ago an advance in the lender's charge for call money to 100 or 125 per cent. might have been accepted as an infallible symptom of collapse on the Wall Street market. But in the new world of cosmopolitan credit in banking we cannot be certain that anything is going to happen just yet beyond a further enrichment of the money-controlling few at the expense of the dupable many. As the pressure increased in New York through the efforts of the champion *accapareurs*, and through the unloading of Berlin and Paris, the master players found relief by dumping their paper on the London market, by manufacturing accommodation bills against future shipments of produce, and so made ready to ride out the storm. And they may ride it out once again, for the

resources of the banks controlled by the Standard Oil group, by the Morgan group, the Galeses, the Hills, Goulds, Havemeyers, Keenes, and Kuhn Loeb's, with their trusts and insurance offices, must be as nearly without limit as any combination of credit manufacturers and distillers could be. And if a few of the banks, within the charmed circle or without, do go under in the scrimmage, what matters it? The resources of the rest are immediately called up to bridge over the gap, and everything goes on as before. Prices dance upwards like inflated air-balloons loosed from their strings. The more the storm appears to threaten the higher prices go, as witness the remarkable performance of Anacondas.

And if the worst came, would not a good all-round smash up be just the thing for Mr. Shaw, the Secretary to the Treasury? He wants to establish an "elastic" paper money based upon the security of the total assets of the banks, and a general suspension among banks would surely prove to the people the wisdom of his ideas. Notes issued on the security of "Eries," "Chesapeakes," "Anacondas," "Steel Common," "Wabashes," "Atchisons," "Missouris," and whole catalogues of other wind-blown "securities" should prove a reliable and precious source of happiness and safety for all riggers and monopolisers for ever and ever. The Standard Oilers could then pay their losses in the European and Asiatic oil trade with these notes, carry their hidden stores of copper, their bales of copper mine shares, overwhelm Lawson, "bust" Heintze, and generally lord it over creation as represented by meek and wool-shedding mankind. It is therefore inexpedient to make guesses about what may happen in the United States should the oil banks go, the Rockefellers get swamped, or gold exports drive call money up to 500 per cent. While paper can be made to float and do duty for realised and substantial wealth long enough to enable its manufacturers to substitute it for the cash of the people, we need be under no apprehension.

But would you buy them at current prices? Not on any consideration; not though "John D." himself confidentially informed us that he and his Rogers were going to put Anacondas to 30 and Amalgamateds to 250; Southern Pacifics to 100 per cent. premium and copper to £150 per ton. The more the great croupiers of the game prophesy and invite the public to join the more we should be disposed to abstain. And the warning conveyed by spasms of excessive rates for banking credits should be still accepted to the extent of inducing all who possess securities now quoted at elevated and rising prices to hasten to let the riggers of the market have them. You should not wait for the last shilling; take the visible profit now and be thankful.

In spite of the fascination of Wall Street, the mind is still disposed to revert to Russia, as perhaps after all the true storm centre of international usury, and to ask what will happen in Berlin or Paris if Russia defaults. Will the suggestion of the *Moniteur des Interêts Matériels* prove feasible—that a moratorium should be granted to the Tsar's Treasury, enabling it to substitute bonds for cash in the payment of the debt interest for some years? Would the bankers involved be able to negotiate these moratorium bonds, to get the bulk of Russia's creditors to take them? They might; for did not the Rothschilds finance Brazil through a critical time by just this device, careless of all it might mean to the people of Brazil? Much will depend on the speed with which order is restored within the Russian empire, and the indications upon this point are not promising. Nor is the actual position of the Russian Treasury favourable to delay in the application of remedies of some sort, if what a Petersburg correspondent of the *Times* insinuates in Friday's issue is true. The new Treasury bond loan, raising the total floating debt in that form to £40,000,000, is "a sham concealing the illegal depletion of the gold reserve," he says a financier on the spot told him. It looks highly probable, for the same authority added:—"The Government had to meet the obligations con-

tracted abroad in respect of the German loan of £15,000,000 and of military and naval orders, both of which called for payments in gold, which has been steadily drafted abroad lately. Moreover, the Treasury is empty. These reasons explain the recent decree authorising the Minister of Finance to issue Treasury bonds negotiable by the Imperial Bank." From another source the correspondent has obtained confirmation of the *Molva's* recent statement that the provincial branches of the Imperial Bank refuse to exchange notes for gold. "It is also asserted on good authority that the Imperial Bank has raised its rate of discount to 9 per cent. Strange to say, prices on the bourse rose again to-day. Fours reached 80."

All this is ominous, and not least the advances in the price of the bonds. That comes from a fear excited in the minds of "bears" lest the fighting now going on in Moscow and elsewhere should mean a speedy triumph for the autocracy, and it can have no lasting triumph these many days to come, if ever. The more the "bears" close their gambles, however, the weaker do they leave the market, the heavier is the weight thrown on the sustaining banks, and finance houses. From these points of view 1906 promises to be a year of storms and convulsions in the money and stock markets of the world.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Ordinary business this week has been on a very limited scale. When members returned on Wednesday from the Christmas holidays they had immediately to direct attention to the adjustment of the fortnightly account, mining contango day having been fixed for Friday last, and as the final settlement of the year is always a troublesome one, little time was available for regular dealing. With the money market in its usual condition of acute stringency at this time of the year, bankers were able to fix their own charges for Stock Exchange loans, and no money was lent below $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. A good many borrowers were called upon to pay more than that, and even when the year is turned it will be well not to look forward to very easy rates because the position is by no means a comfortable one, and it may be necessary to restrict the supply of banking credit let loose in January, in order that rates, may not fall away too rapidly. Chiefly because the Continent chose to read the Russian news more favourably, markets opened in a fairly cheerful fashion and although the unfavourable looking Bank of England return caused prices to flinch a little at one time on Thursday the close was firm enough with everyone hoping for the best in the New Year. The very small trade in Consols left prices as before, and although gilt-edged securities were strong in tendency, movements were few and quite unimportant. Apart from a rise of 2 in Newcastle $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. nothing worth mention happened in the Home County and Corporation division, and nearly all Colonial Inscribed stocks remained at previous figures. The last were continued at 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money) ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Jan. 4) ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88	88
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Local Loans (3) ..	99	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Jan. 4) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
306	291 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bk. of England Stock. (9 p.c.) ..	293 $\frac{1}{2}$	293 $\frac{1}{2}$
100	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1948 ..	96	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock. red. 1926 ..	80	80
60 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66	65 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd

The Foreign bond market opened with a fine display of strength, and under the lead of Russian 4 per cents., which were lifted substantially on Continental bourses while we were holiday-making, prices rose sharply all round. Russians quickly bounded over 80 once more,

and other things influenced by Paris such as Spanish, Turkish, and Portuguese marked more or less important improvements. In the South American division, Argentines and Brazilians showed conspicuous firmness, and amongst Central Americans Guatemalans were the turn harder. Chinese bonds, too, came into prominence, especially the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 1888, and although movements were small, Japanese issues were firm enough. Peruvians were scarce for delivery at the settlement, a big take up of stock being reported, and bear repurchases caused a sharp rally in quotations. Greek bonds alone showed particular weakness.

Owing to the onerous charges for bankers' loans there was not much opportunity for profitable lending in this section, the continuation rate on Argentines, Brazilians, Chilians, and Chinese being only $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$. On Central American things the contango was about 1 per cent. higher, as also on Peruvian ordinary, but on Peruvian preference the rate, after starting at $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., went off to "even" on the scarcity of stock noted above. Japanese 5 per cent., 1902 and the two series of 6 per cent., were continued at 4 to 6 per cent., as was also Portuguese, but Japanese Sterling could be borrowed on at 1 to 3 per cent., and the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 1st series at 2 to 3 per cent., Russian and Turkish at 1 to 3 per cent., and Spanish at 3 to 4 per cent. The making up list showed a preponderance of losses, but apart from a fall of 1 in Brazilian Rescission and Uruguay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., no movement exceeded 1 either way in the South American division. Chinese were down $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Greeks lost $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Honduras $\frac{1}{4}$, Japanese Consolidated $\frac{1}{8}$, Russian series I. and II. $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Spanish 1. Colombians, however, were up 2, Cuban 5 per cent. rose 1, Guatemala 1, some Japanese $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$, Venezuela, 1881, $2\frac{1}{2}$, and the new Diplomatic Debt $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	88	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	88	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	86	87
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	97	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	105	105
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	97	97
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	98	98
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	94	94
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	96	96
107	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
101	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104	104
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	53	53
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	43	43
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External ..	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
107	104	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	105	106
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	German 3 p.c. ..	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Greek, 1884 ..	52	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
44	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Funding ..	51	50
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c. ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1901-2 ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	92	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102	102
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103	103
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	70
73 $\frac{1}{2}$	70	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	80	82
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Servian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
103	100	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
92	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	102	102
71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	104	104
79	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 5 p.c. ..	96	96
		Venezuelan, 1881 ..	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$

An excellent start after the holidays was made in the Home Railway market under the influence of a batch of excellent traffic returns, which were even better than had been expected, thanks on the one hand to the good weather and the freedom from fogs, and on the other to the improvement in trade conditions which enabled holiday makers to travel further

afield and in greater numbers than has been the case for some years. The Midland had the largest increase, amounting to £29,000, but the North-Western was not far behind with £24,000, and the Great Western and North-Eastern showed gains of £19,000 and £13,200 respectively. Business has not been on a very large scale as yet, but the jobbers are confident that it will broaden out considerably after the turn of the year, when dividend money becomes available for investment, and the market therefore was buoyant

Highest and Lowest this Year.		Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)		Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	140	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.)	..	140	140
165	152½	157	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.)	..	157	157
131½	116½	120½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.)	..	120½	127
120	111	118½	Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.)	..	118½	119½
83½	77½	78½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.)	..	78½	79
41½	35½	41½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.)	..	41½	41½
94½	88½	93½	Central London (4 p.c.)	..	94	94
87½	77½	87	Do. Def. (4 p.c.)	..	86½	86½
17½	15½	15½	Chatham Ordinary	..	15½	16
48	37½	45½	City and South London (2½ p.c.)	..	45	45
71	51	60½	Furness (1 p.c.)	..	66	66
39½	28½	37½	Great Central Pref.	..	37	37½
19½	15½	18½	Do. Def.	..	18½	18½
93½	80½	87	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.)	..	87	87½
108½	98½	102½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.)	..	102½	102½
45½	38½	44½	Do. Def. (1)	..	44½	45
145½	135½	141½	Great Western (5½ p.c.)	..	141	142
509	48	—	Highland (1½ p.c.)	..	409	409½
49½	41	46½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.)	..	405	405½
112½	104	108½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.)	..	108½	109
100	86½	87	Metropolitan (3 p.c.)	..	86½	87
42½	33½	35½	Metropolitan District	..	36	35½
71	66	68½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.)	..	68	68½
74	62½	73	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.)	..	72½	74
83½	77	77½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.)	..	77½	78
49½	43½	46½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.)	..	46½	46½
146½	134	144½	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.)	..	144½	145
161½	147	159	North-Western (5½ p.c.)	..	158½	161
86½	84½	89	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.)	..	89	89
135½	122½	128	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.)	..	128	128
60½	48½	52½	Do. Def.	..	51½	53
171	156	164	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.)	..	163½	163½
111½	104½	108	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	..	108	108
60½	52½	59½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.)	..	56½	56½

with improvements in practically everything except District. The past account was notable more for lack of business than for anything else, and for reasons into which we have already gone fully, prices were disposed to sag throughout, so that the making up list shows a series of declines, broken only by gains of ½ and ¾ in Caledonian ordinary and deferred and of ½ in Midland deferred. Great Western and Metropolitan both lost the full £1, and District was 1½

Considering the higher charges exacted by bankers, carrying-over rates were comparatively easy at 5 to 6½ per cent., rising occasionally to 7 or 7½ per cent.

While London was enjoying its Boxing Day holiday speculators in Wall Street had a busy time of it, and pushed quotations up in all directions. Union Pacific, Pennsylvania, Reading, and New York Central appeared to be the prime favourites, and these were lifted regardless of the threatening outlook for the end of the year. The game was kept up bravely for a time, even when rates for call loans rose from 35 per cent. to 95 per cent., but when 125 per cent. was reached—a figure which has not been known since 1896—there was considerable selling, and a good deal of the advance in prices was knocked off in attempts to realise. New York, however, still expresses great confidence in the strength of the bull movement, and it is freely predicted that the New Year will see an outburst of speculative buying more rampant than anything that has yet occurred. The account here on Wednesday proved exceedingly difficult to arrange, not only because Wall Street had taken back considerably less stock than had been supposed, but also because French and German bankers have withdrawn large amounts, which had to be replaced. Bankers charged 5½ per cent. and upwards for loans in this market, and borrowers who had not succeeded in obtaining all they needed on Wednesday were offering as much as 6 per cent. for accommodation on Thursday. Inside the House contangos, after ruling round about 6 per cent., hardened steadily, and towards the close often touched 7 per cent. In spite of the strenuous efforts to counteract the effects of the Chicago National Bank suspension, quotations for most of the principal stocks were lower on the fortnight. The heaviest declines, however, were in New York Central and Southern Pacific, which were 3½ down, while against these Union Pacific advanced 9½ and Great Northern put on 18 on the reported sale of the mineral rights of the latter company for \$80,000,000, and Northern Pacific improved 8. Ontario and Reading common receded 1½ each, Chesapeake 1½, Erie ordinary and first preference dropped 1½, and the second preference, together with Illinois Central and Missouri and Kansas, lost 1.

Highest and Lowest this Year.		Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)		Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	90½	Atchison Shares (4)	..	89	89½
108½	102	107	Do. Pref. (5)	..	107	107½
120½	104½	116	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4)	..	115½	115½
102	97½	100	Do. Pref. (4)	..	100	100
61½	46½	56	Chesapeake & Ohio (1)	..	55½	56
193½	173½	185½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7)	..	183	184
39½	27½	30½	Denver Shares	..	37½	38½
95½	85½	93	Do. Pref. (5)	..	92½	92½
54½	38½	48½	Erie Shares	..	45½	45½
37½	27½	31½	Do. Pref. (4)	..	32	32
50½	38½	45½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4)	..	75	75
187	156	180½	Illinois Central (7)	..	179½	179
161½	140½	156	Louisville & Nashville (6)	..	156	155
39½	24½	38½	Missouri and Texas	..	36½	37½
169½	140½	155	New York Central (5)	..	152	154½
96½	77½	86½	Norfolk and Western (3)	..	86	86½
96½	94	95	Do. Pref. (4)	..	95	95
64½	41½	53	Ontario Shares (3)	..	53½	52½
76½	67½	73½	Pennsylvania (6)	..	72	73
73½	46	70½	Reading Shares (1½)	..	70	70
49½	46	—	Do. 1st Pref. (4)	..	47	47
58½	43½	—	Do. 2nd Pref. (4)	..	49	49
74	59½	68½	Southern Pacific	..	67½	67½
39½	28½	36½	Southern	..	36½	36½
104½	97½	102½	Do. Pref. (5)	..	102½	102½
151½	136½	155½	Union Pacific (4)	..	150½	151½
102½	98½	100½	Do. Pref. (4)	..	100	101
24½	18½	21	Wabash	..	20½	21
49½	37½	42	Do. Pref.	..	41½	42
80½	69½	78	Do. Income Debs.	..	78	78
182½	133	179	Canadian Pacific (6)	..	178	178
109	102½	—	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	..	106½	106½
112	108½	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	..	109	109
26½	19½	23½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk.	..	23½	24½
104½	99½	102	Do. Guar. (4)	..	102	102
115½	107½	114	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	..	113½	114½
107½	97	105	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	..	105	105½
62½	46½	58½	Do. 3rd Pref.	..	58½	59½
109½	106½	108	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	..	108	108½

lower. South Eastern deferred also fell that amount, carrying Chatham ordinary and first preference down ½ and 1 with it; Great Eastern dropped ¾, and Great Northern deferred, Hull and Barnsley, North-Western, South-Western preferred and deferred all receded ½.

Highest and Lowest this Year.		Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)		Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	125	212	Antofagasta (10)	..	212	212
321	144½	—	Do. Def. (15)	..	310	310 N
131½	105	127	Argentine Gt. West. (6)	..	126	128
131	113½	127½	Do. Pref. (5)	..	127	129
84½	77	83½	Bahia Blanca Pref.	..	83	84
148½	134½	138½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7)	..	138	140
133½	126	126½	Do. Pref. (5)	..	127	127
143½	117	131½	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7)	..	131	133
118½	108½	116½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5)	..	116	118
110½	99½	105½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5)	..	106	107
115	101½	114½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6)	..	114	115
100½	92½	109½	Do. do. Deferred (6)	..	108½	110
150½	161	164½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7)	..	165	165
109½	102½	106	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4)	..	106xd	106 xd
142½	127	134	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7)	..	134	134
93	79	87	Central Uruguay (4½)	..	87	87
109	100	106½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6)	..	107	107
95½	88	91½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	..	91	92 N
76½	58	71½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½)	..	71½	72½
2½	2½	—	Costa Rica	..	2½	2½
7½	5½	6½	Cuban Central	..	6½	6½
12½	10½	11½	Do. Pref. (5½)	..	11½	11½
107½	104	—	Do. Deb. (4½)	..	105	105
95½	72	93½	East Argentine (4½)	..	94	93
7½	5½	6½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref.	..	6	6
84½	68½	82	Leopoldina (3)	..	81½	83
99½	86½	99	Do. Deb. (4)	..	99	99
110½	106	—	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	..	111	111
108	104½	—	Do. "B" (6)	..	106	106
29½	19½	23½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	..	24	23½
121½	103½	117½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	..	115	118
57	36½	47½	Do. 2nd Pref.	..	46	47½
69½	49½	53	Mexican Southern (2½)	..	53	53
17	10½	14½	Nitrato Ord. (5½)	..	15½	15
19½	16½	18½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4)	..	19	19
220	178	204	San Paulo Brazilian (12)	..	204½	204½
226	122	211½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10)	..	212	211

The fabulous sums said to have been offered for Canadian Pacific lands seem to have received credence in Wall Street, and the gamble in the shares there continues merrily. Good buying was reported to have taken place on Tuesday, and the price in our market went up sympathetically to 179½, but these shares were unable to stand the strain of the high money

rates and the improvement was promptly wiped out. New York, however, has now turned its attention to Grand Trunk stocks, and helped by a traffic increase of £13,000 has met with greater success in the hoisting operations, particularly in the case of the ordinary and third preference stocks. On the account the ordinary was $\frac{1}{16}$ up, and the third preference 1 higher, while the first and second preferences put on 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$. Canadian Pacific shares, on the contrary, only rose $\frac{1}{8}$, and the 4 per cent. debenture stock showed a decline of $\frac{1}{8}$. Rates on Grand Trunks were fairly easy all things considered at about 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Amongst Indian Railways Burma dropped 4, Madras 5 per cent. stock $3\frac{1}{2}$ and Bengal and North-Western ordinary 2, but Bombay and Baroda and Scinde "B" annuities were both 1 higher.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	20 $\frac{1}{2}$		
71	40	—		
566	505	—		
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	57		
35	15	16 $\frac{1}{2}$		
105	99	—		
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
4 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	25/3		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	11/-		
502 $\frac{1}{2}$	483 $\frac{1}{2}$	101/6		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	20/6		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	22/9		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	109		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	26/9		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	11/6		
105	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$		
89	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$		
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$		
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	106		
98	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$		
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
134 $\frac{1}{2}$	126 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
34 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$		
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	41		
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$		
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
249	214 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
47	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	—		
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$		
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	17 $\frac{1}{2}$		
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$		
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$		
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	108 $\frac{1}{2}$		
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$		
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$		
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$		
129	99	—		
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	—		
Allsopp Ordinary	21	21		
City of London Ord.	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	530	530		
Ohlsson's Cape (40)	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$		
S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do. Def. Ord. Stock	17	17		
London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	100	99		
Do. Def. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6	59		
Aerated Bread (32 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6	6		
Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2		
Brunner Mond (35)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Callender's Cable Ord. (12 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Calico Printers Ordinary (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Coats Ordinary (20)	57 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	57 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd		
Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	490xd	490		
Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Henley's Telegraph (15)	13	13		
Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Imp. Tobacco Preference (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do. Debenture (4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	109		
Lipton Ordinary (7)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Russian Petroleum	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Savoy Hotel (5)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Sweetmeat Automatic	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Short's Deterred Ordinary (10)	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Welsbach Ordinary Stock	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do. Pref. Stock (6)	4xd	4		
Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-)	79	82		
Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$)	45	45 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do. Debentures (6)	106	107		
National Discount (10)	9	9 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Union Discount (11)	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Charling Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$		
South Metro. Gas Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	133	133		
Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd		
Howard & Bullough Ord. (7 $\frac{1}{2}$)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$		
United States Steel Ordinary ..	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do. Preference (7)	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Vickers Ordinary (12 $\frac{1}{2}$)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Cunard Steam	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	239 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	239 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd		
Royal Mail	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Anglo-American Telegraph—				
Do. Pref. Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do. Def. Ord.	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	17		
East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Eastern Extension (7)	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$		
National Telephone Def. (5) ..	109	109		
Western Telegraph (7)	14xd	14xd		
British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	8	8		
Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$		
London General Omnibus (8)	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	111 $\frac{1}{2}$		
London United Trams Pref. (5)	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10		

Good traffic returns were recorded by the Argentine lines also, and the market for these is perhaps even more confident than the Home Railway jobbers are that the new year will bring an expansion of business. Prices of the leading stocks in the group have not advanced in any sensational fashion during the last few days, but gains of £1 or more were fairly well sprinkled over the list. The most notable advance, however, was in Entre Rios second preference, which was bought pretty vigorously and touched 68, lifting the ordinary and first preference with it. Cordoba and North-Western debentures, too, were supported fairly well, together with Cordoba and Rosario second pre-

ference. Recoveries of £1 or so were scored by United Railways of the Havana, and Leopoldina ordinary stocks and Nitrate Railways ordinary and preferred ordinary shares were also a trifle better. Mexican Railway preferences both advanced a fraction or two, but the ordinary was slightly weaker at the end. Grand Russian Nicolai bonds regained 4, and Moscow-Jaroslavl stock regained 4 and 3 of their recent losses, but the movement was not the result of business in this market. The account open in this section showed very little change compared with the last settlement, and money generally cost from 6 to 7 per cent., now and again rising to 8 per cent. Most Argentine things were higher on the fortnight, Entre Rios ordinary and first preference leading with gains of $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$. Buenos Ayres and Rosario deferred was $2\frac{1}{2}$ up, and the ordinary and preference $1\frac{3}{4}$ higher, but the Rosario debenture stock lost $1\frac{1}{4}$. Argentine Great Western ordinary and Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary advanced $1\frac{1}{2}$, Buenos Ayres Western ordinary 1 and Buenos Ayres Great Southern $\frac{3}{4}$, but Argentine North-Eastern preference and debentures declined $\frac{3}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$, Cordoba and Rosario first preference fell 3 and Cordoba Central issues were from 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ down. Antofagasta ordinary stock dropped back 6, United Railways of the Havana $4\frac{1}{2}$ and San Paulo ordinary and Paraguay Central debenture stock 1 each. Mexican Railway first preference was $\frac{1}{2}$ higher, but the ordinary and second preference lost $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ and the debenture stock receded 3, while Interoceanic "B" debenture stock improved $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Miscellaneous markets again failed to attract much business, but the tendency was good as in other departments, and one or two prominent rises have to be noted. Hudson's Bays jumped sharply on the light rate prevailing at the settlement, and the market for Chinese exploration and land shares was somewhat better. Deccans were also harder, but Argentine land shares were neglected and unaltered. Some recovery took place in Nitrates, Lautaros being specially firm. Iron and Steel things were generally steady, with some buying of Measures Bros., and Textiles were disposed to firm up. Apart from a further rise in Anglo-Americans, nothing particular occurred in the Telegraph section, but horse omnibus shares kept steady on the better traffics, and P. and O. preferred was again higher, while amongst Docks London deferred showed a slight decline. Russian oil shares, although rarely mentioned, ended a trifle firmer. Nobel Dynamite eased off, and Associated Cement debentures closed £1 down. In the Catering division Spiers and Pond ordinary recovered to 2, and Carlton Hotel preference again reached par on a fair inquiry, but Aerateds, Lipton's and Sweetmeats were all easier. Movements were irregular amongst Breweries and Distilleries, but there is nothing worth noting beyond a fall of 3 in Bieckert's ordinary. Rates at the settlement again showed little variation, 4 to 6 or 7 per cent. covering most things with a slightly higher charge on Pekin Syndicates. Movements during the fortnight were not generally important, but Imperial Tobacco debentures rose 2, Watney, Combe preference and debenture stocks $\frac{1}{2}$, Argentine Southern Land $\frac{5}{8}$, Hudson's Bays $3\frac{1}{2}$, Peruvian Corporation bonds $\frac{3}{4}$, and Direct U.S. Cable $\frac{5}{8}$, London Road Car $\frac{1}{2}$, and Commercial Union Assurance $2\frac{1}{2}$. On the other hand, B.E.T. ordinary fell $\frac{7}{8}$, and the preference $\frac{3}{8}$, Brush Electrical ordinary $\frac{1}{4}$, Lagunas Nitrate $\frac{1}{16}$, Lautaro $1\frac{1}{8}$, Nobel Dynamite $\frac{3}{8}$, Allsopp stocks $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3, St. Louis Breweries preference $\frac{3}{4}$, Pekin Syndicate ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the deferred 40, and Standard Bank of South Africa 1.

Stock markets were not very brilliant, but the account seems to have been concluded without trouble coming to the surface, for the announcement, which we read with the greatest regret, that Mr. William Henry Bishop has ceased to be a member of the Stock Exchange has no relation to the events of the settlement just concluded. Prices, however, were not very elastic, except in the highly speculative Yankee market or

amongst Kaffir shares, also controlled from New York, where the gambling has again been of the wildest possible description, or in Grand Trunk and Mexican Railway stocks, fancy playthings of the sporting fraternity, or in Home Railway stocks, buoyed up by the dealers in the expectation that the public will be buyers. Inter-Bourse things have been weak, Consols just steady, and Kaffir shares droopy.

The Imperial South African Association.

Over the signatures of the Duke of Westminster and that over-praised story-teller Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P., Friday's *Times* prints a letter, which, for subtly veiled mendacity and assurance in calling falsehood the truth, almost beats the forged Jameson raid letter itself. Take first this sample:—

The association has always been non-party in its policy and in the prosecution of that policy. Political, however, it must necessarily be, dealing as it does with great questions which have a political significance as apart from party significance.

During the troublous years between 1896 and 1899, when the war broke out, the association furnished to the British people accurate information, and through the vehicle of numberless public meetings did more to educate and steady public opinion than any other existing organisation. Indeed, there was no other organisation, except those of political parties which, necessarily, were unable to concentrate their attention upon South Africa, or to specialise for the clearer exposition of South African affairs. The burden of this work was thrown upon the Imperial South African Association; and during that period it had the support of a large number of prominent Liberals, and particularly of those Liberals who through their business connections or personal acquaintance with South Africa had some understanding of its problems and its difficulties.

Whether this precious association published and lectured or not we neither know nor care. Probably enough it did. It may also be true that a large number of prominent Liberals supported it in ignorance of its real purposes, although we know of no evidence proving that it was so. But that its efforts can have tended to the honest enlightenment of the British public, and to the dissemination of the real truth we deny. Never in the history of the British Empire were the minds of its citizens so played upon and besotted with falsehoods, so misled by deliberate and skilfully concocted perversions of fact as they were by the South African horde and its tools during the years succeeding the Jameson raid, and preceding the war, a war, we gather from this letter, deliberately entered upon by our cosmopolite ensnarers in order to pave the way for the importation of Chinese labour. Did the association tell us during those years that this was the real purpose behind the stream of lies published about the Boer Government and people, and about President Kruger, lies such as that reciting the existence of a conspiracy to "drive the British out of South Africa"? It took precious good care never to do any such thing. If it had any object at all capable of enduring a concrete description, this association must have been throughout the tool of the Rhodes, Rudd, Beit swarm in poisoning the the public mind against the white people of South Africa in the interests of mine share manufacturers and market swindlers. And now this mysterious body again and appropriately emerges from its obscurity to pose as a defender of Chinese slavery with all its Sodomitic abominations, and Duke and romancer have the impudence to put their names to language such as follows. Who stand behind these two men? Let us have the names of all the members of this association, together with the amounts subscribed by them to maintain that Press and platform propaganda by whose help in the past the Mother Country has been beguiled and robbed.

But, defending the proposal for the introduction of Oriental labour into the Transvaal, the association has been accused in some quarters of being a party organisation. It is not a party organisation. It has supported the introduction of Oriental labour upon the basis of its own policy, from its own understanding of the case. The association offers its services to all organisations of whatever party, but not to support the indi-

vidual political and party appeal of any candidate to any constituency. Its speakers will appear on platforms of political meetings wherever permitted. It has organised a campaign of instruction in the country at the coming general election, providing its own agents, arranging its own meetings, for the purpose of giving the general public accurate and authoritative information upon all questions that affect South Africa, including Chinese labour. It will endeavour to remove misunderstandings and misrepresentations of all kinds, and wherever made. It will have a large staff of speakers which will be under its own control; it has already offered its services to clubs and associations of all parties.

Before we leave this subject, perhaps we may be permitted to say that, if Chinese labour had the effect of displacing native labour, we should strongly favour the limitation of the number of Chinamen employed; but, so far, the importation of the Chinese has only stimulated the recruiting of native labour; while the number of Chinese and natives together still falls far below the requirements of the Transvaal, as estimated by the Labour Commission both in the majority and in the minority report.

The association also holds the opinion that, when the Oriental first entered upon the mines of the Transvaal, if an adequate number of white men with a thorough knowledge and experience of Chinese in the East had been employed to supervise the Chinese policemen, to attend to the complaints of the Chinese workers, and give rigid inspection, the desertions and subsequent outrages would have been fewer. It is easy to be wise after the event; but the association expressed its views fully at the time, and the late Government did its utmost to insist on these provisions, which all parties in the Transvaal are agreed should be a sufficient safeguard against abuses.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

As we went to press a day earlier than usual before Christmas we were not able to deal with the last mining settlement of 1905. Yesterday (Friday) week was contango day and as the Prime Minister had delivered his Albert Hall speech on the preceding evening, his declaration as to the Government's policy in regard to Chinese labour came on the eve of the carry-over. The market was not altogether prepared for such a pronouncement. It was taken by surprise, and before giving themselves time to think over it, members at once made a concerted demonstration. That is, they impulsively and impatiently put prices down, just to show what terrible consequences would follow upon the adoption of the new policy. As usual, they acted thoughtlessly and short-sightedly, for it was quickly manifest that the bosses accepted the declaration with equanimity, whilst the mere gambling public even felt more relieved than distressed. What have they got out of Chinese labour? Buyers actually came forward from all directions, taking up shares at the lower figures, so the afternoon and the close of the market saw a general recovery. This improvement did not come in time to affect the making-up list, accordingly some of the declines on the fortnight looked heavy.

Continuation rates were about the same as at the mid-monthly settlement. On such things as Gold Fields and East Rand the charge was $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which was also the rate on Randfonteins, Johnny's Investment, Simmer and Jacks, and South African Gold Trusts. Rand Mines were carried over at 5-6 per cent., but on Modderfonteins the contango was $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Gedulds were arranged at $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the general charge was, as usual, 6-8 per cent. In the Rhodesian section the rate on Chartered was about 7 per cent., and on most of the others 6-8 per cent., as before. This was likewise the ruling figure in the Jungle and Egyptian markets. Rates were again irregular in the West Australian department. Such shares as Northern Blocks, Great Fingalls, Oroyas, and Sons of Gwalia were carried over at 5-7 per cent., on Perseverance the rate was 6-7 per cent., on Golden Horseshoes 5-7 per cent., and on Ivanhoes, Kalgurllis, Great Boulders, and Associated 6-8 per cent.

In the South African making-up list the chief relapses were $2\frac{1}{4}$ in Montrose Diamonds, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Premier Diamond deferred, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Central Minings, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Bankets, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Rose Deep, $\frac{1}{2}$ in H.F.'s, $\frac{7}{8}$ in Rand Mines, Gedulds, and Modderfonteins, $\frac{3}{8}$ in East Rand, Welgedachts and Modderfontein Deeps, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Cason Blocks, Rand Victorias, and Rhodesian Explorations, $\frac{1}{4}$ in South African Gold Trusts, S. A. Gold Mines, Apex, Elandsfontein Deep, H. E. Props, Nourse Deeps, Rice Hamiltons, and Village Deeps, 7-32 in Gold Fields, and $\frac{1}{8}$ in Cinderella Deeps, De Beers deferred, Jupiters, Lace Diamonds, Lomagundas, Rietfonteins, Robinson Deeps, and one or two others. There were a few rises, such as $\frac{3}{8}$ in Ferreiras, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Geldenhuis Estates, and $\frac{1}{8}$ each in New Comets, New Brightons, and Surprise. The most substantial gains were registered by West Africans, as the result of the inside manipulation during the few days preceding the holidays. Amalgamated put on $\frac{1}{8}$, Krinjabo Registered $\frac{1}{8}$, Taquahs $\frac{1}{2}$, Abbottiakoon Block I's $\frac{3}{8}$, Abbottiakoons $\frac{1}{8}$, Bibianis, Fanti Consols, and Wassaus $\frac{1}{4}$ each, and Abosso 5-32. Changes amongst Westralians were of slight importance. Associated and Great Fingalls fell $\frac{1}{4}$ each, and Golden Poles $\frac{1}{8}$. In the Broken Hill group the Proprietary shares gained $\frac{3}{8}$. Amongst copper shares Anacondas were the most conspicuous with a rise of $2\frac{1}{2}$, as the result of the demon-

stration in New York. Other prominent shares were lower on the fortnight, Rio Tintos relapsing $\frac{3}{4}$ and Tharsis $\frac{1}{8}$. Cape Copper ordinary fell $\frac{1}{4}$, and the preference $\frac{3}{4}$, in consequence of the falls of ground in the Ookiep mine, referred to last week.

For the new account business in the Kaffir Circus has been unusually brisk. After having four clear days to cogitate upon Lord Elgin's dispatch magnates and professionals alike have come to the conclusion that the Government's policy will not paralyse the industry, that, in fact, it has cleared the air. They are, indeed, crying out to the public to come in and buy before they send prices too high. The recovery is not the effect, however, of expanding business on the part of outsiders, but represents the closing of "bears," and a marking up of prices by the jobbers, who note that the public at home and on the Continent have accepted the Government's decision with philosophical calmness. Dealers hope that the rise will tempt buying. There has been a slight weakening on dearer money and the adverse movement on the French Exchange.

The following is a further batch of dividend declarations:—

	Div.	Issued Capitals.	Amount.
	%	£	£
New Heriot	20	114,800	22,960
East Rand	20	990,000	198,000
Angelo	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	625,000	114,062
Dreifontein Consols	10	625,000	62,500
New Kleinfontein	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	900,000	67,500
New Comet	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	500,000	62,500
			527,522

The dividends of the New Comet and Kleinfontein are the first payments since the war.

In the diamond group the only movements have been in the Premier shares, the preference strengthening a little, whilst the deferred, after moving upwards, went back on Cape selling.

Rhodesians have been stagnant, with the exception of Chartered and one or two shares in the basket section, which are a fraction to the good.

The inside excitement in the West African market has died out, the public not responding to shop tactics, and most shares have weakened. West Australians and Egyptians have also been lifeless.

In response to a further spurt in the prices of silver and lead, Broken Hill descriptions have again moved upwards, but the strongest section has been the copper, business continuing in the Street long after the closing of the House. Anacondas are still the most prominent share on the dividend declaration and the bullish activity in New York. The dividend is at the rate of 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per share, or about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The market is not quite certain whether this is a quarterly or a half-yearly dividend, that is, whether it is at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, or only 7 per cent. There is also talk of the discovery of new veins of copper in the property. Rio Tintos and Boston Coppers have likewise been exceedingly strong. Cape Coppers have recovered part of the previous week's losses, whilst Spasskys and Mount Lyells have improved.

ROODEPOORT UNITED MAIN REEF.—The important announcement is made by the directors of this company—which is one of the members of the Albu group—that owing to the continued scarcity of native labour it has not been possible to start up the additional 40 stamps and enlarged plant which were completed in October last. On account of the heavy initial expenditure involved in the employment of Chinese, the directors have always had the intention to restrict the unskilled labour staff to Kaffirs, but rather than delay any longer the starting of the new plant 500 coolies are to be employed, due to arrive at the mine in the beginning of February. The liability on this account and the capital expenditure already incurred induce the directors not to make a further dividend distribution for the current year, although the working profits earned amount to about £64,000, out of which the interim dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year to June 30 took £29,500. Here, then, is another striking instance of the great expense of employing coolies, and of the sacrifices demanded of the shareholders. The directors must have foreseen this new capital expenditure long ago. In fact, they did foresee it, for it has been already incurred, they say. Then why pay an interim dividend? If the directors could pay 20 per cent. in 1904 they could pay it in 1905. Why this hurry to get Chinese, and thereby refuse to give the shareholders the £29,500 which is their due? Would they not prefer the stamps to remain idle a little longer than give all this money to the Chinkees? This announcement was made before the declaration of Liberal policy on the Chinese question, probably as another telling illustration of the effects of the scarcity of black labour. Mr. Albu, as we know, is one of the strongest advocates for Chinese labour. But in the *Daily News* of Saturday last Mr. J. B. Robinson declared that any number of natives could be got if the Government would officially approach the chiefs. The bosses have not used the right methods to get such labour. This is what we have always declared. But they have had their way; they have had their Chinamen, and are sick of them. The magnates only want a decent excuse now to kick them out again.

TRANSVAAL AND DELAGOA BAY INVESTMENT COMPANY.—The directors do not segregate the income of £59,291 received in the year ending August 31, this money coming from such sources as "realised profit," rents and interest. As expenditure took

£15,607, a nett profit of £43,684 is exhibited, and as £56,820 is brought forward, the directors have a disposable surplus of £100,504. They recommend a distribution of 3s. 6d. per share, which compares with 5s. for 1904, and this will leave £68,129 to take to the current accounts. "In the face of the great depression in trade throughout the Transvaal, they are convinced that the husbanding of the company's resources is in the best interests of the shareholders." Cash totals £23,777, and debtors appear for £25,013 against current liabilities of £19,276. This concern owns the Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Collieries, which produced 376,544 tons of coal. Although competition was keener than ever, the directors consider that the results shown are satisfactory, but this is not a disinterested opinion. The amount of coal developed in the mine is now 3,880,936 tons, giving 2,328,562 tons of marketable fuel compared with 2,011,008 tons at August 31, 1904. This company was interested with others in proposals made to the Government for building a direct railway route to the Rand. As a result of the negotiations, the Government decided to build the line itself, and it is expected that the railway will be completed by the end of October, 1906. In consequence of discouraging developments in the Hacuerstburg district it was decided to abandon the company's interest in mining claims.

KAMFERSDAM MINES.—This diamond company, though it has been in existence since 1896, has not commenced to flood the market with diamonds, nor does it promise, after all these years of plodding, to become a formidable competitor to other producers. It is certainly turning out diamonds, but as it continues to produce them at a loss, it is not easy to see what benefit this confers upon any, other than the directors and officials. If, however, capitalists do not mind assisting strangers in this manner it is no concern of ours. Sales of diamonds realised £49,382, cattle-grazing put a further £200 into the exchequer, £108 came from miscellaneous receipts, £216 from interest and £51 from transfer fees, making a total income of £49,959. As expenditure absorbed £16,413, the loss on the year's working was £16,454. This is progress, in a way, for the loss is less than that incurred in the two preceding years; at which rate the glorious time may come when a profit will again be earned. The deficit in the balance-sheet now aggregates £57,300, so that shareholders need not trouble their heads about probable dividends for years to come. It is exceedingly doubtful if the company will ever distribute a penny. Before that becomes possible reconstruction will be probable. Contango loans and cash exceed the current liabilities by nearly £4,000. There are 42,902 shares unissued, and it is possible the directors may try to get these off before attempting reconstruction. But what inducement can be offered to shareholders and others to subscribe to them? Out of 357,098 shares issued there are 98,389 with 15s. called up. At the date of the accounts—June 30—outstanding unpaid calls amounted to £2,882, a portion of which has since been paid, and the directors intimate that they are taking steps to secure the payment of the balance, with interest.

NEW HERIOT GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In announcing a dividend of 20 per cent., the directors state that the extraordinary general meeting which was held on the 21st inst. to consider proposals for the acquisition of the claims from the Nourse Deep—a proposal we have adversely criticised—also for the increase of capital, has been adjourned to March 26.

BIBIANI GOLD FIELDS.—In May of the present year Mr. F. H. P. Creswell visited and reported upon the property of this leading Jungle company. His report was not encouraging, on the whole, and he expressed doubts of the value of the mine in depth. Mr. Lichtenberg, the company's consulting engineer, thinks that the work done since Mr. Creswell's visit would modify, and in some cases remove, the impressions Mr. Creswell formed as to the nature of the reef and the possibility of the existence of payable ore at depth. During the financial year to the end of June 32,039 tons of ore were crushed, yielding 15,629 ozs. of fine gold of the value of £66,549, whilst 11,605 tons of tailings were treated by the cyanide process, resulting in the recovery of a further £9,686, making a total realisation of £76,236. For a Jungle mine this is good, but it does not ensure dividends. The whole of the proceeds of the gold recovered are applied to the payment of the debenture interest and London expenses, also in the writing down of various assets, so there is no credit left. It must be borne in mind, however, that the whole of the forty stamps did not start crushing until November of last year, and cyaniding not until January. For the first three months the work by the cyanide plant was experimental. The ore blocked out at October 31 is estimated at 75,800 tons, of an average value of 20.4 dwts. It is hoped that these reserves will be largely increased in the course of development in depth and in the northern section of the mine, and so justify the enlargement of the reduction plant. The value of the gold per ton was £3 os. 6d. and the cost £1 11s. 9d., so the gross profit averaged £1 8s. 8d. per ton, reduced to 10s. 8d. after allowing for depreciation, London expenses and debenture interest. There is, of course, a great deal of development work still to be done, especially to test the value of the mine at depth. There is a possibility that the cost of this work will absorb the proceeds of the gold produced, the company having but a moderate supply of cash. During the past twelve months 10,000 shares of £1 each were issued at a premium of 5s., and there are 80,000 shares in reserve. Probably the directors will attempt to get these off should favourable opportunities come.

SEKONDI AND TARKWA.—A fortnight ago we intimated that the directors, unable to dispose of the property or to get fresh working capital, advised a voluntary winding up. A circular has now been issued by the secretary stating that at an extra-

ordinary general meeting held to consider this recommendation, the majority of the shareholders present were not in favour of it, and a resolution was passed adjourning the meeting to January 29. A committee was appointed to consider the advisability of raising further working capital to pay off existing liabilities and continue the operations of the company. Their report is to be sent to the shareholders in due course. In the meantime have not insiders made a demonstration in the jungle market?

CAPILLITAS COPPER COMPANY.—The directors in their report announce that the ropeway will be in working order in three or four months. About 6,800 ft. have been driven and sunk during the past twelve months, and some 700 tons of ore were extracted, although no stoping whatever was done. Recent developments, however, have not resulted in the discovery of fresh ore bodies, but with more labour available for this purpose, on completion of the ropeway it is hoped that much better progress will be made in opening up the mines at the lower levels. The reverberatory furnace has treated 918 tons of ore for 79 tons of fine copper, 6,767 ozs. of silver and 93 ozs. of gold, realising the sum of £6,185, equal to over £78 per ton. A profit and loss account has not yet been prepared by the directors, as the production of copper is still on a small scale. Development and working expenditure during the year to June 30 amounted to £17,654 against an income of £6,339 from sales, whilst London expenses came to £4,597, debenture interest took £306, and debenture stamp duty and commission £2,137, total £7,040. Revenue from interest and transfer fees was £1,061. The excess expenditure in the balance-sheet now amounts to £49,020. In January last the directors were authorised to increase the nominal capital to £670,000 by the creation and issue of 70,000 £1 preference shares. This authority has not, so far, been acted upon, and further capital has been raised on debentures, holders of which are entitled to exchange for fully paid preference shares after January 1. Out of the £70,000 6½ per cent. debentures £40,000 had been subscribed and £17,500 called up and paid by the end of June last. There seems little doubt that the company will need the balance of the £30,000 before profits can be expected.

NILE VALLEY COMPANY.—The secretary of this company has issued to the shareholders the engineers' report for the quarter ending November 30, together with a circular, in which he says the directors had intended to convene the ordinary general meeting before the end of the year, for the purpose of presenting their report and accounts for the year to July 31, but as the accounts from the mine have only just been received it will be impossible to complete them in time. It is hoped, however, that the meeting can be held in January. Temporary arrangements have been made for providing the company with funds. In their report the engineers say: "Good progress was made during the first half of the period, but latterly the work has been hampered by lack of labour, due to the religious festivals which are held at this time of the year. These are now drawing to a close, and it is hoped that a full complement of workers will very shortly be again available."

GOLDEN POLE GOLD MINES.—When dealing with this company's position some few weeks back, as disclosed in the directorial report and accounts, we were favourably impressed both with the finances and the mine prospects. Since then the shares have been weak, on account of persistent adverse rumours in regard to the position of the mine. The London directors have recently cabled to the head office at Kalgoorlie asking for the new manager's (Mr. Nicholson's) estimate of the quantity and value of the ore reserves in the mine. The reply is to the following effect: "Nicholson not yet estimated ore reserves. Thinks highly of the prospects of the mine. Re-survey and estimate of ore reserves will be made as promptly as possible. There is enough ore to supply 20 stamps, but pending reorganisation of portion of the plant and readjustment in the underground workings the directors consider it very desirable to at once temporarily shut down ten stamps. The board of directors' opinion is that the course adopted will reduce costs and place the mine on a satisfactory basis." It must be admitted that this reply, indefinite as it is, is not as reassuring as shareholders would like it to be.

ANGLO-FRENCH QUICKSILVER AND MINING CONCESSION.—An extraordinary meeting of this company is convened in order to consider the following scheme of reconstruction: That a new company be formed to take over the whole of the assets and rights of the present company; that to every preference shareholder shall be issued one share credited with 17s. 6d. paid up, entailing a liability of 2s. 6d. per share; that one founders' share shall be given for every four founders' and one share for every five ordinary shares. The directors say the largest shareholders have already been consulted and have approved of the scheme, which at yesterday's meeting was approved of by 160,000 votes against 2,000.

MOUNT YAGAHONG EXPLORATION AND FINANCE COMPANY.—The report and accounts cover a period of eighteen months, from the date of reconstruction and formation to the end of June. Debenture and other interest brought in £479, underwriting commissions gave £1,826, £125 was the fee for managing a subsidiary, and £46 was received from transfer fees. Expenditure totalled £4,710, so the nett result of the eighteen months' operations is a loss of £2,234, which seems a good step towards another reconstruction. Interests are held in the following, amongst others:—Middleburg Steam Coal, Inhambane Oil Syndicate, Gelak Syndicate, Egyptian Options, and in some claims at Barkley West. It is a puzzle to us to understand how the directors can hope for ultimate success.

ANGLO-CONTINENTAL GOLD SYNDICATE.—This syndicate in the financial year ending June 5 received £9,142 from such sources

as profit on share selling, dividends, interest, secretarial fees &c., and £11 from transfer fees. The nett profit was £3,100, which reduces the heavy debit in the balance-sheet to £54,736. At this rate it must take some years to wipe out the loss. There appear to be no current liabilities, whilst liquid assets look ample. The London and Hamburg Gold Recovery Company has been reconstructed on terms which provided for the repayment of the preference share capital as to three-fourths in cash (£61,569), and one-fourth (£20,536) in 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures. This improves the financial position, and provides a source of income from an asset which has been unproductive for years.

CAPE COPPER COMPANY.—It is only a fortnight ago that we dealt with the annual report of the Cape Copper Company. Herein we commented upon the gradual exhaustion of the principal mine—the Ookiep. Now comes the news that the pillar at the 48 fathom level, the nearest to the surface from which ore is being won—has given way, causing a series of falls of ground. These, it is officially stated, will have the effect of temporarily reducing the output from this particular mine to the extent of possibly one-half, but it is expected that the normal output will be again reached gradually. This will, of course, make a great difference to the current year's earnings.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY.

We have already given publicity to and commented on the scheme for the reorganisation of this company's capital account, and although this important question naturally finds further mention in the half-yearly report, we need do no more than express the hope that the fresh capital to be provided will help to revive the fortunes of an enterprise which has been a terrible disappointment to all connected with it. Some encouragement comes from the fact that the tramways connecting the Penge district with the Croydon system are now constructed, and by the end of April, 1906, a junction will, it is understood, be made to the Penge entrance of the Palace, and another up Anerley Hill to the Palace parade giving much improved facilities to the large number of residents in Croydon and surrounding districts. In the six months to June 30 the number of visitors, including season ticket holders, was 1,086,611 compared with 1,252,052 in the corresponding period of 1904, but the falling off must have been entirely in those patrons holding periodical tickets, as the single admissions yielded £276 more at £20,808. That result the directors consider satisfactory, as it was obtained without the aid of the show of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, which in the corresponding period added materially to the profits. A smaller show was held and is reported successful and profitable, but it lacked the society's support, and was therefore far less important from a revenue standpoint. From season tickets the income was down £412, the refreshment contract gave over £1,000 less, and subscriptions to the Palace clubs, &c., showed a decline of £425, but reserved seats, &c., were better by £1,222, rent for space increased £789, and miscellaneous rose £366, so that from all sources there was a gain of £1,217 at £63,677. Against that, however, the expenditure was larger by £1,760 at £55,197, due to the outlay of fully £2,000 more on special attractions, &c., so that the nett revenue is £8,480 against £9,022. It provides the loan and debenture interest, with a balance of £81 to be applied in reduction of the debit brought forward, bringing it down to £21,746.

CANADA COMPANY.

There was a decided shrinkage in this company's land operations for twelve months ended November 30 last compared with the same period in 1904, and it may be well to also take note of the fact that the decline follows a fairly sharp one shown a year ago. Land sold outright was 418¾ acres at only \$3.46 per acre against 743 acres worth \$16.42 per acre, while the land leased with right of purchase was 5,908 acres at \$14.12, compared with 7,658¾ acres at \$14.94. Then only nine town lots amounting to 2½ acres were sold or leased with right of purchase, a decline of 10 lots and 2½ acres, but the average per lot was a trifle higher at \$155.55. Over all transactions the average came out at \$13.64 per acre for 6,329¾ acres as compared with \$15.40 for 8,406¾ acres, being an increase of \$1.83 an acre or 15½ per cent. on the 1894 valuation, against \$3.11 an acre or 25 per cent. for the corresponding period. In the land leased without option of purchase there was an increase in quantity from 5,590 acres to 11,439 acres, but the rental which the larger quantity yields is less by \$654.50 at \$1,350.50, showing that the tracts disposed of were much less valuable. Leased land converted to freehold amounted to 5,035 acres against 5,752½ acres. Inclusive of appropriations from settlers' savings bank account, &c., the revenue for the period was £27,087 or £5,576 less, and the dividend to be proposed for the half-year ended January 10 next is reduced by just one-half to 11s. per share. On December 19 last the funds in hand reached £14,999, including the capital reserve of £8,463, against liabilities of £1,812 apart from £6,893 at the credit of settlers' savings bank account deposited with the company by their lessees to meet the rent and purchase money of the lands occupied by them.

HUGGINS AND CO., LIMITED.

We fear this big brewery business is terribly over-weighted with capital. Although the dividend on the ordinary shares is no

more than 3 per cent., the goodwill is valued in the balance-sheet at the great figure of £287,199, against a property valuation of £517,721, and since the reserves all told would reach only £22,324 the financial position is anything but comfortable. Other assets consist of loans to customers—surely the directors do not attach a goodwill to these—apparently returning about 5 per cent, stock £15,525, book debts and rents receivable £12,273, investments £48,560 and cash £3,258, the balance-sheet adding up to £1,584,243. Floating liabilities are fortunately light at £9,312, but there is a loan of £22,000, and mortgages and deposits, including interest accrued, have been raised or received to the amount of £107,252. The debenture debt is £550,000 at 3½ per cent., tolerably well secured perhaps, and the share capital is £500,000 4½ per cent. preference and £350,000 ordinary or £850,000 in all. During the twelve months ended September 30 the profit on brewing was £30,444, interest on loans and investments gave £35,414, rentals £3,706 and transfer fees £31, or a total revenue of £109,596. From that £11,811 is allowed for maintenance and depreciation of properties, plant, and rolling stock, and charges on trade amount to £38,065, so that the nett balance is £59,720. Interest payments for the year come to £25,199, and directors' and trustees' remuneration absorbs £2,800, leaving £31,721 nett, which is raised to £35,398 by the credit brought forward. Therefore after providing the preference dividend the directors are able to squeeze out 3 per cent. for the ordinary shares, carrying £794 to reserve and £1,604 to next account, a decline of over £2,000. That means that the dividend paid was not quite earned, and that the allocation to reserve really came from the previous year's credit.

DORTMUND BREWERIES CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking did not perform very brilliantly during the twelve months ended September 30 last. Sales of beer fell off by 2,531 hectos to 82,522 hectos and the profits of the German company collapsed from 210,211 marks to 129,351 marks, the gross revenue being 573,610 marks and the expenditure 444,259 marks. Dividend declared was 7½ per cent. or £5,515, rent received came to £6,740, interest and profit on sale of securities was £2,339 and transfer fees amounted to £3, meaning a total income for the English company of £14,598. From that £1,834 is allowed for depreciation and administration expenses take £1,633, leaving £11,130 as nett profit, a shrinkage of £2,051. Add £3,354 brought in and the sum for disposal is £14,485, reduced to £6,400 by debenture and mortgage bond interest. Preference dividend takes a further £4,500 and the directors now propose to pay 3 per cent. on the funding certificates and 1 per cent. on the assenting ordinary shares writing off £848 from bond issue expenses and carrying forward £1,429. From the report we gather that the year opened in fairly promising fashion, but later on the sales were affected by serious and prolonged strikes, the boycott of the brewery and others on account of a local dispute and the higher prices of hops. For the current year barley shows no change in price, although it will probably produce less extract and hops are good and cheaper, but the prices of other brewery materials have considerably increased and a further advance is announced in the price of coal, to commence in April next. Then there is increased taxation to contemplate. The German budget, as we know, reveals a big deficit and the Government proposes, among other things, to treble the taxation on malt. Should this additional impost become law it must seriously affect the profits of all German breweries unless the selling price of beer can be raised, at all times an exceedingly difficult operation. Including £1,237 added during the year, the property and goodwill in Germany stand at £171,012 and the shares in the German company are valued at £73,530 or £244,540 in all, in which is included most of the reserve of £17,997. The German company is debtor to the amount of £54,456, investments reach £14,688, cash is £2,621 and ordinary debtors stand at £800, while floating liabilities are light enough at £695.

RIDGWAYS, LIMITED.

A quite unimportant decline of £357 to £41,046 took place in the profits of this well-known tea business for the year to September 30 compared with the corresponding period, and with £21 for transfer fees the sum for appropriation is £41,067. Charge for interest is less than £1,000, and after providing £4,003 for directors' remuneration, management salaries, auditors' fees, &c., and £3,931 for depreciation, the actual nett balance is £32,171. From that the preference dividend takes £18,061, 10 per cent. of the distributable profits or £3,217 goes to reserve, and 8 per cent. is again paid on the ordinary shares at the cost of a reduction from £1,762 to £655 in the sum carried forward. The balance-sheet is, of course, drawn up on the old lines, giving a minimum of information, and we fancy shareholders will find it hard to believe that no depreciation has occurred on the original properties acquired, consisting of freehold and leasehold premises, plant, machinery, fittings and a host of other items, including goodwill, trade marks, trade names, &c. They still stand at the original figure of £330,000, not even leasehold redemption being provided so far as we can tell, and despite a certain sum allowed for depreciation on sundry businesses and investments acquired since the company was formed, these show an increase on the year of £4,379 at £150,846. That makes the total capital outlay £480,846, and against it the company has in nine years accumulated a reserve of just £27,372, a very inadequate sum so it seems to us. Therefore we cannot consider the position a very strong one, although doubtless the preference capital, which alone is in the hands of the public, should be well enough secured. With a more enlightened handling of the national finances, leading probably to a reduction in the tea duty, the company later on may be able to

add to its profits, and if it does we hope the extra money will be put to the savings. Including £25,331 owing to depositors, the total floating liabilities are £109,074, against which debtors reach £90,492, stocks are valued at £70,753 and £13,192 is held in cash.

EAST INDIA DISTILLERIES AND SUGAR FACTORIES, LIMITED.

The history of this Madras undertaking was during its earlier years one of dismal failure, which culminated in 1903 in the scaling down of the ordinary capital, but the report for the year ended September 30 gives hope of better times in store. Gross trading profits were £47,538, and after meeting administration and other charges, including interest on debentures and loans, and transferring £3,000 to sinking fund, the nett profits were brought out at £25,320. To this was added £7,103 from the previous accounts, making a total of £32,423, and as all arrears of preference dividend were cleared off a year ago, the directors are not only able to pay 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares but to start a reserve fund with £7,500 and still carry forward £6,423. This is so far satisfactory, but it is to be hoped that the reserve will be added to as rapidly as possible, as the position is none too comfortable. During the twelve months £6,800 of second debentures were redeemed, leaving £151,599 outstanding on the two issues, but apart from this and the £3,000 transferred to sinking fund, no provision has been made for depreciation on properties and goodwill valued at £346,212 or on buildings and plant which stand at £11,981. Stocks too are fairly large at £88,097, and £17,618 has been advanced to the Surangapany Sugar Mills Company, so that of the accumulated sinking fund of £24,426 all but £2,567 invested in rupee paper is sunk in the business and loans of £22,909 have had to be raised. Liabilities to sundry creditors amount to £17,822, against £7,812 to come in and £5,369 held in cash.

DIGALLA CEYLON TEA ESTATE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Apparently the directors consider that it would be presumptuous for them to make any observations regarding the state of the tea market, and in their report for the twelve months ended June 30 merely set forth the facts without a word of comment. Yet the results were far from satisfactory as in spite of an increase of 26,424 lbs. to 291,353 lbs. the gross revenue was £186 down at £6,177 owing to a drop of 0.69d. to 5.74d. per lb. in the average price realised. Including £373 or £106 more brought in the nett profits after meeting all charges were £1,338 against £1,416 and as the directors again write off £700 for depreciation the ordinary shares have still to go dividendless and a reduced balance of £296 is carried forward. Although £700 was written off for depreciation a year ago the estates still stand in the balance-sheet at £22,695 or only £2 less, but this may be due to the cultivation of rubber as the company now has 40,000 Para rubber trees growing among the tea and 82 acres of jungle lands planted with rubber alone. During the year £1,000 of the loan was paid off leaving £1,550 still due, but bills payable and sundry creditors are £695 higher at £3,735, while on the other hand produce in hand is valued at £1,595 or £246 less, and sundry debtors are £372 down at £163 against a trifling advance of £25 to £557 in the cash and an increase of £215 to £1,270 in advances to coolies so that the position shows little real improvement.

VICTORIA PIER AND PROMENADE HOTEL COMPANY OF SOUTH-PORT, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended October 30 this company gathered a revenue of £17,796 or about £200 less than in the preceding year, but the directors pay the shareholders 3 per cent. and say that the nett result may be considered satisfactory. We did not know the Lancashire people were so easily pleased. We must not, however, omit to mention a saving of £111 at £15,912 in the expenses, notwithstanding an increase of 100 per cent. to £200 in the directors' fees, so that with the increased sum of £267 brought forward the credit balance is £2,151 compared with £2,068. From that the dividend mentioned is provided, another £500 is written off the repairs and renewals suspense account, bringing it down to £1,000, and the carry forward is again increased to £361. We note that the mortgage on the property has been reduced by £1,000 to £17,000, and the company has a larger cash balance than might have been expected considering the slender profits and general appearance of poverty.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES, MIDDLESBROUGH, LIMITED.

The year ended September 23 was not a very profitable one for this company, and receipts showed a shrinkage of £414 at £16,850, but against this expenses were reduced by £598 to £14,389, and as only £161 was spent on repairs and renewals against £628, the nett profits were actually £651 larger. Expenditure on renewals having been comparatively trifling, the directors evidently felt that they must do something in the way of providing for depreciation of the property, and have accordingly written off £300 or a trifle over ½ per cent. of its book value. Then directors' fees took £495 and mortgage and debenture interest £838, leaving with £86 from the previous account a sum of £753 or £307 more, out of which the 6 per cent. preference shares receive the balance of their dividend for 1904, and 3 per cent. on account of the past year, and £33 is carried forward. Beyond the depreciation above-mentioned and an increase of £783 to £2,677 in the cash, there is practically no change to note in the balance-sheet.

VARIETY THEATRES CONSOLIDATED, LIMITED.

This company was formed in August, 1904, to acquire certain music-halls in and near London, and during the twelve months to September 30 its gross revenue amounted to £77,915. After paying all expenses, including interest on debentures and mortgage, and writing £1,000 off leaseholds and £855 for depreciation of furniture, fittings, &c., a nett profit of

£13,105 was paid out of which a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. was paid and £2,704 is carried forward. In addition to a paid-up capital of £130,007, the company has raised £48,350 by mortgages and £40,800 by an issue of 5 per cent. debentures, against which the property after deducting the amounts written off is valued at £212,569, and the furniture, &c., at £5,023. Liabilities to sundry creditors come to £3,024, while sundry debtors, including insurance and licence paid in advance, only amount to £943, but cash stands at £9,265 and there is an investment of £1,900 in County Council 3 per cent. stock, so that the position seems comfortable enough.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The principal markets were closed from Friday till Wednesday, and since their reopening trading has been quiet. In cargoes holders and buyers are as usual at a disagreement with regard to prices, and nothing therefore is doing. Speculative positions have been fairly active, but, owing to heavy shipments, receded in value, and in spot parcels only a limited business has been done at late rates. Dornbusch gives the quantities of wheat and flower on passage to the United Kingdom as 1,980,000 qrs., against 2,030,000 qrs. last week, and imports during the week were 414,000 qrs. against 299,343 qrs. a year ago. American markets have had a longer week, but owing to the absence of foreign advices were dull and featureless at the commencement. A bearish feeling prevailed throughout on heavy receipts, the accumulation of stocks and a very favourable "Prices Current" report, but on news of drought in India and rain in the Argentine and support for leaders of the bull party, offerings became scarce, sellers endeavoured to cover and the market at the close was firm, with December $\frac{1}{4}$ c. higher.

WOOL.—Stocks in holders' hands are unusually small, and though probably the early part of 1906 may see a slight decline in values, there seems to be no prospect for the present of really cheaper rates. Spinners at any rate appear confident, and will not sell ahead in the anticipation of any great fall in tops, but, on the other hand, manufacturers even where sold out, are waiting for that fall before coming into the market again. Not much buying of any sort is on hand just now, but mills are fairly busy, and except in the blanket trade of one or two districts there is little or no depression. The hosiery manufacture is in a flourishing condition.

LINEN.—Business for the year practically ended before the holidays, and, all things considered, the markets commence the new year in a fairly satisfactory position. Reports of the foreign trade are promising, particularly from America, North and South. Improvement is visible in nearly all branches of the manufactured end, unions holding their own in spite of difficulties, brown and bleached drills showing a considerable improvement last week, and already dress goods for the summer are attracting some attention. With regard to prices, they are always moving higher, and up to the present buyers seem willing to pay full rates. At the Irish flax market the highest price paid was 9s. 3d. per stone, and in yarns 25 lea and 40 tow wets of good but not exceptional quality were quoted at 6s. 3d. and 5s. 3d. per bundle respectively.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Owing to the Christmas holidays at the beginning of the week our market has been disturbed, and since Wednesday the attempts at business have not been very serious on the whole. On Friday, the 22nd inst., the quotation in Liverpool for middling American cotton on the spot was 6.31d. The market was then closed until Wednesday, when the rate was unchanged. A decline of 14 points was registered on Thursday, bringing the quotation down to 6.17d. In cloth for export the decline in raw cotton towards the end of the week has helped some business through for India. Calcutta buyers have again dealt in low and medium shirtings to a fair extent. Bombay also has sent some fair inquiries. China, as for some weeks past, continues inactive. The minor markets are not doing much, but the Levant is pretty healthy. Home trade buyers have not bought freely, in view of the approach of the end of the year. The outlook for the spring, however, is decidedly encouraging. Manufacturers are busy working off old orders, and for scarcely any class of goods is there pressure for new contracts. Cops made from American cotton for home consumption have moved in small lots. Users have offered a fair amount of business, but spinners have had considerable difficulty in retaining any margin of profit. The supply of cop twist is undoubtedly abundant, and users, knowing this, act accordingly. In export descriptions not very much has been done. Inquiry has come through from Japan, but the necessary delivery cannot be undertaken. India and China seem to have satisfied their more important wants for the time being. Cops for the Continent have moved fairly well. Gassed yarns and extra hard descriptions are unchanged, and continue strong. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton in the Bolton district have moved rather slowly. Producers, however, are extensively engaged, and there is hardly any pressure for new business. Spinners are being pulled out of the place for quicker deliveries.

Business in New York has been on a meagre scale, with narrow fluctuations in prices. In the early part of the week futures declined on selling, but sufficient support was forthcoming to prevent a marked relapse. Operators held aloof owing to the absence of news from Liverpool and New Orleans. Trading was likewise influenced by the tightness of money and the bank failures at Memphis. Subsequently there was a gradual upward movement on covering by shorts. This was followed by a weakening tendency, and the market closes easy. Closing prices are:—January-February, 6.08d.; February-March, 6.03d.;

March-April, 6.17d.; April-May, 6.20d.; May-June, 6.23d.; June-July, 6.24d.; July-August, 6.25d.; August-September, 6.16d.; September-October, 5.93d.; October-November, 5.85d.

COAL.—Except that demand is good and prices firm there is little to say about the coal trade at present. The revival in iron and steel industries has had a good effect upon it, and in the north of England steams have gone up to 9s. per ton f.o.b. and Durham gas to 9s. 3d., while coke has advanced to 17s. 6d. per ton for medium quality. In Wales the improvement is general—that is before the holiday. At Cardiff last week 60,000 to 70,000 tons were cleared in one or two days, Newport totalled for the week 110,000 tons, of which about 92,000 went abroad, and Swansea dispatched 74,000 tons.

COPPER.—The weakness noticeable at the end of last week due to "bull" realisations on a narrow market gave place to renewed strength when operations were resumed after the holidays. According to advices lately received the Rio Tinto company has recommenced full operations at the smelting works and has been able to ship larger quantities to this country for refining purposes, but America is said to be practically sold out to the end of February if not to the end of March and the opening was strong and active under the influence of firm American advices and the "bull" movement in copper shares. Good buying was reported and a moderate advance was quickly established and although there was a slight reaction before the end final prices were firm at £79 12s. 6d. for spot and £79 2s. 6d. for delivery two months forward.

TIN.—This metal was also weak just before the holidays on the idea that the suspension of Chinese importation to the Transvaal will increase the flow to the Straits and thus increase production. Another "bear" influence was the expectation that the month's Straits shipments would be increased to from 5,000 to 5,600 tons, but the market soon gained strength, and on a widely-distributed demand part of the loss was recovered. Increased offerings then caused a reaction, leading "bulls" showing a decided disposition to realise, and after an extensive business prices closed at £160 15s. for cash and £160 7s. 6d. for three months' forward.

IRON AND STEEL.—The position of the iron and steel trades continues strong and hopeful. The price of Cleveland warrant iron has been well maintained. Storing of Cleveland No. 3 has lately proceeded at a fairly substantial rate, though not beyond expectations. Maker's iron for near delivery is now getting scarce. Business has, of course, been interfered with by the holidays. But this has really given a welcome respite from the pressure. The resumption of operations finds manufacturers with abundance of work to go on with. Inquiries on foreign and colonial account continue plentiful, whilst home requirements are also considerable. The manner in which the demand from the leading foreign and colonial markets is keeping up is one of the chief elements in the prevailing business contentment, and manufacturers are naturally glad to see the steady manner in which this demand has increased. Railway extensions in South America have created a large demand for all classes of railway material, and it is anticipated that this will be maintained for some time to come. The consumption of hematite keeps up, and prices are going higher. In Glasgow, owing to the Christmas holidays and the coming New Year holidays, there has not been much disposition to do business.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The Agent-General for Western Australia has received telegraphic advice to the effect that during November 57,745 ozs. of gold were entered for export, whilst 105,504 ozs. were received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint for coinage, giving a total of 163,249 fine ozs., against 163,933 ozs. in the corresponding month of last year.

Name of Company.	September.		October.		November.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
Associated G. M. of W. A. . .	3,955	£13,779	8,040	£19,355	7,290	£19,750
Associated Northern Blocks . .	3,319	£15,436	3,417	£15,320	3,288	£15,809
Bellevue Proprietary	3,231	1,729	3,766	2,072	3,337	1,620
Burbank's Birthday	2,185	641	2,302	692	2,123	677
Cosmopolitan Proprietary	8,943	2,537	8,780	2,482	8,276	£9,180
Golden Horseshoe	18,774	13,071	19,720	13,434	19,442	13,220
Golden Pole	1,791	2,111	1,650	2,309	1,677	2,043
Great Boulder Perseverance . . .	13,499	9,377	14,160	8,369	13,485	7,336
Great Boulder Proprietary	11,215	13,281	12,004	13,732	12,327	14,065
Great Fingall	17,514	13,633	18,150	12,559	18,451	12,482
Hainault	4,412	1,921	4,481	1,900	4,495	1,761
Hannan's Reward	739	330	824	330	605	311
Hannan's Star	2,185	454	2,478	815	—	—
Ida H.	1,500	1,104	1,400	1,112	1,400	1,118
Ivanhoe	16,560	10,479	16,610	10,525	16,410	10,613
Kalgurli	8,030	5,023	8,290	6,121	8,503	6,207
Lake View Consols	10,500	4,008	10,646	3,989	10,325	3,938
Menzies Consolidated	1,550	£3,450	1,517	£3,460	1,552	£3,565
Merton's Reward	2,900	1,036	2,829	1,165	2,543	1,132
North Kalgurli	—	340	—	—	—	—
North White Feather	1,860	1,048	1,850	1,154	1,900	1,106
Oroya-Brownhill	9,900	12,814	10,360	12,902	10,067	12,784
Peak Hill Goldfield	5,369	1,040	5,485	879	5,341	1,177
Queensland Menzies	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red Hill	1,816	674	1,830	676	1,514	602
Sons of Gwalla	—	—	10,885	5,305	10,916	5,332
South Kalgurli	6,887	3,408	7,190	3,369	7,110	3,310
Wivien	1,342	676	1,472	707	1,528	580
Westralia and East Extension . .	2,148	1,196	2,685	1,340	2,557	1,117
Westralia Mount Morgans	4,770	1,897	3,790	1,468	1,620	930
White Feather Main Reefs	1,170	546	1,262	573	1,048	367

* Fine Gold.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the Crystal Palace Company was held yesterday, at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Ernest Schenk, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary, Mr. J. H. Cozens, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said a quite uncommon interest attached to the meeting, inasmuch as it was the one hundredth consecutive meeting of the company, and because, moreover, it might prove to be the turning point in its fortunes, when, after many vicissitudes and sacrifices, they were at last, as he believed, within sight of a considerable improvement in their affairs. The result of the past six months' working was an increase of over £1,200 in the gross receipts, and about £1,700 in expenditure, with a reduction of £500 in the profit as compared with the corresponding half of last year. Had the motor show—which, by a flagrant breach of agreement, was transferred to Olympia—taken place at the Palace, they would have been able to record a very satisfactory increase in the profits, but there was some consolation in the fact that in face of this serious and unexpected loss, they had so nearly maintained the profit of the corresponding half-year. The construction of the first instalment of the tramways was now nearly complete, and electric trams would in all probability be actually running to the Penge entrance from Croydon before their next meeting. Equally important was the news that the Brighton Railway Company had let the contract for the electrification of its suburban lines, and although the Crystal Palace was not included in the present contract, he believed that they would follow upon the completion of the present work.

Sundry creditors and loans reached the large total of about £85,000, exclusive of accrued debenture interest, and he thought that without any elaboration the necessity for providing a substantial sum of new capital was clear. As to the means by which this was to be accomplished, it seemed to the board to be essential that concurrently with creating and obtaining further capital the entire capital of the company should be placed upon a footing which should both enable it to receive a fair return and to reach a market quotation corresponding to its nominal value. The immediate obstacle to be overcome was the existing debit against revenue now standing at £21,745, which would have to be replaced at a profit earned over and above all fixed charges, including those upon any new capital issued. As to the scheme of reorganisation, the first and second debenture issues, amounting to £400,000, were not touched. It was proposed that the £8,428 third debentures issued should be cancelled, and replaced by newly created preference shares at the rate of £60 in shares for £100 third debentures. £75,000 new 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares were to be created of which it was intended to issue £50,000, £45,000 for cash, and approximately £5,000 to replace the £8,428 third debentures to be cancelled, the balance of the third debentures remaining only as collateral security for such loans as were not repaid. The existing £105,000 non-cumulative 5 per cent. preference shares and the £95,000 £5 preferred ordinary shares were to be reduced to a single issue of £85,000 newly created 7 per cent. preferred ordinary shares, entitled in addition to half of the surplus profits. The proportion receivable by the old preference shares was one new preferred ordinary for two preference, and by the old preferred ordinary one new for three old preferred ordinary shares concurrently with reduction of the various stocks it was obviously advisable to consolidate, and they proposed, therefore, to cancel the small issue of third debentures in exchange for approximately £5,000 of the new preference shares, and to merge the existing preference and preferred ordinary so that before the new 7 per cent. preferred ordinary there would only rank the first £250,000 3 per cent. and £150,000 4 per cent. debenture stocks, and the new £75,000 cumulative preference shares. With a moderate increase in revenue a margin would be available for dividend upon the ordinary share capital, and the actual value of the shares altogether reduced in nominal amount should be substantially improved. The guarantee was conditional upon Parliamentary sanction being obtained in the new year, the entire amount being guaranteed, and an issue to the public being made within six weeks of the passing of the Act.

Mr. Keen seconded the resolution, and Mr. Rait and Mr. Newton expressed approval of the scheme.

The resolution was carried, and at a Wharnccliffe meeting held subsequently the scheme was formally approved of.

KAMFERSDAM MINES.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the Kamfersdam Mines, Limited, was held yesterday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. William L. Wildy presiding.

The secretary, Mr. Walter Howarth, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said that he occupied his position owing to the absence of the chairman, Mr. John Dixon, who was on the mine in South Africa. The question of more economical working had occupied the attention of the board for some time past. The principal items in which economies might be effected were water, treatment, and sorting. The question of an independent water supply for the mine had received the consideration of the board. At present they were dependent upon the Kimberley Water

Works Company, and the rate charged was a very high item and cost per hundred loads of ground treatment 16s. The manager believed that an ample water supply could be secured within the boundaries of the farm by sinking wells, and he was making investigations with a view to decide the most suitable sites to get the water and then proceed to bore and prove its existence and quantity. It was estimated that, with their own water supply, the cost to the company would be reduced at least one-half. The question of the most advantageous method of treating the blue ground was of very great importance. Two systems prevailed, namely, the flooring system and the direct treatment. The company was using the direct treatment at present, and it had manifold advantages, inasmuch as the blue ground which was in the mine in the morning could be raised and treated, and its contents harvested in the manager's safe in the evening of the same day, whilst there was little chance of the Kaffir secreting any of the stones. On the other hand, there was the risk of large and valuable stones being crushed in the rollers to the great detriment of the average yield. The process had the advantage of cheapness, but on the other hand the flooring system was likely to produce all the good stones in an undamaged condition, whilst at the same time by the more perfect disintegration of the blue ground more of the smaller diamonds were said to be recoverable. The plan by which they hoped to arrive at a decision was to mine and haul all the blue ground they possibly could during the 24 hours, treat as much as they safely could, by the direct process by day work, and floor the remainder. In that way they would provide a continual revenue as a contribution to the expenses, and the ground on the floors would be a valuable asset. As to the question of economy of working, they had now brought the costs to as low as they could possibly expect with the present facilities and the cost of material. Fuel was a costly item in Kimberley, but they hoped that the new railway would make a considerable reduction in the cost of its transport. The number of loads washed, 552,364, divided into the total cost as shown by the profit and loss account including London office expenses, heavy writing off, maintenance of machinery, plant, and buildings, mine development, &c., equalled 2s. 5d. per load of blue ground washed, the average when dissected being composed of mining and general charges in South Africa 1s. 7½d., cost of hauling reef and rubbish 2d., special writings off 3½d., maintenance of machinery and depreciation 2½d., and London office expenses 1d.—2s. 5d. The sale of diamonds had exercised the attention of the board a great deal. Since recommencing washing the yield had been valued weekly, or fortnightly, as the case might be, and sold in Kimberley at or over the valuation. They had been approached by contractors for the whole of the product, but they believed that it was to the best interests of the company to decline to entertain such proposals. Mr. Dixon would discuss that matter with the manager, and would doubtless be in a position on his return to throw further light on the question. In conclusion, the Chairman tendered a few words of appreciation of the services rendered to the company by their former secretary, Mr. Claydon, who had been most attentive in his duty. Mr. Walter Halarth, who succeeded Mr. Claydon, was thoroughly *au fait* with the company's affairs, as he had been Mr. Claydon's manager for many years. He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. H. J. Krauss seconded the motion, which after some discussion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The chairman was re-elected a director of the company, whilst the auditors, Messrs. Whinney, Smith, and Whinney, were also reappointed.

A sum of 50 guineas was voted to the retiring secretary in recognition of his services, and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2.

Great Eastern Railway.—Liverpool Street Station, noon.

Goldfields of Matabeleland.—Winchester House, noon.

New Zealand and River Plate Land and Mortgage.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Villa Maria and Rufino Railway.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3.

Bulawayo Town Stands.—Winchester House, noon.

Brunner Mond.—Liverpool, 1 p.m.

Huggins.—Winchester House, noon.

New York City Freehold Estates.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4.

Belgravia Freehold Land.—15, Queen Street, 2.30 p.m.

Industrial and General Trust.—Winchester House, noon.

National Freehold Land Building Society.—Cannon Street Hotel, 6.30 p.m.

Sulphide Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.

The Union Discount Company of London announces that Mr. Edward March has retired from the position of Secretary, and that the directors have appointed Mr. Walter Brafeld Hobbs to succeed him.

The Stock Exchange Orchestral and Choral Society are generously giving a special concert in aid of the seamen's hospitals (Greenwich and Albert Dock). It will be held at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on Thursday evening, January 18. Tickets and full particulars can be obtained at the hospital or from Mr. C. M. Dyer, Stock Exchange, E.C.

MINING RETURNS.

Brilliant Block Gold.—Crushed 880 tons for 543 oz.; residues value £2,000; total, £3,850.

Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 3,165 tons, value £8,675; cyanided, £800, and from sale of tailings, £400; total, £9,875.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—Silver, 266,409 ozs.; soft lead, 4,506 tons; antimonial lead, 34 tons.

Burbank's Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 315 tons, 230 ozs. Cyanide, 480 tons, treated 63 ozs.; total, 293 ozs.

Carrington's Lion P.C.—Crushed 60 tons for 85 oz.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal, 21,000 tons; sales, 20,000 tons; consumption, 1,450 tons.

Cobar.—Mill, 920 tons, 106 oz.; tailings, 960 tons, 355 oz.

Day Dawn Block and Wyndham Gold.—Crushed 1,710 tons, 2,139 oz.; value, £7,400; cyanide, 1,800 tons of tailings, value £2,950; total value, £10,350.

Durban-Roodepoort Gold.—Quartz milled, 11,195 tons for 3,792 oz.; tailings, 7,620 tons for 907 oz.

Eaglehawk Consolidated Gold.—1,100 tons crushed, 442 oz.; copper plates, 182 oz.

Golden Blocks (Taitapu).—Crushed 140 tons, 172 oz.

Kamfersdam.—Diamonds recovered, 4,592 carats.

Maryborough Levithan.—Crushed 722 tons, 130 oz.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—690 tons crushed, 304 oz.; value, £920; concentrates, 24 tons, value £260.

New Queen Gold.—549 tons crushed, 505 oz.; £600 obtained from 612 tons treated by cyanide. Concentrates £420.

Oroville Dredging.—Clean-up, \$55,500.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £7,750; yield per ton, 56 of an oz. troy.

Tasmanian Consols.—Crushed 870 tons, 441 oz., exclusive of tailings.

Tasmania Gold.—4,828 tons, 2,092 oz. Chlorination, 392 tons, 493 oz.; total, 2,585 oz.

Weardale Lead.—Ore raised, 245 tons; pig lead smelted, 162 tons; average price obtained for lead sold, £16 2s. 9d. per ton nett.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Louisville and Nashville.—3 per cent., payable February 9.

White Pass and Yukon.—6s. per share.

BREWERIES.

Atkinson's.—Preference for the year ended Oct. 31, carrying forward £7,862.

Truswell's.—Final of £1 13s. per share, making 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Sept. 30, carrying forward £3,947.

MINES.

Anaconda Copper.—\$0.87½ per share, payable Jan. 18.

Angelo Gold.—16½ per cent.

Brilliant Block Gold.—6d. per share, payable Jan. 4.

De Beers.—20 per cent. on the preference shares and an interim of 20 per cent. on the deferred shares for the half year to December 31.

Driefontein Consolidated.—10 per cent.

East Rand Proprietary.—20 per cent.

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. a share, for the month of December, payable Jan. 2.

New Comet Gold.—12½ per cent.

New Heriot Gold.—20 per cent. (4s. per share).

New Kleinfontein.—7½ per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Canada Company.—11s. per share, for the half-year ending January 10.

Cleveland Bridge and Engineering.—Final of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7½ per cent. for the past year, placing £1,000 to reserve and carrying forward £7,701.

Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance.—8 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30, adding £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £5,196.

Humphreys.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 12 per cent. for the year ended Nov. 30.

John Williams and Sons (Cardiff).—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended September 30 last, carrying forward £1,055.

Midland Trust.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year ending Dec. 31.

Sheepbridge Coal and Iron.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both preference and ordinary shares for the half-year ending Dec. 31.

Shorts.—Third interim for the year ended March 31 of 5s. per share on the deferred ordinary shares.

Virginia Carolina Chemical.—Quarterly at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the preference stock, payable Jan. 15.

United Indigo and Chemical.—3 per cent. on the preference shares, which clears arrears up to June 30 last.

Watson, Woodhead and Wagstaffe.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Nov. 30, placing £1,000 to reserve.

The directors of the Prudential Assurance Company, Limited, have elected Sir Henry Harben as their chairman, in the room of the late Mr. Edgar Horne.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and December 23, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Dec. 23, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Dec. 24, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	—	6,351,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,390	801,720
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	25,640,000	26,967,000
Excise	30,200,000	22,577,000	23,109,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	9,500,000	8,854,000
Stamps	8,000,000	5,924,000	5,219,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	470,000	600,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,600,000	6,742,000	7,104,000
Post Office	16,500,000	10,830,000	10,300,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,100,000	2,880,000
Crown Lands	470,000	370,000	370,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,054,000	679,205	609,652
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,016,582	988,047
*Revenue	142,454,000	86,851,787	87,060,699
Total, including balance		94,282,065	91,324,541
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		430,000	350,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		550,000	820,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		1,675,000	1,419,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		945,408	1,400,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		115,000	98,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,695,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	5,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		6,000,000	20,000,000
Total		115,066,669	134,162,531
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	86,851,787	87,060,699
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	120,847	126,042
Excise	5,291,000	3,802,851	3,676,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,085,839	3,033,242
Total	9,756,000	7,010,537	6,835,957
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	93,862,324	93,896,656

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Dec. 23, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Dec. 24, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	28,000,000	18,797,504	18,379,819
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,172,376	1,122,743
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	74,479,499	78,805,946
Expenditure	142,084,000	95,104,255	99,023,435
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		440,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		135,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		600,000	450,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		2,483,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,000	109,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		356,433	24,000
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	5,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		750,000	10,500,000
		110,939,688	127,711,935
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	1905. Dec. 23. £ 3,479,552	1904. Dec. 24. £ 5,784,018	
Bank of Ireland	647,429	666,578	
		4,126,981	6,450,596
Total		115,066,669	134,162,531

Treasury, December 26, 1905.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

The mine bosses seem to have made a special effort to enlarge the return for November, in order to cheer up those depressed by the poor output for October. Accordingly the gold yield from the mines on the Witwatersrand amounted to 407,056 ozs. of fine gold, and from those working in the outside districts it was 17,701 ozs., making a total of 424,757 ozs., of a value of £1,804,253 against 415,527 ozs., with £1,765,047 in the preceding month, showing increases, respectively, of 9,230 ozs. and £39,206. This was a substantial improvement, for not only was November a shorter month, but according to the labour returns there was a loss of 713 in blacks, the number at work at the end of the month being 82,962. In addition there were 45,804 coolies slaving away. It is officially anticipated that the profit of the Bonanza will be

MINE.	September.			October.			November.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	12,654	7,371	1,000	14,290	8,217	511	13,853	7,965	16,678
Barratt	8,530	4,173	7,380	8,475	4,314	7,813	8,350	4,903	450
Bonanza	14,443	6,255	8,371	15,129	6,317	11,000	15,702	6,517	10,026
Butteldown Estate	24,300	8,651	14,658	19,200	7,392	9,039	23,705	8,688	1,276
City and Suburban	15,953	5,592	5,667	16,300	5,611	5,504	16,472	5,656	13,362
Comet, New	16,083	6,501	8,761	18,792	6,511	9,273	17,505	6,319	9,175
Cons. Langlaagte	24,270	11,787	23,050	29,140	12,431	23,150	29,482	11,770	5,826
Cons. Main Reef	18,287	11,650	25,481	18,891	11,471	25,160	19,588	11,454	8,809
Crown Deep	18,066	7,503	9,807	20,103	8,005	20,058	8,027	10,724	21,250
Crown Reef	11,580	5,233	9,180	11,550	5,161	11,405	4,699	5,300	25,300
Durban Roodepoort	9,308	4,374	4,000	9,470	4,354	4,050	9,600	4,171	10,724
Do Deep	19,368	12,400	28,174	20,400	12,456	28,471	20,100	12,404	3,150
Ferreira	10,800	11,876	30,500	19,588	12,102	30,050	19,154	12,050	28,552
Do Deep	16,500	5,040	1,061	17,800	2,637	1,061	18,300	6,204	30,300
French Reef	22,116	9,659	13,400	24,450	10,392	14,750	24,050	10,241	3,796
Geldenhuis Deep	16,675	7,114	13,670	17,138	7,272	15,880	16,825	7,188	14,100
Geldenhuis Estate	8,111	3,127	3,067	13,159	3,845	6,951	3,084	2,717	15,950
Glencairn	13,395	5,506	6,02	13,159	3,845	6,951	3,084	2,717	3,905
Glen Deep	14,760	5,282	7,000	15,660	5,940	1,140	5,952	7,150	4,784
Glyn's Lydenburg	2,440	1,448	2,240	1,515	2,050	1,256	2,050	1,256	7,150
Glen New	11,506	5,850	10,052	12,093	5,928	10,171	11,280	5,704	3,321
Henry Noarse	8,960	3,612	4,186	8,855	3,460	3,711	8,770	3,586	9,956
Heriot	5,106	1,938	5,321	2,002	5,094	1,806	5,094	1,806	3,846
Jubilee	12,200	4,511	5,158	14,020	4,544	5,022	11,360	4,556	5,031
Jumpers Deep	16,024	5,305	20,100	15,951	5,109	450	15,679	5,164	1,650
Knight's	26,000	8,500	5,246	25,500	7,970	4,017	28,250	8,942	8,020
Knight's Deep	18,747	7,427	7,256	20,566	7,283	8,557	21,181	7,570	8,701
La Caster	12,543	4,522	1,308	13,102	4,347	1,700	14,234	4,648	1,957
Lancaster West	6,402	2,303	2,983	6,660	2,404	3,084	6,350	2,376	2,967
Langlaagte	19,519	6,734	6,500	19,923	6,834	6,550	19,007	6,733	6,650
Do, Estate	26,480	8,535	10,400	27,326	8,243	9,600	26,588	7,654	8,200
May Consolidated	13,690	6,034	11,835	13,840	5,991	12,072	13,050	5,992	11,907
Meyer and Charlton	10,924	4,336	7,688	11,040	4,547	8,050	3,244	4,685	8,100
Modderfontein	9,323	3,617	3,784	9,472	3,628	3,750	9,575	3,621	3,464
New Kleinfontein	26,029	9,276	11,304	23,005	7,698	24,001	8,003	4,377	3,464
New United	8,547	2,848	1,796	8,907	2,772	1,530	8,610	2,735	1,185
Nielerk	6,310	3,815	7,128	6,150	3,658	6,285	6,024	3,411	5,378
Nigel	2,632	1,829	305	2,800	2,023	1,926	2,925	1,856	1,055
Nigel Deep	14,423	5,970	7,700	15,322	6,126	7,700	14,342	5,975	7,000
North Randfontein	14,610	6,718	7,700	14,900	6,884	8,850	14,740	6,776	8,550
Nourse Deep	13,100	5,565	8,500	13,523	5,842	8,400	13,121	5,868	7,200
Porg's Randfontein	16,839	7,527	14,013	15,890	7,277	13,593	15,403	7,106	13,553
Primrose	6,448	2,894	1,606	5,788	2,901	1,795	5,600	1,263	971
Princess Estate	8,300	4,347	5,507	8,320	4,437	8,602	8,521	4,559	8,965
Rietfontein New	28,000	8,372	47,311	29,000	18,500	47,418	11,541	18,250	47,429
Robinson	11,756	8,837	24,008	13,980	9,360	25,342	13,994	9,221	25,150
Robinson Cent. Deep	28,121	14,841	32,670	29,097	14,928	33,002	29,055	14,995	33,244
Robinson's Randfontein	14,566	5,589	4,800	15,122	5,660	3,150	14,727	5,526	5,800
Roodepoort Central	7,413	3,245	3,054	7,693	3,185	3,745	7,472	3,039	2,967
Do Deep	9,100	4,002	5,459	9,120	4,075	5,350	9,140	4,161	5,201
Roodepoort United	25,415	8,837	10,350	26,500	9,103	11,300	26,500	9,017	14,650
Rose Deep	5,150	1,640	1,280	5,300	1,820	1,940	5,400	1,860	2,275
Salisbury	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100
Sheba	13,116	3,318	16,599	4,959	4,219	15,520	5,174	3,517	3,517
Simmer East	51,207	19,334	29,067	52,800	20,026	31,590	51,700	19,648	32,697
Simmer and Jack	14,616	5,920	6,400	15,022	5,982	7,250	13,332	5,888	6,756
South Randfontein	7,983	3,295	8,530	7,774	8,530	8,530	8,530	8,530	8,530
Transvaal Gold	6,660	2,798	4,075	7,400	2,916	4,017	8,100	2,906	3,054
Treasury	21,880	8,329	12,635	22,440	8,315	12,090	22,010	7,905	10,351
Van Ryn	16,300	6,153	7,226	16,000	5,644	2,997	16,700	5,981	3,841
Village Deep	24,000	9,386	14,631	25,250	9,310	14,570	24,700	9,352	14,597
Village Main Reef	5,250	2,090	5,150	2,081	5,150	2,081	5,150	2,081	5,150
Vogelstruis Estates	7,820	2,964	4,261	4,960	2,350	4,840	3,675	3,675	3,675
Wimmer	2,575	1,121	2,575	1,144	2,500	899	1,250	1,250	1,250
W. Rand Central	4,750	1,416	374	4,700	1,372	77	4,644	1,168	252
Windsor	23,070	9,247	12,903	26,300	10,363	15,160	25,500	10,404	15,933
Wt. Deep	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036
Worcester	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036

* Loss.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	80,785	—	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258
February	64,468	—	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811
March	84,546	—	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823
April	54,772	—	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166
May	64,249	7,488	138,602	234,125	314,480	410,395
June	—	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317
July	—	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505
August	—	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,581
September	—	31,936	176,802	276,197	312,286	416,487
October	—	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	415,547
November	—	39,075	187,375	279,813	336,167	424,757
December	—	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	—
Total	348,760	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	4,465,627

Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February	—	—	293,786	816,439	1,226,846	1,568,508
March	1,457,684	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371
April	—	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340
May	—	31,271	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550
June	—	84,014	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734
July	—	110,269	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412
August	—	120,953	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944
September	—	135,654	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496
October	—	141,848	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124
November	—	165,986	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047
December	—	224,692	832,652	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804,253
Total	1,457,684	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,509	18,968,779

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

about the same during the months of December and January. The block of ground will then be practically worked out, leaving the pillars and cleanings. In all probability it will not be possible to keep the mill continually running after the end of January next, and the profit during the remaining period of the mine's life will be subject to considerable fluctuations. The fall in the output of Glyn's Lydenburg is attributed to the scarcity of native labour, which made it impossible to obtain a fair average value of ore from the mine. The decline in the profit of the Durban Deep is due to a falling off in the grade, and that of the Crown Deep to a similar trouble. Despite smaller outputs the following show higher profits:—Geldenhuis Estate, Langlaagte Deep, Ferreira Deep, Rose Deep, Crown Reef, and Ferreira Gold.

Answers to Correspondents.

S. M. H. J.—(1) There is a terrible loss to be faced here under any circumstances, but we do not think you should accept it immediately, as lately the shares have gone back with a rush. On any material recovery sell, because the end must be reconstruction. (2) Not by any means a strong company, but the business may pick up again presently with better management of the business. Wait awhile. (3) Fairly good of its kind, but not the sort of company we like. (4) No real necessity to sell, but price more likely to go down than up. (5) In their original form these shares have in a manner disappeared in the amalgamation. We think very little of the company, and think your best course is to get clear. (6) This is a pretty good business, and the shares, now split into a £1 denomination, are worth keeping. (7) Like No. 4 the status of these has been altered by reorganisation, but the conduct of affairs is much better now, and we think you should keep for the present. (8) New blood has lately been infused into the administration of this concern, and it seems worth while to wait to see if good results, particularly in view of the heavy depreciation. (9) We see no reason for selling these. (10) This company is also doing well, and the shares are still worth holding. (11) Profits of this business have fluctuated severely since its incorporation, and the outlook seems so uncertain that we should be inclined to say, cut your loss. (12) The company has been doing badly for some time, and recent political happenings have naturally depressed the shares still further. What the prospects of recovery are it is impossible to forecast just now, but we fear they are not very bright. (13) This company has probably been hit by its big rivals, and, as it is not centrally enough placed to compete on equal terms, is likely to continue to lose ground. (14) Extensions of the system led to a good deal of capital expenditure and the dividend was reduced two or three years ago, but the company seems well managed and you might hold on for a recovery. (15) You have an excellent profit on these shares, which you might take, although the company is really in a sound financial position. (16) We do not like the directors' methods of dealing with the situation, and fear they will end in the company having to be wound up. (17) This is another concern which seems to have got into low water, and is struggling without much prospect of extricating itself. (18) The debenture load here is too heavy for these shares to become really valuable. (19) Although this undertaking is grossly over-capitalised the debenture stock seems reasonably safe, and might be held. (20) Another hopelessly waterlogged concern which is more likely to sink than to swim. (21) Not a particularly strong company; it benefited for a time from purely transitory causes, but the directors were apparently not wise enough in their methods of distributing the extra profits earned.

C. B. T.—(1) Fairly so, although there is not much chance of capital recovery. Good enough for a time. (2) Decidedly on the contrary, we should think. The Cape itself has always been against the ordinance.

P. V. D.—The financial position of this company is a very fine one, and for that reason the shares are not cheap, but a small investment should do no harm.

Oliver.—Thanks, we understand now. (1) No need to accept a loss on these shares, although recovery may be slow. (2) If these should go to the price mentioned it might be advisable to sell, a good profit being always worth taking.

Nith.—We know nothing of this company, and cannot advise you respecting it.

Rabbi.—This question does not come within the scope of our queries, and we are returning you your money.

C. W. Gibbs.—No; the company's affairs are in a thoroughly bad condition, and the shares would be dear at any price.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended December 14, \$5,140, increase \$1,467.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 24, \$22,068, increase \$8,026; aggregate from January 1, \$847,068, increase \$178,808.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 18, Rs. 76,007, increase Rs. 2,696; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 14,21,467, increase Rs. 1,85,898.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 21, \$103,100, increase \$9,300; total from July 1, \$2,562,400, increase \$578,900.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 18, Rs. 26,389, increase Rs. 7,050; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 5,12,271, increase Rs. 51,305.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 9, £616, increase £5.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of December, \$10,312, decrease \$1,750; aggregate from January 1, \$765,496, increase \$3,585.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended November 18, Rs. 14,507, increase Rs. 6,444; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,63,811, increase Rs. 39,692.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended December 7 amounted to \$1,900.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending December 23, £1,242, increase £39; aggregate from July 1, £30,103, increase £78.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending December 23, £755, increase £116; aggregate from July 1, £22,528, decrease £560.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for September, £4,376 decrease £335.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 23, £455, increase £65; aggregate from July 1, £8,954, decrease £292.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, £15,656, increase £1,904; aggregate from January 1, £690,952, increase £42,763.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1905, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of November, £10,748, increase £226.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to October 31, \$393,936, increase \$101,487. Net earnings from July 1 to October 31, \$184,298, increase \$73,276.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 24, £3,623, increase £307; aggregate from January 1, £177,417, increase £10,354.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending November 25, £1,314.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month November, \$277,300.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, Rs. 47,324, increase Rs. 4,228; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 10,83,948, increase Rs. 1,30,454.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, £3,383, increase £146. Total to October 31, £41,146, increase £6,276.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of October, \$420,981, increase \$52,924; aggregate from January 1, \$3,903,668, increase \$327,440. Net traffic receipts, \$228,043, increase \$30,229; aggregate from January 1, \$2,132,581, increase \$236,759.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Weeks	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	£		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	£
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Dec. 24	2,724	+	27	25	53,312	—	2,159
Cambrian	" 24	5,184	—	90	25	175,913	—	7,860
Central London ..	" 23	7,398	—	346	25	160,187	—	922
City and South London ..	" 24	3,044	—	723	25	66,424	—	130
Furness	" 24	10,080	+	2,501	25	265,134	+	29,706
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 24	70,933	+	9,935	25	1,793,349	+	128,346
Great Eastern	" 24	124,300	+	8,800	25	2,817,600	—	8,500
Great Northern and City ..	" 23	1,899	+	27	25	39,691	+	8,113
Great Northern	" 23	123,600	+	9,151	25	2,946,088	+	39,501
Great Western	" 24	266,400	+	19,100	25	6,171,700	+	118,500
Hull and Barnsley	" 24	10,605	+	2,428	25	246,205	+	5,956
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 24	107,222	+	8,182	25	2,852,554	+	87,000
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 23	64,042	+	4,783	25	1,657,787	+	3,335
London & North Western ..	" 24	298,000	+	24,000	25	7,320,000	+	198,000
London & South Western ..	" 24	103,200	+	7,000	25	2,406,300	+	24,200
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 24	9,117	+	1,222	25	258,936	+	3,150
Metropolitan	" 24	18,845	+	509	25	432,325	+	3,152
Metropolitan District ..	" 24	8,338	+	753	25	178,987	+	4,580
Midland	" 23	254,373	+	29,195	25	5,780,213	+	208,671
North Eastern	" 23	191,640	+	13,181	25	4,658,813	+	90,141
North London	" 24	8,878	—	718	25	222,317	—	4,690
North Staffordshire	" 24	19,729	+	1,005	25	449,948	+	14,450
Rhymney	" 24	6,372	+	453	25	142,448	—	1,475
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 23	96,122	+	6,558	25	2,431,857	+	31,521
Taff Vale	" 24	20,290	+	1,510	25	455,553	—	7,10

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Dec. 24	88,570	+	6,775	21	1,835,780	+	46,269
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 23	31,615	+	1,381	21	743,123	+	5,298
Great North of Scotland ..	" 23	8,941	+	321	21	206,070	+	382
Highland	" 24	8,593	+	470	21	225,141	+	1,635
North British	" 24	87,531	+	2,501	21	1,955,933	+	17,762

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Dec. 22	2,451	—	58	25	79,559	+	2,242
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 22	1,529	—	154	25	45,520	—	749
Great Northern	" 22	18,820	+	298	25	503,569	—	1,081
Midland Great Western ..	" 22	12,357	+	514	25	289,538	—	6,449

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 22, £1,418, increase £404; aggregate from July 1, £34,451, increase £11,720.

Blessington and Poulaphuca.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 24, £11, increase £2; aggregate from July 1, £530, increase £17.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, £5,109, increase £33.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending December 8, £28,095, increase £6,102; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,323,827, increase £143,379; 441½ miles, against 425½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, £1,121, increase £139; aggregate from July 2, £27,880, increase £1,577.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 24, £134, increase £21; aggregate from July 1, £3,603, decrease £36.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 22, £108, increase £2; aggregate from July 1, £3,091, decrease £29.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 22, £5,100, increase £117; aggregate from July 1, £126,434, decrease £3.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, £4,867, increase £373; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £246,981, increase £18,694.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 22, £207, decrease £6; aggregate from July 1, £6,133, decrease £461.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 21, £355.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, £247, decrease £13; aggregate from October 1, £3,306, decrease £463.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16, £12,808, increase £353; aggregate from April 1, £549,836, increase £74,507. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, £23,249, increase £3,481; aggregate from July 2, £573,503, decrease £9,784.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, £7,842, increase £1,456; aggregate from July 1, £193,371, increase £3,340.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 22, £191, increase £14; aggregate from July 1, £4,964, increase £252.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 24, £788, increase £350.

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